

Anonymous Voice Mail Comment Summary

April 1, 2026 – May 26, 2026

[\(Link to full text comments\)](#)

24 voicemail comments received.

Issues Under Council Consideration:

Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program Reform

- The IFQ system is the biggest joke to ever hit the face of the earth.
- Shareholders are extorting the fishermen for too long.
 - Fishermen won't speak up and risk being blackballed like many others.
- The Council is taking money from commercial fishermen and giving it to people who aren't out there risking a thing or doing the work. Give the fish back to the fishermen.
- Fishermen are being starved out by shareholders. The fishermen are paying around \$7 a pound for lease and getting just over \$8 a pound at the fish house.
 - That doesn't cover groceries, fuel, ice, bait, and labor.
 - Fishermen cannot survive with this broken system.
- All unactive shareholders should be removed.
- There is no profit in the fishing with the IFQ program. People are paying \$5.95 a pound for leasing quota and getting paid \$7, which is not sustainable.
- IFQ system is seeing fraud. When it was implemented, the law stated no value was to be placed upon the share.

Red Grouper IFQ Quota Pool (RF Amendment 63)

- Throw the little guy a bone. The Council has lost the trust of the fishermen, and this is an opportunity to earn that back.
- IFQ AP meeting brought up a lot of good points. Red grouper are in trouble and quota banks are not beneficial.
- Industry doesn't want the quota pool. Red grouper are in trouble.
- Amendment 63 is ridiculous. Allocation is readily available and cheap.
 - The only reason people don't have allocation is because they refuse to get it.
 - This Amendment should be tabled.
- IFQ program is already a quota pool. This is a redundance that would degrade the IFQ program.

Executive Orders

- Nothing has happened since the Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness EO
- Amendment 63 is not consistent with the Seafood EO
- Remove the IFQ program.

Other Comments:

White Grunts

- White grunts are being hammered to death in West Central Florida
 - Due to hook-and-line hogfish fishery.
 - Decreased white grunts in 20+ years.
 - Recommends 20 fish limit.

Red Snapper

- Increase the bag limit on red snapper to 3 per person per day.
 - Not everyone lives in the Panhandle.
 - Current bag limit is hardly worth the money in fuel.
 - Red snapper are at an all-time high.

King Mackerel

- The kingfish stock is in trouble in southwest Florida because of the net boats in the Keys.

Gag

- Gag season should be way longer than what's predicted for the year.

Miscellaneous

- IFQ AP is made up of mostly shareholders. Non-shareholders have no voice.
- Everybody on the Gulf Council is either shareholder or a recreational fisherman. There needs to be more commercial representation.
- We need shark management.
- Menhaden harvest in southwest Louisiana is a problem.
 - Tarpon fishery has collapsed since 1960s due to menhaden industry.
 - No regulation by the state on how many menhaden can be taken.
 - While GSMFC stock assessment determined the species is not at risk, there is localized depletion occurring.
- Increase the minimum size limit on Beeliners (vermillion snapper) to 12 or 14 inches.
 - Headboats are harvesting these tiny fish where they are not even big enough to get significant meat off of.

- 50 years of fish management? More like 50 years of fish mismanagement and corruption.
- How can recreational fishermen be allowed to catch one fish, but you have six people that control six million pounds of red snapper?