

Public comment summary
CMP Amendment 30

Comment summary from August 2016 hearings on the recreational fishing year

There were only a few people who commented on this action. One individual supported No action, and one person supported Alternative 3 (June 1- May 31). Several commenters did state that it is important that the recreational fishery for Atlantic cobia is open for the month of May, for a season of May through September or October.

Comment summary from October 2016 webinar hearing and comment period

- One commenter supported a season from May 1 through September 15, with the fishery closed the rest of the year.
- One commenter supported a closure in June and July for all state and federal waters.
- Three commenters supported Preferred Alternative 2 (May 1 opening), although one commenter felt that the effects analysis indicated that Alternative 3 (June 1 opening) would be the better choice because landings would reach the ACL further into the fishing year.
- One commenter supported Alternative 3 (June 1) as the best alternative for Virginia fishermen, but felt that state quotas would reduce negative impacts on other states.

Other comments:

- Concern about the stock boundary and data used in SEDAR 28
- Concern about data used to calculate the ACLs
- Concern about accuracy of MRIP estimates
- Current management is unfair to Virginia and North Carolina fishermen
- Recommendation for the Council to request emergency action to move the stock boundary back to the previous boundary
- Opposition to the ASMFC cobia management plan
- Support for the ASMFC cobia management plan and letting the states manage the fishery
- Support for the Council establishing state-by-state quotas
- Recommendation to address harvest of larger fish (such as Virginia's rule that only one fish over 50" per boat).