

Timestamp	Enter your full name:	What specific amendment or issue are you providing comment about?	Please type your comments below. Note: If you have images or figures that you are submitting with your comments, please e-mail the written comment (including the figures) as an attachment to mike.collins@safmc.net	Email address:	City, State, and Zip Code:	How do you participate in fisheries in the South Atlantic? Check all that apply
SEPTEMBER 2016 COUNCIL MEETING - PUBLIC COMMENTS						
8/29/2016 18:53:12	Ray Rosher	Mutton Snapper (Snapper Grouper Amendment 41), Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44), Limitif entry /for hire	My thoughts on the mutton snapper issue would be a reasonable reduction outside of the spawning season would be 5 per person per day and the limit during the spawning season would be two fish per person per day. I think it would be wise to consider a two-day limit for boats that can prove overnight status to the Dry Tortugas for instance. This approach still allows year round access for recreational and for-hire hire vessels which I believe is a worthy goal of the council. This should represent a substantial decrease in Harvest especially during spawning periods also. In relation to the limited entry proposed for for-hire vessels, i had the chance to speak to Greg Waugh a few days ago. I then understood that the primary reason behind the idea of limited entry was relating to the snapper-grouper fishery. My recommendation is to simply make the for-hire snapper-grouper license a limited entry but leave the other two licenses open. This is consistent with the stable entry and exit of for-hire vessels and would not create a hardship on future Generations trying to enter that Fishery. I believe it is wrong to require young aspiring captains to buy out permits to enter this Fishery. Thank you for your efforts and for reading my comments. Ray Rosher Dolphin /Wahoo AP Member Miss Britt Charters R&R Tackle Miami Florida 305 788 3474	ray@missbritt.com	miami	Private Recreational Angler, Charter/Headboat/For-Hire, Commercial Fisherman
8/29/2016 20:20:57	Justin Andrew Buehler	Mutton Snapper (Snapper Grouper Amendment 41), Hogfish (Snapper Grouper Amendment 37)	Hello I am a lifelong angler, and longtime spear fisherman. I strongly support both amendment 41 and 37 for the regulation of Mutton Snapper and Hogfish. Both species are heavily pressured in my area and are in need of more stringent regulation. Let's get these regulations in action as quickly as possible. Thank You!	Deepshot@att.net	Dania Beach, FL, 33004	Private Recreational Angler
8/30/2016 9:16:07	Lee D. Southard	Cobia (Coastal Migratory Pelagics Framework Amendment 4)	With the closure of many of the fisheries by the council the commercial and recreational fishermen have been forced to target the species that are open to make a living thus causing additional closures and loss of income. This along with poor data gathering by fisheries science an example is the continual closure of the Red Snapper fisheries due to many released fish that are considered dead when released. This may or may not be the case but taking this position will cause reporting individuals to stop reporting so that the science data will be skewed. Another example was when I asked the science individuals if any thought was considered as to the amount of fish the large amount of sharks off the Florida coast contribute to the decline in King Mackerel off the Florida coast, the answer was no. Also with the closure of other fisheries the commercial boats off Florida have had to target the fisheries not closed thus decimating that population of fish, these are just a few of the items that should be considered. On Cobia as a different stock north of the FI/GA line if that were true then the States north of Florida would not have to wait until the fish migrate north to be caught in the spring but could be caught all year.	leesouthard1801@comcast.net	Richmond Hill, Ga 3132	Private Recreational Angler, Charter/Headboat/For-Hire
9/1/2016 9:44:09	Brandon C. Ashton	For-hire Limited Entry	I am commenting in regard to the "For-hire Limited Entry" agenda item (i.e., the review of options for establishing a limited entry system for for-hire federal permits). This agenda item, while brief, is potentially extremely concerning. The briefing material is also extremely concerning. At the beginning of this summer, I began assisting a good friend open a small business based out of Swansboro, North Carolina. This small business happens to be a two vessel inshore/nearshore/offshore 6-pack charter business. His business has seen moderate growth since May 2016, and it appears that he is heading for success as a small business owner, with growing local investments in the community of Swansboro. I fear that "For-hire Limited Entry" permits will directly and negatively impact the small business owners associated with charter businesses, such as my good friend, while potentially bolstering large business owners with expansive fleets and working capital. This fear is rationalized by what has occurred with the American Red Snapper "Catch Shares" program in the Gulf of Mexico (e.g., the small business owners were pushed out of the fishery, while heavily vested large businesses were able to assume basically full control of the fishery). In this time of slow national economic growth, shouldn't we adopt policies that assist the small business owners and encourage new investments in small businesses? I think it's obvious that "For-hire Limited Entry" permits would be counter to those ideals. I urge the Council to please consider removing "For-hire Limited Entry" or "Catch Shares" from future consideration. There are other healthy alternatives to managing the for-hire charter industry (such as the current model of managing the for-hire industry concurrent with the recreational ACLs). Please understand that the general public is very wary of the "Catch Shares" theory, and "Catch Shares" appear to only be supported/encouraged by large industries and politically-tied organizations.	bcashton@gmail.com	Hampstead, NC 28443	Private Recreational Angler
9/4/2016 16:46:25	Isael Cruz	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	My name is Isael Cruz most know me by Rex, I work out of Dons Bait & Tackle in Homestead FL I've been fishing the south Atlantic waters since I was a boy, which is about 12 years now. I request that the allocation of the total ACL of Dolphin remains 90 percent recreational and 10 percent commercial, with the commercial ACL being largely allocated to a hook and line fishery (80% or greater devoted to hook and line). Commercial trip limits of 2,000-3,000 pounds per trip must be implemented. I feel this is the best management decision for the long term sustainability of the species, as well as the maximum economic value for the South Atlantic Region.	Cruz.isael55@gmail.com	33030	Private Recreational Angler, Non-Governmental Organization
9/4/2016 17:03:21	foster coffman	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	less commercial slay of dolphin, 10% commercial n 90% recreation and charter	119 arctic ave	tavernier	Charter/Headboat/For-Hire
9/4/2016 17:35:13	Capt Brian Cone	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	I have been Fishing for dolphin in the florida keys for over 35 years recreationally as well as commercially. I believe that the allocation for the total ACL for dolphin should remain 90 percent recreation and 10 percent commercial, and I also feel that 80 percent or more of the commercial take should be with hook and line and not long lining.	cone4339@bellsouth.net	tavernier, fl 33070	Private Recreational Angler, Charter/Headboat/For-Hire, Commercial Fisherman
9/4/2016 17:47:46	Kieran Ferrer	Mutton Snapper (Snapper Grouper Amendment 41), Hogfish (Snapper Grouper Amendment 37), Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	Need to do something for the future. In a bad way and listen to the fisherman.not some one sitting in office.	Jaxseafood@gmail.com	Tavernier fl 33070	Private Recreational Angler, Charter/Headboat/For-Hire, Commercial Fisherman
9/4/2016 20:05:18	Coleman Lee jones	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	I request that the allocation of the total ACL of Dolphin remains 90 percent recreational and 10 percent commercial, with the commercial ACL being largely allocated to a hook and line fishery (80% or greater devoted to hook and line). Commercial trip limits of 2,000-3,000 pounds per trip must be implemented. I feel this is the best management decision for the long term sustainability of the species, as well as the maximum economic value for the South Atlantic Region.	C.jones35@ymail.com	Key largo Florida 33037	Charter/Headboat/For-Hire

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9/5/2016 9:32:19	Lee Jay Costigan Jr	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	I request that the allocation of the total ACL of Dolphin remains 90 percent recreational and 10 percent commercial, with the commercial ACL being largely allocated to a hook and line fishery (80% or greater devoted to hook and line). Commercial trip limits of 2,000-3,000 pounds per trip must be implemented. I feel this is the best management decision for the long term sustainability of the species, as well as the maximum economic value for the South Atlantic Region.	Lcostigan83@aol.com	Homestead, FL	Private Recreational Angler, Commercial Fisherman
