

Our Florida Reefs Public Comment June 2016

| Submitted              | Name                 | Email                      | Message  |
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| 2016-06-03<br>09:06:18 | Tony Hill            | tk_hill@hotmail.com        | "In 2006, a SEFCRI study indicated an overall negative impression of the current form of management for southeast Florida coral reefs, and that something different was needed. <sup>8</sup> In other words, more has to be done"<br>WRONG CONCLUSION. This is an indictment of your direct management and the impact upon the Fishing and Boating community. If you took this to mean that you need to do more and not less, your analysis of the findings was inaccurate. Rather than trying to close off areas of reef, you should be turning your efforts to creating more reef structure and artificial reefs. Try going after the cities that are releasing sewage or dumping waste. |
| 2016-06-03<br>07:19:08 | Eugene               | emucj3@bellsouth.net       | These guys are going to close the reefs to fishing, but still they let the water flow from Okeechobee and St. Johns River and kill millions of fish, and pollute the estuaries with phosphorus and grass killing products. These people need to get their heads out of their asses, and stop working bass Akwords.   |
| 2016-06-02<br>19:34:28 | Durston<br>Smith     | dustys@comcast.net         | There are other ways to improve habitat besides blanket closing of he reefs to fishing and other activities.<br>The Coastal Conservation Association has given you valid alternatives.<br>Try them first and if those ideas do not work then move on to more restrictive measures.   |
| 2016-06-02<br>17:35:05 | Greg                 | ggarland23@gmail.com       | Please protect recreational fishing and allow access to a resource that can only be protected by the next generation of boating and fishing enthusiasts. Without those two groups, conservation can't exist long-term. Vote to continue to allow responsible access.   |
| 2016-06-02<br>17:05:03 | Nick                 | nickweiland92@gmail.com    | Stop spear fishing on all our reefs.. to often people are shooting our big breeding grouper. ... how do we expect to have grouper for future generations when we are killing all the big breeding fish ??? Hook and lune should be the only method allowed to take fish from our reefs regardless if it is a sanctuary or not  |
| 2016-06-02<br>16:29:25 | Denis Ford           | denisbollingford@gmail.com | We can't fish for Red Snapper, now you are talking about closing reefs to fishing, give us and the economy a break. You really don't want all of us to quit fishing, do you?<br>Reefs are fragile but it is not fishing that is killing them.  |
| 2016-06-02<br>16:02:06 | Steven Dobie         | sdobie@austin.rr.com       | Indiscriminate closure of fishing areas, particularly reefs and similar areas does not protect fish. What it does is kills tourism and hurts local economies dependent upon the sport fishing industry.<br>Working with conservation organizations with specific, targeted fish limits and periodic closures based on scientific and marine conservation data is good policy.<br>Please do not close off all Florida reefs to fishing!   |
| 2016-06-02<br>15:33:16 | Jeannette<br>Garnsey | seamist@bellsouth.net      | Please don't close our reefs. For three generations my family has been running drift fishing party boats out of the Boynton inlet. Closing N-146, a-65 and S-54 will severely  |

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|                                 |                                  |                           | <p>impact our livelihoods.<br/> Each year, recreational fishing generates more than \$9.3 billion in economic activity and supports more than 123,000 jobs in Florida.<br/> Your proposals fail to address the real problems – Banning recreational fishing is not going to fix water quality, temperature, acidification, and sedimentation issues affecting Florida’s reefs.</p>   |
| <p>2016-06-02<br/> 14:37:05</p> | <p>charles e<br/> butler III</p> | <p>ceb3@bellsouth.net</p> | <p>I attended morning session 6/2/2016. I was able to get two minutes ,but the moderator,despite assurances to the contrary if there was still time for public comment ,did not give me time to finish. The committee I am sure worked hard. Unfortunately,I found out about this very late in the game when I received an email from an old law school fishing and diving buddy.<br/> Closure was certainly a hot topic. I think focus is on the symptom,lack of fish and live corals, rather than the cause. Fwc does a great job with not a great dael of funding and underpaid officers. There are some things that FWC does that perhaps should be re-visited. Fish aggregating devices may not be placed anywhere. If fish aggregating devices could be place, providing they meet certain specifications, more habitat and more shelter for fish when the predators come to the reef. No shelter on sand bottom. More focus needs to be on causes and fixing them. Closures are a non creative purported "fix" that fails to address the underlying problems which range from water quality,lionfish,Goliath grouper,pollution from multiple sources, sewage outfalls too close to shore, the soup of chemicals that come down the Mississippi River and elsewhere containing hormones,petrochemical ,antibiotics ,antifungals,fertilizers,bacteria and the list goes on. One last thing as a suggestion,. When there is mechanical damage to coral get it into the hands of aquarium shops for free distribution to hobbyists. It will provide a reserve for the coral species and will be returned many times over as it outgrows the fish tanks and can be place back on the reefs,which consist of more rock these days than coral. My cousin spends \$100 per month on electricity for a sophisticated lighting system to grow coral inn his fish tank It is Pacific corals which don't add to our reefs when grows too big and needs to be cut back. Seems a bit of a waste to me. You certainly do not want to alienate fisherman and divers since they fund FWC through license fees. Although the organization seems to have come to it's end for purposes of recommendations I hope it continues as a sentinel for what is happening under water Any report should certainly have a majority opinion with a dissenting opinion ,if there is significant disagreement on an issue. The Supreme Court does this and so should you.<br/> Charles E Butler III<br/> Attorney and person concerned with the environment offshore,inshore and ashore.<br/> We need to find ways not to continuously re-nourish beaches .Every time silts the reef and turtle grass.</p> |

