



Via Email

Craig Cockrell
Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1)
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910
HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

December 20, 2012

Re: 0648–XC266, Intent to Issue Exempted Fishing Permits for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna

Dear Mr. Cockrell,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on exempted fishing permits (EFPs), scientific research permits, display permits, letters of acknowledgment, and chartering permits for the collection of Atlantic highly migratory species that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) intends to issue in 2013. 77 Fed. Reg. 69593 (Nov. 20, 2012) (“*Federal Register* notice”). The Center for Biological Diversity works to secure a future for all species through science-based advocacy and therefore supports additional scientific research into highly migratory species.

Additional scientific research for the overfished Atlantic bluefin tuna is especially important because the information may improve management to allow bluefin tuna’s recovery. The EFPs for research into bycatch reduction and bluefin tuna life history and migration sound beneficial because the results have great potential to improve highly migratory species management. These EFPs will involve compensation fishing, where the vessels are not bona fide research vessels. Therefore NMFS should seek additional public comments before issuing the EFPs, as proposed in the *Federal Register* notice.

The *Federal Register* notice also states that NMFS expects in 2013 to receive applications for EFPs for scientists to research methods to successfully culture bluefin and yellowfin tuna. As part of this research in 2012, NMFS issued an EFP without seeking additional comment. The 2012 EFP allowed collection of up to six 24-27” yellowfin and bluefin tuna on rod and reel gear and transportation to land-based holding tanks. No release of fish from the holding tanks was authorized under the permit.

The *Federal Register* notice fails to provide enough detail on the applications expected in 2013 for NMFS to issue EFPs without seeking additional comment. Regulations require that NMFS publish “a brief description of the proposal” in the *Federal Register* and allow a 15-45 day period for comment on the notice of receipt of the EFP

application. 50 C.F.R. §600.745 (b)(3)(i). The short paragraph in the *Federal Register* notice fails to provide the required brief description because it leaves important questions unanswered. For example, it is not clear if these tuna will be collected via compensation fishing or by a bona fide research vessel. Also, do the EFPs allow sale of the bluefin tuna at the end of their breeding life? Are the scientists mentioned working for a private business, such as an aquaculture business, or for a university or government? The *Federal Register* notice says only that the research “would ultimately provide larvae and juveniles for an array of investigations” without suggesting what those investigations might entail and whether NMFS expects a conservation and management benefit from the research.

Bluefin tuna have a long history of overexploitation and mismanagement fueled by the high prices for sushi grade tuna. While successful breeding of yellowfin and bluefin tuna likely would yield important scientific information, it also would have great commercial value. An array of conservation concerns arise if NMFS is issuing EFPs purely to advance economic opportunity in bluefin tuna aquaculture. Without more information, it’s not clear whether these are valid concerns to voice with respect to the EFPs expected in 2013. Please provide more detail and offer an additional comment period before issuing the EFPs for tuna aquaculture in 2013.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Catherine Kilduff

Catherine Ware Kilduff, M.S., J.D.
Staff Attorney
Center for Biological Diversity



THE BILLFISH FOUNDATION
CONSERVATION THROUGH RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

5100 N. Federal Hwy., Suite 200 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33308
(954) 938-0150 • (800) 438-8247 • Fax (954) 938-5311

Margo Schulze-Haugen, Chief
Highly Migratory Species Division
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Attn: Craig Cockrell

Ref: Issuance of Exempted
Fishing Permits - Atlantic HMS
2013 - Transmitted Via Email
NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the announcement that the NMFS will be considering issuance of Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP) for anticipated projects during 2013. The Billfish Foundation (TBF) opposes issuance of an EFP for the stated purpose of "research" that would now allow commercial pelagic longline vessels to fish in the Charleston Bump and Florida East Coast marine conservation zones to "investigate bycatch hotspots" or to for bluefin tuna life history research. Though not included in this notice we also would oppose any such research in the Gulf of Mexico zone closed to pelagic longline gear.

The pelagic longline closed zones were established to reduce bycatch in the area because it was a bycatch hotspot of "overfished and protected species", which included blue marlin, white marlin, sailfish, juvenile swordfish and sea turtles." The status of all these species, except for swordfish, remains the same. Swordfish have recovered, which attests to the success, in part, of the closed zones. Allowing pelagic longline gear back into these zones would certainly establish it once again as a "bycatch hotspot" that needs to remain closed to the gear.

The proposal does not provide enough specifics for a true evaluation of the impacts of and need for research using pelagic longline gear in the conservation zones. There is no statement as to the purpose and intent of such research. What question will the work address? Who will conduct the research and what are the qualifications and experience of the investigators? Earlier research in the zone produced few clear results and raised many questions as to its execution. The last proposal for an EFP allowing the use of longlines in this closed area was rejected by the SAFMC and the state of Florida. In light of the need for

TBF - page 2
EFP

greater scrutiny by the FMC, the state of Florida and the public issuing such an EFP would be contrary to good governance and public policy.

Again thank you for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to working with you during the continued amendment process of the HMS FMP.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ellen Peel".

Ellen M. Peel
President

Craig Cockrell
Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1)
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Fax: (301) 713-1917

Email: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Dear Mr. Cockrell:

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concern with the announcement sent as a courtesy to the public that the National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) will be considering Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP's) for anticipated 'research' projects in the coming year. Along with 100,000 other Coastal Conservation Association members, I am concerned with the possibility of allowing longline vessels to fish in the Charleston Bump and Florida East Coast marine conservation zones where that use has been prohibited for more than 10 years. These closures were designed to help preserve juvenile swordfish, marlin, and sailfish.

I am not alone in expressing that I would be extremely disappointed if NMFS allows the use of longline gear to harvest highly migratory species within these conservation zones.

It should also be noted that the last proposal for Exempted Fishing Permits in this conservation area was rejected by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the State of Florida. There is no reason to think that consideration of these EFPs will not cause a similar uproar in the sportfishing community and beyond. Please assist us all in continuing to provide a sustainable marine habitat that our children and grandchildren can continue to enjoy as all of us sportfishing men and women do today.

We request a positive response stating that no EFP will be considered, allowing use of longline gear in conservation areas.

Warmest Regards,



Jamie McLean

██████████@██████████

CCA South Carolina Board Member and Committee Chairman

P.S. Merry Christmas



Long lining in FI Straits/ attn: Mr Craig Cockrell

1 message

Mark Malizia <[REDACTED]>
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 26, 2012 at 5:51 PM

To Whom it may concern, I would like to voice my opinion that long lining should not be allowed to take place in the Florida Straits. The area is so small that gear conflicts are bound to arise with both recreational and the already well established commercial hand gear fishery. Also, we have seen first hand (having sport fished this area often in years past) that the vast majority of the fish are small (pups). The current status quo with both commercial hand gear fishing and recreational sportfishing seems to be working out well for the local economy and the fishery.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark Malizia
resident and local business owner [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Longlines in Florida

1 message

Stanley Martin <smartin@martinaequitas.com>

Wed, Dec 26, 2012 at 5:15 PM

To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

No!!

Regards,

Stanley L. Martin



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Sent from my iPhone - Please excuse any typos



Long lining of swordfish

1 message

Christopher Garbooshian <[REDACTED]>
To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Mon, Dec 24, 2012 at 11:22 PM

Sent from my iPad As a longtime fisherman of the Florida keys I would hate to see
The swordfish stocks depleted as they were before. It's hard enough now to catch
A legal fish for many of us. The last thing we do should allow more pressure on these
Magnificent fish to benefit a few commercial fisherman. Thanks for listening
Chris Garbooshian



Long Line fishing

1 message

sean sprangel <[REDACTED]>
To: nmfs.hmsefp.2013@noaa.gov

Mon, Dec 24, 2012 at 11:38 AM

<mailto:NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Craig

To even consider allowing longline commercial fishing would be obscured. The by catch is almost always fatal. The fish prices would diminish, commercial profits would drop forcing more small companies out of business. The recreational fishing industry is among the largest recreational industries in the world. Listen to the sportfishing groups. They spend taxable dollars everyday.

thanks for your time

Sean Sprangel



Long lining in the Florida Straits or anywhere

1 message

brad harmer <[REDACTED]>
To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Sun, Dec 23, 2012 at 10:32 AM

Long lining has no business in fishing, period. It has a devastating affect on the fishery and the environment. This garbage of letting the long liners back into are waters is sick and the ones that are even considering this should really be singled out and let the public now who they are and why they think this could be a good idea.

I am a recreational angler and have had enough of the bad science and made up science to appease the commercial fisherman. I have woke up and will not allow it anymore. Myself and many more are seeing what is happening to our fishery and it is time we stand up and say enough is enough.

NO, TO LONG LINING ANYWHERE IN FLORIDA !!!!!!!!!!!

Brad Harmer



Long lining

1 message

john pelmas [REDACTED] >
To: nmfs.hmsefp.2013@noaa.gov

Sun, Dec 23, 2012 at 7:49 AM

Please do not allow long lining in the florida straits. It wiped out the fishery before and will do so again if re-introduced. Thank you for your consideration.



Longlining

1 message

j mal <[REDACTED]>

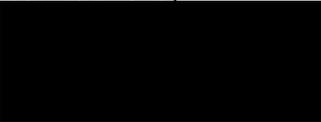
Sun, Dec 23, 2012 at 2:37 AM

To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Dear Mr. Cockrell:

I am a veteran of the late's 70s swordfishing scene off Florida. The fishery utterly collapsed when longlining appeared. We would run offshore for hours in our center console boat, and the longlines would run for miles. I personally saw sharks, white and blue marlin bycatch dumped dead offshore. Longlines RAPE the fisheries. Please do not consider allowing the reintroduction of loglining in the Atlantic, it would kill this budding fishery!!!

John J. Malloy



PS I vote!



DO NOT OPEN IT!!!!!!

1 message

William Ryan <[REDACTED]>
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Sat, Dec 22, 2012 at 9:24 AM

Mr. Cockrell,

In the 80's it took years to recover from this same mistake and it's not right that after all that, we're going to start it all over again... You have to put the money aside and think about our future and our children's future offshore. What we have is amazing, so for 10 or so long liners to be allowed to come in our small area and set up miles of hooks and ruin our swordfish species for many years to come to say the least! And would hate to see this horrible mistake repeat itself again. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter on behalf of myself and all the offshore fishermen.

Billy Ryan
[REDACTED]



No to long lining

1 message

John [REDACTED] >

Fri, Dec 21, 2012 at 10:39 PM

To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Hello to whom it may concern, I have spent so much time on the water to just try and get my first keeper. The recreational guys put so much in and get so little back. The crazy part is we keep coming back.. I've only caught one keeper in 15 trips so do the math what we do for the economy.the daytime thing is another story but if they can catch one or two it's better than killing sails some white marlins some blues and don't forget the turtles.

Thank you



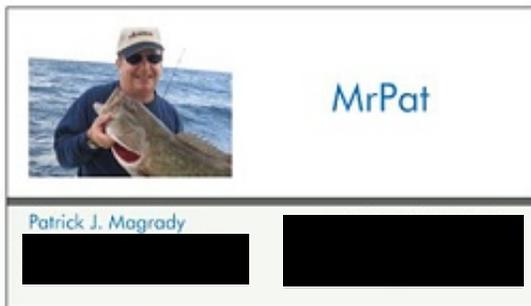
Long Lining in the Florida Straits

1 message

Patrick Magrady [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Fri, Dec 21, 2012 at 3:02 PM

Don't permit the Florida Straits.





Longline fishing ban

1 message

juancarlosmestre <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Dec 21, 2012 at 12:22 PM

Reply-To: juancarlosmestre <[REDACTED]>

To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

I would like to support the ban on longline fishing in florida. What can I do to help?

