



SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION, INC.

ALABAMA • FLORIDA • GEORGIA • MISSISSIPPI • NORTH CAROLINA • SOUTH CAROLINA



ROBERT P. JONES, Executive Director
Phone (850) 224-0612
Fax (850) 222-3663
E MAIL: Bobfish@aol.com

June 14, 2016

And Then There Were THREE

1118-B Thomasville Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32303-6287
WEBSITE: www.SFAonline.org

HR 3094 will scuttle, by action and precedence, the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA). We believe the MSA has done much to make US fishery resources sustainable.

Before there was a federal fishery management zone, commercial fishermen brought their issues before the state legislatures. They were assured fair hearings by legislative committees. Then some state fish commissions, in Florida for example, assumed the management without legislative oversight. The Florida Marine Fisheries Commission did come under the Governor and **SIX** elected Cabinet Officers for a few years where fishery issues were fully discussed. Then an autonomous Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission was established so the commercial fishermen came under a **SEVEN** person group. In Florida we started out under a **160** member legislature, then down to a **SEVEN** member commission and now HR 3094 places us and a billion dollar seafood industry under the whims of **THREE** people with no federal oversight for managing federal resources. Is any other food producing industry subject to **THREE** unelected people in control of their livelihood?

When the MSA was enacted it established management of Gulf red snapper under a **SEVENTEEN** person fisheries council composed of all state members except one. The council operates under a mandated set of National Standards. For the most part it operates under the rule of law.

HR 3094 changes the rule of law to the rule of man by creating a **FIVE** member authority with no elected official oversight. On a **FIVE** member authority **THREE** votes is a majority.

"(502 (a) (1) of HR 3094 (says:) Gulf States Red Snapper Management Authority that consists of the principal fisheries manager of each of the Gulf coastal States."

"(c) (i) of HR 3094 (says:) any recommendation by the GSRMSA to reduce quota apportioned to the commercial sector by more than 10 percent shall be reviewed and approved by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council."

This means the 'Gulf States authority' will reallocate 9.99 % of the red snapper each year from the commercial harvesting sector to the anglers. This Texas/Louisiana CCA inspired 'authority' will allocate all the red snapper for themselves in about a decade. That is the true goal of this bill.

HR 3094 was already killed when it was proposed as an amendment to the MSA legislation. It has "risen from the ashes" to once more attempt to reward the only fishing sector without accountability.

HR 3094 needs to be killed just as it was at full committee earlier in the Congress.

Respectfully,

Bob Jones
Executive Director