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| 2016-06-02<br>13:36:53 | dave douglas    | dd@ddai-engineers.com          | I object to the closure of our Florida Reefs closure status. Please reconsider this policy as it is not realistic. Dave Douglas  |
| 2016-06-02<br>13:21:30 | Maureen Schmitt | maureenreadschmitt@comcast.net | Fishing has been a right for generations. It is not something that should be taken away from me as a casual senior trying to enjoy my life and the wonderful outdoors.   |
| 2016-06-02<br>12:38:46 | William Demler  | thetarponator@gmail.com        | How about you fix the pollution problems that killed most of our reefs a long time ago, fishing has nothing to do with thl normally don't do these, but thought this one was interesting:<br>Because life is not made only of photos! I also liked the idea.. And I'm going to get into the game. The proposal is "shake" the Facebook. Let's see if it works. The game is to make a small test to see who reads the message when there is no picture. Therefore, if you are reading this message, make a comment using a single word about how we met. Just one word.. Please. Next, copy this message on your wall so I can also leave a word. Just hold your finger on text. Touch the word copy. Go to your pg & hold your finger where you write. Then on "paste" when it shows up. That's it!<br>health of the reefs, without a healthy reef there will be no fish on them, so stop trying to guise this as an overfishing problem, and while your at it stop the dredge in port everglades that is about to silt over what little live reef is left |
| 2016-06-02<br>12:35:27 | Carl Figini     | carlfigini@gmail.com           | Sport fisherman are the greatest conservationists on the planet, by shutting them out from reef fishing you will lose millions of dollars in conservation support dollars and volunteers for conservation projects.<br>The FWC in the state of Florida has done tremendous work in the conservation of fish stocks in the state and they have done so using facts.   |
| 2016-06-02<br>12:23:21 | Tyler harris    | carolinaflare@gmail.com        | Regarding the closure of "reef fishing". This is quite possibly the worst decision that could be made. This will cause irreversible damage to the tourism and marine industry, ( the biggest industry in south Florida".<br>I will not vote for a politician that supports this and I will make it my life's goal to be sure absolutely none of my contacts do either.   |
| 2016-06-02<br>12:01:56 | Glenn Kellis    | ironiciron@yahoo.com           | Closing the reefs to recreational fishing in Florida is absurd at a time when the vast majority of inshore waters have been destroyed by agricultural pollution and an antiquated water policy better suited to 50 years in the past.<br>With no inshore fishing in half the state, the reefs are the only fishing left for fishermen with moderately sized boats. The only other salt water fishing will be well offshore accessible only to large Yachts. This is totally unfair to the vast majority of Florida fishermen and kill the marine industry already suffering from poor water quality issues.<br>Don't do it!  |
| 2016-06-02<br>10:28:36 | Barry Rose      | barry@abc-controls.com         | Why, do you people need to F' with us. Really go back to Washington.   |

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| 2016-06-02<br>10:21:41 | William<br>Taylor    | blackdogfishing@comcast.net | Discharges from lake O have killed every Oyster barnacle and plant in the Loxahatchee estuary. Fishing isn't killing our reef. I run the busiest boat in northern Palm Beach county. I have a degree in marine science Governor. Scott is killing our reef. My dock is 300 yards from the open ocean The bottom is dead   |
| 2016-06-02<br>09:57:26 | David Luther         | david.luther@ml.com         | From my research on the "Our Florida Reefs" organization and their policies I believe the organization is funded and working for special interest groups (example; nature conservancy) with the ultimate goal not to protect our ecosystem but to banning fishing. They have purposely excluded fisherman from their group and discounted any criticism. From the one meeting that was held in my local area that I was able to attend I felt alienated and excluded. It seems to me that the proposals are ready and these meetings are only a formality. My opinion is that banning fishing is the main objective of this group and all the other suggestions are just fluff. They were very proud that they would leave 70% of the area offshore open to fishing. From the perspective of a non-fisherman that seems reasonable enough. But if you are a fisherman you know that you catch the majority of your fish in a very small area (the 30% they suggest closing). This is clearly not a community based group and they do not represent the majority stake holder in SE FL, offshore enthusiasts! We are the first ones on the water in the morning and last ones in. We have been at the forefront of conservation and environmental protection for years. Check out the WPBFC ( <a href="http://www.westpalmbeachfishingclub.org/history.php">http://www.westpalmbeachfishingclub.org/history.php</a> ) which has played a leadership role in conservation, innovation and education. In 1938, the club was the first to develop and promote the use of red release pennants as an alternative to bringing sailfish back to the dock. I'm sure there are a lot of great people with good intentions involved but I cannot support any of their draft recommendations when they clearly have no intention of changing their stance on banning fishing. I was born and raised fishing offshore of Palm Beach County. I now fish with my children in these waters and the fishing and reefs are doing well but there is room for improvement. I have seen the ecosystem and the fishing deteriorate and then improve over long cycles both due to natural causes, pollution, overfishing, great management by our state, conservation efforts etc.. We have the power to make changes that do not punish certain user groups while rewarding others. In some cases, limiting fishing can be an effective management tool, but it should be used as a last resort – not as a first choice. The main threats to these reefs come from increased water temperatures, water quality, and sedimentation – not recreational fishing. These proposals just don't make sense. |
| 2016-06-02<br>09:22:10 | Nicholas brett       | heminick1@yahoo.com         | Closing reefs to fishing is the most bizarre thing of ever heard.Closing is not a solution to any problem how about proper research and management just saying.   |
| 2016-06-02<br>09:18:45 | Stephen<br>Infantino | feddevsti@yahoo.com         | Please do not close reefs to fishing. Fisherman are your allies in conservation.  |