Thank you,
Juan-Carlos Mestre



Surface longlining for swordfish in the Florida Straits

1 message

ajn118@aol.com <[REDACTED]>
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Fri, Dec 21, 2012 at 10:34 AM

Dear Mr. Cockrell,

Allowing longlining for Swordfish in the Florida Straits will decimate the fishery as evidenced by past longlining activity. This doesn't include the countless other species such as sharks, turtles etc, that will be severely impacted by this type of indiscriminate fishing.

I implore you and the NMFS to disallow ANY longlining in the Florida Straits and to work toward the eventual ban of ALL longlining in US waters.

Thank you,

Anthony Nassaur
[REDACTED]



NMFS HMSEFP.2013 - NOAA Service Account <nmfs.hmsefp.2013@noaa.gov>

(no subject)

1 message

Mike Loew <[REDACTED]>
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Fri, Dec 21, 2012 at 8:20 AM

Please do not even think about allowing Longlining back into the Florida Straits



longlining in fla.

1 message

Don Danielson [REDACTED]

Fri, Dec 21, 2012 at 9:15 AM

To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

to mr. cockrell,

we strongly oppose any longlining in the fla. straights

i have a bouy fishing vessel and depend on this fishery

we will supply any info you need anytime

thanks

God bless

don danielson



Long lining in the Florida Straits

1 message

Pat McCoy [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Fri, Dec 21, 2012 at 8:43 AM

Mr. Cockrell,

It has come to my attention that the advisory committee is taking public comment concerning the possibility of re-opening the Florida Straits to long lining. In my opinion, and from my experience, I believe this would be a huge mistake.

I have lived in Florida and fished these waters all my life. Please do not let short term gain and political sway ruin our local fishery and decimate our swordfish population. If more fish are needed to fill the quota other areas should be looked into and the Florida Straits left alone as promised many years ago. The loss in money to the local economy would be far greater than any income a few long line boats would derive and the time to re-build would no doubt be even longer than it was back in the 80's.

Sincerely,

Pat McCoy



Long lining off FL

1 message

Doug Dasher [REDACTED]

Fri, Dec 21, 2012 at 7:25 AM

To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

I am greatly opposed to the possibility of long lining for swordfish being opened up off of the South Florida coast and Charleston Bump.

Doug Dasher

Sent from my iPad



Long Line Fishing In The Florida Straights

1 message

Three Little Fish [REDACTED]

Fri, Dec 21, 2012 at 2:43 AM

To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Mr. Cockrell,

Long line fishing has long proven to be an antiquated method of fishing that has seen its time come and go. Long line fishing is indiscriminant. The by-catch list includes immature juvenile target species, non target species, sea turtles and birds. To reinstate long lining in the Florida Straights would be a perfect example of government serving the needs of special interests instead of serving the much larger number of recreational fisherman, environmentalists, and others who want to protect our natural resources. It's time to change the way we do business. We know the results of long line fishing in the Florida Straights. The swordfish stocks are in recovery. We don't need to repeat history. Long line fishing should remain closed in the Florida Straights.

Regards

Lawrence Druyan



Long Lines

1 message

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 9:55 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

I am opposed to any intent of legislation to allow long lines in our Atlantic waters.
Stevens H. Scott, Sr.

[REDACTED]
Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry



NMFS HMSEFP.2013 - NOAA Service Account <nmfs.hmsefp.2013@noaa.gov>

Longlines

1 message

Tracey Kettelhut [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 8:56 PM

I am not understanding why you would allow LL back in the FL straights. I appose any idea of LL back into such a small area that is already overloaded with buoy boats. The CPU for all vessels fishing in the straight have dropped considerably in the past few years.



Florida Long-lining

1 message

David W Petito <[REDACTED]>
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 8:54 PM

Dear Craig,

Please do not consider reopening the straits of Florida to commercial long lining. Our region cannot handle it, as our pelagic fish occupy a relatively narrow swath of water. You know the history - it decimated swordfish stocks before.

Please consider the economic value that the recreational fishery creates. It dwarfs the value of the added long line catch.

David W. Petito, PMP
Principal
CSC
Federal Consulting Practice | [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Long lines in the FL Straits

1 message

fbluerunner [REDACTED]

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 6:10 PM

Reply-To: fbluerunner [REDACTED]

To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Craig Cockrell,

I live in the FI Keys and am totally opposed to long lining being allowed.

The by catch alone kills so many species that it is a ridiculous recommendation.

The daily bag limits and numerous closures already impact the recreational fishermen in a totally negative way.

The sword catch alone will be destroyed, again.

Thank you for your consideration.

John M Tyson
[REDACTED]



longlining

1 message

Jake Richards [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 5:16 PM

Hey Craig. Im a buoy fisherman out of south florida and I just wanted to express my opinion on the reopening of longlining. The fishery isnt nearly as good as it used to be as is and there are way more buoy boats then in previous years. In my opinion, the reopening of longlining will totally wipe out whatever's left of this fishery out of the florida straits and make it even more difficult for us buoy guys to make a living.

thanks

Jake



WPB Fishing Club Comments on NMFS proposal to issue EFP's

1 message

Tom Twyford [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 4:57 PM

Dear Mr. Cockrell:

On behalf of the over 1,300 members of the venerable West Palm Beach Fishing Club (WPBFC), I would like to offer our club's comments on the National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) consideration of issuing Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP) in the coming year. The WPBFC is concerned that such an open-ended proposal (as outlined in the NMFS November 20, 2012 press release) may lead to commercial longline vessels returning to the Florida East Coast Marine Conservation Zone. The proposal is far too vague and in our view leaves the door open to potential abuses.

The prohibition of surface longlines off Florida's East Coast has had a positive impact on the recovery of swordfish and continues to provide a critical level of protection for juvenile swordfish, other billfish and turtles. It is clear to the WPBFC that the conservation goals originally set forth when the closures were put in place are working. Additionally, the closures have lead to renewed interest in recreational and charter fishing for swordfish, which continues to fuel significant economic activity here in south Florida.

We recognize that the commercial U.S. longline fleet is finding it increasingly difficult to stay in business. A wide variety of factors including access to the fishery, strict regulations, increased operational costs, sporadic market demand, mercury contamination and competition from imported fish are just a few of the impediments to a robust domestic longline fleet. However, giving longliners access to areas known to be swordfish nursery grounds and by-catch hot spots is not the answer to aiding the longline fleet in our view.

The WPBFC has a long history of supporting efforts to capture important fishery data. However, without more details on the proposed research the WPBFC does not support the NMFS open-ended proposal to issue EFP's that would allow the use of surface longlines in existing conservation zones.

Respectfully,

Tom Twyford, President





Opposition to Proposed EFPs

1 message

Dale Petty [REDACTED]

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 4:47 PM

To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Mr. Craig Cockrell

Highly Migratory Species Management Division

National Marine Fisheries Service

1315 East-West Highway

Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Cockrell,

I am alarmed by that the NMFS is considering Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) in marine conservation zones that were created more than a decade ago. Those areas are the Charleston Bump and Florida East Coast Marine Conservation Zones. These areas were specifically created by the NMFS to eliminate the by catch of sailfish, marlins, and undersized swordfish as well as endangered species such as sea turtles by longline gear. As the NMFS is aware, these Conservation Zones have been a tremendous success. It defies logic, that NMFS would want to re-introduce the same activity (long lining) with the use of EFPs in the same areas that were created to ban this destructive and indiscriminate fishing practice. If NMFS would like to conduct such research there are thousands of square miles of other areas in which to do so. I respectfully request that the NMFS withdraw this proposal from consideration. Thank you for your time and attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely and respectfully yours,

Dale Petty



Oppose Longline Permits

1 message

Pete West [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 4:32 PM

Dear Sir,

I am absolutely opposed to allowing Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) for the collection of Atlantic highly migratory species.

Peter E. West
President
Custom Building Co.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]





surface longlining for swordfish in the Florida Straits

1 message

Albert Huang [REDACTED]
To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 4:28 PM

Dear Mr Craig Cockrell,

I am writing in regards to surface longlining for swordfish in the Florida Straits.

I strongly feel that surface longlining should NEVER be allowed again . It wiped out the fishery in Florida and much further north. It is an indiscriminate fishery which kills many non targeted species and turtles.

I fish out NY and NJ. I feel that the decline and rebuilding of the swordfish have been clearly tied to longling in the florida straits.

I urge you to close longlining in the florida straits for fear of another collapse.

Albert Huang MD



NMFS HMSEFP.2013 - NOAA Service Account <nmfs.hmsefp.2013@noaa.gov>

Longlining will destroy swordfish again

1 message

Idal Sarduy [REDACTED]

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 4:05 PM

To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Lets not make that mistake again.

Sent from my iPhone



NMFS HMSEFP.2013 - NOAA Service Account <nmfs.hmsefp.2013@noaa.gov>

No longlines!

1 message

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 3:58 PM

[REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Please reconsider the proposal to allow longline fishing for research in protected waters.
Sent on the Sprint® Now Network from my BlackBerry®



Keep longlining out of conservation zones

1 message

Harley R. Miller [REDACTED]
To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 3:41 PM

Mr. Cockrell:

I'm writing you today to encourage you to NOT allow Exempted Fishing Permits in conservation zones located in the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea. I'm a lifelong angler who has seen firsthand the positive effect that the longline ban has had on the fishery off South Florida. Any loophole to this ban would negatively affect the dollars I and many others spend on recreational fishing, not to mention the damage it would do to the fishery. I strongly encourage you to maintain these conservation zones as they are currently managed.

Kind regards,

Harley R. Miller | Project Engineer

Miller Construction Company
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]



EFP proposal

1 message

Robert Hammond [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 3:08 PM

I am very much against issuing EFP's to fish areas that have been closed to help restore the stocks. It will take many more years to realize the benefits from the existing closures and I feel that this is simply a way to get their foot in the door. Robert Hammond, New S



no long-lining

1 message

adam tannen [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 2:48 PM

Craig-

Please do not allow long liners to fish in the Florida Straights.

Our fishery is already decimated enough due to under regulation of commercial fisherman....

If you allow long lining in the straights, the broadbill swordfish population will cease to exist. In addition I can only image the horror of the by-catch.

Please do not allow this to take place.

Coming from an avid fisherman with 25k hours on the water in Fla....

Adam Tannen

[REDACTED]

American Sportfishing Association
Coastal Conservation Association
Center for Coastal Conservation
International Game Fish Association
National Marine Manufacturers Association

December 20, 2012

Mr. Craig Cockrell
Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1)
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Cockrell,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the announcement sent as a courtesy to the public that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will be considering Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) for anticipated projects during the coming year. Our organizations are particularly concerned with the possibility of purported “research” that would allow commercial longline vessels to fish in the Charleston Bump and Florida East Coast marine conservation zones where the use of surface longline gear has been prohibited for more than a decade.

The closures were put in place to reduce the bycatch mortality of juvenile swordfish, white and blue marlin and sailfish. The success of the zones has been widely documented by NMFS researchers as well as others from outside the agency. The conservation goals set forth as the basis for creating the closed areas are being achieved and could be considered one of the most creative and successful ecosystem management efforts ever undertaken by the agency.

In light of that, we would be extremely disappointed if NMFS seriously considers allowing the use of longline gear to harvest highly migratory species and other species within these conservation zones. We are somewhat shocked that the agency would set forth a generic description of research that would “investigate bycatch ‘hotspots’” within this area. We do not believe that such notice to the public is sufficient to allow for an objective evaluation of the potential EFP. The designation of this conservation zone was predicated on the fact that the area was, in fact, a bycatch “hotspot.” The removal of the gear has resulted in substantial reductions in the mortality of swordfish, billfish and sea turtles, and fish stocks

Mr. Craig Cockrell
December 20, 2012
Page 2

have responded positively to this measure. All logic would lead one to believe that reintroducing this gear into the closed zone would simply create a new bycatch hotspot.