9/5/2016 11:24:45	Captain Jon Reynolds	Mutton Snapper (Snapper Grouper Amendment 41)	My name is Captain Jon Reynolds. I have been fishing in the waters of South Florida for 30 years. The last 20 years as a charter fisherman, commercial fisherman and the most recent 5 years as an owner/operator of my own charter boat in Islamorada, FL. Addressing Snapper Grouper Amendment 41 (Mutton Snapper), I feel the best management decision would be to reduce the current recreational bag limit to 3 per person/per day in regular season. May-June spawning months. recreational limit of 10 per vessel/per day. Commercial trip limit in regular season of 300 pounds. May-June commercial trip limit of 10 fish per vessel/per day. Vessel limits are important, especially during spawning to avoid vessels bringing more anglers just to catch a higher limit. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.	tagem4@yahoo.com	Homestead, FL 33034	Private Recreational Angler, Charter/Headboat/For-Hire, Commercial Fisherman, Non-Governmental Organization
9/5/2016 11:51:45	Captain Jon Reynolds	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	My name is Captain Jon Reynolds. I have been fishing in the waters of South Florida for 30 years. The last 20 years as a charter boat fisherman, commercial fisherman and owner/operator of my own charter boat in Islamorada, FL. Addressing Snapper Grouper Amendment 44 (Yellowtail Snapper), I feel that the best management decisions are as follows: Total ACL allocation of 50 recreational/50 commercial Size limit increase to 14" is extremely important Recreational bag limit of 10 per person/40 max per vessel (it is important to keep 10 per person for vessels with 1, 2, or 3 anglers) Commercial trip limits MUST be established. Life time commercial fishermen in South Florida and the Florida Keys say 350 pounds per trip is accurate. May-June spawning season must be established as well. Recreational limits of 10 per person/20 max and commercial trip limits of 200 pounds during spawn Thank you for this opportunity to comment.	tagem4@yahoo.com	Homestead, FL 33034	Private Recreational Angler, Charter/Headboat/For-Hire, Commercial Fisherman, Non-Governmental Organization
9/5/2016 12:34:38	David Borden	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	I'm writing as representative of the Atlantic Offshore Lobstermen's Association to respectfully request that the Council initiate a framework to update the Atlantic dolphin gear regulations, defined in U.S. Code of Federal Regulations section 622.272, to allow properly permitted lobster vessels to harvest and possess dolphin fish and wahoo by rod and reel. Current regulation are as follows: § 622.272 - Authorized gear. (a) Atlantic dolphin and wahoo - (1) Authorized gear. The following are the only authorized gear types in the fisheries for dolphin and wahoo in the Atlantic EEZ: Automatic reel, bandit gear, hand line, pelagic longline, rod and reel, and spearfishing gear (including powerheads). A person aboard a vessel in the Atlantic EEZ that has on board gear types other than authorized gear types may not possess a dolphin or wahoo. Recently, one Association member was notified by NOAA law enforcement, during a dockside inspection, that it is illegal to possess dolphin and lobster during a single trip. No citations were issued in this case. This member holds both a valid dolphin and American offshore lobster permit, but was notified that he violated the above quoted regulation because lobster pot gear is not an authorized or exempted gear type for the dolphin and wahoo fishery. It has been a long standing practice for permitted offshore lobstermen to fish a few lures behind their vessel, between lobster trawls, especially when they encounter the Gulf Stream, and have long transit times between lobster trawls. The targets being a range of pelagic species, mahi are frequently caught during the summer months. During this activity they are usually in possession of Jonah crab, lobster, and lobster traps. Given the distinct nature of the gear and fisheries, i.e. you can't catch dolphin with a lobster pots, and you can't catch lobsters with lures, both gear types should be allowed in possession on the same trip. Obviously any such practice should be subject and consistent with the licensing and reporting provisions of each FMP. I am therefore requesting that the SAFMC work with NOAA Fisheries to modify the current regulations to provide an exemption for lobster vessels or list lobster gear as an authorized gear type under 622.272. Thank you for consideration of this matter.	lizzy.2@charter.net	Little Compton, RI 0280	Fishing Association
9/5/2016 16:32:00	Garry Robert Salyers	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	I request that the allocation of total ACL of dolphin remains 90% recreational and 10% commercial, with the commercial ACL being largely allocated to a hook and line fishery(80% or greater devoted to hook and line). Commercial trip limits of 2,000-3,000 pounds per trip must be implemented. I feel this is the best management decision for the long term sustainability of the species, as well as the maximum economic value for the South Atlantic Region. I have a dolphin and wahoo license, my catch in sales has dropped 95%.	marysalyers@bellsouth.net	Tavernier, FL 33070	Charter/Headboat/For-Hire, Commercial Fisherman

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9/5/2016 19:05:05	Steven Rodger	Hogfish (Snapper Grouper Amendment 37)	<p>I can count on one hand the amount of commercial spear fishermen in Key West. We wait until May 1st to even try to target hogfish. Because of the opening of the grouper fishery, that is what allows for the possibility of a profitable trip. We cannot go out and only spear hogs and muttons and make a profit, hence the reason for waiting until May 1.</p> <p>But with the proposal of the commercial 25 lb limit for hogs, and the 10 mutton daily limit (that month), the dying breed of the commercial spear fisherman would officially become extinct.</p> <p>We need all three fish, (hogs, mutton, and grouper) to even make leaving the dock worth it. We are limited and affected by these factors: warm water that pushes the fish deeper and out of our area; the tourist season for the demand or lack thereof of fish houses buying our catch (price is so low in summer, no one goes spearing). A good consideration, down the road, would be to open all three with ACL's on Jan 1 (like yellowtail) to coincide with height of tourist season.</p> <p>Something to consider would be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A trip limit for hogs of 150 lb. 2. The commercial catch numbers on hogs, right now, are so low, there is currently no need to constrain commercial harvest. 3. Size limit increase is acceptable. 4. The FMU remains at South Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico Council Boundaries. 5. Recreational limit of one per person. <p>These, and the recreational limit of one per person, will build the stock to an acceptable level. If you take away the recreational allowance during July and August, this alone will achieve all that the Council is working toward.</p> <p>As commercial spear fisherman, any smaller trip limit would put us out of business. We need to be able to take the good days when we have them.</p> <p>Thank you Mike, Steven Rodger</p>	spearone@bellsouth.net	Key West, FL 33040	Private Recreational Angler, Charter/Headboat/For-Hire, Commercial Fisherman
9/6/2016 7:39:24	Mike Avery (VSSA Presi	Cobia (Coastal Migratory Pelagics Framework Amendment 4)	<p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>The Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association (VSSA) requests the attached letter be included as a public comment for the SAFMC Council meeting 12-16 September, 2016.</p> <p>Virginia recreational anglers support a federal limit of 1 cobia per person (reduction from 2 per person). We do not support boat limits until a new stock assessment is completed to justify that such drastic measures are needed. The council and committee have failed to demonstrate that cobia are overfished based on a single year of data from 2015 when previous years have all been steady.</p> <p>Boat limits are unfair. VSSA believes boat limits represent an unfair method from the individual angler perspective. Small vessels such as 18-20 foot usually have no more than 2 anglers fishing while larger vessels have 6 or more anglers. With boat limits each angler on a small vessel gets to keep a whole cobia each while the larger the vessel with more anglers are required to divide the cobia up into ever smaller portions. See enclosed diagram to represent this issue. Please do not consider boat limits at this time.</p> <p>Virginia recreational anglers recommend redoing the automatic triggers to Accountability Measures (AM) that call for closures based on 1 years' worth of data. Automatic triggers to AMs is a poor way to manage stocks when based on a single year of data. And certainly a full closure is unwarranted when other in season management options are clearly available such reduced limits, sizes, and partial seasonal closures.</p> <p>Virginia recreational anglers strongly urge SAFMC to return the Atlantic coast to a single zone. The zone split providing the Florida Atlantic coast their own zone and higher ACL is simply unfair. The zone split created an "artificial" notion that overfishing has occurred with significantly reduced ACLs while giving (unfairly) too much ACL to a single state (Florida). While we understand and appreciate the council may not be able to return the Atlantic coast to a single zone this year, certainly the council can recognize any overfishing calculated is a result of the artificial, reduced ACLs that resulted from the zone split. If you look at what is being harvested from the "actual" Atlantic coast (Key West - NY), we suspect you will find no overfishing is occurring. Overfishing that is occurring simply due to a re-drawing of the map should be taken into account. Rules should be treated as guidelines particularly when the council can clearly see the zone split created this artificially notion of overfishing.</p> <p>Virginia recreational anglers do not support closed seasons. SAFMC and the committee have failed to justify the need for closed season (again solely based on 1 year of data).</p> <p>Co-Management with ASMFC. VSSA does not support co-management of Atlantic cobia with ASMFC until after a new stock assessment is completed. With the current zone split giving each state an unfair, small portion of the ACL, ASFMC would be forced to manage very small state quotas. This would be a lose-lose proposition for Virginia, ASMFC, and anglers. Let the states continue to manage seasons inside state waters. Once the new stock assessment is complete, this issues should then be reconsidered but not with the current unfair distribution of the ACL.</p> <p>Virginia Seat on Council. Request Virginia be granted a voting seat on the council, at least for matters regarding cobia. Virginia anglers feel unrepresented in SAFMC decisions regarding cobia. Giving a MAFMC representative a seat is not the same as a state representative.</p> <p>Gaffing Cobia. While we don't see this issue addressed in the current framework amendment, we urge the council to not consider any action to prohibit the gaffing of cobia at the federal level. The gaffing of under-sized cobia is simply not an issue with the vast majority of anglers so no need to punish the masses because of rumors of poor angling practices.</p>	ifishva@gmail.com	Hampton, VA 23664	Private Recreational Angler, Charter/Headboat/For-Hire, Non-Governmental Organization

