

February 15, 2011

Mr. Donald Wood
607 Shannon Ave
Melbourne Beach, FL 32951

Dear Mr. Wood,

Knowing of your concern about the Atlantic Red Snapper fisheries ban, I wanted to make you aware of the latest work I have done in Congress to address this growing area of concern. You will be pleased to know that Representative John Mica and I have recently sent a letter of objection to Chairman David Cupka of the Southeast Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Below is the text of that letter.

In March of 2009, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council voted to request an interim rule for Red Snapper that would close the Southeast Atlantic Marine Fishery for 180 days with a possible extension of 186 days. As we know, that rule took effect on January 4, 2010, was then extended on June 2nd for an additional 186 days and was then made permanent on December 3, 2010.

On behalf of the thousands of commercial and recreational fishermen in our districts and across the state, we would like to voice our strong opposition to the current ban concerning Red Snapper in the Southeast Atlantic Marine Fishery.

Florida, one of the states hit hardest by the current economic downturn, depends heavily on the fishing and tourism industries to generate tax dollars for the state. In fact, in Florida alone, the saltwater fishing industry contributes more than \$5 billion a year of economic output, resulting in nearly \$380 million in federal tax revenues per year.

The oil spill in the Gulf has already negatively impacted the lives of those who depend on the ocean for their livelihood; making large portions of the Gulf of Mexico unfishable. To further limit the areas in which Florida fishermen can fish is not the right action, especially during this time of economic uncertainty and record unemployment. The current moratorium has already adversely impacted the commercial and sport fishing and tourism industries in Florida. We must continue to secure accurate information on the health and status of the current Red Snapper population in the South Atlantic Marine Fishery and conduct an economic impact assessment for the communities affected by the moratorium. While Florida's fishing community is pleased by the council's decision to not implement the area closure; the continuation of the ban on Red Snapper fishing and the implementation of further area closures will continue to devastate the economies of many coastal communities and those who depend on fishing for their livelihood.

I will continue to remain engaged in this issue and to fight for the fishermen and fisheries related industries which have suffered economic damage due to the Red Snapper closure. It is an honor to serve you in Congress. For more information on my work in Congress or

to sign up to receive my E-newsletter, please visit my website, <http://posey.house.gov/>. If I may be of service to you in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Bill Posey
Member of Congress