It should be noted that the last proposal for an EFP allowing the use of longlines in this closed area was soundly rejected by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the State of Florida, and caused a huge uproar in the sportfishing community. There is no reason to believe the reaction will be any less emphatically negative this time. We request an affirmative response stating that no EFP will be considered for allowing the use of longline gear in existing conservation zones.

Sincerely,

Mike Nussman, President
American Sportfishing Association

Pat Murray, President
Coastal Conservation Association

Jeff Angers, President
Center for Coastal Conservation

Rob Kramer, President
International Game Fish Association

Thom Dammrich, President
National Marine Manufacturers Association



NO longlines

1 message

Andy Schwartz [REDACTED]

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 2:23 PM

To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Please don't allow ANY long-lining to take place, again. It decimated fish stocks before it was banned, and will again if you allow it to . Common sense dictates this type of commercial fishing is completely unsustainable. Don't cave to the special interest groups!

-Andy Schwartz



Longlining in the Florida Straits

1 message

David Schwarzman [REDACTED]

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 2:19 PM

To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

I fish for swordfish off of Fort Lauderdale weekly, out to the 79*44' line and it is already very crowded, between the bouy fisherman, and recreational fisherman.

It is hard enough to catch a swordfish and I spend a lot of money on my boat, gas, and tackle.

The area is way too small and already too crowded to support any longlining effort.

Also longlining gear is much less selective in harvesting just swordfish.

No longlines in the Florida Straits!

Sincerely, David Schwarzman



Long Line Fishing in FL Striats

1 message

Steve Loleski [REDACTED]

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 2:17 PM

To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

How can this even be considered? Look at your own data as to where sword populations were years ago, and where they are now. If youre in the mood to open up a season make it for Goliath Grouper. They have become a neusance fish. Overprotection for one species is a problem too.

Regards,
Steve Loleski



Florida long-lining

1 message

Charles McKenna [REDACTED]

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 2:11 PM

Reply-To: Charles McKenna [REDACTED]

To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Hello,

I am writing to express my opinion on NMFS's reopening the Florida Straits to surface long-lining. I am vehemently opposed to this.

Long-liners nearly wiped out the swordfish stock in this area. Now that the stock is finally showing signs of recovery, is not the time to allow this type of industrial fishing practice back into this fragile ecosystem.

Thank you for your time,
Charlie McKenna



Stongly opposed to permits that allow pelagic longlines in protected areas

1 message

Ted Forsgren [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 1:47 PM

To Craig Cockrell – I recently received a NOAA Notice indicating that NMFS announced its intent to issue Exempted Fishing (EFP's) and other permits including requests to use "pelagic longline vessels in the Florida East Coast and Charleston Bump closed areas to investigate bycatch hotspots". I want you to know that I **very strongly oppose** such action.

In 2008, as a result of a lawsuit filed by conservation groups, NMFS was forced to set up the Protected Areas in which the use of pelagic longlines was prohibited. Since then the commercial longliners have made numerous attempts to get back into the closed areas under the guise of "research". Now it is being tried again. NOAA and the commercial longliners have the entire Atlantic Ocean to conduct research, they do not need to go into the protected areas.

The removal of the longlines many years ago had dramatic impacts on the abundance of pelagic fisheries in the protected areas. Sailfish, dolphin, wahoo and other recreational species flourished and had very positive impacts on Florida's east coast economy and jobs. Please do not reverse the overwhelming positive benefits by putting longliners back into the protective zones.

In closing, I very strongly oppose any permits, "research" or other such actions that would put longliners into the Florida East Coast and Charleston Bump closed areas.

Ted Forsgren

Tallahassee, Florida



December 20, 2012

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Conservation
Commission**

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MyFWC.com

Mr. Craig Cockrell
Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1)
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: RIN 0648-XC266: Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Exempted Fishing Permits

Dear Mr. Cockrell:

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has reviewed the notice of intent to issue Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) for the collection of Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) in 2013. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) expects to receive applications that propose harvest of HMS species in closed areas of the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea, including the Charleston Bump, and Florida East Coast Closed Areas for the purpose of investigating bycatch reduction.

Additionally, NMFS expects such applications will request some form of "compensation fishing" to offset the expenses for vessel owners participating in HMS research efforts. Although NMFS states that it will provide additional opportunity for public comment on this research, the Commission wishes to provide the following comments at this time.

The FWC opposes conducting longline research in the existing closed areas and is concerned that this research could result in an expansion of commercial harvest, especially if vessels are permitted to sell their catch from these closed areas. While we recognize and support the value of the commercial fishery and efforts to reduce incidental bycatch, we believe Florida's swordfish and billfish populations have greatly benefited from the constraints placed on commercial longline harvest. Florida's recreational billfish and swordfish fisheries are also economically important to our coastal communities, and we believe allowing longlining in these areas could disrupt the overall conservation, economic, and social gains that have been achieved by these closures.

In conclusion, the FWC asks that you reject EFP applications that request conducting longline research in existing closed areas. Instead, we suggest

that pelagic longline research be conducted in areas that are already open to longline fishing. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on these proposals in advance, and may provide more specific comments on such EFP applications during their respective public comment periods.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Wiley', with a large circular flourish at the end.

Nick Wiley
Executive Director

nw/mb/jm



NMFS HMSEFP.2013 - NOAA Service Account <nmfs.hmsefp.2013@noaa.gov>

LongLiners

1 message

Mark Foster [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 1:11 PM

The long Liners decimated the the stock years ago. Why let them do it again? It took a long time for the stock to rebound after the ban. Dont make the same stupid mistakes once again. Regards, Mark



NO LONGLINES IN FLORIDA PLEASE

1 message

christopher koch [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 1:01 PM

Craig Cockrell,

Please do not allow longlines back in Florida Straits. The indiscriminate killing of by-catch and undersized target species was rightfully banned and should not be tolerated again. They were banned for good reasons and should not be allowed ever again.

Respectfully,

Chris Koch

A Florida Citizen



Sword Fishing Long lines

1 message

Daniel Chiappone [REDACTED]
To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 12:56 PM

Craig,

As I am sure you are aware the rebound of the sword fishing population in the Straits of Florida has been an epic success. This population of (as well as others) was decimated by the long liners in decades past. This area currently supports a healthy daytime and night time recreational and commercial fishery. There is absolutely no reason to allow this kind of indiscriminant fishing to take place in our waters.

As a recreational fisherman and lifelong Florida resident I, and many others implore you to keep the ban and keep long line boats out of our waters.

Thanks,

Danny Chiappone

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, it is required that we state the following to you: "This is a communication from a debt collector. This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained may be used for that purpose."

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Please do NOT open long lining in the Florida Straights

1 message

JOHNSON, CHARLES [REDACTED]
To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 12:54 PM

Good Afternoon Craig,

It is my understanding there is a proposal to allow long liners back in the Florida Straits. I have no problem with long line fishing however the area between Florida and the Bahamas seems to be a nursery if you will for swordfish. We regularly release undersized fish and have released several large females that was evident were filled with roe.

I respectfully ask that you do not allow the long liners back in the Florida straits as we do not want to see what happened 10+ years ago where there was not a swordfish to be found in the straits.

Thanks,

Charlie.



long lines in FI waters?

1 message

Tim Kroeck [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 12:37 PM

Hell no!!!!

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Proposed Longline Permits

1 message

Tim Nettles [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 12:30 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

Maybe that should read "To Whom thinks the General Public is asleep". Unfortunately I just heard about this today. I have been on the New Jersey Shore as a first responder due to Sandy. I came home to South Florida for the holidays and hear about this today. It angers me that the NOAA Fisheries Service would be arrogant enough to try this one more time. How many times is this? Two that I know of.

Why we would use the thin veil of "research" to allow longlines back in the closed areas? They were prohibited in these closed areas because of the destruction they do to the marine species. Juvenile swordfish, sailfish, marlin, sea turtles and marine birds are all victims of these indiscriminant fishing devices. If there really is a need for "research" then perform the "research" in the areas that are open to longlining. Everyone knows this is nothing more than another attempt by the longlining community to be allowed to fish in the closed areas again. The fishing public in South Florida knows it, the tackle shops know it, the boat dealers know and so do the marinas. I walked into three marine businesses this morning and every one of them told me about this, they are all very upset about this attempted maneuver. So why can't NOAA Fisheries see it for what it is and just say NO.

Recreational fishing a mult-billion dollar industry in Florida, why would we take and put the longlines back where they caused so much damage years ago that they had to be removed. This will hurt the fisheries that have rebounded back better than anyone ever expected. Why did it rebound? Two reasons, because miles of longlines were removed from the Florida Straits and the citizens of Florida overwhelmingly voted to ban gill nets in State of Florida waters. Maybe that's what needs to happen here, the citizens of Florida and South Carolina need to inform our congressional representatives that if they do not put the reins on ill-advised attempts to do stupid things such as this, we'll band together vote them out of office and push for major changes at NOAA.

Everyone knows this is wrong, why can't the NOAA people in charge of our fisheries protection realize this and just say NO.

Regards,

Tim Nettles
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



NMFS HMSEFP.2013 - NOAA Service Account <nmfs.hmsefp.2013@noaa.gov>

Long lining

1 message

Cody Gunthner [REDACTED]

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 12:19 PM

To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

If this gets opened in in Florida straits it will ruin the fishing kill turtles and other by catch and will most deffenitly wipe out the swordfish do not let it open.

Sent from my iPhone



Vote to Oppose Longline Permits

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 11:52 AM

I am casting my vote to not allow issuance of longline permits in conservation zones for research or any other reason.

I am a member in good standing of CCA. I totally agree with Chester Brewer's letter dated 12/18/12 as attached.

Joe Schlegel

[REDACTED]



CCA comments EFP proposal.pdf
138K



(no subject)

1 message

Corey Colman [REDACTED]
Reply-To: Corey Colman [REDACTED]
To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 11:32 AM

I am highly against the EFP Proposal. It doesn't sound like research that will benefit us, it sounds like research to slaughter what we have left in our oceans.



longline fishing

1 message

Jserg Jagfr [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 10:52 AM

I am 100% opposed to you even thinking about allowing longline commercial fishing! As an avid rec fisherman whose seen my catch dwindle you seriously want to allow more pillagin of the sea for some guy to get rich when I can't even find my 9 year old a decent fish???????????

NO!

Kevin Campanile!



Longlining for Swordfish

1 message

Juliane und Hartmut Renner [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 10:50 AM

Dear Mr. Craig Cockrell,

I cannot believe, that people at NMFS are so greedy and dump?

"Inexplicably, NMFS has decided it may like to allow surface longlining for swordfish in the Florida Straits. As you may remember the fishery was completely wiped out by this exact same activity before it was banned a decade ago. If they allow it back in the South Atlantic, our daytime fishery will most certainly crash. "

Is this true?

DO YOU REMEMBER? HERE WE GO AGAIN!

What a shame

Merry Christmas

Juliane Renner, South Florida



NMFS HMSEFP.2013 - NOAA Service Account <nmfs.hmsefp.2013@noaa.gov>

STOP THE LONG LINING

1 message

Adam Chused [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 10:33 AM

Please it will destroy the fishery - **do not open it back up**



(no subject)

1 message

Ron Catena [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 10:28 AM

Craig,

Please do not open longlining again. For a quick pop in revenues to a select few for a finite amount of time it will cost more in the longrun than it gains.

