

Greetings:

Thank you Senator Rubio for bringing this significant red snapper management injustice to the Inspector General. There is so much oppression by government toward the working fisherman.

We have members willing to give depositions on what they have listened too at Council meetings in past years.

The current South Atlantic Fishery Management Council is well balanced and wants honest science as much as we do. They know the models lack data.

The key for the IG is to have an outside scientist that understands fishery models who can examine how the Beaufort Assessment Model has decimated the fishing industry.

There are other dynamic fishery models that are more in tune to reality in the environment than the BAM model so strongly preferred by NOAA.

Cheers.

Bob Jones
Executive Director

From: PressShop, Rubio (Rubio)

Sent: Monday, June 27, 2016 2:56 PM

To: PressShop, Rubio (Rubio) <RubioPressShop@rubio.senate.gov>

Subject: Rubio Requests Inspector General Review Of Decisions Related To Red Snapper Fishery In South Atlantic Waters

For Immediate Release
Monday, June 27, 2016

Contact: Olivia Perez-Cubas/ Kristen Morrell
[202-224-3041](tel:202-224-3041)

RUBIO REQUESTS INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW OF DECISIONS RELATED TO RED SNAPPER FISHERY IN SOUTH ATLANTIC WATERS

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL), Chairman of the Commerce Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries and Coast Guard, today [requested](#) the U.S. Department of Commerce Inspector General to review the Department’s decision to close the South Atlantic red snapper fishery for a second year in a row. In a letter to Acting Inspector General David Smith, Rubio expressed concern regarding the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) announcement and noted the public distrust with the decision remains high.

“Prohibiting commercial, charter and recreational fishing in these waters is a decision that must not be taken lightly,” **said Rubio.** “The economic benefit to my home state of Florida, along with other states that fall under the South Atlantic, cannot be overstated. According to NOAA data, 37% of all

recreational fishing trips were taken in Florida. The commercial sector is tasked with ensuring Americans across the country are able to purchase this species, while creating much needed harvesting, processing, distribution and retail jobs.. It is clear that NOAA's rebuilding plan is not working, as evidenced by two seasonal closures in a row, and only 11 days allowed for recreational fishing in 2013 and 2014, combined."

A PDF of the letter is available [here](#) and the full text is below:

Mr. David Smith
Acting Inspector General
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Smith:

As Chairman of the Commerce Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries and Coast Guard, I write with great concern on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) announcement that red snapper in South Atlantic Federal waters will once again be closed in 2016.

Prohibiting commercial, charter and recreational fishing in these waters is a decision that must not be taken lightly. The economic benefit to my home state of Florida, along with other states that fall under the South Atlantic, cannot be overstated. According to NOAA data, 37% of all recreational fishing trips were taken in Florida. The commercial sector is tasked with ensuring Americans across the country are able to purchase this species, while creating much needed harvesting, processing, distribution and retail jobs. Both small and large businesses along the coast, and throughout the country, benefit from this valuable fishery.

It is clear that NOAA's rebuilding plan is not working, as evidenced by two seasonal closures in a row, and only 11 days allowed for recreational fishing in 2013 and 2014, combined. Coupled with a stock assessment that was not shared prior to the closure being announced, public distrust is at an all-time high. In order to bring transparency and to ensure these important decisions are not being made without taking into account all aspects of this fishery, especially reliable data, I formally request the Office of Inspector General review the Department's decisions and assessment modeling, **especially the Beaufort Assessment Model, as it relates to the South Atlantic red snapper fishery.(emphasis added)**

Respectfully,

Marco Rubio
United States Senator