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| 2016-06-02<br>09:14:27 | Jesse read          | flatsnut@embarqmail.com | The waters of Florida fishing reefs of Florida are Florida's resident resource not the federal government's Yours truly Jesse read  |
| 2016-06-02<br>09:04:39 | Captain Steve Hobbs | splopslt@aol.com        | I hope that people come to their senses and stop this crazy non-sense about closing reefs to fishing! Fishing licenses provide more money toward helping the environment than any other income. The economy is largely driven by people coming to Florida to enjoy our waters for fishing ,diving and outside activities. I'm not sure who or what is driving this craziness but get a grip and stop wasting time and money on silly agendas!!!!!!  |
| 2016-06-02<br>08:50:18 | Gregory Graham      | ghgraham@embarqmail.com | To Whom It May Concern,<br>I support the CCA in opposition to the proposal to close reefs to recreational fishing   |
| 2016-06-02<br>07:53:07 | David Carbohn       | dcarbohn@comcast.net    | Are you kidding with this. Do you have any understanding of what fishing brings to Florida. Do the right thing for ONCE. Vote NO on this closing of our reefs.  |
| 2016-06-02<br>07:41:47 | Tammy snyder        | latergator63@gmail.com  | Do not close our reefs!   |
| 2016-06-02<br>04:28:12 | Stuart Kidder       | kidder.stuart@gmail.com | If your name is "Our Florida Reefs" why are you proposing to close them to recreational anglers? It sounds more like you should call yourselves, "My Florida Reefs" and exclude those who you don't like.<br>Recreational fishing brings in a tremendous amount of revenue annually to Florida, not to mention the countless hours of enjoyment that sport fishing brings.<br>I urge you to keep reef fishing open, and not create a series of MPA that limit access to our reefs.<br>I am a member of CCA FL, and unable to attend the meeting regarding closure of the reefs, but as a recreational fisherman, tax paying citizen, and registered voter, I ask you please to reconsider your stance.<br>Thank you |
| 2016-06-02<br>00:31:59 | Deborah Albritton   | alandeb@embarqmail.com  | If you dare take away our fishing access to any Florida waters without overwhelming scientific study proving without a shadow of doubt that it is absolutely necessary to do so we will mobilize and remove every person who is affiliated with the stealing of our resources from whatever office they are associated with, the time of govt. tyranny in the form of ecological excuses is over, you have already taken enough freedoms from us.   |
| 2016-06-01<br>22:20:18 | Adam Morgan         | adamhmorgan@yahoo.com   | I spend \$500-\$1000 per month to saltwater fish in a small boat. You have already restricted the types and amounts of fish I may keep that most of the time I have to throw fish back that will die anyway, meanwhile you allow the commercial guys to not only fish 24/7 and keep whatever they want, you allow them to kill more by-catch biomass in a week than I will catch in a lifetime. Now you want to close the near shore reefs. To promote what??? More diving that does not buy a fishing license?? They illegally spear fish in the name of restricted reefs, you license   |

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|                        |                     |                         | enforcers are more worried about me and my family catching a few trout or grouper. Give the people that support your agency a break. We buy licenses, divers do not.   |
| 2016-06-01<br>21:46:34 | Dan Rathka          | dcrathka@mifl.biz       | This is out of control! This state makes a living on tourism and the recreational fishing business is a huge part of it. If not the biggest. After seeing the "Sea Lords" in Texas it is evident that the commercial fishery is winning this battle while our elected officials don't listen to the folks that put them in office. Fed up in Florida!  |
| 2016-06-01<br>21:28:34 | Barry Ford          | barry4d@gmail.com       | I believe our reefs do need protection and should be available to be used by all who enjoy their beauty and bounty. That would include access for snorkeling, scuba diving, and fishing. Protections should come in the form of no anchor contact with the reef except permanent mooring sites if developed.   |
| 2016-06-01<br>21:07:57 | Kai Jantunen        | kaijantunen@hotmail.com | Closing reefs to recreational fishing is unnecessary...the vast majority of fisherman are conservationists.  |
| 2016-06-01<br>21:06:26 | Tim Nettles         | htnettlles@gmail.com    | <p>The thought of closing near shore reefs is absurd. Why is this the new means of management. Is there a problem with the fish populations? If so please follow sound and proven management tools, spawning/seasonal closures for the species you may be worried about. Are we worried about degradation of the reefs them selves? Then why don't we stop all street runoff into our estuaries that empty into our coast line? Why not outlaw diving in certain areas that may have pristine or endangered coral. "Cattle boats" dropping off inexperienced divers to kick the bottom, stand on the coral does a lot more harm than fishermen do.</p> <p>No, the problem is always the fisherman, they are easier to kick around. Where does this logic come from? Think about it this another way. How many families take young fisherman out for quality family time to fish these reefs. Outlaw this important part of life in South Florida and what will we accomplish? Less young people experiencing the outdoors. Instead they'll be hanging out at the mall or god knows where else and who knows what kind of mischief, drugs or other problems they will encounter. Doesn't an afternoon trip with their family and / or friends fishing sound a lot better..</p> <p>Please stop the madness. Fishing in South Florida along our reef line is an important part of our lives. This is not only absurd, it's absolutely uncalled for. How about we outlaw golf courses, makes just as much sense as closing our reefs to fishing.</p> |
| 2016-06-01<br>20:44:07 | Randy moore         | randym7562@gmail.com    | Red snapper should be open with a 24" minimum, and 1 per person per day, there are way so many 20-40 pound range snapper right now that's all we catch, if you are going to close a season why don't you try black Sea bass because all the snapper ate them in the past 2 years, and once these snapper get so big they don't need structure they school up in the middle of nowhere  |
| 2016-06-01<br>20:10:14 | Capt. Bob Zales, II | bobzales2@gmail.com     | I am President of the National Association of Chaterboat Operators (NACO). We represent charter for hire owners and operators in the charter boat, headboat, diving, sailing, and sightseeing businesses across the United States from Alaska to   |