Sincerely,
Ron Catena



long lines

1 message

Jeff Bloch [REDACTED]
To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 10:19 AM

Craig,

Do not allow long lines!!! The EFP's proposed under the guise of "research" are a joke. There is no disputing the indiscriminate killing that long lines cause. Not only to randomly kill other species not being targeted, many targeted species that are undersized will be killed as well. Instead of releasing an undersized endangered species, you've killed off juvenile stock that haven't even reached their breeding stage. How do these species ever recover if they can't grow to maturity and be allowed to breed to replenish stock. I'm not against commercial hook and line fishing, just mindless long lines.

Jeff Bloch
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Anti-Longlining

1 message

Kyle [REDACTED] Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 9:52 AM
Reply-To: Kyle [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Craig,

I just wanted to take a moment and state my concern about resuming longlining in the Florida straits. This is not only going to destroy the sword fish population, but also destroy many other species caught as by-catch.

Thank you for your time,

Kyle



Florida Straits LongLining

1 message

John Csapo [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 9:34 AM

Mr. Cockrell,

I am writing in regards to the opening of the Florida Straits to longliners. This would be incredibly detrimental to not only the fishery but also all the local businesses that cater to the recreational (and bouy) fisherman. If the straits are opened the South Florida swordfish stock would be diminished to nothing in no time at all. Please reconsider this as it would absolutely destroy this fisher, as it did in the 70's.

Regards,

John Csapo

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



No Long Lining in Florida

1 message

Scott McDonald [REDACTED]
To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 9:17 AM

Please do not re-open Surface Long Lining in Florida. Several of the state's most critical fisheries have benefited from more restrictive policies against destructive commercial practices...Its simply ignorant and unacceptable to revert now as these fisheries are starting to recover.

Please call me if you would like to discuss.

Thanks!

Scott McDonald

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



NMFS HMSEFP.2013 - NOAA Service Account <nmfs.hmsefp.2013@noaa.gov>

longliners in the straits of Florida

1 message

Larry B [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 8:58 AM

NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO.....



Long line in Florida

1 message

Joseph Giuliano [REDACTED]

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 8:54 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Please do not allow any long line fishing in Florida Straits.

Thank you

Joe Giuliano

Fort Lauderdale.



NO LONG LINES

1 message

Patrick Barnett [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 8:53 AM

Mr. Crokell,

We do not need to take a step back in conservation and allow the long liners back!

NO LONG LINERS! By Catch and the sheer numbers are nothing but destruction on our fishery!

Thanks...PB



(no subject)

1 message

Thomas Blankenship [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 8:41 AM

To Whom This May Concern,

This email is in regards to the intent to issue Exempted Fishing Permits for the collection of highly migratory species. I oppose this proposal. For an agency which has been established to protect our fisheries, this action shows your character and governance as being very hypocritical. Long liners do nothing but long lasting damage to our fisheries and the wildlife. Labeling this as "research" is nothing more than unprofessional and childish. Please throw this proposal straight in the trash where it belongs and DO NOT pass this.

Best Regards,
Thomas Blankenship



Opposition to Longling Permits

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 8:33 AM

To Whom This May Concern,

This email is in regards to the intent to issue Exempted Fishing Permits for the collection of highly migratory species. I would like to voice my concern on this topic and state that I oppose this proposal. For an agency which has been established to protect our fisheries, this action shows your character and governance as being very hypocritical . Long liners do nothing but long lasting damage to our fisheries and the wildlife. Labeling this as "research" is nothing more than smoke and mirrors. Please throw this proposal straight in the trash where it belongs and DO NOT pass this.

Best Regards,
Chris Tellex

Christopher M Tellex

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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longliner permits

1 message

[REDACTED]

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 8:31 AM

To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Dear Sir, I will be brief as I'm sure you are busy. I am a registered voter, and CCA member and want to voice my opposition to issuing long line permits to any entity for use in any protected waters controlled by the U.S. Or for any other U.S. waters for that matter. This sounds just like the Japanese "research" whaling vessels. If research truly needs to be done, issue permits for rod and reel, a low impact way to obtain fish samples. Many (most) sportfish stocks are at historical lows and yet we continue to allow over harvesting (by commercial interests) in many areas. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

sincerely,
Jon Davis, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Long-lining in the Florida Straits

1 message

DALE SHELTON [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 7:56 AM

Please do not allow long-lining for swordfish in the Florida Straits again. It is wrong, has a past history of long term damage to the fishery and provides no benefit to Florida.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comment.

Dale Shelton

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Longlining on FEC

1 message

Alan Wardle [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 7:55 AM

Dear Mr. Cockrell,

Longlining destroyed the swordfish fishery on the FEC before and there is really no reason to think it will not do so again.

Please do not re-open this fishery.

Best Regards

Alan Wardle
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Florida long-lining

1 message

Matt Gent [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 7:48 AM

I'd like to be on record as opposing re-opening long-lining in conservation zones around Florida.

Hiding commercial fishing under the guise of research, particularly as exempt from standard regulations, should not be allowed.

Regards,
Matthew Gent



Longline Fishery

1 message

Gil Gutierrez [REDACTED]

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 7:15 AM

To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Please do not allow it back in Florida. The state makes more money on fish caught and released again and again. It destroyed our fishery once don't allow it again.

Thank You

Capt. Gil Gutierrez

[REDACTED]



Swordfishing in the Florida Straits

1 message

Dave J Huber [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 7:03 AM

Mr. Cockrell:

I understand that NOAA is once again considering allowing longlining in the Florida Straits swordfish nursery that is currently supporting a thriving recreational fishery. I implore you to say 'no' to this request by a handful of individuals who are looking for a quick profit while they once again deplete our fishery. Only then can we be assured that the many Florida citizens who enjoy this recreational fishery, and the business owners they support, will be able to continue to do so.

Sincerely,

Dave Huber



Long lining in Florida straits

1 message

Todd [REDACTED]

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 6:49 AM

To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

I couldn't believe my ears when I heard you were considering reopening long lining in FL straits. My first question is....are you crazy? Didn't you have enough data showing it wiped out a fishery 10 years ago? Not to mention the indiscriminate killing of other species of fish. you have enough problems with the Chinese buying every piece of seafood they can. If long liners are allowed back, the news outlets will be all over this.....be sure of that.

Sent from my iPad



Longlining in the Florida Straits

1 message

Jay Goodwin [REDACTED]

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 6:48 AM

Reply-To: Jay Goodwin [REDACTED]

To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

To Whom it May Concern:

The days of a decimated Swordfish population have not been forgotten. The resource is a valuable one for a great many sport and charter citizens. It would be a great injustice if Longlining were again allowed to fish these waters squandering the population gains made over the last ten years for the economic gain of only a hand full of fisherman.

Regards,

James Goodwin
Commercial and Sport Fisherman



South Atlantic Long Lining

1 message

Rick Ott [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 6:33 AM

I oppose the reopening of long lining in the south atlantic. Elimination of these long lines have produced a remarkable recovery which would be wiped out in short order should long lining be allowed.

Rick Ott

[REDACTED]



PLEASE NO COMMERCIAL LONGLINES IN CONSERVATION WATERS

1 message

Matthew Bretzke [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 20, 2012 at 6:26 AM

Mr. Cockrell,

Please stop this from destroying our Florida waters, there is no need for long-lining and this supposed "research"...the current conservation laws in effect are a great asset to the conservation of Florida!

PLEASE STOP THIS FROM HAPPENING

Sincerely,

A concerned lifetime Florida angler,

Matt Bretzke



No on EFPs

1 message

Jeff Hartzler [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 11:56 PM

Good Evening Mr. Cockrell,

I ask that you and the entire voting body for NMFS vote NO on the current proposal to allow EFPs for commercial interests. This action will negatively impact the coastal economies of Florida as well as hurt our fragile environment that is already heavily pressured by commercial fishermen.

Please be good stewards of our marine resources and do not allow any EFPs for our highly migratory species.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hartzler
Marco Island, Florida



longlining in florida straights

1 message

patrick weekley [REDACTED]

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 9:21 PM

Reply-To: patrick weekley [REDACTED]

To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Hello Craig Cockrell,

I have to beg you ask for a reel world studie on florida straights fishing, the amount of fisherman out here have such a hard time making a living on the very few fish we have now and not one class of fish has increased , more and longer stricter regulations still can not keep up with the declining fish population, this is killing our waters an the eco system is failing , please do not add to this by allowing commercial longliners in the florida straights

Thank you,

Patrick Weekley
WeekleyRehab



exempted fishing permits

1 message

dan daugherty [REDACTED] >
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 9:06 PM

I would like to voice my opposition to issuing exempted fishing permits allowing longline fishermen access to our conservation zones. The remaining portion of the oceans will work quite well for by catch studies.

Sincerely,
Dan Daugherty

[REDACTED]



Longlineing in the florida straits

1 message

Conner Dawson [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 7:19 PM

Craig Cockrell,

Longlining in the Florida straits is a horrible idea. As you know it has ruined the swordfish population once before. I am a charter guide out of Key West and can honestly say after fishing for swordfish around 150 days a year, the fish still need time to grow.

Thanks Conner D



NMFS HMSEFP.2013 - NOAA Service Account <nmfs.hmsefp.2013@noaa.gov>

Longline project

1 message

Regans2 [REDACTED]

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 7:11 PM

To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

I oppose the longline fishing project. Longline fishing should remain banned.
Regan Schwartz

Sent from my iPhone



Opposition to Loglines off Southeast USA

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 5:30 PM

Mr. Cockrell & anyone this may concern:

I will be short and to the point. I am against the NMFS consideration of issuing Long-line Fishing permits for "Research", commercial, or any other reason that would authorize long-line fishing off the southeast coast of the United States. I feel this is ill-conceived with regards to pelagic species such as billfish, tuna, and sharks.

I am a recreational fisherman living near Charleston, SC, and a member of the Coastal Conservation Association.

Thank you for your consideration,

James L. Bowers
[REDACTED]



NMFS HMSEFP.2013 - NOAA Service Account <nmfs.hmsefp.2013@noaa.gov>

EFPs

1 message

Chad LaBonte [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 5:11 PM

To whom it concerns,

As a Florida resident and avid sport fisherman I oppose the Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) for the collection of Atlantic highly migratory species.

Chad LaBonte

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Longlines!

1 message

pat burton [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 4:53 PM

I strongly oppose longlines being used under the guise of "Research". As a HMS permit holder i believe this is a slap in the face for all the work and money and time spent protecting these fish. The numbers of my swordfish catches have been way down in recent years. The buoy fisherman have had an impact on the fishery. Now to let Long lines once AGAIN decimate number is just ridiculous!

Pat Burton
[REDACTED]



(no subject)

1 message

Jeremy.t [REDACTED]
Reply-To: "Jeremy.t" [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 4:42 PM

I would like to voice my opinion against this organization allowing long lining permits for "research" purposes. Long lining destroyed many of the fisheries such as swordfish. It has negative effects on many of the fish that get stuck on the line, aka the bycatch. Many of these species are just starting to rebuild. Please do not allow long lining permits to be issued. It is better for the fish and the recreational fisherman. Thank you.
Jeremy

[REDACTED]



Opposed to longline permits

1 message

Goethel, Steven - [REDACTED]
To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 3:57 PM

To whom this may concern,

I am deeply concerned of the negative impacts that will be caused to our fisheries if you allow issuance of EFP's "Exempted fishing permits" for Atlantic migratory species. My concerns mainly revolve around the use of longlines "that have been banned for decades" to now be used for "research" in marine conservation zones.

There has to be a better way to collect the information without putting the future of our game fish in jeopardy!

Thanks,

Steven Goethel

Financial Advisor

[REDACTED]

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Opposition to Long Line Permits

1 message

Jason Dail [REDACTED]

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 3:39 PM

To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Good day Sir,

From one fellow marine biologist to another, I strongly urge you to deny any and/or all long lining permits for the purpose of "research". It is prodigious to think that the NMFS would support such a notion considering the negative effects long lining has on protected/threatened species, including sea turtles. Let those who wish to conduct research do it in a manner that is well regulated and closely monitoring, not by giving blanket permits for data collection.

