

Our Florida Reefs Public Comment May 2016

Submitted	Name	Email	Message
2016-05-31 13:21:42	Jim Ruback	fearthehook@gmail.com	If fishing keeps children active instead of sitting in front of a tv, it need to be saved. Not to mention the economic impact no fish zones will have on South Florida.
2016-05-31 13:10:50	Joshua perkins	joshaperkins@yahoo.com	Completely disagree with this. Makes no sense and affects for too many with no real basis in science or fact that it will help anything. Meanwhile you allow commercial fleets to take up to 95% of the quotas while employing few people compared to thousands of jobs the charter, diving, and tourist economies create.
2016-05-31 12:19:43	John Anderson	johna@stor-all.com	It would be the biggest tragedy in the history of recreational fishing to make any fishing closers to the coast line of south florida. There are thousands of people that make a living from our resources and to take that away from them would be a real shame. Especially without any science or data to back it up. Things like this make me sad for my kids and their kids.
2016-05-31 12:10:13	Jason stelmacki	jstelmacki@gmail.com	We do not want reef closures or no fish zones on the southeast coast of florida
2016-05-31 10:52:34	Robert Quilty	redfish@theoldsouth.us	<p>We strongly oppose the Our Florida Reefs Community Working Group's (OFR) recommendations relating to fishing restrictions and additional federal oversight over Florida's state fisheries in the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Tract that goes from Stuart to Key Biscayne. Specific concerns are as follows:</p> <p>No Scientific Evidence OFR lacks credible scientific evidence indicating that anglers are the cause of any fisheries problems that need to be addressed in the area. The group has completely disregarded the sound, science-based opinions of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), an agency recognized worldwide as a leader in fisheries management.</p> <p>Bias Favoring Fishing Closures Educational presentations to OFR were heavily biased toward fishing closures, driving fishing interests away from the table. OFR alienated the fishing community and industry participants throughout the process and never sought to re-engage these important stakeholders.</p> <p>Dismissing Public Opinion OFR dismissed the opinions of more than 3,000 members of the public who opposed OFR's recommendations for closing 20-30 percent of the reef tract to fishing through no-take Marine Protected Areas, as well as recommendations for federal</p>

			<p>designations that could lead to more closures. These ignored comments represented more than 95 percent of the input submitted for these recommendations.</p> <p>Failure to Address the Real Problems</p> <p>Significant issues are affecting the coral reef tract in southeast Florida. Water quality, temperature, acidification and sedimentation from beach re-nourishment and construction are all contributing factors to the decline of our reefs and require immediate attention. Overfishing has been linked to coral reef declines only in areas of the world without the extensive fishing regulations and management that we have in Florida. If there is a problem with fisheries in the area, other management options should be tried first, before closing an area to fishing.</p> <p>Economy</p> <p>Recreational fishing is an important industry in Florida, generating more than \$9.3 billion in economic activity and supporting more than 123,000 jobs.</p> <p>Conservation</p> <p>Each year more than 3 million resident and visiting anglers support fisheries management in Florida by contributing \$46.5 million through license fees, excise taxes on fishing gear and special taxes on motor boat fuel.</p>
<p>2016-05-31 08:24:23</p>	<p>Jeff Pierce</p>	<p>jeffpierce71@me.com</p>	<p>I cannot stress enough how foolish this plan is to shut off so much water to fishing activity. While I live in the north, I have spent a great deal of time fishing the region outlined in the plan. I also have a strong background in biology and fisheries. Currently, Florida F&W is doing a pretty darn good job managing their resources. A much better job than the Feds. Angling pressure is not what is causing issues in the region. The damage is being caused by inexperienced/ignorant boaters who run to shallow as well as pollution due to run off and the discharge of tainted waters. Sediment and the warming of the waters are also a factor. The anglers are the true stewards of the waters. With anglers being on the water each day, they are the eyes and ears of the resource. They are the ones who see the problems first and call them out. Be it pollution, gill nets or a boat run aground on a reef, it's anglers that see and report. Close out the fishermen and women and the resource is then unprotected. Illegal and damaging activities can then occur without anyone knowing.</p> <p>As an avid angler, I encourage the powers that be to rethink this foolish plan. There is simply no science to justify these severe actions. By shutting off good waters to angling, you only focus more pressure on other areas.</p>

