

John Carmichael

From: Wayne Swingle [wayne.swingle@gulfcouncil.org]
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2008 1:06 PM
To: All Technical Staff; bgillbgill@embarqmail.com; rshipp@jaguar1.usouthal.edu; chancyw@gulftel.com; bonnie.ponwith@noaa.gov; Corky Perret; dale.diaz@dmr.ms.gov; doug_fruge@fws.gov; elizabeth.f.keister@uscg.mil; Grimes, Shepherd; GulfCouncil Mail; nolrah@aol.com; jhendrix1706@aol.com; rousset_j@wlf.state.la.us; morris@ncf.edu; foote_k@wlf.state.la.us; hkaywilliams@hotmail.com; lsimpson@gsmfc.org; linda_kelsey@fws.gov; brian.a.sullivan@uscg.mil; michael.mcmore@noaa.gov; mike.ray@tpwd.state.tx.us; nancy.thompson@noaa.gov; phil.steele@noaa.gov; Richard Leard; robin.riechers@tpwd.state.tx.us; roy.crabtree@noaa.gov; steve.branstetter@noaa.gov; suziev@bellsouth.net; Tom.McIlwain@usm.edu; tom.jamir@noaa.gov; vernon.minton@dcnr.alabama.gov; Wayne Swingle; william.teehan@myfwc.com
Cc: John Carmichael; Bonnie Ponwith
Subject: FW: sedar 16 data
Importance: High

FYI

From: bobzales [mailto:bobzales@worldnet.att.net]
Sent: Friday, February 15, 2008 4:26 PM
To: Wayne Swingle
Subject: sedar 16 data
Importance: High

Wayne,

I would like to provide my observation on the S 16 data meeting and provide some suggestions that I hope will be helpful to the process.

First, the meeting was obviously a huge task and John Carmichael's staff did some good preparatory work. Apparently there is some disconnect within the various NMFS divisions as there needs to be better communication between and among the personnel involved with providing much needed data to the proper recipients. One issue that was mentioned many times was the "time constraint" placed on this assessment process so clearly when information can be gathered prior to the meetings, the process can be expedited.

There were a couple of new attendants to the process and they clearly had no idea of what the process is, how is intended to work, and how they should participate. It would be most helpful if the council and/or the NMFS could create a simple information sheet about the sedar process, how people can participate, what individuals can be expected to contribute should they be selected to serve in the process, etc. This would help expedite the process and should help to provide much needed information to the process.

The science center personnel are seriously over worked with the various issues they have to complete. When setting up the sedar meetings, it may help to have input from the center staff as to what they are doing and when they can provide the necessary work for the pending sedar meetings. This is kind of like congress mandating a project but not providing adequate funding. The process is unable to properly fulfill its desired affect.

Someone within the NMFS should develop a simple piece of information describing the regulatory history of each species to be assessed. Clearly, anyone can access the web and do the research, but it would be most helpful, since the NMFS proposes the regs, implements the regs, and enforces the regs, that someone be responsible for keeping up with the history and providing that information early in the process.

One last comment, and this is in no way to imply anything derogatory to any individual or the process. I first started getting involved with the fishery management process 22 years ago with king mackerel. We have worked with many assessment processes and with two councils in an effort to figure out the "mixing zone" and how to allocate king mackerel between the Gulf and South Atlantic during the whole time I have been involved. In addition to this, sedar 16 is not the first sedar process done in the southeast region. As important as red snapper has been to the Gulf, I suggest that the issue of the mixing zone and the constant struggle between two councils clearly states that this issue is extremely important. This is no secret and the fact of this importance should dictate a dedicated effort among the NMFS and both councils to do this job. It is time to put this issue to sea and let both councils manage their respective king mackerel

separately. We do not need to continue to work on this issue as the time has come to make a final decision and move on to other issues.

Thanks,
Bob

Capt. Bob Zales, II
bobzales@att.net
bus. ph 850-763-7249
fax 850-763-3558

"The charm of fishing is that, it is the pursuit of what is elusive, but attainable; a perpetual series of occasions for hope."

quote on a wall of a ladies clothing store in Islamorada, FL.