

STOP FUNDING NEW CATCH SHARE PROGRAMS IN THE GULF OF MEXICO NOW!!

The individuals, businesses, and associations listed below represent the true fishermen (commercial, recreational, and recreational charter) from the 5 Gulf of Mexico States of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. Collectively, we represent many thousands of fishermen and we are **unanimous in our opposition to further funding of any new Catch Share programs in the Gulf of Mexico.**

The commercial fishing associations and seafood dealers listed here market 80% of the reef fish harvested in the Gulf. We are united in our request that new Catch Share Programs in the Gulf of Mexico be put on hold and that no further funding for new Catch Share programs be provided by Congress and/or NOAA/NMFS until a complete analysis of the effects of the current programs is completed.

Before we do more damage to the coastal communities of the Gulf we want to know what impacts Catch Share programs are having on Gulf of Mexico jobs, recreational charter boats, commercial fishing vessels, recreational anglers, seafood houses, industry infrastructure, and small industry-related support businesses. In Florida alone, recreational and commercial fishing accounted for **\$15.3 BILLION** in sales for 2008.

In addition to the negative social and economic impacts on our coastal communities, the amount of discards and discard mortality created by these programs needs careful consideration. A comprehensive study of the social, scientific, and economic impacts of Catch Share programs is the prudent way to address this issue rather than a headlong rush to implement more of these programs to benefit a small class of fishermen.

You have heard from the Environmental Defense Fund, their K Street lawyers, and the few so called "commercial fishing associations" (paid for by EDF), that the Gulf should be exempted from any legislation that restricts funding for new Catch Share programs. EDF and their pseudo-associations represent fewer than 10% of the fishermen and an even smaller percentage of commercial seafood dealers from the Gulf.

These people do not speak for the multitude of fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico. Catch Share programs provide no benefit for the resource -- they serve only to make millionaires of a few and sharecroppers of the many, while reducing overall jobs, harming families, and negatively impacting coastal communities.

Until and unless Catch Share programs can be proven to provide benefits to the resource, to the majority of fishermen, to create jobs, and to enhance communities, they should be placed on hold with no new funding from Congress.

This position has not changed for the over 3,000 fishermen from across the country who traveled to Washington, DC for the United We Fish rally held on February 24, 2010. This was the largest gathering of commercial, recreational charter, and recreational fishermen ever assembled for one United event.

We encourage you to support zero funding for new Catch Share programs in the Gulf of Mexico in FY 2012.

THE LIST BELOW REPRESENTS THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE WORKING AND RECREATIONAL FISHERMEN OF THE GULF OF MEXICO

A.P. BELL FISH COMPANY, INC
BLENDEDIN, INC
CAPT. ANDERSON'S MARINA
CAPT. BILLY NILES, Key West, FL
CAPT. BOB ZALES, II
CAPT. BOBBY FULLER, Panama City, FL
CAPT. EDDIE'S SEAFOOD INC
CAPT. ERNIE PITON, Key Largo, FL
CAPT. GEORGE NILES, Key West, FL
CAPT. JASON YARBROUGH, Key West, FL
CAPT. JEFF CRAMER, Conch Key, FL
CAPT. JOHNNY BROWN
CAPT. JOSH NICKLAUS, Key West, FL
CAPT. MIKE NUGENT
CAPT. ROBBIE FULLER, Panama City, FL
CAPT. TIM DANIELS, Marathon, FL
CAPT. BOBBY PILLAR, Big Pine Key, FL
CLARK SEAFOOD
CYNTHIA J, Joe Pillsbury, owner/operator
DAVID BARBER SEAFOOD
DESTIN CHARTER BOAT ASSOCIATION
DUKES TRANSPORT INC
ED SCHROEDER, Galveston Party Boats
ELIANNY ABICHE
F/V BARBARA J
F/V BENJAMIN K
F/V BIRD DOG 1, Al Dopirak
F/V BLUEWATER, Mark Dube
F/V BNB, Capt. Butch Hewlett
F/V CANDO, Capt. Brian Spaeth
F/V CAPT AL, Martha Lee Beneduci
F/V CARELESS, Capt. Sam Nastari
F/V CRABCO, Capt. Jason Kossert
F/V DANIEL 1
F/V GALE FORCE, Capt. Mitch Gale
F/V GALILEE
F/V GUARDIAN
F/V GULF SEARCH, Capt. Brian Holland
F/V HARD TIMES, Rich Castellano
F/V HONEY BEE, Darrell Knepp
F/V JOHNNY O, John Stalides
F/V KINGFISHER, Capt. Steve Thoristeen
F/V LIFE FORCE, Capt. Gary Nichols
F/V MARY L, Kirk Stewart
F/V MICHELLE MARIE, Jim Bonnell
F/V MISS BETH II, Capt. Kelly Nichols
F/V MISS IRENE, John Cox
F/V MISS KIM, Ed Duller
F/V MISS RITA, David Johnson
F/V MISS VICKI, Capt. Vicki Gale
F/V MYSTIC 1