I trust this message will be read and hope that the EFP's will die, not the FISH.

Take care,

—

Capt. Jason Dail
[REDACTED]



NMFS HMSEFP.2013 - NOAA Service Account <nmfs.hmsefp.2013@noaa.gov>

long lines

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 3:16 PM

stop long lines

Paul Nicholls CCA member Florida



Opposition to Long Line Permits

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 2:21 PM

As Past President of the Sportfishermen of Broward and local CCA President, I have witnessed first hand the positive effects by banning long line gear.
Any attempts to allow long line gear to re-enter our fisheries would have to be an error in judgement.

Sincerely yours,
Bradd Barker



Exempt Fisheries Permit

1 message

Ron Coddington [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 1:59 PM

Craig Cockrell

Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1)

National Marine Fisheries Service

1315 East-West Highway

Silver Spring, MD 20910

Fax: (301) 713-1917

Email: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

I am greatly disappointed in the attempt by NMFS/HMS division to bury the proposed closed zone research in the normal general EFP notice at the end of each year.

We weathered our way thru the last research debacle by Dr. Longline (Dave Kerstetter) that created uproar in the Sportfishing community and resulted in minimal useable research. Remember that that proposal was modified several times all based on required statistical effort, only to have NMFS pay Dave to do half the sets over twice the time, and with full payment? How does that happen, you get half of what you paid for with full compensation.

At any rate, an action like this should not be buried in the general EGP notice and should be part of a completely separate proposal/ notice procedure. This would be in keeping with the commitments had by HMS to the recreational swordfishing community.

The last research, again produced no meaningful results, caused increases in bycatch and juvenile swords compared to the estimates, and that was with only half the effort.

The Southeast Swordfish Club and the Recreational Swordfish Community strongly oppose this kind of research and the procedure for notifying the recreational fishing community of the proposed action.

This attempted action has done more harm to the relationship with the recreational swordfishing community than any other action in recent memory.

I can assure you that the great majority of the recreational fishing community from South Florida to North Carolina oppose this action.

Sincerely

Ronald J Coddington

HMS AP

Southeast Swordfish Club



Longlining in the Florida Straights

1 message

Jackson Coate [REDACTED]

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 1:09 PM

To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Mr. Cockrell

I heard about the possibility of surface longlining being allowed back into the Florida Straights. As someone who runs a commercial buoy boat for swordfish out of South Florida, I am **strongly** opposed to the idea of surface longlining in the Florida Straights. The longliners would be coming into an area that is already fished regularly by several dozen buoy boats. When a buoy boat deploys its gear, the spread usually covers anywhere from one to four miles of water, depending on how many pieces they are fishing and how far they are apart. Fishermen set their buoys going east-west, and they work together when setting out to insure that there is a decent amount of space in between each boat's spread. Now if you add a few longliners to a group of twenty or thirty buoy boats lined up from Miami to Palm Beach, there could be huge tangles between the different gears. Longlines and buoy gear drift in different ways, so when a longline is introduced into waters where buoy boats are fishing, the gears will get tangled, resulting in fishermen on both sides losing money on gear, and losing money in time spent untangling and not having as many hooks fishing. Buoy gear was introduced as a more sustainable alternative to longlining. By allowing longliners back into the Florida Straights, not only will it directly interfere with buoy gear fishing the same area, but it will also lead to many more dead juvenile fish and significantly more discarded by-catch, two things that are nearly nonexistent with buoy gear.

Sincerely,
Jackson Coate



Longlining in Florida straits

1 message

Michael Busse [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 11:39 AM

I am a long time avid recreational swordfisherman. Opening the Florida straits to longlining would mean almost complete extinction of swordfish of the coast of Florida as we know it. The economical effect would be detrimental. Can anyone with common sense look back at what happened in the 1980's when the longliners nearly decimated the population! The buoys boats that are out there now are doing damage enough. I can attest to the fact that my recreational catch has diminished greatly since the buoy boats were allowed to fish in our waters. They need to ban the buoy boats also.

Sincerely

Mike Busse

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Longlining in the Fla. Straights

1 message

Burt Moss-Broadsmar [REDACTED]

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

I understand that a proposal is being made to re-open the Fla. Straights to commercial longlining. I want to voice my opposition to this. In years past, this activity nearly wiped out the swordfish population here. Why do this again? The economic impact to the boating and sportfishing communities would be immense! The small recovery to stocks in South Florida built a new fishery which brings millions of dollars into the economy. If you let a few commercial interests destroy this again, it would be a sad legacy to the agency that is supposed to protect the interests of all!

Sincerely,
Burt Moss

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Exempted Fishing Permits

1 message

Robert Bunch [REDACTED]

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 11:17 AM

To: nmfs.hmsefp.2013@noaa.gov

Hello,

I am very concerned with the possibility of research that would allow commercial longline boats to fish in marine conservation zones where longline gear has been banned. Any changes in policy, laws should consider longlining as this practice will have numerous negative effects on our fisheries.

Thank you,

Robert Bunch



NO to Longline Fishing - Atlantic

1 message

Bert Rosefield [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 11:12 AM

Please do NOT open conservation areas to longline fishing. Thank you.

Herbert Rosefield
[REDACTED]



LONG LINEING SOUTH FLORIDA

1 message

Alejandro Vazquez [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 11:05 AM

Craig Cockrell,

I am writing to you in regards to the possibility of opening up the currently closed waters off the south Florida coast to long lining.

I fish for Swordfish between 30-40 trips a year between daytime and night time fishing. Fishing has been tough enough just dealing with the commercial buoy guys at night with there 20 buoys out that if this area is allowed to be long lined in the future it probably would not even be worth it for me to try any longer. Sword fishing is one of my favorite things to do on the water and I would really hope that this small area off the south Florida coast can continue to be closed to long lining and remain a healthy breeding area for this majestic game fish.

Please do all you can to protect this resource and not allow this to happen. I own two boats and have been an avid fisherman for 25 years. This is only a small area where the fish get funneled do to the geography. Long lining this area does way more harm to the fishery than most other areas. The ocean is very large and long liners have plenty of areas they may fish that recreational guys can't.

Thanks,

Alex Vazquez

[REDACTED]



Please do not ease the longlining restrictions.

1 message

Mark Bertsche [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 11:02 AM

Please preserve our delicate fisheries by not issuing EFP's. Keep the longline prohibitions in place.
Thank you
Mark Bertsche

—
Mark Bertsche

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Long Lines in the Florida Straits

1 message

Chris Tenberg [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 10:31 AM

Mr. Cockrell,

It came to my attention that the NMFS is considering opening the Florida Straits to Surface Long-lining again. I grew up in South Florida, Pompano Beach to be specific, and as a young child I recall seeing the long-line boats docked inside of Hillsborough Inlet that decimated the Swordfish population the first time. The stocks have never returned to what they once were here, and to bring back surface long-lining to our area would ensure my children would never have the opportunity to rod and reel in our own backyard. Please consider that our area is already subject to pressure from long-lining north and south of the current closure zone and furthermore we are a breeding ground for juvenile swordfish and if we open this area to long-lining again history is sure to repeat itself. I appreciate your time in reading this letter, and it is spoken from 20 years experience of recreational fishing of all types in this area and strongly feel that we need to leave things the way they are to ensure a sustainable fishery for years to come.

Sincerely,

[Chris Tenberg](#)





Swordfish Longliner

1 message

Juliane und Hartmut Renner [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 10:26 AM

Dear Mr. Craig Cockrell,

here we go again, I can't believe what I've read.

You know why the fishing ban on swordfish was established --- they were overfished to almost zero. Now that the population is about acceptable (NOT great), there are a few commercial money makers, that want to take advantage of a sensible fishery. This makes NO sense to all others -- the majority of fishers: Recreational , Commercial and Charter fishery.

There is absolutely NO reason to allow Longline Fishery in the FL Straights any more. The profit of a few is not worth the risk of a further declining swordfish population in the FL Straights!

Best regards

Hartmut Renner
[REDACTED]



Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP's)

1 message

McDermott, Jim [REDACTED]

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 10:07 AM

To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Dear Mr. Cockrell,

I am strongly opposed to Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP's) for anticipated projects in the coming year, and the possibility of purported research that would allow commercial longline vessels to fish in the Charleston Bump and Florida East Coast marine conservation zones where surface gear is currently prohibited.

Furthermore, I am in complete agreement with the letter (below) that states the CCA's position on these matters.

Thank you for your time.

James McDermott

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Cockrell,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the announcement sent as a courtesy to the public that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will be considering Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) for anticipated projects during the coming year. The Coastal Conservation Association and our 100,000 members are particularly concerned with the possibility of purported "research" that would allow commercial longline vessels to fish in the Charleston Bump and Florida East Coast marine conservation zones where the use of surface longline gear has been prohibited for more than a decade.

The closures were put in place to reduce the bycatch mortality of juvenile swordfish, white and blue marlin and sailfish. The success of the zones has been widely documented by NMFS researchers as well as others from outside the agency. The conservation goals set forth as the basis for creating the closed areas are being achieved and could be considered one of the most creative and successful ecosystem management efforts ever undertaken by the agency.

In light of that, we would be extremely disappointed if NMFS seriously considers allowing the use of longline gear to harvest highly migratory species and other species within these conservation zones. We are somewhat shocked that the agency would set forth a generic description of research that would "investigate bycatch 'hotspots' " within this area. We do not believe that such notice to the public is sufficient to allow for an objective evaluation of the potential EFP. The designation of this conservation zone was predicated on the fact that the area was, in fact, a bycatch "hotspot." The removal of the gear has resulted in substantial reductions in the mortality of swordfish, billfish and sea turtles, and fish stocks have responded positively to this measure. All logic would lead one to believe that reintroducing this gear into the closed zone would simply create a new bycatch hotspot.

It should be noted that the last proposal for an EFP allowing the use of longlines in this closed area was soundly rejected by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the State of Florida, and caused a huge uproar in the sportfishing community. There is no reason to believe the reaction will be any less emphatically negative this time. We request an affirmative response: stating that no EFP will be considered for allowing the use of longline gear in existing conservation zones.

Regards,



Chester Brewer, Chairman
CCA National Government Relations Committee

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



NMFS HMSEFP.2013 - NOAA Service Account <nmfs.hmsefp.2013@noaa.gov>

no commercial longlinning period joe waksmmmmmacki

1 message

Joe - [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 9:51 AM



Longline fishing

1 message

John Sobol [REDACTED]
To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 9:14 AM

Craig;

It makes no sense to open back up a long line fishing along South Florida East Coast as I have lived here my entire life. Only to have been able to catch swordfish, then have our waters decimated by long liners and not be able to find any fish of any size. Then to reopen it after the fish have slowly come back only to decimate them again. This makes no sense unless you are caving in to the few fisherman whom make their living off of this type of fishing. Leave the Swords to the recreational fisherman and our tourist industry. Do something that makes more sense and get rid of the drag trawlers that destroy the sea bottom and kill millions of by catch.

Thank you,

John O Sobol
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Longlining on the Florida Straights

1 message

[Redacted]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 9:32 AM

I understand that there is a proposal to re-open longlining in the Florida straits. This is a horrible idea and should not be permitted. I am an avid recreational fisherman, and have spent my entire life on the water. I have seen the devastation caused by longlining in South Florida and the Florida Keys. I have also seen the rebound of the fishery after longlining was banned. Not only has the fishery rebounded, but also, the local economy has received a tremendous benefit. From tackle shops, to hotels, to restaurants, all are benefitting from the longlining ban. Florida is now known as the world's premier location to catch swordfish. Longlining will undoubtedly destroy this reputation -- again. The limited and directed commercial harvest that is currently permitted in the Florida straits, along with other commercial harvest in less sensitive ecological locations, is more than enough to supply the public with access to swordfish meat. There is simply no need to re-open the longline fishery. Doing so would devastate the current Florida fishery and overall environment, and have an overall negative impact on the local economy. Please keep longlining banned off the Florida Straits.

