

May 2, 2010

Dr. Roy Crabtree, RegDir
NOAA/NMFS
St. Petersburg, Florida

Roy,

As more and more barrels of oil flow from the Deepwater Horizon and spreads across the eastern Gulf of Mexico, you will be considering closing all fisheries where oil is present on the surface of the water.

If you get to the point where you have to close all fishing because of oil getting on the product I urge you not to close more areas than are necessary.

NMFS needs to work with NGO's – commercial and recreational – who have members that can be kept informed on all actions taken as they occur and pass on information to other fishermen. There should be a committee of fishing entities as part of any plan closing fishing to everyone.

We have members throughout the region and a working relationship with many other NGO's. We must not be prevented from participating in decisions related to our livelihood.

We know you will be closing areas to all fishing but we don't want you to close more of an area than is justifiable and necessary.

We stand ready to assist and to be engaged to the fullest.

Bob

Bob Jones
Southeastern Fisheries Association