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MAYOR

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South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201
North Charleston, SC 29405

Re: Dolphin Fish Allocation

Dear Members of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council:

It has recently been brought to the attention of the City of Fort Lauderdale the great challenges our local fishermen have faced with shifting Dolphin Fish allocations and growing commercial pressure on the species in recent years.

The Dolphin Fish is one of Fort Lauderdale's most prized recreational game fish. The species drives our recreational fishing industry and attracts nationwide and worldwide travelers. All of the associated businesses in our area benefit greatly from this species as an essential component of our sport fish and tourist driven economy. Our charter fishermen rely upon an abundant stock of Dolphin to drive worldwide travelers here, in hopes of landing a trophy. People from all over the nation plan annual "Dolphin trips" to enjoy this fishery with their friends and families and then utilize local markets to pack and ship home fresh caught fish.

For years, local hook and line commercial Dolphin fishermen provided fresh catch to our local fish markets and restaurants. Our hook and line commercial fishermen in this region cannot compete with a long line division. Taking away the ability of our local charter fleets to sell Dolphin has affected these fishermen severely, as well as the local markets they once served. The "derby style" fishery that has been created by commercial long lining for Dolphin without trip limits has had a great negative economic impact on the fishermen and businesses in our region.

We, the City of Fort Lauderdale, hope the Council recognizes the significance of this species for the survival of our local fishermen and related businesses.

The City of Fort Lauderdale requests a permanent total allocation of 93 percent recreational/7 percent commercial, a start of season 2,000 pound commercial trip limit to be implemented, and the right to sell Dolphin by properly licensed charter fishermen returned to them.

If my office can be of any assistance to you, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

John P. "Jack" Seiler
Mayor