John Chapman [Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

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longlining permit

1 message

Jim Gieges [REDACTED]

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 9:25 AM

To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

I wish to voice my opinion on the pending long lining permit you are intent on siging December 20th:
I am 100% opposed to this travesty, it is nothing but camouflage to hide the fact the government of "my" United States of America is allowing commercial fishermen the opportunity to long line in areas where they could not in the past. PLEASE, do not allow this permit to go through! The earth is only so big and has been since the beginning but the fact is there are many more of us inhabiting the earth. We need to protect pristine areas from **anything** commercial so our future generation have this to appreciate and enjoy. Please be part of being good protectors of the earth we live on so future generations may enjoy this wonderful place we all call home. I have children as well as grandchildren, I am sure you do too. Leave something good for them and all us; this is your chance to make a change for the better.

Sincerely,
Jim Gieges

[REDACTED]



NMFS HMSEFP.2013 - NOAA Service Account <nmfs.hmsefp.2013@noaa.gov>

FLA STRAITS SWORDFISH LONGLINEING

1 message

[REDACTED]

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 8:57 AM

To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Dear Mr Cockrell:

Once more I am flabbergasted by what my government does on behalf of special interests.

I am 70 years old now and have fished the straights of So Florida recreationally for 50 years. I have seen first hand the effects of what these folks did in the past. No need to repeat the history that you are well aware of.

Please, DO NOT OPEN UP THE FLA STRAITS TO LONG LINERS

Thank you,

Paul Ewing

[REDACTED]



The Florida Straits

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 8:53 AM

Mr. Cockrell,

It has come to my attention that the advisory committee is taking public comment concerning the possibility of re-opening the Florida Straits to long lining. In my opinion, and from my experience, I believe this would be a huge mistake.

I began night fishing for swordfish off Miami in 1975 when no one knew the vast amount of fish out there and we had phenomenal fishing. As word of our night time rod and reel success became more widely known we saw the influx of the long liners and in two short years our local fishery was ruined. The damage was noted and the long liners were banned from the straits. It took many years but eventually our night time fishery began to improve with more and bigger, fish being caught. At about the same time we saw the beginnings of the day time electric reel fishery and the taking of many large breeder females in far greater numbers than ever seen at night. At about the same time the buoy fleet got larger and more fish were being landed by buoy boats.

I know that Swordfish are a highly migratory species but I have always asked if it not possible that the small area that comprises the Florida Straits does not hold a residential population, or even semi residential population, of swordfish. Between migration periods that population kept our fishing good on a year round basis. It's just a theory based on the different phases of good and bad fishing I have seen the area go through.

At present I would say fishing is neither very good nor very bad. The area is being fished by commercial buoy boats, recreational daytime and commercial fishermen, as well as recreational night time fishermen. The fishery cannot support long lining due to the number of fish that we now have in the area as well as the accessibility to those fish. The straits are so unique in that the fish occupy a very narrow body of water from about 1100 feet to 1800 feet which in some areas is less than a mile wide. The re-introduction of long lining would carpet bomb this lane of water with hooks and destroy the fishery we have. Destruction of this fishery, as we saw before, would come at a great economic price to the area. Everyone involved in the fishery would stop fishing, as was the case after the long liner massacre in the 80's, with great pain to the economy of the area.

If more fish are needed to fill the quota other areas should be looked into and the Florida Straits left alone as promised many years ago. The loss in money to the local economy would be far greater than any income a few long line boats would derive and the time to re-build would no doubt be even longer than it was back in the 80's.

I appreciate your time spent in reading this letter as it is written with almost 40 years experience in the local area and having seen the fishery go through all it's different phases. Status quo in our area is the best thing you can do for all involved. Thank You, Harry Klauber

I can be reached at [REDACTED] if you care to speak with me.



Long lining In South Florida

1 message

Scott Thompson [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 8:46 AM

Mr. Cockrell,

This e-mail is sent to you as a request to please do not allow commercial long lining in South Florida. I was born in Broward General Hospital in 1965 and have lived my entire life hear in Florida and have personally seen the results of commercial long lining and the effects it had on our fisheries. Although it doesn't seem that long ago the swordfish stocks in the 70's and early 80's were almost depleted and has taken many years to rebuild this fishery. Please do not allow this to happen again. It is my personal belief that by allowing the long liners back in the Florida straits will only hurt what could be a sustained fishery if managed properly. Allowing a few licensed commercial long liners to operate in lieu of having this as a sustained fishery that promotes local business in the way of boats, bait, charters, fuel, tackle shops, hotels, marinas, etc... for the financial gain of a very limited few cannot be a wise choice. I may not have said it as eloquently as others but my request is clear. Please do not allow this.

Respectfully,

Scott Thompson

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



(no subject)

1 message

Stanley Oliver [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 7:28 AM

Mr. Cockrell,

I am writing to oppose the opening up of longline fishing to other areas of the Atlantic and changes to current regulations.

I think this action would harm fish populations in the Atlantic Ocean.

Stanley Oliver

Manteo, North Carolina

[REDACTED]



Longline fishing permits

1 message

Robert Leonard [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 8:42 AM

I oppose the permitting of this method of fishing. Is it not enough that all nations allow some form of mass fishing that is and will deplete the oceans of a sustainable stock of fish for future generations.

This country above all others should lead by example and work towards providing other food sources for the worlds disadvantaged.

Robert Leonard Jr. & Robin N Leonard

Life member-CCA



Longline Permits for EFP?

1 message

Dane Britt [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 4:49 AM

Good morning Craig,

My name is Dane and I am taking a moment to justify my feelings towards the opening for a commercial longline industry to fish in conservation zones created in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. It is upon my understand that this proposal is to allow the opening of a limited few to longline fish in these our protected water, especially the Florida Straits. It was over 10 years time when this fishery was banned and it has taken this long to become a somewhat sustainable fishery. I have no qualms with the regulation of buoy and handgear fishing as we have obviously seen how well respected and controlled this fishery is in both a by-catch pattern and legal fish size manner as well. However, once you introduce the longline aspect to our precious water, the threat is no opened to a no boundary zone for our swordfish industry. Can anyone justify the positive outcomes from longlining? To me, from a financial aspect, I cannot understand how it could benefit any one but the very few who hold these longline permits. As you can see on any given day in the Gulfstream a countless amount of recreational boats fishing daytime methods and night time to pursue these wonderful fish in a friendly manner. It is my obvious understanding that the greed of a few longliners will never justify what will happen if this EFP were to get their foot in the door. Take a look at its history, it has taken ten years and the fishery is finally starting to be a fishery once again. For myself, Ill never forget my first swordfish nor my first attempts at it 8 years ago, and its father son memories like these I hope to share with my children one day. All I can say is there is no one benefitting but the greedy longliners who will rape our waters. Please keep them closed as this fishery is truly my passion.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Dane Britt



Long-Ling in Florida

1 message

Tuthill, David [REDACTED]
To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Wed, Dec 19, 2012 at 1:12 AM

I am writing this email to express my negative view on allowing long lining in Florida (or anywhere in the US for that matter).

Growing up in FL in the 80s, our fishery was wiped out thanks to long lining. Now we are finally back on track some 25 years later! Getting rid of long-lining increased our economy in a major way. I now work in Hong Kong and daytime swordfishing in Florida is a hot topic from here to New Zealand and everywhere in between. People travel across the world for their chance at a broadbill now that Florida is back on the map as the BEST destination in the world again!

I hope we do not ruin what we have by allowing long lining again... I hope...

Thank you

Dave

David Tuthill

[REDACTED]

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Exempted Fishing Permits

1 message

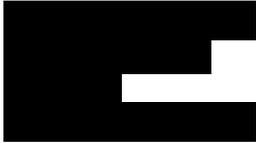
Jack Hexter [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Tue, Dec 18, 2012 at 11:52 PM

Craig Cockrell
Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1)
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Issuing EFP's in the name of Research???? What?????? ARE YOU CRAZY!!!

Jack Hexter





EFP Proposal Objection

1 message

Dave Demos [REDACTED]

Tue, Dec 18, 2012 at 11:22 PM

To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Cc: Jack Salisbury [REDACTED]

Craig Cockrell
Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1)
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Cockrell,

On behalf of the 54 members of the Matecumbe Anglers Fishing Club and their families, we want to go on record to strongly oppose the Exempted Fishing Permits proposal. Our organization is centered in the Florida Keys and we promote catch and release of most species, especially Bill Fish. With fish stocks under stress due to over harvesting world wide, we trust you will see this as we do...an irresponsible proposal that should not be approved. Special interests should not trump good marine fisheries management. Your support will be appreciated and recognized by organizations such as ours.

Warm Regards,

Dave Demos,
President, Matecumbe Anglers



re: EFPs in the Florida Straits. NO LONGLINE FISHING IN CONSERVATION AREAS

1 message

Captain Ed Walker [REDACTED]
To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Tue, Dec 18, 2012 at 10:27 PM

December 18, 2012

Dear Sirs,

My name is Ed Walker.

I am a 25 year veteran charter fisherman, South Atlantic HMS charter permit holder, recreational angler, and outdoor writer for Florida's largest newspaper, The Tampa bay Times. I do a fair amount of swordfishing in the Florida Straits off The Lower Keys.

I am writing today to let you know my opinion as a stakeholder in the swordfishing charter industry as well as that of one of tens of thousands of recreational anglers. I respectfully ask you to remove or discontinue any discussion or proposals that would allow surface longlining into the Straits of Florida. No matter how it is packaged; EFPs, research, ect..., longlining was banned here for good reason. NMFS approved it to rescue a fishery and eliminate horrendous by-catch and dead discards of non-target species such as protected billfish and turtles. It worked, the area that is free of long line gear has rebounded and allows for a thriving, sustainable, year-round fishery for recreational and non-longline commercial swordfishing, as well as great billfishing. I find it hard to believe management officials can think that the best thing for the healthy recovered fishery here in the Straits is to somehow find a way to allow a few individuals to once again string miles of that same destructive gear (or close to it) down the edge of the continental shelf where it did so much damage before. Is the Florida Straits conservation zone, this great success story of management, really the best place to allow experimental longlining? I can assure you there is not a single recreational angler in this state that believes so.

If it is indeed for research, why does it have to be done here? How about somewhere where longlining is legal?

If you are managing for the whats best for the fishery as a whole and provides the greatest benefit to the most US citizens, allowing a handful of operators to run longline gear through a conservation zone doesn't really make sense.

I encourage you to base your decisions on whats best for the entire fishery and provides the greatest benefit for the vast majority of fishermen. I encourage you to stop entertaining what the longline fishermen are trying to sell you so they can slide into these rich, protected fishing grounds and wipe it out for their own profit under the guise of "research".

To disregard tens of thousands and hand the keys to a dozen or two longline operators would not be a sound management in my opinion.

Please, keep longlines out of the Florida Straits conservation zone.

Sincerely,

Capt Ed Walker

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Longline Fishing

1 message

Barry Emory [REDACTED]
To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>
Cc: Barry Emory [REDACTED]

Tue, Dec 18, 2012 at 9:09 PM

Sent

I am not in favor of this ruling for the long line fishing.

Barry Emory



NMFS HMSEFP.2013 - NOAA Service Account <nmfs.hmsefp.2013@noaa.gov>

longliner

1 message

jerryfin43@aol.com [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Tue, Dec 18, 2012 at 8:46 PM

Stop the longliner give away of our natural resorces.