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9/6/2016 8:08:58	VSSA	Cobia (Coastal Migratory Pelagics Framework Amendment 4)	<p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>The Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association (VSSA) requests the attached letter be included as a public comment for the SAFMC Council meeting 12-16 September, 2016.</p> <p>Virginia recreational anglers support a federal limit of 1 cobia per person (reduction from 2 per person). We do not support boat limits until a new stock assessment is completed to justify that such drastic measures are needed. The council and committee have failed to demonstrate that cobia are overfished based on a single year of data from 2015 when previous years have all been steady.</p> <p>Boat limits are unfair. VSSA believes boat limits represent an unfair method from the individual angler perspective. Small vessels such as 18-20 foot usually have no more than 2 anglers fishing while larger vessels have 6 or more anglers. With boat limits each angler on a small vessel gets to keep a whole cobia each while the larger the vessel with more anglers are required to divide the cobia up into ever smaller portions. See enclosed diagram to represent this issue. Please do not consider boat limits at this time.</p> <p>Virginia recreational anglers recommend redoing the automatic triggers to Accountability Measures (AM) that call for closures based on 1 years' worth of data. Automatic triggers to AMs is a poor way to manage stocks when based on a single year of data. And certainly a full closure is unwarranted when other in season management options are clearly available such reduced limits, sizes, and partial seasonal closures.</p> <p>Virginia recreational anglers strongly urge SAFMC to return the Atlantic coast to a single zone. The zone split providing the Florida Atlantic coast their own zone and higher ACL is simply unfair. The zone split created an "artificial" notion that overfishing has occurred with significantly reduced ACLs while giving (unfairly) too much ACL to a single state (Florida). While we understand and appreciate the council may not be able to return the Atlantic coast to a single zone this year, certainly the council can recognize any overfishing calculated is a result of the artificial, reduced ACLs that resulted from the zone split. If you look at what is being harvested from the "actual" Atlantic coast (Key West – NY), we suspect you will find no overfishing is occurring. Overfishing that is occurring simply due to a re-drawing of the map should be taken into account. Rules should be treated as guidelines particularly when the council can clearly see the zone split created this artificially notion of overfishing.</p> <p>Virginia recreational anglers do not support closed seasons. SAFMC and the committee have failed to justify the need for closed season (again solely based on 1 year of data).</p> <p>Co-Management with ASMFC. VSSA does not support co-management of Atlantic cobia with ASMFC until after a new stock assessment is completed. With the current zone split giving each state an unfair, small portion of the ACL, ASFMC would be forced to manage very small state quotas. This would be a lose-lose proposition for Virginia, ASMFC, and anglers. Let the states continue to manage seasons inside state waters. Once the new stock assessment is complete, this issues should then be reconsidered but not with the current unfair distribution of the ACL.</p> <p>Virginia Seat on Council. Request Virginia be granted a voting seat on the council, at least for matters regarding cobia. Virginia anglers feel unrepresented in SAFMC decisions regarding cobia. Giving a MAFMC representative a seat is not the same as a state representative.</p> <p>Gaffing Cobia. While we don't see this issue addressed in the current framework amendment, we urge the council to not consider any action to prohibit the gaffing of cobia at the federal level. The gaffing of under-sized cobia is simply not an issue with the vast majority of anglers so no need to punish the masses because of rumors of poor angling practices.</p> <p>If you have any questions or comments, the best way to contact us is through our website or email, ifishva@gmail.com, or my phone: 757-329-5137.</p> <p>Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association (VSSA) email: ifishva@gmail.com ifishva.org joinvssa.org https://www.facebook.com/groups/ffishVA/</p>	IFishVA@gmail.com	Virginia	Private Recreational Angler
9/6/2016 11:04:20	Justin Baker	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	I would like to see the long lining of Mahi stopped.		Islamorada FL 33036	Charter/Headboat/For-Hire
9/6/2016 12:33:39	Christopher G Harris	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	My name is Chris Harris. I am a boat sales consultant at the Tracker Boat Center here at Bass Pro Shops Miami. I have been fishing in South Florida for six years now. On top of the recreational fishing that I do and that is so very important to me, the Recreational Dolphin fishing industry in South Florida also effects boat sales as well as a number of other economic factors here in South Florida. I request that the allocation of the total ACL of Dolphin remains 90 percent recreational and 10 percent commercial, with the commercial ACL being largely allocated to a hook and line fishery (80% or greater devoted to hook and line). Commercial trip limits of 2,000-3,000 pounds per trip must be implemented. I feel this is the best management decision for the long term sustainability of the species, as well as the maximum economic value for the South Atlantic Region.	charr104@fiu.edu	Miami, Florida 33174	Private Recreational Angler
9/7/2016 9:32:17	Nicole Scruggs	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	I have been fishing for over 10 years. In 2010 we could find all the mahi we wanted now they are very hard to find. I request that the allocation of the total ACL of Dolphin remains 90 percent recreational and 10 percent commercial, with the commercial ACL being largely allocated to a hook and line fishery (80% or greater devoted to hook and line). Commercial trip limits of 2,000-3,000 pounds per trip must be implemented. I feel this is the best management decision for the long term sustainability of the species, as well as the maximum economic value for the South Atlantic Region.	Nicole@rf-outfitters.com	Homestead FL 33033	Private Recreational Angler
9/7/2016 10:38:22	Frank Navarro	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	I request that the allocation of the total ACL of Dolphin remains 90 percent recreational and 10 percent commercial, with the commercial ACL being largely allocated to a hook and line fishery (80% or greater devoted to hook and line). Commercial trip limits of 2,000-3,000 pounds per trip must be implemented. I feel this is the best management decision for the long term sustainability of the species, as well as the maximum economic value for the South Atlantic Region.	capt.frank.navarro@gmail.com	key largo, fl 33037	Private Recreational Angler, Charter/Headboat/For-Hire

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9/7/2016 10:48:49	Michael A Scirocco	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	My name is Michael Scirocco. I've been fishing the Florida keys for over 40 years. Recreational and charter fishing for dolphin has been a a big part of my livelihood. I request that the allocation of the total ACL of Dolphin remains 90 percent recreational and 10 percent commercial, with the commercial ACL being largely allocated to a hook and line fishery (80% or greater devoted to hook and line). Commercial trip limits of 2,000-3,000 pounds per trip must be implemented. I feel this is the best management decision for the long term sustainability of the species, as well as the maximum economic value for the South Atlantic Region.	michaelscirocco@comcast.net	Tavernier, FL 33070	Private Recreational Angler, Charter/Headboat/For-Hire
