

Capt Hartig and Dr. Duval,

I represent the Norfolk Anglers Club in Hampton Roads, Virginia and our organization has been supportive and involved in fishery issues with our Virginia Marine Resources Commission. We share the concern of many regarding this past year's harvest from the Atlantic Cobia Stock. Our organization proposes four measures for SAMFC consideration when amending the 2016 cobia fishing regulations. While these are small steps, we believe they're all positive actions to benefit the cobia fishery this year and in future years. Hopefully, these efforts will become a basis of standardization among all the states fishing the Atlantic Cobia Stock and SAMFC is the organization to make that happen. The four measures we propose are;

1. Institute a Captain/Crew exclusion for cobia possession limits for recreational and charter operations.
2. Establish a 6 cobia boat limit for charter and recreational vessels.
3. Reduce the current SAMFC possession limit of 2 cobia to 1 cobia and increase the size of the fish.
4. Provide a defined seasonal period for individual states to manage the cobia fishery in their waters.

I have attached our organization's proposed measures and hope you'll provide it to your advisory panel and give it favorable consideration. Combined with individual state conservation efforts these measures will help improve our cobia fishery.

Sincerely,

Will Bransom
Captain USN (Ret)