NMFS HMSEFP.2013 - NOAA Service Account <nmfs.hmsefp.2013@noaa.gov>

Oppose longline permits!!!

1 message

Dan Dolan [REDACTED]
To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Tue, Dec 18, 2012 at 8:25 PM

Sent from my iPad



Longlining permits threaten conservation zones

1 message

CHANNING S JR SMITH [REDACTED]

Tue, Dec 18, 2012 at 7:13 PM

To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Cc: John Duren <JWDuren@aol.com>, Michael D Denmark CCA <michaelddenmark@ccaga.org>, Chuck Smith <chuckbetsysmith@bellsouth.net>

Mr. Craig Cokrell
Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SI)
National Marine fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Cockrell,

I am writing to request The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) NOT issue any Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) in any East Coast marine conservation zones where the use of surface longline gear has been prohibited for more than a decade.

My understanding is the conservation goals are being met in the Charleston Bump and Florida East Coast marine conservation zones. And, further, these areas were made "conservation zones" because these areas were recognized as bycatch "Hotspots". My hope is that NMFS will limit research efforts to areas where the use of surface longline gear is allowed.

Mr. Cokrell, I have been a Life Member of CCA for 10 years and am an avid recreational fisherman. I practice "catch and release " except when providing food for my own consumption. I am currently helping raise money to support oyster reef restoration work along the Georgia Coast. My understanding is the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council rejected a proposal for an EFP in a closed area the last time it came up. I hope NMFS will not grant an EMF in conservation zones in YR 2013.

Thank you for your time, consideration and hopefully your support.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]



Long line fishing

1 message

Robin Leonard [REDACTED]
To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Tue, Dec 18, 2012 at 5:35 PM

Please do not allow this horrid practice of fishing, too much by kill!

Robin Leonard

Sent from my iPad



NMFS HMSEFP.2013 - NOAA Service Account <nmfs.hmsefp.2013@noaa.gov>

Long Line

1 message

Kendrick Mattox [REDACTED]
To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Tue, Dec 18, 2012 at 4:57 PM

Mr. Cockrell,

Please know that I oppose long-lining in our waters. Thank you.

Kendrick W. Mattox III, CFA

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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NMFS HMSEFP.2013 - NOAA Service Account <nmfs.hmsefp.2013@noaa.gov>

JUST SAY NO!!!

1 message

Al Salerno [REDACTED]
To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Tue, Dec 18, 2012 at 4:55 PM

Sent from my iPad



NMFS HMSEFP.2013 - NOAA Service Account <nmfs.hmsefp.2013@noaa.gov>

No damn long lines

1 message

Sam Box [REDACTED]

Tue, Dec 18, 2012 at 4:53 PM

To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Get some fucking common sense, America is known for its tradition in wildlife conservation and you people think that throwing that out the window for some extra cash is worth it, this government agency considering this proposal should be ashamed of itself.



Exempted Fishing Permits - HMS

1 message

David M. McDonald [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Tue, Dec 18, 2012 at 4:48 PM

To whom it may concern,

I oppose the issuance of Exempted Fishing Permits which would allow the use of long lines to catch Highly Migratory Species from Federal waters in the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico for any purpose. These areas have been closed to long line gear and are just recovering. In addition, these areas are habitat for endangered sea turtles. Long lines are indiscriminate killers of sea life. I strongly oppose their use.

Best regards,
David M. McDonald

[REDACTED]



Atlantic highly migratory species study

1 message

Robert Hylant [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Tue, Dec 18, 2012 at 4:18 PM

I would like to voice my opposition to using long lines to capture migratory species for study. Long lines are totally indiscriminant. They will capture anything that wants a free meal. including sea turtles. There are thousands of charter boats going into those same waters daily and targeting the species you want to study. Why not give permits to select captains to bring in what you want. This would eliminate "by catch". Nice way to say unneccassary waste of resources.

It makes no sense to use the commercial long liners when there is already a fleet that targets exactly what you want and returns incidental captures back to the sea alive.

Thank you for reading thiis!

Bob Hylant
[REDACTED]



2013 EFP Permits

1 message

Sam Durham [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Fri, Jan 18, 2013 at 4:02 PM

I cannot believe that this is even being considered . It will lead to the unnecessary destruction of large numbers of game fish that need to be protected and not destroyed.

I would like to go on record as opposing any and all exempted EFP long line permits.

John S. Durham
[REDACTED]



Oppose longline permits

1 message

Mark Turner [REDACTED]
To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Tue, Dec 18, 2012 at 3:53 PM

I oppose all longline permits in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. Please do not open these area to Longliners!!!!

[REDACTED] MARK TURNER
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



No Long Line Fishing Exemptions

1 message

william gibbs [REDACTED]

Tue, Dec 18, 2012 at 3:47 PM

To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to show my opposition to ANY proposed longline fishing permits for any Federal waters of the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf coasts of Florida.

Thank you.

William Gibbs, Esquire.

—

William Gibbs
[REDACTED]



Response to the issuance of long line permits

1 message

Lee Southard [REDACTED]

Tue, Dec 18, 2012 at 3:40 PM

To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

I would like to voice my opposition to the issuance of Long Line permits under the guise of "RESEARCH". There are far better ways to gather data than killing marlin, sailfish, and swordfish. Additionally the long lines within prohibited areas will kill many more species of fish due to their indiscriminate nature. The reason the areas were closed and a release only of the billfish have proved that these conservation measures have been successful and there is no need to let long line fishing vessels do something that they have been banned for over 10 years and it works.

Lee Southard

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Exempted Fishing Permits

1 message

Daniel Ferraris [REDACTED]

Tue, Dec 18, 2012 at 3:30 PM

To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

I oppose the proposed exempted fishing permits that may cause a bycatch of protected and migratory species. A conservation zone should be just that. The idea that the catch would be used for research is a film flam. Selling the "research" is nothing more than a misuse of our resource.

Dan Ferraris

Sent from my iPad



NMFS HMSEFP.2013 - NOAA Service Account <nmfs.hmsefp.2013@noaa.gov>

HMS Exempted Fishing Permits

1 message

Sean Gucken [REDACTED]

Tue, Dec 18, 2012 at 3:28 PM

To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Seriously? Paying them to go catch fish they can then sell? It is clear that your intent is to only manage for the commercial fishing industry's benefit. These areas were determined to be nursery areas. Do your research in the areas already open. With the fiscal mess we are already in this is disgraceful on so many levels.

Sent from my iPhone



NMFS HMSEFP.2013 - NOAA Service Account <nmfs.hmsefp.2013@noaa.gov>

Longline gear

1 message

Dan Martin [REDACTED]

Tue, Dec 18, 2012 at 3:10 PM

To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Do not allow longline gear to be used for any purpose in existing or future marine conservation zones

Thank you

Dan Martin



NMFS HMSEFP.2013 - NOAA Service Account <nmfs.hmsefp.2013@noaa.gov>

RE:

1 message

Bo Bradford [REDACTED]
To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Tue, Dec 18, 2012 at 3:02 PM

Craig Cockrell
Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1)
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Craig,

It has been brought to my attention that the NMFS is considering allowing commercial longliners to fish in conservation zones created in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and possibly the Caribbean Sea for tunas, swordfish, billfishes, and sharks. The purpose is purportedly for scientific research.

Craig, with all due respect to you and the NMFS, this is a sham that is transparent to even the most retarded. There is no reason that a permit needs to be issued in an area that is protected for the purpose of scientific research. That's the equivalent of letting the wolf into the sheep pen for the purpose of just counting the sheep.

I urge you to reject this request and use commons sense.

Respectfully,

Bo Bradford

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



NMFS HMSEFP.2013 - NOAA Service Account <nmfs.hmsefp.2013@noaa.gov>

longline

1 message

Frederick Lewis [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Tue, Dec 18, 2012 at 3:00 PM

Do not allow longlines. This is simply stupid.
Frederick Lewis
[REDACTED]



longlines

1 message

Will Lytle [REDACTED]

Tue, Dec 18, 2012 at 2:52 PM

To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Please keep them out of fish conservation zones!

Thank You,

Will Lytle

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Thank you,





Exempted Fishing Permits

1 message

Bruce Aebel [REDACTED]
To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Tue, Dec 18, 2012 at 2:50 PM

Craig Cockrell
Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1)
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Cockrell,

I write to urge the NMFS to disapprove exempted fishing permits which would allow longline use. The devastating effect of this type of collection vessel cannot be tolerated; especially in sensitive areas such as the Charleston Bump and the Florida East Coast Marine conservation zones. Scientific research can be conducted with other means. The existing commercial fleet and recreational anglers, for example, can provide a wealth of data without risking increased damage to our fragile fisheries. Thank you for all your hard work and continued protection of our marine resources.



BRUCE AEBEL

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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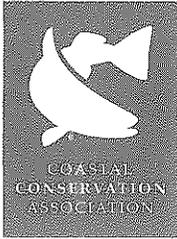
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December 18, 2012

Craig Cockrell
Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1)
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Cockrell,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the announcement sent as a courtesy to the public that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will be considering Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) for anticipated projects during the coming year. The Coastal Conservation Association and our 100,000 members are particularly concerned with the possibility of purported "research" that would allow commercial longline vessels to fish in the Charleston Bump and Florida East Coast marine conservation zones where the use of surface longline gear has been prohibited for more than a decade.

The closures were put in place to reduce the bycatch mortality of juvenile swordfish, white and blue marlin and sailfish. The success of the zones has been widely documented by NMFS researchers as well as others from outside the agency. The conservation goals set forth as the basis for creating the closed areas are being achieved and could be considered one of the most creative and successful ecosystem management efforts ever undertaken by the agency.

In light of that, we would be extremely disappointed if NMFS seriously considers allowing the use of longline gear to harvest highly migratory species and other species within these conservation zones. We are somewhat shocked that the agency would set forth a generic description of research that would "investigate bycatch 'hotspots'" within this area. We do not believe that such notice to the public is sufficient to allow for an objective evaluation of the potential EFP. The designation of this conservation zone was predicated on the fact that the area was, in fact, a bycatch "hotspot." The removal of the gear has resulted in substantial reductions in the mortality of swordfish, billfish and sea turtles, and fish stocks have responded positively to this measure. All logic would lead one to believe that reintroducing this gear into the closed zone would simply create a new bycatch hotspot.

It should be noted that the last proposal for an EFP allowing the use of longlines in this closed area was soundly rejected by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the State of Florida, and caused a huge uproar in the sportfishing community. There is no reason to believe the reaction will be any less emphatically negative this time. We request an affirmative response stating that no EFP will be considered for allowing the use of longline gear in existing conservation zones.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Brewer', written in a cursive style.

Chester Brewer, Chairman
CCA National Government Relations Committee



NMFS HMSEFP.2013 - NOAA Service Account <nmfs.hmsefp.2013@noaa.gov>

Longlining in conservation zones

1 message

Hollowell, Bo S - WINTER PAR FL [REDACTED]
To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Mon, Dec 17, 2012 at 3:38 PM

Mr. Cockrell,

I am very much opposed to longline Exempted Fishing Permits in conservation zones. This makes absolutely no sense and I urge to ban any such activities.

Thank you,
Bo Hollowell

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Please reject EFPs for Longliners in Conservation Zones

1 message

David Parr [REDACTED]
To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Fri, Dec 14, 2012 at 11:59 AM

Dear Mr. Cockrell,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposal on the table to allow commercial longliners to operate in conservation zones.

The so-called "scientific data collection" by commercial longliners rings as eerily to my ear as the "research" performed by Japanese whalers. It is a thinly veiled attempt to exploit a natural resource to the detriment of all, for the benefit of a very few. The proposal should be rejected outright as part of a larger goal to stop this wasteful practice entirely.