9/7/2016 11:13:22	Charles tindall	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	My name is Charles Tindall. I've been involved in offshore fishing both recreationally and commercially for 25 years. I currently run a private offshore sportfishing vessel out of Islamorada FL. A big part of my job includes targeting Mahi, and over the past few years we have been seeing less and less. And the schools of fish we do come across are very small in size compared to past years. I'm afraid of fishing continues to decline, people such as my clients will seek to spent there free time elsewhere, thus leaving me out of the job. I request that the allocation of the total ACL of Dolphin remains 90 percent recreational and 10 percent commercial, with the commercial ACL being largely allocated to a hook and line fishery (80% or greater devoted to hook and line). Commercial trip limits of 2,000-3,000 pounds per trip must be implemented. I feel this is the best management decision for the long term sustainability of the species, as well as the maximum economic value for the South Atlantic Region.	Charles.tindall109@gmail.com	Islamorada, FL 33036	Charter/Headboat/For-Hire
9/7/2016 12:09:42	Jeffrey Dickman	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	I'm a charter boat mate/Captain in Islamorada, FL for 8+ yrs. I support seeing the dolphin ACL remain 90/10, with the majority of commercial fishing to be hook and line opposed to long line fishing.	Jjd16@me.com	Islamorada, FL 33036	Charter/Headboat/For-Hire
9/7/2016 12:13:26	Joey spaulding	Hogfish (Snapper Grouper Amendment 37), Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	My name is captain Joey Spaulding. I am a charter boat captain here in Islamorada. I've been fishing here in the keys over 15 years. I believe that the long lining of dolphin and commercial catching of yellowtail snapper especially during the spawn is dramatically affecting our fishery. In the past four years I have seen a dramatic decrease in our catches and economically if this keeps up our fishery will be ruined and we charter boat captains who love this fishery so much will be out of a job. I believe their needs to be new limits and regulations for each of these fisheries. I believe commercial limits of 350 pounds a day would be accurate. I believe the Dolphins fishery has no room for long lining an should be a hook an line fishery	Legasea73@gmail.com	Tavernier FL 33070	Charter/Headboat/For-Hire
9/7/2016 13:01:00	Antonio gaston	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	I work in a charter booking office in Islamorada, FL. My income strongly depends upon the charter boats at this Marina catching Dolphin, so that new customers will want to book their boats through me. I strongly recommend that the Dolphin fishery is sustained properly through hook and line fishing only!!	Offshorebooking@holidayisle.com	Key Largo Florida 33037	Marina booking agent
9/7/2016 13:07:06	Matt Sanford	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	I have fished this fishery for 15 years and request commercial fishing limited to hook and line and less than 10% b	Rhoprime167@yahoo.com	Seabrook, TX 77586	Private Recreational Angler
9/7/2016 13:19:19	Captain Frank Drudi	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	I have been fishing in the Florida Keys as a charter boat owner/operator for 10 years. Dolphin fishing is the largest part of our fishery and economics of the South Florida region. It is essential that this species is recognized for it's unmatched economic value to tourism in the Florida Keys!!!! I highly recommend the regulation of this species becomes a hook and line fishery primarily. The total ACL remains 90/10 with a large portion of the commercial ACL dedicated to hook and line only. Yellowtail Snapper total allocation seems to be working perfectly, but commercial trip limits of 300 pounds need to be established for future sustainability. Thank you for allowing me to comment.	Floridakeyscharterfishing@yahoo.com	Key Largo, FL 33037	Charter/Headboat/For-Hire
9/7/2016 13:20:38	Capt. Ozy Romero	Mutton Snapper (Snapper Grouper Amendment 41), Hogfish (Snapper Grouper Amendment 37), Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	I would like to comment on the amendments I have checked off above. In general, we should eliminate the use of all long liners allowed today. I am also in favor of reducing all ACL's for commercials boats.	Captoz@ozenacharters.com	Miami, FL 33133	Private Recreational Angler, Charter/Headboat/For-Hire
9/7/2016 13:42:02	John Marler	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	90/10 should stay!	Palmseng@gmail.com	Davie, Florida 33314	Private Recreational Angler
9/7/2016 13:49:05	Garry Salyers	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	I've been fishing for 30 years in Florida waters 15 years charter and commercial. Dolphin fishing is our most important fishery economically. Since 2014, I've been severely affected financially to the degree that I have to sell my own commercial boat used for hook and line Dolphin fishing. Dolphin fish are historically a hook and line species in the United States and have sustained all recreational and commercial pressure until the last three years. I recommend making the allocation of dolphin entirely devoted to hook and line recreationally and commercially. Commercial trip limits need to be established in our Yellowtail fishery.		Tavernier FL 33070	Private Recreational Angler, Charter/Headboat/For-Hire, Commercial Fisherman
9/7/2016 14:40:15	Ann M King	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	I have been recreationally fishing for 11 years. I wish for the ACL for dolphin to remain 90 rec and 10 commercial with commercial being largely hook and line!	abking102106@yahoo.com	Inverness, FL 34452	Private Recreational Angler, Charter/Headboat/For-Hire
9/7/2016 17:26:07	Nick Stanczyk	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	I request that the allocation of the total ACL of Dolphin remains 90 percent recreational and 10 percent commercial, with the commercial ACL being largely allocated to a hook and line fishery (80% or greater devoted to hook and line). Commercial trip limits of 2,000-3,000 pounds per trip must be implemented. I feel this is the best management decision for the long term sustainability of the species, as well as the maximum economic value for the South Atlantic Region.	Bnmcharters@gmail.com	Islamorada, FL, 33036	Private Recreational Angler, Charter/Headboat/For-Hire, Commercial Fisherman
9/7/2016 18:20:03	Raymond Lorenzo Jr	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	I have been fishing in Florida for 10 years and have seen a decline in the amount of Dolphin and Yellowtail available to the recreational fisherman. This decline will only get worse if the ACL is changed. Please keep the ACL for Dolphin at 90 and rec/10 commercial. It would also help if the commercial fishing was done mostly by hook and line.	panama_ray@hotmail.com	Miramar, Florida, 33027	Private Recreational Angler
9/7/2016 18:28:42	Alex Wallace	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	The Dolphin fishery has crashed, and is being over fished by long liners. From all of us, please restrict the commercial harvest to 10%.	wallacecattlecompany@yahoo.com	Owasso, OK, 74055	Private Recreational Angler

Timestamp	Enter your full name:	What specific amendment or issue are you providing comment about?	Please type your comments below. Note: If you have images or figures that you are submitting with your comments, please e-mail the written comment (including the figures) as an attachment to mike.collins@safmc.net	Email address:	City, State, and Zip Code:	How do you participate in fisheries in the South Atlantic? Check all that apply
9/8/2016 9:20:18	Walker Skye Stanley	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	I have been in the keys my whole life, 39 years, and I have worked on charterboats for 24 years of that. I have four children and that I plan on raising here in the keys they love to be on the water and fish with me. This summer the dolphin fishing was the worst I have ever seen. There has been a dramatic decrease in the population of mahi. I learned about the mahi long lining last year from a commercial fisherman that is a friend of mine. This information scared me when I heard how many pounds they were catching each day of the East Coast. And now after fishing this summer I am convinced that the population has been devastated. I make my living and support my family on the water and I abide all recreational limits, never taking more than my customers plan to eat. I am praying that something can be done about this overkill a fish on this fishery so that my children can enjoy the fishing that I was able to grow up with and the population can be sustained for a lifetime. Thank you for your time	Skyblueheaven@yahoo.com	Islamorada Fla. 33036	Private Recreational Angler, Charter/Headboat/For-Hire
9/8/2016 15:00:38	James E. Jones Jr	Cobia (Coastal Migratory Pelagics Framework Amendment 4)	I agree with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. There should not be a boat limit of 2 Cobia per boat. Furthermore, based on the sightlings in the Chesapeake bay this year are not consistent with prior data. There are greater numbers of Cobia in the area and coastal waters. Again, I cannot stress it enough that boat limits are not fair and more data must be collected over time before sanctions are applied. Thank you.	jjones270@cox.net	23455	Private Recreational Angler
9/8/2016 15:04:15	James E Jones Jr	Cobia (Coastal Migratory Pelagics Framework Amendment 4)	I agree with the Virginia Saltwater Sports fishing Association. Do not apply a boat limit on Cobia fishing. Collect more data before applying sanctions.	jjones270@cox.net	23455	Private Recreational Angler
9/8/2016 15:11:20	Chuck Schimmelman	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	I have been a charter boat fisherman in the Florida Keys for 40 years. Throughout the years I have seen many changes in our fishery. Never have I seen such a drastic decrease in the stock of Dolphin until the last two years! Dolphin fishing is my bread and butter and 60 percent of my clients traveling from all over the world come to Florida to catch them. This species is far too important to sell for just food value alone. For years charter boats were able to sell their left over catch of Dolphin to local fish markets and all was good. What has changed? Total ACL 93/7 as it always was, 7 percent mostly or all hook and line	Capt.chuck@comcast.net	Islamorada, FL 33036	Charter/Headboat/For-Hire