			<p>If this was to happen, I can assure you that I would be one of MANY traveling anglers who would take out money elsewhere to fish and boost the economy.</p>
<p>2016-05-29 09:29:48</p>	<p>Bernard Paul-Hus</p>	<p>bpaul-hus@hypowerinc.com</p>	<p>Fix the effluents from the farming industry in the Everglades. Nothing worse for the reef.</p> <p>Recreational bag limits and just a great stewardship over the last 20 years shows that recreational sport fishing enthusiasts care and are responsible. Status quo in regs is fine.</p> <p>Now lets focus on water quality!</p>
<p>2016-05-29 07:39:03</p>	<p>Joey hartman</p>	<p>jbabykang02@embarqmail.com</p>	<p>No we do not need this to pass its senseless.</p>
<p>2016-05-28 12:38:24</p>	<p>Michael Bliss</p>	<p>halfpricemike@Gmail.com</p>	<p>Go after the polluters, this doesn't make sense. I've fished here my whole life and have seen the destruction caused by all the destructive practices big companies use and the government let's go on. Not fishing. Not commercial fishing nor private fishing</p>
<p>2016-05-28 11:20:44</p>	<p>Bryan Tena</p>	<p>b_tena777@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Dear Sir/Madam,</p> <p>Please reconsider this outrageous act. Fishing is one of Florida's greatest assets. people travel the world to fish here in FL. these no fishing zones are not only wrong but extremely against freedom of the people. i implore you to reconsider this motion. i will be exercising my right to vote and vote against whoever is for this motion. Florida's economy is almost solely reliant on tourism, tourists fish, my kids fish, and i my self am a fisherman. it is a way of life and to simply say or name an area a no fishing zone in the fishing capitol of the world is simply ignorant. simply put this motion and idea is stupid and completely unnecessary.</p>
<p>2016-05-28 11:19:54</p>	<p>Evan Ross</p>	<p>jagwizard@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Shut down our reefs to all fishing and I publish a list of all voting members and their businesses for BOYCOTT. I fish offshore from a kayak and release all that I catch. You are telling me that your political dumping of crap in rivers and ocean is my fault. BS. Enjoy your wealth while you can. People are tired of politicians and their crooked ways. Welcome to the unemployment line. I hope you enjoy it</p>

2016-05-27 18:31:21	Doug Amorello	sashamysportfishing@gmail.com	It's a very simple fix. Ban spearfishing in the reef zone but stopping sportfishing is unamerican . Fish are meant to be eaten a hook and line is an artisinal way of catching them and will never wipe out the reef.
2016-05-27 09:32:51	Russell Ballengee	rballengee@hotmail.com	I disagree with you closing the proposed reefs to fishing permanently in the state of Florida . Please listen to the recommendations of the CCA , so that a resolution to the issue can be made without a permanent closure to fishing on these reefs. Florida is known as the fishing capital . If you continue to close reef systems and band fishing in the Atlantic and in the gulf . Florida will no longer be considered a vacation destination for fisherman and the financial impact will be great . So please do not impose a permanent fishing ban in these areas . Thank you Russell Ballengee
2016-05-25 16:50:26	Karen Massey	kmasseyklimuszko@gmail.com	Don't close the reefs to fishing. Fishing is a big industry in Florida. I put alot of money into the economy by fishing. Planning vacations around fishing. Spending money on gear. Recreational fishing is my passion if you take that away I'll move out of Florida.
2016-05-25 07:19:07	Jim Card	jamescard@bellsouth.net	We all agree we need to protect our reef and fisheries, but permanent closure is not the answer. We need to monitor and manage our fishery through seasonal closures, creel limits, and so on. We need to protect the reef with management, moorings, spot closure, and so on. Jim Card
2016-05-25 01:36:24	James	jamesobrien80@gmail.com	I oppose any mor federal laws and bands I believe that the government needs to let the state control and regulate the fish population and size limits
2016-05-24 17:45:03	James Lee	jleebetterrates@tampabay.rr.com	As I understand the newest strategy it seems like it is all or nothing. Nothing should not be in your agenda. We all want to preserve our natural resources. However the hatchet welding methods of the EPA is contrary to good government. Government remember is FOR THE PEOPLE, not against. there is always another way to go. Jim Lee Former Executive Director, Florida League of anglers.
2016-05-24 15:27:20	Ivan holmes	ivanholmes07@gmail.com	I am against these closures. I would prefer the State to be in charge of these areas in question and thru local and state bodies come up with a plan for the reefs. Thank You
2016-05-24 13:57:21	Mike Dambro	dambromike@gmail.com	I am strongly opposed to RMA N-146 and RMA S-65. These reefs provide invaluable recreational opportunities for me and my family and need to be

