



**SPORT FISHING & BOATING
PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL**

MAR 3 1 2015

Rear Admiral Kevin Cook
District Commander
Eighth Coast Guard
500 Poydras Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Dear Commander Cook:

I am writing to thank Lt. Commander Jason Brand and Lt. Commander Blair Sweigart for their presentation to the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council regarding the illegal harvest of red snapper and other fish species by international poachers. Their presentation was very informative. This issue is of concern to the Council because of the importance of the Gulf of Mexico fisheries resources to our Nation's anglers.

Council members represent many national recreational fisheries organizations and have an extensive network of colleagues. Accordingly, we will seek to elevate this issue with our colleagues and raise their awareness of the severity of this issue.

Once again, we commend the Coast Guard and Lt. Commander Brand and Lt. Commander Sweigart for tackling this challenging issue.

Sincerely,

Scott Kovarovics
Council Chair

cc: Penny Pritzker, Secretary of Commerce
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Jeh Johnson, Secretary of Homeland Security

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