9/8/2016 16:06:10	Captain Scott Stanzick	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	I have been a charter boat captain in Islamorada and South Florida for nearly 38 years. I was around to witness what the long line fishery did to Swordfish populations off of Miami and the long road of recovery to get the fishery back to sustainability. Historically, hook and line fishing of pelagic species with bag limits has never injured any pelagic fishery to any substantial degree. If we do not learn from our mistakes and the mistakes that other countries have made with their fisheries management, we will suffer great consequences in our own great country! Bag limits are correct for recreational Dolphin fishing. THE PROBLEM LIES WITH THE EXPLOITATION OF THE SPECIES ON LONG LINES. Total ACL 93/7. Go with what works! NO LONG LINES!!!!	bnmfm@budmarys.com	Islamorada, FL 33036	Charter/Headboat/For-Hire, Commercial Fisherman, World Famous Charter Boat Marina
9/8/2016 16:47:32	Glen Miller	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	I have been a charter boat captain in the Florida Keys for 32 years. Over these years I have provided people from all walks of life an opportunity to go fishing, including the wounded warriors of this nation every year. Charter boats are an essential and extremely valuable asset to provide employment and completely positive economic benefits to this country. I fear that improper management of an extremely important recreational gamefish such as Dolphin could have severely negative economic consequences. For years allocation of Dolphin was 93/7. I would like to see it return to that and rid the fishery of long lines. Thanks.	gonfishinv@aol.com	Tavernier, FL 33070	Charter/Headboat/For-Hire
9/8/2016 17:04:19	Colby Mason	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	I have fishing in Islamorada as a charter boat mate for nearly 20 years. Dolphin is one of the most important fish, if not the most important fish to my business. I have noticed a decline in the number of fish since the later 2000's and an extreme decline in the last 2 or 3 years. I feel that there are some biological factors involved as well as over-commercial fishing on long lines. I think Dolphin needs to be taken special care of as a recreational fish! 90/10 or 93/7 total ACL with the commercial portion at least 50 percent devoted hook and line and commercial trip limits of 3,000 pounds	colbyfryermason@gmail.com	Islamorada, FL 33036	Private Recreational Angler, Charter/Headboat/For-Hire
9/9/2016 8:48:11	Richard.D.Wisniewski	Cobia (Coastal Migratory Pelagics Framework Amendment 4)	I support the new federal limit of 1 cobia per person per day (reduction from 2); however strongly oppose the boat limits of two per day until a new stock assessment is completed to justify these drastic measures in Virginia State waters. In addition I do not support the closure of the recreational cobia fishing season until the data tabulated justified the means to such a measure.(based on 1 year of data) I respectfully requests the above be consider .	ironcityd@aol.com	Hampton, VA 23666	Private Recreational Angler
9/9/2016 9:40:21	Garry F Salyers	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	I request that the allocation of the total ACL of dolphin remains 90% recreational and 10% commercial with the commercial ACL being largely allocated to a hook and line fishery (80% or greater devoted to hook and line). Commercial trip limits of 2,000-3,000 pounds per trip must be implemented. I feel this is the best management decision for the long term sustainability of the species, as well as the maximum economic value for the South Atlantic Region. I've been dolphin fishing in the keys over 40 years. It seems to me and everybody that ever since they started long lining in the Carolinas, fishing here has gotten worse and worse for dolphin. This year has been the worst that I have ever seen it. PLEASE stop the LONG LINING FOR DOLPHIN!!! I believe they will come back just as good as the swordfish did, when we stopped long lining for swordfishing in the keys. They came back strong. Sincerely, please stop this, it is affecting our bait and tackle stores, marine electronics stores and our whole economy. I hope and pray that this stops so my grandkids can enjoy dolphin fishing just like I did when I was young.	marysalyers@bellsouth.net	Tavernier, FL 33070	Private Recreational Angler
9/9/2016 10:54:49	Chris McCaffity	General	September 2016 Meeting Public Comments The Chairman's Perspective letter by Dr. Duval in this summer's South Atlantic Update highlighted some important issues. The first one being how busy the council is. Another was a need to review and rethink some past approaches. The council could lighten its load if it focused primarily on fixing existing problems such as multiple extended closures and excessive regulatory discards rather than unnecessary things like setting control dates for charter boats or splitting the cobia quota. Changes in climate and stock distribution are also important issues that deserve careful consideration. Isn't change the only constant in nature? The council's management goals have been based on assumptions about what past stocks looked like at a very narrow point in time. It is time we started thinking about the future and how we can sustainably improve our fisheries and food supply even as the environment constantly changes. Hatcheries and habitat enhancement need to be at the center of a comprehensive fishery management and seafood production strategy. These proven solutions could solve many problems including the Red Snapper fiasco and cobia quota debacle while negating the need to ban new charter fishing jobs. Focusing more on enhancing our fisheries and food supply than restricting the public's freedom to access them would benefit everyone and the resource. This proactive approach would be the perfect blend of open-water aquaculture and wild-caught seafood that lives free and self-sufficient until harvested by recreational and commercial fishermen. Sincerely, Chris McCaffity	Freefish7@hotmail.com	NC	Commercial Fisherman

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9/9/2016 17:26:21	Barry Pidgeon	Red Drum	<p>Overslot red drum should be prohibited to fish for. Personally have seen 25% of overslot red drum go belly up, just to take pictures for social media.</p> <p>- 1 fish per person min 36 to 37 FL, Season May 1- Sept 15th</p> <p>1. These regulations are fair to both recreational anglers and those anglers who pay a for hire charter captain to harvest cobia. 2. 36 to 37 inch min allows for an additional year of spawning and should/would mean higher recruitment and higher spawning stock biomass. Cobia spawn every 5-7 days for at least 6 months out of the year, slot limits force pressure on a certain class sizes and given the breeding habits of cobia it's my understanding slot limits are not the way the go. 3. Also, based upon personal experience and feedback from both charter captains and recreational anglers, allowing a one per person bag limit reduces the pressure on larger fish when compared to a boat limit lower than number of anglers on board. Protection of our estuaries compared to other states. - Our inlets and Bays are not heavily fished NE-NC has miles of un-fished waters simply due to access to those fishing locations. - We do not and will not having the same issues as say SC, and is why our fisheries are as healthy IF not MORE healthy today than ever.</p> <p>Ask that the council base the 2017 season lengths on the catch rate/average over a 10 year period excluding the abnormally high 2015 season. (2005-2014) - Ease of management was a factor in splitting the line at the FLA/GA boarder, however, it is clear that the effects of that location and resulting ACL have resulted in a total unease of management across the migratory route of Atlantic cobia. - It has left stakeholders in NE-NC and VA with an unfair and not equitable access to the fishery. - The 2005-2014 catch totals/rates released the first week of Sept allow fare and equatable access to the fishery along the migratory route of cobia.</p> <p>AMs for an ACL that is based on a catch average should never result in a shortening of a season or great reduction in harvest limits due to one single years catch, this is for the simple documented fact that higher than the average catch totals WILL happen, and could likely be a result of a healthy year class. I feel it makes no sense to punish stake holders for having successful managment that brings healthy fisheries and resulting higher than average catch totals.</p> <p>Due to the current AMs in place, and given the MSA requires that AMs of some kind be in place, I'm in favor of AMs for the Atlantic stock cobia to be, that 1st reduce the bag/vessel limit by 1 after one year of an overage IF the ACL is exceeded by more than 400,000 pounds. - If in a 2nd consecutive year the ACL is exceeded by more 200,000 pounds, boat limit of 2 per boat go into place. - If a 3rd consecutive year the ACL is exceeded by any number, the following year's season is to be shortened as needed. *Bag and Creel limits stay OR reset to Amendment 4 approved regulations if ACL is NOT exceeded in any given year.*</p> <p>- These AMs take into account the overwhelming information the public has brought forth, the science on record, much of which supports moving the line further south into FLA which would increase the total ACL. - It also takes into account that catch totals used to formulate the 10 year average that is current ACL, had PSE of 60 to 100%, and with recent improvements to their survey taking ability, staff, and catch totals will be consistently higher than the 10 years used to formulate the ACL.</p>	bpidgeon@comcast.net	Charleston, SC 29412	Private Recreational Angler