I hope you will take a stand for what is right and reasonable in the face of this obscene ploy by the same people that have degraded our oceans to this point.

Sincerely,

David Parr

David Parr

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]





Conservation areas

1 message

George Fetterolf [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Fri, Dec 14, 2012 at 11:48 AM

Dear Mr. Cockrell

Long line fishing under the "guise" of research can be done outside of conservation zones if the research is justified. Please deny the encroachment proposals.

—

I hope you have a great day...
George H Fetterolf

[REDACTED]



Long liners

1 message

Barry Rose [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 13, 2012 at 7:45 AM

Please do not let this happen. Don't you people compare the economic gains of recreational fishing to commercial, but you don't care it is just pandering to your commercial friends who lobby you people. We are battling closed seasons all the time limiting our fishing and you let this happen. We are trying to abide by the laws put forth by you people and getting screwed at the same time.

Thanks alot



Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP)

1 message

Gerald Richards [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Thu, Dec 13, 2012 at 7:19 AM

Mr. Cockrell please do your best to not allow any type of long line commercial fishing. Your department needs to realize that from an economical standpoint and from a conservation standpoint private individual fisherman buying licenses and enjoying our fishery is the ideal situation. Stop giving commercial fisherman the leeway that allows them to decimate our fishery.

Thank you Gerald Richards / CCA member and Florida Fishing and Hunting License Holder



Conservation Zones

1 message

Steve Moffitt [REDACTED]

Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 8:00 PM

To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

To: Craig Cockrell

As a conservationist and fisherman I oppose the use of commercial longline boats for research in our conservation zones. There has to be a better alternative than this proposal.

Please find a research method that does not allow commercial fisherman in these areas.

Sincerely

Steven A. Moffitt

Sent from my iPad



Long Lines in Conservation Zones

1 message

Jeffery Sandmann [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 7:46 PM

Mr. Cockrell,

The petition by commercial long liners for EFP's in Conservation Zones seems like a page right out of the Japanese whaling fleets play book, research indeed. Hopefully our designated

authorities in these matters see this for what it really is.

Regards,

Capt. Jeffery H. Sandmann



NMFS HMSEFP.2013 - NOAA Service Account <nmfs.hmsefp.2013@noaa.gov>

No longline fishing permits

1 message

Sam [REDACTED]
To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 7:34 PM

It's ridiculous that this idea was even proposed, much less even be seriously considered.



long lines

1 message

James Louisgnan [REDACTED]

Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 7:08 PM

Reply-To: James Louisgnan [REDACTED]

To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

this is an extremely bad way to fish, by cache and unnecessary mortality of untargeted fish. please don't support this type of activity. thank you

Jim Louisgnan



No longing fishing

1 message

Jeffrey Kline [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 5:34 PM

Mr Cockrell,

My name is Jeffrey Kline and I'm a member of the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA). I have Read over the proposed measure and I believe it to be absurd and down right wrong. Conservation zone were put in place for a reason and allowing these commercial vessels to fish the area year around and sell whatever they catch would defeat that purpose. There are other methods to go about doing research and this is not good choice.

Regards,

Jeff Kline



Opposition to Requests for Exempted Fishing permits in Areas closed to Long Lines

1 message

Jim Williams [REDACTED]
To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 5:32 PM

I recently read NMFS notice that requests for EFP's are expected in the closed areas off of Florida's east coast, the Charleston Bump and the Gulf of Mexico. As a recreational fisherman on Florida's east coast, I am troubled by the notion that NMFS would even consider such a proposal. After the dramatic recovery of stocks following the initial closure, it should be clear that the destructive effects of this gear far outweigh any benefit. Whether these requests come in the guise of "experiments", "compensation", "scientific study" or some other ruse, history has shown the true intent to be to take advantage of the closure for commercial profit. There are plenty of other areas of open ocean where experiments, etc. can be performed without reintroducing long lines to some of the most sensitive nurseries in our ocean.

James O. Williams, Jr.

[REDACTED]



Fw: 0648-XC266 DENY Longline EFP Permits

1 message

Bill Kimber [REDACTED]
Reply-To: Bill Kimber [REDACTED]
To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 5:06 PM

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Bill Kimber <kimber.bill@yahoo.com>
To: "HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2012 6:01 PM
Subject: 0648-XC266 DENY Longline EFP Permits

Craig Cockrell

Deny the Commercial Longliners the EFP permits. They are not necessary for research. You would just be pandering to that industry.

Bill Kimber



Exempted Fishing Permits

1 message

Scott Willis [REDACTED]

Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 4:31 PM

Reply-To: Scott Willis [REDACTED]

To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Read the info on Exempted Fishing Permits in conservations zones.

I dont think that is a good idea to allow non-discriminant long line fishing even if by permit or for "study" in these areas. Non-discriminating, meaning they can keep and sell anything they want bycatch or otherwise. They shouldn't be allowed to fish in there at all.

If you want to do a bycatch study it seems this study can be conducted in non conservation areas.

I guess conservation to laymen such as myself means "an area protecting for future benefit, or an area used for seed stock" Its hard enough to see other countries with slack regulations being able to fish unrestricted just outside our waters, dont take away any safe haven the species would have.

I am a hunter and fisherman, I am not a green peace environmentalist that wants everything banned just for cause. But I do believe these "Studies" can be performed in non-conservation areas just as good.

Scott Willis
Jacksonville NC
[REDACTED]



NMFS HMSEFP.2013 - NOAA Service Account <nmfs.hmsefp.2013@noaa.gov>

EFP

1 message

Richard Scroggs [REDACTED]
To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 4:20 PM

Dear Sir or Madam

Do not allow EFPs for bycatch or research in currently established conservation zones in the Gulf or Atlantic waters. Concessions of this sort to long liners short circuit the reasons for the conservation zones in the first place.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Scroggs, Ed.D.



Conservation zone research

1 message

Ianerc [REDACTED]

Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 2:04 PM

To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

I am against allowing by catch research to be performed in conservation areas. This research should be performed only in areas already designated for long line fishing. There is ample opportunity for research amongst the existing fishery.

Sent from my iPhone



NMFS HMSEFP.2013 - NOAA Service Account <nmfs.hmsefp.2013@noaa.gov>

long line permits

1 message

Thomas Kaineg [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 3:38 PM

Please do not allow further long lining in restricted zones even if it is disguised as research. thanks tom kaineg



long line permits

1 message

Robert Kulp [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 3:04 PM

I would like to register my opposition to long line permits
thank you
robert
Dr. Robert Kulp
[REDACTED]



EFP proposal

1 message

SALVADOR SPOTO DDS [REDACTED]

Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 2:51 PM

To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Once again the National Marine Fisheries Service is so far off base with this proposal to allow longlining in conservation areas . To try to claim this to be research is a slap in the face to any intelligent person. You continue to baffle me with your pseudo-science ! Our fisheries are not safe with you. I hope for my grandchildren's sake that one day we can get some people in control who actually care. Salvador Spoto, D.D.S.



Longliners

1 message

Rick Thompson [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 2:37 PM

I am aghast....

Really? Research by longliners in protected waters under the guise of research?

I am totally against any such endeavor...



Longlining "Research"

1 message

Jim Gieges [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 2:22 PM

Mr. Cockrell,

I not only ask but demand you support withdrawal of this outrageous EFP proposal concerning commercial longlining "study". How unprofessional can an organization such as the EFP be to put forth such a bill. This is a terrible joke beyond anyone's wildest imagination. If this waste of tax payer's money is allowed to pass I demand that:

For every dollar commercial fishermen receive recreational fishermen receive two dollars. I hope this gets the point across.

Sincerely,

Jim Gieges

[REDACTED]



Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP)

1 message

PointWilly@aol.com [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 1:52 PM

Mr. Craig Cockrell,

I am opposed to issuing Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP) that would open the door for the commercial longline industry to fish in conservation zones created in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea.

I am sure you are in receipt of The Coastal Conservation Association's position statement regarding this issue and I support their position 100%.

John H Pinder
[REDACTED]



Whats Next Whales?????

1 message

Capt Dave Sipler's Sport Fishing [REDACTED]

Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 2:01 PM

To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Like Whales slaughter by the Japanese for "RESEARCH". Which is really commercial harvesting for "PROFIT".

are you kidding me,

“Not only do they want to be allowed to fish commercially in conservation zones, the vessels participating in these ‘research’ efforts would also be exempt from regulations – including seasons – and be allowed to keep and sell whatever they catch,”

Wish I could do anything I want!

why is there even a hearing, or even time spent on this??

–

-Capt Dave Sipler's Sport Fishing

[REDACTED]



Proposal for Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP) for commercial longline fishing in conservation zones

1 message

Ged Tiller [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 1:54 PM

The ocean is a big place, and any research or gear modifications can be studied in areas where longliners are already allowed to set their gear. There is certainly no justification for allowing them into conservation zones. Proposals like this should be rejected outright. Reportedly, not only do they want to be allowed to fish commercially in conservation zones, the vessels participating in these 'research' efforts would also be exempt from regulations – including seasons – and be allowed to keep and sell whatever they catch. It's outrageous.

–
Ged
Gerald R Tiller

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



No EFP for research

1 message

Gary Sadler [REDACTED]
To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 1:34 PM

Please do NOT allow EFP for research.

[REDACTED]

Gary Sadler | [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]



Exempted Fishing Permits

1 message

William Redd [REDACTED]

Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 1:27 PM

To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Mr. Cockrell,

As a student who is nearing graduation with degree in wildlife and fisheries biology, I simply cannot support the issuing of the proposed Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs). Throughout my years at Clemson, I have been taught concepts and shown a great deal of evidence in favor of designating conservation areas that are sheltered from commercial exploitation. These areas are most often areas that are vital to the overall production of the marine ecosystem and the commercial fisheries that are already fished. As an agency within the Department of the Interior, it is the duty of the NOAA, as stated in the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, to ensure maximum sustainable yield, stabilize the domestic fishing industry, and promote programs for the conservation of fish and wildlife. Allowing the issuance of EFPs would mitigate and possibly reverse the efforts that have been made since this act was put in place almost 60 years ago.

It is in our human nature to take what we can get to improve our lives. If your agency allows for the issuance of EFPs, there will no doubt be a great demand for them. This is because fishermen are not stupid and know the potential commercial value of marine conservation areas. What they do not understand or have the ability to manipulate on an individual basis is the fragility and importance to the larger oceanic ecosystem of the ecosystems/niches contained within the current marine conservation areas. For this reason, they should be kept under protections that allow them to operate and progress without the pressures of human interaction.

William Redd
[REDACTED]



Long Lining Exempt Fishing Permits (EFP)

1 message

R. Dorsey [REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 1:23 PM

Mr. Cockrell,

It is my understanding that EFP's are being proposed to allow long lining in conservation zones under the idea of researching by catch. Please explain to me why this could not be done where the long liners are already fishing? They are already fishing, so why not do the studies in existing fishing areas? Why do you need to do it in the conservation zones? It is beyond me as to how this can be helpful to the fisheries? Please do not allow this to happen.

A concerned fisherman.

Ron Dorsey

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Long Line Fishing Exemption

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov

Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 1:21 PM

I am appalled at any attempt to encroach on Conservation Areas by commercial fisherman. And to add to that be allowed to ignore fishing seasons and to sell the catch is even worse! Add my voice to objecting to this proposal!

Philip E. Elzey



Exempted Fishing Permits

1 message

Matt Bowers [REDACTED]
To: "NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov" <NMFS.HMSEFP.2013@noaa.gov>

Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 1:18 PM

Please do not allow these for the conservation zones in the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean.

Matt

Matthew L Bowers

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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