			responsibly managed, not closed or restricted. Furthermore, feral oversight of a local resource is never, ever a good idea.
2016-05-24 13:56:16	John H Pinder	Pointwilly@aol.com	I strongly oppose RMA N-146 and RMA S-65! Further, I support N-69 and S-28
2016-05-24 12:41:07	John Laubenthal	jlaubmd@juno.com	Do not close Florida's Reefs to Recreational Fishing...
5/24/16 11:54 AM	Payton Schepp	paytonschepp@icloud.com	Opposed to near shore marine sanctuary proposal
2016-05-24 11:25:11	Leonard Verrelli	lverrelli7@gmail.com	<p>Florida Reefs are for all to enjoy. It seems to be the liberal approach to use bad science to justify radical actions, like banning as opposed to really discovering the route causes and come up with a sensible alternative actions to out right banning a accepted practice.</p> <p>As retired Director for Environmental programs in Alaska I have see over zealous protectionist use fear to achieve their goals. As an example Juneau Alaska is built on mine tailing. It becomes a 200 year example of how nature will find a way to survive and cleanse itself. But instead of looking at "what is" government regulators choose to reinvent the wheel in the name of the "greater good."</p> <p>In the case of reefs, lets get serious about the cause and effect and not over react</p> <p>Sincerely LD Verrelli</p>
2016-05-24 10:54:03	Steve Krivokopich	steve.krivokopich@gmail.com	I am very discouraged that a plan to protect our reefs would ever include a PERMANENT ban on a form of public recreation that is not harmful to the reefs. If fisher people are harming the reefs by a normally accepted practice (such as anchoring), stop that practice. If specific marine species are being over harvested, restrict the harvest. If you want to protect the planet from human interaction, stop the mission to land a man on Mars!
2016-05-24 08:57:19	Donna Fettters	jimffettters@gmail.com	I am against any closing of near shore reefs to recreational fishermen using hook and line.
2016-05-24 08:56:07	James Fettters	flfettters@gmail.com	I am against any plan to close near shore reefs to recreational fishermen using hook and line.

2016-05-24 08:07:19	Sid Jennette	ozzieman@windstream.net	I find that permanently closing fishing areas is an unacceptable solution and getting UNESCO involved is a massive mistake. It is just another example of overreach. Please follow the CCAs recommendations on all of the issues involved. Thank you
2016-05-24 07:52:51	Steve Furman	stvfurman@aol.com	I am a Floridian for almost 60 years, I fish and I dive Florida's West Coast but do occasionally get to the East Coast and the Keys often. I am a life member of CCA Florida and I support their position. Our reefs are a real Florida Treasure, fishermen are not a problem for reefs with the exception of anchoring on or near them obviously. This is a problem that can easily be fixed with mooring buoys. In fact I would say that recreational divers do way more damage to a reef than anglers do. Also, pollution and the sorry management by the people in charge of the freshwater discharges from Lake Okeechobee.
2016-05-24 07:24:21	Rick Richards	rrinc@mailmt.com	While I live on the West Coast of Florida , I oppose the permanent closure of these areas without sound reason. I fully support CCA's proposals as reasonable
2016-05-24 07:24:14	Jeff Edmunds	ijeffafa@gmail.com	I totally oppose any action to turn our reefs into national parks or put be put under any national regulation Coastal waters should be managed by the state and the floor wildlife commission not nationally
2016-05-19 11:19:55	Stan McKnight	smcknight@gmail.com	Why haven't you all produced a map specifically showing the MPA boundary locations? It's like you are trying to intentionally hide information from the public. Don't you think this map is important for all of us to see? I know it has been requested multiple times throughout this process, but still, no map. Do you have a viable explanation you would like to share with the public?
2016-05-11 16:46:11	Anthony DiGiulian	tony@saltwaterproconsulting.com	I would like to speak on the record at the June 1st meeting in Coconut Creek Florida, regarding the Save Our Reefs initiative. Please put my name on the docket. I am the IGFA School of Sportfishing Co-founder and The Billfish Foundation (TBF) Conservation Ambassador.
5/24/16 11:54 AM	Payton Scheppe	paytonscheppe@icloud.com	Opposed to near shore marine sanctuary proposal