F/V NANDIT II, Capt. Dave Malouf
F/V OVERKILL, Mike Nichols
F/V PETES DREAM
F/V REDMAN, Russell Boats
F/V ROUND TUIT
F/V SEA CAT
F/V TAURUS
F/V TREYCO, Capt. Bob Spaeth
F/V VILLAGER, Shawn Watson
FISHERMENS ICE & BAIT INC
FISHING RIGHTS ALLIANCE
FLORIDA GUIDES ASSOCIATION
FLORIDA KEYS COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION
GARY'S SEAFOOD SPECIALTIES, INC, Mitch Rice, Gary Reed, Darryl Reed
GEORGE GIEGER, SAFMC member from FL
GREG ABRAMS
GREG ABRAMS SEAFOOD
HILTON'S FISHING CHARTS, LLC
HUBBARDS MARINA
ISLAMORADA CHARTER BOAT ASSOCIATION
JANE CORLISS
JERRY ANDREWS, Charter Boat owner
JERRY SAMSON, Executive Director OFF
JESSIE B. BELL, INC
JIM BUSSE
JOANNE, INC
KALIJE BELLE, INC
KAREN BELL, former GMFMC member
KAREN J. BELLE, INC
KARL LESSARD, Former GMFMC Member and Chairman from FL
KEY LARGO FISHERIES
KEY WEST CHARTER BOAT ASSOCIATION
LIBERTY BELLE, INC
LISA M. BELLE, INC
MADEIRA BEACH SEAFOOD, Bill Houghton
MADEIRA GROUP, INC
MADEIRA MARINE SERVICES
MARCO ISLAND CHARTER CAPTAINS ASSOCIATION
MARK HUBBARD, owner 3 party boats in John's Pass, FL
MERMAID FOODS INC, George Annexy
MIKE HOLMES, Surfside, TX
MISSISSIPPI CHARTER BOAT CAPTAINS ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHARTERBOAT OPERATORS
ORGANIZED FISHERMEN OF FLORIDA, MARATHON CHAPTER
ORGANIZED FISHERMEN OF FLORIDA, State Chapter
PANAMA CITY BOATMEN ASSOCIATION
PARTY BOAT ADVENTURER, Mary Ann Heinmann
PARTY BOAT BIG THUNDER, Ed Schroeder
PARTY BOAT CAPT ANDERSON
PARTY BOAT DOLPHIN, Paul Dirk
PARTY BOAT DOLPHIN EXPRESS, Michael Hall
PARTY BOAT GULF EAGLE, Kelly F. Owens
PARTY BOAT HAPPY HOOKER, James McClellon
PARTY BOAT JUBILEE
PARTY BOAT KESSLER DOLPHIN II, James Young
PARTY BOAT KINGFISHER, Kelly F. Owens

PARTY BOAT LA PESCA, Michael Hall
PARTY BOAT MISS HOSPITALITY, Kenny Barhanovich
PARTY BOAT NEW BUCCANEER, Ed Schroeder
PARTY BOAT NEW PELICAN, Kelly F. Owens
PARTY BOAT OSPREY II, Phil Calo
PARTY BOAT OSPREY, Phil Calo
PARTY BOAT SCAT CAT, Bobby Grumbles
PARTY BOAT SILVER DAWN III, Jay Trochesset
PARTY BOAT SKIPPER, Tom Becker
PARTY BOAT TEXAS CAVILIER, Ed Schroeder
PARTY BOAT WHARF CAT, Bobby Grumbles
PENSACOLA CHARTER BOAT ASSOCIATION
PENSACOLA RECREATIONAL FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION
PHIL HORN
PORT ARANSAS BOATMEN, INC
RACHEL J. BELLE, INC
RAFFIELD FISHERIES
REALTIME-NAVIGATOR.COM
REBEL, INC
RECREATIONAL FISHING ALLIANCE
REEF-MAN, LLC
RS ENTERPRISE
RUSTY BELLY RESTAURANT
SAM CHAVERS
SAVANNAH BELLE, INC
SAVEON SEAFOOD, Gib Migliano
SEA HAWK, INC
SEAFOOD ATLANTIC
SHE'S A BELLE, INC
SMITH'S YACHT BASIN
SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
SOUTHERN OFFSHORE FISHING ASSOCIATION
STAR FISH COMPANY OF CORTEZ, INC
STEVE REIS, PELICAN SEAFOOD
STOKES FISH CO, Fred
SUNNYLAND TRANSPORT INC, Karen Marienthal, Bruce Reichelderfer
THUNDER BELLE, INC
TOM HILTON, HOUSTON, TX
WALTER BELL
WATER STREET SEAFOOD
WOODY'S SPORTS CENTER, Aransas Pass, TX