

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 23, 2017

Mr. Earl W. Comstock
Director
Office of Policy and Strategic Planning
United States Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Director Comstock:

We write to express our continued concern for the three day recreational Red Snapper season for private anglers recently announced by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). As this is an issue of significant importance to our constituents, communities and economies, we propose for your consideration a possible solution for the 2017 private recreational Red Snapper season.

We strongly urge you to use any authority at your disposal to expand the 2017 private recreational Red Snapper season in federal waters to include Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays in June, July and August, as well as July 3 and July 4, consistent with the current health and overall sustainability of the stock. While this proposal does not address the longer term issues, we hope this proposed solution for the 2017 season will be something you will strongly consider.

As you consider this solution, we ask that you act as quickly as possible to ensure greater access to the private recreational angling community. Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,

Steve Scalise

Bob Byrd

Clayton Scott

MS

Minibloni

Randy K. Webb

Blake Fitchell

Pete Olson

Paul Jones ^{FR2}

Matt Mast

Steven M. Palermo ^{MS4}

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Joe