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|                        |                    | <p>Maine including the Great Lakes, Hawaii, and the USVI. We have a large number of members who live in and provide charter services in Florida. Our members provide a significant social and economic benefit to the State of Florida and the many coastal communities along the entire coast line.</p> <p>NACO fully supports conservation of our natural resources for the use of all stakeholders. NACO does not support any areas for closures to fisheries, boating activities, sightseeing, diving, or for any other reason unless there is a valid scientific and biological reason. We do not support closures for the sake of establishing closed areas in the hope of enhancing the resource. We fully support management measures to mitigate any resource damage but our members do not support closures of any kind unless there is a valid scientific and biological reason.</p> <p>I was one of 30 members first appointed to the Marine Protected Area Federal Advisory Committee and helped create the current Federal Guide to Marine Protected Areas. That guide provides guidance on the needs for and the rationale to establish MPAs. All stakeholders must be involved in any process to create any MPA or closed area and that involvement must be from the bottom up, meaning from the beginning discussions thru the entire process. No MPA will or has ever worked without full cooperation from all stakeholders.</p> <p>Thanks,<br/> Capt. Bob Zales, II<br/> President<br/> NACO<br/> <a href="http://www.nacocharters.org">www.nacocharters.org</a></p> |
| 2016-06-01<br>19:47:51 | Gavin<br>Sciscente | <p>I attended your meeting after lunch today I'm choosing to do the written comment because I'm not a fan of speaking over the mic. I'm a Kayak angler I pretty much just do my fishing off the beach offshore I don't anchor ever. I do the kayak tournaments always practice good conservation and safety on the water, carry a dehooker and gismo to return catch back to the deep. I try not to handle fish I don't harvest for the purpose of photographing it.</p> <p>I am not going to support your cause because it will impact too many people and business that make a living from the water in South Florida. People come here to enjoy the water, we live here for the sole purpose of the water, I've been here since I was 10 years old and water has been my playground for 60 years. I've seen a lot of change with the city and the water. I've seen conch living on the bottom, sea pin shell, arms of spiny lobster marching along. Sure there's change, so is our lives changing everyday, that's life we have to adapt. You will never be able to bring it back like it was just like you will never bring back wild life that has gone extinct, just like you can't reverse time. Storms come in and change the bottom all the time the fish adapt. You might cause more confusion to the Reef trying to reverse or interfere with there process of adapting.</p>   |

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|                        |                   |                          | <p>You need to jump on the industries that are using our bays and rivers as a dumping ground for there waste. We upgraded the waste from our boats to cut down on bacteria, I would be curios to know what these cruise ships throw out into the ocean, like medical waste and container ships discharge into our waters, and not to mention foreign ships discharging there bilge water. Are commercial fish boats still dragging there nets on the bottom tearing up the bottom?</p> <p>There's a lot of mentioning of the future, Politian's use it all the time and you seem to use it pretty freely also, no one really know how the future will turn out, as far as fishing and eating them, they all have parasites and mercury now days and we can't eat too much fish now. So future generations may not even be able to eat from the ocean. We are already eating farmed fish and shrimp or genetically altered.</p> <p>The human race has impact lower life forever, it might only change for the better when we learn how to leaving this ball of dirt.</p> |
| 2016-06-01<br>19:24:19 | Daryl Johnson     | bigfishjohnson@live.com  | <p>As a fisherman, father and husband and a steward of our ocean and waterways I completely oppose the actions being proposed by OFR. For the OFR to limit public input by holding meetings in the middle of the day or off hours or by no comments at past meetings is completely absurd. Without public input you will only get the answers you want and not what the public really cares about. You are not in touch with us the people and that is why there are candidates like Trump and Bernie running around out there because the populists have chosen and you OFR the party will lose.</p>   |
| 2016-06-01<br>19:19:51 | Evan Ross         | jagwizard@hotmail.com    | <p>I spoke with my lawyer about this fishing ban on southern reefs. He has informed me that it is very expensive to fight the regulations you wish to impose. But it is fairly cheap to have the regulation extended to remove all dive boats and divers from the reef after the regulation is approved, so thats what I am going to do. Petition already circulating. Divers take pieces home and stir up sediments with their fins. We will push the ban on divers with a discrimination suit. Welcome to hell.</p>   |
| 2016-06-01<br>19:08:48 | Don Killingsworth | drkilling@msn.com        | <p>I am a lifelong resident of Florida and an avid fisherman. I am totally opposed to closing Florida reefs to recreational fishermen. I primarily fish intercostal waters usually practice catch and release but I see the action of totally closing these reefs as a dangerous president.</p>   |
| 2016-06-01<br>18:58:20 | Mark Zinn         | zinn@cyfr.com            | <p>dont close fishing</p>   |
| 2016-06-01<br>18:41:54 | Joe hull          | hitman425303@aol.com     | <p>How can catch and release of fish on a reef in the ocean be illegal? What a joke that is even for discussion. What's next I won't be allowed to boat across a reef? 70% of our earth is water and less than 1 % of population are recreational fishermen, so again let's limit their catch.</p>  |
| 2016-06-01<br>18:22:58 | Jim Russick       | jrussick@tampabay.rr.com | <p>I do not support a fishing ban on Florida reefs. That is a draconian, unreasonable, and unacceptable imposition on sport fisherman.</p>  |



