

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0902

Chairman Harold Rogers
House Appropriations Committee
H-307, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Norm Dicks
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Frank R. Wolf
House Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science and Related Agencies
H-309, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Chaka Fattah
House Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science and Related Agencies
H-309, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Dicks, Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Fattah:

We are writing regarding a letter you received dated October 31, 2011, from Congressman Walter Jones and 18 of our House colleagues to request that language to restrict the use of funds for development of new "catch share" programs for any fishery under the jurisdiction of the New England, Mid Atlantic, or South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils be included in the final FY12 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriations bill. Just as Members who have Atlantic coastlines in their districts desire to keep new job-killing catch shares programs from being implemented, so too do we, the undersigned Gulf coast members desire to prevent new catch share programs from wrecking our costal economies.

As stated in the aforementioned letter, earlier this year, the House approved a similar amendment to the FY 2011 CJS Appropriations Act by a wide margin of 259 to 159 (Roll Call Vote #130). This amendment included the fishery management councils on the Atlantic side of the U.S., as well as the Gulf of Mexico. Although not included in the letter, we feel very strongly that Congress should continue to protect the Gulf of Mexico from job-destroying catch share programs.

We are alarmed by the crippling job losses experienced along Atlantic Coast as a result of these catch share programs. A similar disaster can be avoided in the Gulf of Mexico by preventing the establishment of new programs in our region until several conditions have been met, including requiring the use of better scientific research and data collection from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and economic impact statements. These tools are necessary to accurately measure the economic impact of catch share programs, and we believe it is in the best interests of our coastal industries to restrict funding for catch share programs until these common sense conditions are met.

We are very pleased that the House Appropriations Committee recognized the problems with rapid implementation of new catch share programs by including report language in the FY12 CJS bill that cut funding for catch shares to \$21.956 million, roughly half the FY11 funding level. And while we are

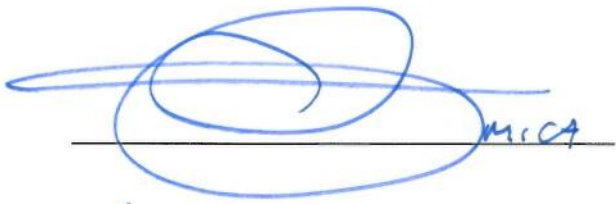
grateful for this reduction, it unfortunately will not prevent NOAA from imposing new job-destroying catch share programs on our fishing communities in the Gulf. Therefore, we respectfully request that you not only include the language requested by our colleagues in the final FY 2012 CJS bill, but also that you would add the Gulf of Mexico to this language so that it reads exactly as the roll call vote #130. The suggested language should read as follows:

None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to develop, approve, or implement a new limited access privilege program (as that term is used in section 303A the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1853a)) for any fishery under the jurisdiction of the South Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, New England, or Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Steve Southerland, II

 Mike

Albert West FL-22

Andy Adams FL-24

James Roney

Frank Lettinen
FL-16

Tommy AK-2

Bill Casey FL-15

Jeff Yrean SC-3

Steven Palgrove SC-4

Joe Wilson, SC-02

John Fleming LA-01

Phil LA-03

Off FL-25

Andre Alan

John 1253

Ben Yang AK

Mike Wilson SC-5