



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

OCT 28 2013 F/SER: HB

Douglass Boyd, Chair
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100
Tampa, Florida 33607

Dear Mr. Boyd:

NOAA's Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Sam Rauch, has spoken to the Council Coordination Committee (CCC) at five meetings over the past three years about the importance of routinely reviewing fishery allocations to ensure fishery management is achieving the goals set forth in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. In addition, today in a letter to Sen. David Vitter, Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, the Acting Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reiterated the agency's commitment to the Catch Share Policy, which clearly states that underlying harvest allocations to fishery sectors should be revisited on a regular basis whether they are a part of a catch share program or not. Also today, Mr. Rauch reiterated in a letter to CCC Chairwoman Dorothy Lowman, NOAA Fisheries' desire to continue working together on fishery allocation decisions. Both of those letters are attached.

As you know, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council has been reviewing the red snapper allocation for quite some time through Amendment 28 to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan. In keeping with NOAA's commitment to work with the regional fishery management councils on allocation issues, I ask that you add Amendment 28 to the agenda for the next Council meeting in February 2014 so that the Council can complete its review of the red snapper allocation. I will also discuss this request with the Council at this week's meeting under other business.

Sincerely,

Miles M. Croom

for Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator

Attachments

Cc: Sam Rauch
Kevin Anson
Doug Gregory