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| 2016-06-01<br>18:16:45 | Tim Grenz        | timgrenz@bellsouth.net          | Please do not close these areas. There is no valid reason to do so. Plenty of fish are being observed and any further action to close this important resource that belongs to me in part is misguided at best and criminal at worst. That's correct, I said criminal. Closing this access to me is stealing what belongs to me and many other citizens without accountability or proper representation.<br>This madness needs to stop now...   |
| 2016-06-01<br>18:14:03 | James Peeples    | southernstylecharters@yahoo.com | Keep our reefs open its a way of life for me an millions of others   |
| 2016-06-01<br>18:09:56 | Clifford C. Lang | Retcliff@aol.com                | It seems that if you have enough money and it benefits the commercial industry, you can get anything pasted. Well as a paying tax payer and a Florida angler, I do not agree with you politicians and the way you operate the public resources. It is time that you start listening to the people that really know what's going on and stop listening to the commercial industry. As long as the commercial fishing industry is allowed to take what ever and how much they want to take, fish stocks will decline. They damage more resources than the average angler by the way the take up everything and kill it by throwing what they do not want back dead. It seems as though they do not have size limits as the recreational angler does, so they keep all they want.<br>The individual commercial fisherman from Texas who thinks it all belongs to him, really needs to sit down and take a good look. He is not for the future fishermen such as the kids growing up now. It is all greed on his part and I personally do not care if he has to go out of business.. Stopping reef fishing will not benefit the little guy or the fish them selves. This is just a way to act as a communistic way to control the average angler and take all their rights to fish away. |
| 2016-06-01<br>17:38:06 | John Burke       | j-j-b@comcast.net               | Your so called public meeting have been a SCAM. You had an agenda and you jammed it down fisherman's throats. Water pollution is the number one problem and it is sad that you are punishing fisherman further for inept water management.<br><br>You should be considering limestone artificial reefs to protect and enhance the natural reef you so love.<br>As long the Army Corp. of Engineers is dumping you will not be able to protect the northern end for the Florida reefs. Your closing of fishing on the reefs is a Band-Aid in a hemorrhage get serious and do something about the water quality.   |
| 2016-06-01<br>16:56:55 | Roberto A Lugo   | robertoalugo@gmail.com          | Florida the fishing capital of the world! No More!!!<br><br>Use real science to make the right decisions. Recreational fisherman/woman are not responsible for the decline of our fishing stocks!<br>We are the stewards of the sea, we teach our children's catch and release. We teach them to respect the environment we live in. We teach them about the need to   |

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|                        |                      |                                  | protect our reefs and shorelines. If you close the reefs, you are not protecting the fishery, you are destroying not only our way of life and by the way an important industry, you are killing our hope for the future!  |
| 2016-06-01<br>16:38:12 | Chris Edwards        | chrisfishinfl@aol.com            | Closing ALL reefs to fishing is completely WRONG . You would be hurting a LOT of people & community's well being & lively hood . There are many regulations know to protect our REEFS   |
| 2016-06-01<br>16:21:57 | max mathews jr       | maxmathewsjr@yahoo.com           | Please do not implement this draconian policy of closing down all fishing in certain zones . This simply makes no sense and is based on incomplete data and foolish emotion.<br>Thank you   |
| 2016-06-01<br>16:11:15 | Capt. George Hastick | CaptGeorge@tampabay.rr.com       | The reefs would be a shame to close off to fishing since that is a big part of Florida and a big part of peoples livelihood.  |
| 2016-06-01<br>16:00:33 | Nathan King          | Nmking09@aol.com                 | It is a bad idea to arbitrarily eliminate fishing at reefs. It hurts the economy with no significant benifit. Without proper research identifying the total impact to the economy and measurable gain for the ecosystem this kind of rule should not be implemented.  |
| 2016-06-01<br>16:00:07 | William M Dillard    | bill.dillard@dillardholdings.com | For 40 years my family and many of our friends have enjoy the reefs off the Florida Coast from Ft Pierce to the Marqueses. Making these areas off limits is a tragedy for the thousands of Floridians and Visitors who enjoy, preserve, and protect these waters. We have always taught our Family and Friends the importance of caring for this fragile aquaculture so that it can continue to be landmark of Florida Life Style. Please do not destroy this environment through regulation. Help us all preserve and protect it for future generations.<br>Kindest Regard<br>William M. Dillard |
| 2016-06-01<br>15:52:36 | Roger Dominguez      | dominguez.roger@gmail.com        | Banning all fishing from the Florida reef track is not the answer to protecting the reef. The reef is threaten by excess run-off from land, coastal over development, and climate change. This is a political ploy in order for some to claim that the reef is being protected. It is too late for this type of measure, at this time banning all fishing will hurt everyone economically and mentally and deprive our Citizens from one of the last available "escapes" in our over crowded and controlled world.  |
| 2016-06-01<br>15:51:06 | Hank Floyd           | hfloyd@nfmlending.com            | So let's get this straight when a kid ask to go fishing, We are supposed to say sorry only commercial fishing boats are allowed to fish? You have already punished recreational fisherman with ridiculous openings and closings. This has got to STOP! enough already. KEEP OUR REEFS OPEN!   |
| 2016-06-01<br>15:50:39 | Gerald Wolf          | geryjw55@yahoo.com               | The reefs off Florida are an integral part of the ocean bio-system. They support many species .<br>Any fees paid by fishermen help to construct these reefs. Stopping fishing on reefs in not justified . Stopping overfishing by commercial fishers should be the state's many   |