9/9/2016 20:44:09	William Gorham	Cobia (Coastal Migratory Pelagics Framework Amendment 4)		Getbowedup40@gmail.com	Southern Shores, NC, 2	Private Recreational Angler, Lure Maker
9/10/2016 14:39:12	Coleman Lee jones	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	I've been fishing out of Islamorada for the past 2 years, economically dolphin primarily support every captain and mate through the spring and summer months, without an abundant dolphin fishery in the atlantic, without these fish we would not be able to support ourselves or attract tourists to south Florida	C.jones35@ymail.com	Key largo Florida 33037	Charter/Headboat/For-Hire
9/11/2016 13:06:46	Jay bogaards	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	I have been fishing south Florida for 50 years my father Capt. Jack and grandfather fished south Florida since 1923 as commercial ,recreationally ,charter and for hire. I have have 30 year experience running Miami Dade county marinas to include Homestead, Black Point Matheson and Crandon marinas. I currently oversee all 4 marinas. It appears the lone line issue is reoccurring. We/ long liners wiped out the sword fish in the 70s and 80s.Baned long lining sword fishing and like magic swordfish make a come back. Dolphin fishing has been on a steady decline for a number of years .Anything less than a total ban on long lining dolphin on the east cost would be totally unacceptable for hook and line fisherman. ACL of dolphin recreational/93/7 commercial, No long lines. thanks for this opportunity to comment.	Jaybog@miamidade.gov	miami fla 33157	Private Recreational Angler, Charter/Headboat/For-Hire, service area manager Homestead,Blackpoint matheson and crandon marinas
9/11/2016 14:10:27	Capt, Jay Bogaards	Mutton Snapper (Snapper Grouper Amendment 41), marina operations miamidade county	My recommendation addressing snapper grouper amendment 41 reduce the mutton snapper bag limit to 2 per person/ per day commercial trip limit 300lbs. May- June 2 per person/per day, Mutton snapper spawn areas fishing is like shooting fish in a barrel not really sporting .Personally refuse to fish for them when they are so stacked up and so easy to catch.	jaybog@miamidade.gov	miami fla 33157	Private Recreational Angler, Charter/Headboat/For-Hire, Marina operations miamidade
9/11/2016 20:02:00	Capt Roy Lindback	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	The dolphin fish for the charter boat is about 60 percent of chapters a year. I would be almost out of business with out our dolphin catch.	Tikicharters1@aol.com	Tavernier,FL 33070	Charter/Headboat/For-Hire
9/12/2016 13:24:33	Lazy Days Restaurant	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	<p>Our Restaurant has offered local seafood since 2002 and has built our reputation for offering local hook and line Dolphin and Yellowtail caught by local fisherman. We support allocations 90/10 addressing Dolphin we the commercial ACL hook and Line. Returning fish sales to all Charter Boats to increase our sales and to provide our customers with local hook and line caught fish on a daily basis.</p> <p>Addressing Yellowtail we believe a allocation of 50/50 will provide our local charter boats essential volume and our local hook and line commercial fisherman with the same consistent catch rate for long term sustainability.</p> <p>Thank you, Lazy Days Restaurant, Islamorada in the Florida Keys</p>	lazydaysindakeys@aol.com	Islamorada, FL 33036	Commercial Fisherman, Seafood Restaurant and Market

Timestamp	Enter your full name:	What specific amendment or issue are you providing comment about?	Please type your comments below. Note: If you have images or figures that you are submitting with your comments, please e-mail the written comment (including the figures) as an attachment to mike.collins@safmc.net	Email address:	City, State, and Zip Code:	How do you participate in fisheries in the South Atlantic? Check all that apply
9/12/2016 14:59:15	Tom Swatzel	For-Hire Limited Entry	<p>We ask the council to reconsider pursuing limited entry for the for-hire sector.</p> <p>The truest test of support for for-hire limited entry is the stakeholder input the council received on the snapper-grouper Vision Plan.</p> <p>After three years, 26 port meetings and the input from 362 fishery stakeholders, only one comment (Stuart, FL: "Concern about effort in the for-hire sector") can be identified that is specific to any support for for-hire limited entry.</p> <p>I urge you to carefully review the Vision Plan public input summaries for each state from the September 2015 council meeting briefing book (Attachments 3-6): http://safmc.net/meetings/briefing-book-september-2015-council-meeting</p> <p>As most recreational and commercial snapper-grouper fishermen in the South Atlantic also participate in the coastal pelagic and dolphin-wahoo fisheries, I believe the overwhelming lack of support for for-hire limited entry from snapper-grouper stakeholders in the Vision Plan is indicative of the lack of support in the coastal pelagic and dolphin-wahoo fisheries.</p> <p>After the most comprehensive effort ever by the SAFMC to seek stakeholder input into how a fishery should be managed, it's crystal clear that stakeholders don't view for-hire effort as a problem at all. Council should listen to these stakeholders as promised.</p> <p>As you are well aware, the council has a very full plate, including implementation of the Vision Plan. It doesn't seem wise to add to that plate and the staff's workload a fishery plan amendment that is documented to have virtually no support among fishery stakeholders and for which there is no documented biological reason for implementation.</p> <p>Again, we ask that the council not pursue for-hire limited entry. Thanks for your consideration.</p> <p>Tom Swatzel Executive Director Council for Sustainable Fishing</p>	tom@sustainablefishing.org	Murrells Inlet, SC 29576	Non-Governmental Organization
9/12/2016 15:26:55	Joshua Shook	Cobia (Coastal Migratory Pelagics Framework Amendment 4)	<p>Mike - I recently moved to the VA area (6 years ago) and started learning to saltwater fish as soon as I arrived in the area. Upon learning more about the fisheries in the area, I have come to realize the importance of both recreational and commercial fishing to the tide water area. Many people who I now call friends make their living on the water and are at the mercy of rules and regulation set forth by organizations such as yours. While I am sure your email box is currently being filled with protesters of restricted seasons and catch limits for cobia in VA water, I will offer up a slightly varied opinion. I understand the importance of sustainability and protecting our natural resources and applaud efforts to protect them, however I do understand that livelihood and family can and will suffer based on over protection of the cobia in our area. I typically take 2-3 cobia charters a year in the Chesapeake bay, however with a boat limit of 2 cobia per boat it makes it tougher to justify the expenses of the trip knowing if there are more than 2 anglers on board we all will not receive a whole fish, thus making it harder to justify the expenses of the charter. Because of this I requested charters to find alternative fish for us to pursue after we caught our limit. Furthermore, I recreational fish on my own boat or friends boats occasionally and find it very acceptable to spend a day fishing and bring home 2 nice fish for dinner (or 1 if I am by myself). With all of this being said, I am in favor of the current rules which allow anglers to keep 1 fish per person or a maximum of 2 per boat. My only request would be to consider allowing the season to remain open for a few weeks into September rather than closing the end of August. This would allow the charter captain a few more days to earn income which would be greatly appreciated as the extra days would allow for them to make up missed opportunities based on customer shying away from cobia charter due to the 2 fish per boat limit. In closing, I hope you understand our current situation in VA and respect of desire to continue to both earn a living and enjoy the natural resources we are blessed to have in the tide water area.</p> <p>Best regards, Josh Shook</p>	jshook@smithfield.com	Smithfield, VA 23430	Private Recreational Angler, Charter/Headboat/For-Hire
9/12/2016 15:57:39	Zachery K Hoffman	Cobia (Coastal Migratory Pelagics Framework Amendment 4)	<p>I support 1 per person 6 per boat 36 to 37 Fork Length. These limits at the federal level allow states to set regulations based on their fisheries needs and are fare and equitable to all user groups. I asked the Council to use the August analysis using catch totals from 2005 to 2014. The resulting season lengths using this analysis are fare and equitable to all stakeholders along the migratory route of cobia. Support AM's that 1st reduce the boat limit by 1 fish after 1 year of an ACL overage. If ACLs can not be credited/added to, for years catch totals are under the ACL, they should not be reduced due to a year with an overage.</p>	salttreatedfishing@gmail.com	Seaford Va	Charter/Headboat/For-Hire
9/12/2016 16:07:22	Carter Evans	Cobia (Coastal Migratory Pelagics Framework Amendment 4)	<p>I support 1 per person 6 per boat 36 to 37 Fork Length. These limits at the federal level allow states to set regulations based on their fisheries needs and are fare and equitable to all user groups. I asked the Council to use the August analysis using catch totals from 2005 to 2014. The resulting season lengths using this analysis are fare and equitable to all stakeholders along the migratory route of cobia. Support AM's that 1st reduce the boat limit by 1 fish after 1 year of an ACL overage. If ACLs can not be credited/added to, for years catch totals are under the ACL, they should not be reduced due to a year with an overage.</p>		Providence forge Virginia	Private Recreational Angler
