

To: South Atlantic Council/Dr. Steve Murawski/Inspector General's Office

According to SEDAR 15 the average size for a red snapper caught from 1946 to 1966 was six pounds. The most total pounds caught in any given year during this time was less than 1,000,000 pounds. At a six pound average (probably a little more) the most individual red snapper ever removed from the stock in a year would be 170,000, all sectors combined.

The smallest year one class from 1946 to 1966 was approximately 640,000 individual red snapper. This means that for every snapper taken annually during this time period they were replaced by the stock naturally, plus 470,000 more on top of them. Yet, in the computer model the total biomass of all ages added together, dropped 64% during this time period.

If you add all ages in metric tons across the 1946 line it equals 27,000 metric tons. If you do the same for 1966 it equals 9,700 metric tons. This is a difference of 17,300 metric tons or 38 million pounds. By 1983 according to the computer model this number dwindles to 718 metric tons or 1.6 million pounds. This does not add up from a scientific standpoint (SEDAR 15 SAR 1 Section III Page 54 and 56).

The destruction of lives that is being perpetrated on the fishermen of the South Atlantic is a criminal act. Someone has to be held responsible for allowing this type of flawed science to force a complete shutdown of a fishery and the destruction of businesses. The problem with the law enforcement branch of NMFS in New England is nothing compared to what is going on across the entire Southeast. If the Inspector General's Office wants to truly stop out of control government that is violating American families basic rights, like the right to earn a living, then he needs to investigate the science used in the South Atlantic to shut down red snapper.

It has taken me nearly 12 months to begin to find out how truly wrong SEDAR 15 is. I am just beginning to scratch the surface of the massive mistakes in all areas. I am sure that I will continue to find more over the next few months. Along with this I will be trying to get Congress to encourage the Inspector General's Office to investigate this entire situation. The destruction of livelihoods by NMFS law enforcement in New England is microscopic compared to what is going on in the NMFS science wing in the South Atlantic.

Thank you for your time.

Captain David Nelson