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|                        |                  |                         | objective as the balance is tilted way in their favor. Stopping fishing by recreational fishermen is wrong as there is limited opportunity to return with legal fish now.  |
| 2016-06-01<br>15:44:12 | Sam Weiss        | samuel.c.weiss@live.com | I am against the proposed reef fishing closures. It is a terrible, non evidence based idea that will negatively effect Florida's economy and anger the fishing population whom are the most positive force for protecting the aquatic environment and resources that the state has.  |
| 2016-06-01<br>15:32:37 | John DeLutrie    | DeLutrieJ@Verizon.net   | Do not close our reefs to fishing. I think you're severely overstepping your bounds and infringing on our individual rights.   |
| 2016-06-01<br>15:24:57 | Tony Parker      | tdpark1@yahoo.com       | Please leave things alone. Do not close the reefs to fishing. This is not helpful. A few malefactors do not represent all recreational fishers. My wife and I fish together and are responsible and cautious about what and how we catch and release.  |
| 2016-06-01<br>15:24:55 | Woon Lee         | woonsworld@aol.com      | One of the advantages of living in South Florida is the joy of fishing. Families have fun bonding and having a good time. Banning fishing on our reefs would be detrimental to us.   |
| 2016-06-01<br>15:23:36 | Harry Vernon     | harry@captharry.com     | Please keep all our reefs open .If you are concerned about our fish just close them for there spawning season. all you are doing is moving people out of one area to double up on other spots. How does that make sense. . there are not enough golf courses to cover all the fisherman on our coast ....  |
| 2016-06-01<br>15:23:32 | Jeff S           | unojeffro@yahoo.com     | Leave the American recreational fisherman alone. The government has attempted to shut down fishing for some time. No closures. Closures are not needed.  |
| 2016-06-01<br>15:18:15 | Stephen M. Ennis | Steve@theennisco.com    | As a third generation native of the great state of Florida, I want to voice my distinct opposition to any effort to restrict recreational use of the marine ecosystem (this includes no fishing zones, no take zones, Marine sanctuaries, etc.). As an alternative, there are other sensible ways to preserve the reef system and the abundant marine animals, fishes and mammals that live there. |
| 2016-06-01<br>14:56:24 | Jason Larkin     | sjlarkin@mindspring.com | I do NOT agree with your recommendations. Do NOT suggest closing the reefs to fishing.   |
| 2016-06-01<br>14:53:19 | Howard Scorr     | cavebat4ever@yahoo.com  | Why do you start with the most restrictive policy. Please start with lease restrictive and see if that works. I fill that what is happening here should be the responsibility of our state government so that we the people can agree or disagree with our vote. Thank you, Howard Scott   |
| 2016-06-01<br>14:52:07 | Rob Millican     | camorobb@yahoo.com      | I oppose the closing of the reefs in Florida. If we close our reefs thousands will loose jobs and income also it will damage our economy in the state with as much tourism we have in this state while fishing/tourism are are number one income in this state so please leave our reefs open I'd like to be able to take my kids out and catch them memories of a lifetime                        |
| 2016-06-01<br>14:46:56 | Lynn Murtagh     | meridian.lynn@gmail.com | Keeping anglers out of large portions of the public lands is not a service to the public. It will have a large detrimental economic impact on our state and fisheries.   |

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|                        |                      |                           | I support sound management practices, but draconian measure such as closures should be only when scientific evidence proves the need to do so, and only as a last resort.  |
| 2016-06-01<br>14:41:30 | Gloria Pearse        | gloriaheisler@yahoo.com   | I oppose closing public waters to FL residents, even the reefs. I am an environmentalist, Sierra member etc.   |
| 2016-06-01<br>14:31:36 | Mark Wilson          | mark@markwilsonagency.com | I am very disappointed in the over reach of the Our Florida Reefs initiative. It is also disappointing that you would have such an important meeting on a workday which has the effect of lowering attendance. The reefs are here for public use and should be open to fishing, diving, etc. Most boaters and individual fisherman are conservation minded, however we have laws that do make sure we do not overfish our waters already. To close a reef in addition to that is an over reach of power and is unfair to the citizens of Florida who paid for artificial reefs as well as all of the programs we have to keep our fisheries up.  |
| 2016-06-01<br>14:29:16 | forrest n<br>simmons | toychestfl@aol.com        | i can not believe what i have read about your approach as a solution that is the least bit. i can not believe the approach you are taking regarding protecting the reef. no fishing is absolutely crazy. lets ban scuba diving and while you are at it ban all boating .<br>lets face it people are going to fish in the keys. you are creating such a poor opinion of yourself and will loose all credibility without compromise,<br>forrest simmons 305-852-5585   |
| 2016-06-01<br>14:27:54 | Mathew<br>Lembrich   | mlemblich@blueoxland.com  | I just saw this and I cannot believe we just keep going and going with these rules that rob those of us who grew up fishing in our Ocean and Gulf that surround Florida. I do not like many other outdoor sports. I tried hunting it just does not do it for me. I can tell you that since the Atlantic Red snapper you can not catch a grouper with out releasing five Plus red snapper. On a recent trip we were catching bait and release some of the fish that we did not want to use and the Red snapper were at the surface eating the released bait fish at the surface.<br>But that is not my point my point is these groups keep taking what some of us have done our whole lives. Its not right to take hobbies away from working men and women because someone does not like it. There are many things I don't like but would never take someones god given right to do what they love. I just can't believe this you guy are going to drive someone to their tipping point. This just hurts that it is even proposed to take away all the reefs. |
| 2016-06-01<br>14:03:40 | charles shook        | cpshook3@yahoo.com        | I am wring to ask that you vote against the proposal to close the reefs to fishing. This is a draconian approach to management and without solid science to make such a decision. There are alternative actions available and these should be implemented before any type of closure.<br>Thank you,<br>Charles Shook   |

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| 2016-06-01<br>13:48:14 | John<br>Reynolds    | paulreynolds2103@yahoo.com | <p>I'm writing to state my opposition to this plan, and any plan, to close fishing on our Florida Reefs. I'm a 3rd generation Floridian and my family has enjoyed fishing &amp; diving every year as well as supported and practiced conservation efforts. We already have many reefs that are off-limits to fishing, please do not close any more. I want our children and grandchildren to have these opportunities... especially instead of giving rights or quotas to commercial fisherman. It would be detrimental to our recreational fishery and our economy if further restrictions are placed on recreational fisherman and/or our reefs. We need to protect the rights of the citizens of Florida first and certainly before commercial fishing interests.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention and support to this matter.</p> <p>J. Paul Reynolds<br/>Winter Park, FL</p>                                 |
| 2016-06-01<br>13:47:06 | Kieran Kidder       | ironoverlord@aol.com       | <p>I donated &amp; a few thousand last year to OFR bc I was under the impression based on your TV commercial that shows a father &amp; son fishing, that you were pro-fishing. So If this goes through, then you'll never see another cent from me.</p>  |
| 2016-06-01<br>13:42:33 | Russell<br>Thompson | fishonclub77@gmail.com     | <p>Please listen to the recreational fisherman that are very conservative.</p>   |
| 2016-06-01<br>13:36:34 | Greg Hoying         | ghoying@icloud.com         | <p>This is the most insane thing I've ever heard. All the time, money and effort to establish these reefs and you want to ban the public from using them? Haven't heard anything on banning commercial fishermen from this. These reefs were established for the sole benefit of the public and now this?</p> <p>Stop this now before it's too late!</p> <p>Greg Hoying<br/>Citrus County Reef Initiative</p>  |
| 2016-06-01<br>13:35:01 | Paul Amazeen        | amazeen@ix.netcom.com      | <p>Keep reefs open to fishing</p>  |
| 2016-06-01<br>13:27:02 | Jason<br>Schreyer   | jason@sunset-air.com       | <p>We,The Fishing Community, CONSERVE and have for many years. We are always at the front of political agenda. We were taught as children to respect nature and our resources so that our children will have the opportunity we have had to experience the joy of the outdoors. .</p> <p>So we have had great success conserving our resources and releasing fish, letting that young buck walk away, avoiding the temptations that most sportsman have from time to time, yet now that I as a Florida sportsman have met these objectives,DONE WHATS RIGHT and thought about my children (now in there young teens) having the very right and well deserved opportunity that I and other sportsman have had due to proper conservation practices and YOU WANT TO RIP THAT AWAY FROM MY CHILDREN AND MANY OTHERS ALIKE ???</p> <p>BAD,BAD,BAD decision, these are the types of regulations that make good people</p> |