9/12/2016 19:47:03	Patrick Lewis	Cobia (Coastal Migratory Pelagics Framework Amendment 4), Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	<p>The methods that are being used to count cobia are not statistically accurate or acceptable under scientific standards for two reasons. The first is that limited numbers of counts for fish kills and locations where the kills occur are taken from a number of sampling points that is too small to use within the area being managed. The second is that the sampling numbers taken from these limited points are then extrapolated throughout the calendar year and management area and do not account for the migration pattern that cobia undertake.</p> <p>The data taken do not represent proper statistical measurements and cannot be accepted under scientific methods as accurately representing the entire data set across the management area. More data needs to be gathered in the areas where fishing occurs, during the actual seasons where it occurs, using real measurements by scientists and data collectors using the same sampling criteria.</p> <p>The current data being used to create the seasons is inaccurate at best and prevents northern geographic locations from having a proper season. In addition to this, the data is not acceptable to use in determining stock levels because it is not taken from enough points across the management area to reflect seasonality (northward migration) or the quantity of fish in a given area at a given time.</p> <p>If I were to use the methods at my work that are used to count and manage this species, I would be at best unable to defend my hypothesis and most likely be looking for a new job.</p>	Patrick.w.lewis@gmail.com	Alexandria, VA. 22315	Private Recreational Angler, Charter/Headboat/For-Hire

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9/12/2016 21:48:50	Captain Jon Reynolds	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	<p>My name is Captain Jon Reynolds. I have been a recreational fisherman in the South Atlantic for the last 30 years. In the most recent 20 years, I have been a charter boat fisherman, commercial fisherman and owner/operator of my own charter boat in Islamorada, FL.</p> <p>First and foremost, I would like to discredit any theory of "unused allocation" of the Dolphin fishery concerning uncaught fish by recreational and charter boat fisherman. To make claim that there are millions of pounds of Dolphin that are not being targeted correctly by recreational and charter boat fisherman is not only deceitful, but an uneducated analysis of the fishery. This theory in itself is a direct insult to all intelligent fish science as well as the combined experience of generations of extremely talented charter boat and commercial fishermen. We have seen the exact same migration path of our Sargasso weed, and arrival of relative size of the species as every other year, just a massive depletion of stock in 2015 and 2016.</p> <p>We are once again witnessing the collapse of a species due to one of the most unsustainable fishing methods man ever created, the long line. Give the long line no limitations and suffer grave consequences. We frown upon these methods and look down upon other countries for utilizing them. Yet, here we are.</p> <p>Historically, long line fishing has consumed little or no volume in the commercial ACL of the Dolphin species, leaving stocks thriving. Similar to many other species in the past, Dolphin have been found to be far superior economically as a recreational fish. Even so, the species has held up to extremely high volumes of both recreational pressure and commercial pressure while targeted on hook and line. Recent years have shown a dramatic decrease in stocks in direct relation to enormously increased long line fishing. From 2013 to 2014 NMFS landings record show an increase of 584,186 pounds in the commercial ACL occurred. 397,469 pounds of that was attributed to long line fishing. South Carolina recorded an additional 186,717 pounds "uncoded" in 2014, but it would be unlikely that volume of fish was caught by any other method but the long line. This rapid consumption of the commercial ACL by the long line division was completely responsible for the commercial closure. This cost me thousands of dollars as well as every other commercial hook and line fisherman. It also strangled all of the South Florida fish markets that buy fresh fish from LOCAL HOOK AND LINE FISHERMAN. The markets themselves want charter boat fish sales back. They prefer it. Just ask them, I did.</p> <p>A cow Dolphin lays 5% of her body weight in eggs every other day. So, let's say 30,000 pounds of fish is migrating by a region in a loop current of migration. If 25,000 pounds is caught on a single long line vessel, that is 22,500 POUNDS OF EGGS removed instantaneously in a single trip. What if the whole fleet is out? Commercial fishermen that are limited to 1,000 pounds a trip would catch their limit and leave a spawning breed of fish producing 1,500 pounds of eggs every other day they swim, thus producing the massive stock required to sustain the enormous recreational and commercial pressure that this great species demands.</p> <p>Although severe overfishing from the long line division has already occurred, there is still hope. Fortunately, Dolphin is the fastest growing, most highly reproductive species in the ocean. Immediate action to remove the majority of the long line fishing from allocation and create reasonable commercial trip limits will cause quick recovery of the species (luckily they are not Groupers, it would take a decade of recovery). Soon the species will rebuild to healthy stocks and the fishery can be utilized to it's fullest extent! Massive numbers of recreational fishermen and charter boats will utilize the fishery; buying new boats, electronics, rods, reels, lures, bait, large quantities of fuel and nationwide and worldwide tourism will thrive. Pictures of catches by charter boats and recreational fishermen on social media will drive business to peak levels. This new, ever growing stock will also create far greater commercial opportunities for many more commercial fishermen...employing more people, causing more oil changes on commercial boats, fuel consumption and even the need for more diesel mechanics to work. Bringing back the ability of charter boats to sell Dolphin within recreational bag limits will create an even greater sustainable commercial fishery. We know this is the best sustainable way to create Optimum Yield on the Dolphin species, we did it for years.</p> <p>Long time clients that travel here annually, spending upwards of \$25,000 dollars per client, per trip to catch Dolphin as they have for decades ask, "what happened?", as we stare tirelessly in the binoculars for sets of birds on fish. Dolphin tournaments full of enthusiastic anglers scour the ocean far and beyond the general ranges only to find small packs of beat fish and even broken off long line gear in once heavily stocked weed lines. With such depletion in stock, attendance to these tournaments is thinning quickly. Knowing of the existing problem, we answered with the truth and raised massive awareness to the management process. Everyone is anticipating this outcome. After all, this is our most valuable species. Thank you for presenting this and all of your hard work and time. We put our faith in the SAFMC.</p> <p>Thank you, Captain Jon</p>	tagem4@yahoo.com	Homestead, FL 33034	Private Recreational Angler, Charter/Headboat/For-Hire, Commercial Fisherman, Non-Governmental Organization
9/13/2016 1:33:49	Kevin Smith	Cobia (Coastal Migratory Pelagics Framework Amendment 4)	I support 1 per person 6 per boat 36 to 37 Fork Length. These limits at the federal level allow states to set regulations based on their fisheries needs and are fare and equitable to all user groups. I ask the Council to use the August analysis using catch totals from 2005 to 2014. The resulting season lengths using this analysis are fare and equitable to all stakeholders along the migratory route of cobia. Support AM's that 1st reduce the boat limit by 1 fish after 1 year of an ACL overage. If ACLs can not be credited/added to for years catch totals that are under the ACL, they should not be reduced due to a year with an overage.	Ksmith3846@gmail.com	Virginia beach va 23455	Private Recreational Angler
9/13/2016 3:17:59	Rick M. Caton	Cobia (Coastal Migratory Pelagics Framework Amendment 4)	I support 1 per person 6 per boat 36 to 37 Fork Length. These limits at the federal level allow states to set regulations based on their fisheries needs and are fare and equitable to all user groups. I ask the Council to use the August analysis using catch totals from 2005 to 2014. The resulting season lengths using this analysis are fare and equitable to all stakeholders along the migratory route of cobia. Support AM's that 1st reduce the boat limit by 1 fish after 1 year of an ACL overage. If ACLs can not be credited/added to for years catch totals that are under the ACL, they should not be reduced due to a year with an overage.	customsoundcharters@gmail.com	Hatteras, NC 27943	Charter/Headboat/For-Hire
9/13/2016 3:54:15	Edward C. Yannetty	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	I'm a Captain and have traveled all over been fishing for over 50 years. I request that the allocations of the total ACL of Dolphin remains 90 percent recreational and 10 percent commercial, with the commercial ACL largely allocated to a hook and line fishery (80 percent or greater devoted to hook and line). Commercial trip limits 2,000-3,000 pounds per trip must be implemented. I feel this is the best management decision for the long term sustainability of the species, as well as the maximum economic value for the South Atlantic Region.	eyannetty@gmail.com	Islamorad FL, 33036	Private Recreational Angler, Charter/Headboat/For-Hire, Commercial Fisherman