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|                        |                  |                               | make bad choice's. .<br>Conservation is o'kay, denying us all what we have worked to preserve is just wrong.   |
| 2016-06-01<br>13:20:22 | JIM ZOLLER       | JIM@ZOLLERHARDWARE.COM        | DO NO CLOSE THE FLORIDA REEFS TO SPORTSMAN FISHING. COMMERCIAL FISHING IN FLORIDA IS THE BIGGEST DANGER TO THE FISH POPULATION ALL AROUND FLORIDA. COMMERCIAL FISHING SHOULD BE MORE RESTRICTED OR CLOSED BUT DO NOT PUNISH THE SPORTSMAN. KEEP THE REEFS OPEN TO SPORTFISHING. JIM  |
| 2016-06-01<br>13:17:40 | Mike Gilliard    | mgill561@yahoo.com            | I do understand that there shallow reef systems in and around the Keys that need, and should be protected, however, I think the shotgun method of including all of our reefs in an absurd attempt to stop fishing is ridiculous and should not be allowed to happen. There are countless numbers of artificial structures that were sunk specifically for the production of habitat, and recreational fishing. We are surrounded by water in Florida! We already have Corp of Engineers ruining the coastal ecosystems on both coasts with the spooage from the big toilet bowl that is Okeechobee. What's next??? |
| 2016-06-01<br>13:08:11 | Allen Beard      | beardla@gmail.com             | I am opposed to the Our Florida Reefs initiative and to closure of Florida's reefs to recreational fishing.  |
| 2016-06-01<br>13:07:39 | John Kern        | John@JohnKern.com             | KEEP THE REFFS OPEN !!!!!  |
| 2016-06-01<br>13:04:28 | Licet Mulholland | lmhookedupfl@gmail.com        | I oppose the adverse proposals made by OFR. There are better ways to manage the resources we have.<br>Thank you.   |
| 2016-06-01<br>12:57:29 | Rob Rollins      | Snookbait2424@live.com        | Closing South Florida reefs to fishing is absurd. Many South Floridians depend on the reef as a source of income, as well as recreations.  |
| 2016-06-01<br>12:55:24 | Todd Mulholland  | snookingfury@gmail.com        | I think it's unbelievable that our reefs may be closed to fishing. Fishing OUR reefs has been a wholesome activity for generations of Floridians and visitors alike. It has been proven that catch and release fishing in addition to sound fisheries management can maintain sustainable fisheries for generations to come.<br>I urge you to please not consider closing our reefs to the citizens and visitors to our great state.   |
| 2016-06-01<br>12:51:47 | Marc Napolitano  | marc@napolitanoproperties.com | I think closing all fishing on the reefs is just insane, I am a native Floridian and have been an active boater, diver and fisherman in south Florida for over 45 years. my family loves being out on the water. we enjoy fishing and never take to much that we cant eat aor share with family or a few friends.<br>please consider what the over t the top solution you are proposing and find other ways to help.   |
| 2016-06-01<br>12:48:48 | Ronnie Conner    | rconner2646@gmail.com         | I cannot understand that ideate thought this is a good idea, and what it will accomplish. People come to Florida to fish, this would cost our State Millions of tax dollars and jobs. There has to be some body with a brain to realize how stupid this is.  |

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| 2016-06-01<br>12:48:40 | Barry<br>Bowman         | barrybowman@icloud.com         | The closure of our reefs to fishing is an onerous and unnecessary action. Just more bureaucratic oversight based on voodoo science. Stop the madness and do the right thing for a change for the recreational anglers of Florida.   |
| 2016-06-01<br>12:48:01 | Steven<br>Goethel       | Sgoethel772@gmail.com          | I am unfortunately unable to attend the final meeting on June 2nd to discuss the proposed closing of the florida reef tract made by OFR. This is a move of extreme measures and is not needed at this time, which is why I strongly oppose this idea. We should work together to fix our local water issues affecting the state which play a vital role in the overall health of our marine ecosystems which include corals and marine inhabitants. This is where the true damage is coming from, not from recreational fishing. I want my voice to be heard, I strongly oppose of the closing of the reefs.<br>Thanks,<br>Steve Goethel  |
| 2016-06-01<br>12:45:44 | Timothy D<br>Short      | turbinetim@yahoo.com           | Please do not close our reefs to fishing.   |
| 2016-06-01<br>12:35:59 | Ken Buxton              | kenbuxton@bellsouth.net        | I am totally opposed to the proposed reef closures being sought after by special interest groups whose main purpose is to eventually end ALL recreational fishing in the Great State of Florida.  |
| 2016-06-01<br>12:31:39 | John David<br>Dickenson | jdddickenson@comcast.net       | I write to oppose OFR's proposal to close portions of Florida's reef system, specifically RMA N-146. Fishermen are not the problem, rather they are a necessary part of the solution to the troubles our coastlines are facing. Locking out anglers, who are historically the most effective and outspoken advocates for the conservation of our marine resources, is a poor strategy in light of the problems we face. Total closure marine protected areas should be a last resort management tool, not a first choice tool. Focus on our water quality problems and habitat creation and restoration projects and you will see improvements in our reef ecosystems.<br>JD Dickenson<br>Chairman, Habitat Restoration Committee, Coastal Conservation Association Florida |
| 2016-06-01<br>12:31:33 | Mike<br>Brockman        | mike@brockmaninsurance.com     | The closing of all Florida reefs to fishing is beyond comprehension. I beg the administrators to take a long look at any proposal that would create such a devastation affect to the FL fishing community.  |
| 2016-06-01<br>12:30:02 | Charles holt            | charlesandgeorge@bellsouth.net | Please do not close our reefs to fishing. It is not right to close the use of the reefs to a user group like recreational fishermen when they contribute so much to Florida's habitat through taxes and volunteer efforts.  |
| 2016-06-01<br>12:28:21 | Steve Daniel            | scdaniel1@hotmail.com          | There is so much more to life than money and commerce. For many years sport fisherman have had to battle to keep their rights to continue a recreation so pleasurable to me and many others that I can not imagine life without it. Please do not take away our reef fishing rights. We pay taxes, buy licenses, support the sport fishing industry with our disposable income. But most of all we are individuals who  |

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|                        |                   |                             | love to fish and want our rights protected. We are not damaging the fishery, we are supporting it.   |
| 2016-06-01<br>12:28:07 | Pete Osman        | posman1@bellsouth.net       | Stop. Before the reefs are closed we should reduce the commercial fishing that rapes the oceans and revers in this country.<br>Commercial fishing has been destroying the fisheries with the over harvest of the target fish and killing of many fish as a by catch.<br>Recreational fishing has its part also but it also is a huge support to our economy.<br>Please stop the stupid OBAMA mentality and make an educated decision.  |
| 2016-06-01<br>12:26:30 | Derek DeVane      | derek.devane@gmail.com      | I stand completely with Coastal Conservation Associatiin on this topic. I am unable to attend the meeting, but my voice and opinion will be represented by CCA.<br>Sincerely,<br>Derek DeVane  |
| 2016-06-01<br>12:25:39 | Charles E Letcher | chipletcher@centurylink.net | I am opposed to this program to close anymore reefs under the guise of protecting said reefs.  |
| 2016-06-01<br>12:21:58 | Dale Haskell      | seaweedusn@embarqmail.com   | Seems crazy to me to cut off all the revenue an jobs on the coast.   |
| 2016-06-01<br>12:20:15 | Alan Albritton    | alandeb@embarqmail.com      | This era of putting the 'environment" and our public resource's above man and the residents of the United States of America and specifically Florida is going to come to an end. How long do you think you can deprive us of our natural resources and quality of life and the pursuit of happiness before we rise up and throw you out of your bureaucratic offices? People of this country are tired of living under the thumb of excessive Govt control as you can see in the current presidential election cycle. Do not close off any areas for fishing in the State of Florida or anywhere else for that matter. The majority of us do not subscribe to this fanatical eco religion that you do nor do we wish to. |
| 2016-06-01<br>12:19:33 | Jim Shuford       | biologics@aol.com           | This is total insanity, it only moves fishing to another spot.   |
| 2016-06-01<br>12:18:36 | Ross Person       | lticonst@aol.com            | I Do Not support the banning of fishing on all reefs in Florida.   |
| 2016-06-01<br>12:17:21 | William Wummer    | bwummer@bellsouth.net       | I'm writing to let you know I've been fishing the waters off Florida my whole life and the fishing is great. I don't think there needs to be closed areas. The only problem now is to many sharks eating all the fish. There needs to be something done about sharks and people feeding them. Please feel free to contact me.  |
| 2016-06-01<br>12:16:09 | Elliot Grossman   | elliotsgrossman@gmail.com   | I've been diving and fishing for 30 years and always have been passionate about protecting our most wonderful reefs. Totally stopping fishing of our waters would have a drastic effect on our water-based recreations. It will not only hurt our boating, fishing and diving businesses but also tourism.<br><br>The proposed closure is not a balanced or fair way to protect our reefs.   |



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| 2016-06-01<br>12:15:10 | Andrew            | jandrewyadon@gmail.com | This is madness. Stop working to shut down the recreational anglers who bring so much money to the state of FL every year and start working to protect resources from the commercial industry that already controls the vast majority of fish take. Programs like this should be instituted in partnership with organizations like CCA to protect reefs for the recreational use of FL citizens.  |
| 2016-06-01<br>12:12:01 | Rex<br>Dendinger  | rex@jpdeb.com          | There is no valid reason why our reefs should be excluded from recreational fishing. Slanted opinions create the restriction to our rights.   |
| 2016-06-01<br>12:02:56 | David<br>Bouchard | dbouchard01@gmail.com  | Do not close the reefs.   |
| 2016-06-01<br>09:22:08 | Ryan Palmer       | fishrypalm@yahoo.com   | A complete closure or implementing no fishing zones is not a solution for saving the reef. Waster water, Lake O discharge & dredging projects need to be addressed first. As a Dade County native & Broward resident I have fished recreational my entire 41 years here. I take my family fishing just like my father did. I am completely against any reef closures.   |
| 2016-06-01<br>00:03:53 | eddy              | ermaclob@hotmail.com   | Why is there Misleading Information Regarding N-59, your site says<br>"Establish maximum size limits to complement existing regulations for ecologically significant reef-associated fish species (including but not limited to grouper and snapper species and hogfish) to increase numbers of the larger, more fecund individuals within the southeast Florida assemblage"<br>However all other documentation has the title or description of<br>"Ban the practice of spearfishing on SCUBA to enable sustainable use of our Florida reefs" |