Timestamp	Enter your full name:	What specific amendment or issue are you providing comment about?	Please type your comments below. Note: If you have images or figures that you are submitting with your comments, please e-mail the written comment (including the figures) as an attachment to mike.collins@safmc.net	Email address:	City, State, and Zip Code:	How do you participate in fisheries in the South Atlantic? Check all that apply
9/13/2016 5:22:02	Captain Jon Reynolds	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	It is EXTREMELY important that everyone in the council understands that that is not an attack on the actual fishermen. They are hard working American fishermen who need employment and possibly even temporary compensation. It is about the method of fishing. No fishery will sustain recreational or commercial fishing without trip limits. All fishermen must be educated on reproductive science. It should become a necessary course for commercial fishermen. I know it helped me.	Tagem4@yahoo.com	Homestead, FL 33034	Private Recreational Angler, Charter/Headboat/For-Hire, Commercial Fisherman, Non-Governmental Organization
9/13/2016 10:00:04	Captain Brian Reynolds	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	Regarding your upcoming meeting on September 16th, I offer the following. I have been fishing in the Florida Keys for the past 27 years and this year the lack of Dolphin Fish is terrible and no doubt caused by the over fishing by long liners. I request that the allocation of the total ACL of Dolphin remains 90 percent recreational and 10 percent commercial, with the commercial ACL being largely allocated to a hook and line fishery (80% or greater devoted to hook and line). Commercial trip limits of 2,000-3,000 pounds per trip must be implemented. I feel this is the best management decision for the long term sustainability of the species, as well as the maximum economic value for the South Atlantic Region.	runusmc68@yahoo.com	Not provided	Private Recreational Angler
9/13/2016 17:09:31	Steven Leopold	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	End commercial "longline fishing" for Dolphin fish. Historically longline fishing has led to the drastic decline in many fisheries. Commercial fishing for dolphin fish must be limited to the hook and line method insuring a healthy and equitable fish stock for all harvesters taking part in this very important fishery. Remove the minimum size restriction on dolphin fish. The practice of catching and measuring then releasing is not an effective management tool. Many fish are caught pinned to a measuring device dehooked only to be released into the sea with a spiraling bloody trail to its death. Why not count that fish towards the individual bag limit. Less fish will die. Lower the boat limit on dolphin fish to 40 max per boat or 10 per person which ever is less. In a charter fishing or recreational situation 40 fish is plenty.	Leafish4@aol.com	Tavernier Florida, 33070	Charter/Headboat/For-Hire
9/13/2016 19:57:24	Tom Swatzel	For-hire limited entry	I just realized my earlier comments concerning for-hire limited entry should have referenced that the one stakeholder comment specific to for-hire limited entry was on the draft Vision Blueprint. There obviously were some comments (very few) about the issue in some of the 2014 port meetings.	tom@sustainablefishing.org	Murrells Inlet, SC 29576	Non-Governmental Organization
9/14/2016 5:59:33	Brandice Cane Faircloth	Cobia (Coastal Migratory Pelagics Framework Amendment 4), Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44), For Hire limited entry	I am against a limited entry permit for the For hire fleet. I am also against any catch shares and changes as for concerning stricter regulations on the king mackerel fishery or any other fisheries pertaining to this meeting.	canefaircloth@hotmail.com	Supply, NC, 28462	Charter/Headboat/For-Hire, Commercial Fisherman
9/14/2016 19:17:53	Scott Baste	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	please place limits on the amount of yellowtail being caught and please discontinue use of long lines to catch dolphin. Our local Florida Keys lifestyle depends on the dolphin and yellow tail fisheries and they are being decimated. Long lines are also catching other marine animals which we all want protected as well like turtles, mammals, and other sea life.	scottbaste@gmail.com	Tavernier, FL 33070	Private Recreational Angler
9/14/2016 21:05:05	Craig McBay	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	The dolphin and snapper fishery is a very important fishery in the Keys. It is not only a favorite past time of many, but a lot of our local economy is based on fishing, whether it be the commercial fishing, the fish houses, or the vast number of tourists that come here for it. The fishery needs to be protected and fished in a sustainable way. With a migratory species like dolphin, what happens in areas far from ours can have a negative impact on us. The long line fishing has had a major impact on our fish populations. I recommend for the immediate removal of long line allocation. It is not a sustainable way to fish for dolphin. Trip limits for dolphin and snapper should be implemented.	craig@floridakeysbrewingco.com	Islamorada, FL 33070	Private Recreational Angler
9/15/2016 5:41:15	Captain David Tilley	For Hire Limited Access	Greetings, My name is Captain Dave Tilley. I ask that the council not pursue for-hire limited entry. The market place controls how many "For Hire" captains there should be. While many of them come and go there are not many that truly run year after year. I see no reason that from a fishery stand point that there should be a limit on "For Hire" permits. We operate under Rec limits anyway. Then we have an issue with people like me. 6 years of operating my own boat (Permits in my name). 6 years on a 65 foot head boat and a 56 foot charter boat (Permits in someone elses name). 1 year on a 38 Bertram (Permit on someone elses name) 11 years on a 100 foot head boat (Some of those years they were in my name) . 1 year on a 43 foot boat (Permit in someone elses name) . Now I bite the bullet to purchase a 44 foot boat and all the sudden I am not assured access to a For Hire permit? All you are going to do is drive a lot of "For Hire" guys underground. For what? a fishery plan amendment that is documented to have virtually no support among fishery stakeholders and for which there is no documented biological reason for implementation. Again, we ask that the council not pursue for-hire limited entry. Thanks for your consideration. Captain David T. Tilley	admin@saltwatercentral.com	Carolina Beach NC 284	Charter/Headboat/For-Hire
9/15/2016 8:13:03	Kenneth R Gentes	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	Our local fisherman & recreational anglers reported drastic declines in Dolphin (Coryphaena hippurus) since the implementation of long line fishing targeting this species. Our community and tourist industry heavily relies on this species economically for both commercial and recreational sport fishing. I strongly feel we need a drastic reduction, a change of regulation, trip limits or a total ban all together of long line fishing. I would also like to note that I frequently run across miles of tangled discarded long line hooks and all polluting our oceans.	Kenny@floridakeyslectric.com	Tavernier, FL 33070	Private Recreational Angler
9/15/2016 9:47:45	Kris Gustinger	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	Long-lining for MAHI needs to stop and daily catch limits are needed for commercial yellow tail. It is very apparent that the recent changes in long lining up off North Florida and the Carolinas has caused the MAHI in and around south Florida to be non existent. Last summer and this summer Charter boats all over South Florida and especially in the Florida Keys have said these fish are just not there. I have seen my self on several fishing trips on private and charter boats that the fish are just NOT there I hear it from tourists who come in to my resort office and say they fished all day an never saw a fish!!! THAT IS JUST CRAZY ! Long-lining not only affects the fish but it affects the entire world above and below the water. It kills thousands if not thousands of sharks , turtles, porpoise dolphins, whales, swordfish, etc ANNUALLY. This in turn kills tourism which obviously kills hotels, restaurants, business owners and home values when they are non existent like we are seeing signs of in our waters off Florida. PLEASE STOP THE LONG LINING ! WE NEED SUSTAINABLE FISHING REGULATIONS APPLIED TO ALL FISHERMEN . Even the local commercial yellowtail fisherman need to have limits put on their daily catch. How has this gone on for so long ? How does something like this fall through the cracks? Where can a fisherman ever catch all they can in any given day? PLEASE STOP THE IRRESPONSIBILITY !	gustinger@comcast.net	Islamorada, Florida 330	Private Recreational Angler

Timestamp	Enter your full name:	What specific amendment or issue are you providing comment about?	Please type your comments below. Note: If you have images or figures that you are submitting with your comments, please e-mail the written comment (including the figures) as an attachment to mike.collins@safmc.net	Email address:	City, State, and Zip Code:	How do you participate in fisheries in the South Atlantic? Check all that apply
9/15/2016 12:34:04	Joseph H Roth III	Dolphin & Yellowtail Allocations (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/ Snapper Grouper Amendment 44)	Commercial long line fishing for Dolphin must be curtailed along the coastal waters of Florida to preserve o	jroth@reganinsuranceinc.com	Islamorada, FL 33036	Private Recreational Angler