

CMP Framework Amendment 4
Public Hearing Summary
(Comments received through August 19, 2016)

This summary includes comments received during public hearings along with written comments received as of August 19, 2016. **Attachment 7b** includes transcribed minutes from the in-person public hearings and the webinar hearing (36 people gave public comment). **Attachment 7c** includes written correspondence from a recreational fishing association and from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. **Attachment 7d** includes that question log from the webinar component of the Q&A meeting. Comments submitted via online form (n=52) as of August 19, 2016, are available online at: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1S5QbP6scTY90n8L-ASneF2z9AwEv6LVLfnj6BmcD1IM/edit>

Overall:

- The early 2016 closure had negative economic and social impacts on recreational fishermen, including for-hire fishing businesses and specifically for fishermen in North Carolina and Virginia.
- The 2016 closure was unfair to fishermen in North Carolina and Virginia.
- There is a lot of concern about the data used to determine the ACL; data used in SEDAR 28 to determine the boundary between the Gulf and Atlantic stocks; and the MRIP data.
- Most commenters supported a 1 fish per person bag limit and a minimum size limit of 37" FL or 36" FL.
- There was not much support for a vessel limit, although some commenters supported a vessel limit of 2 or 3 fish.
- Some commenters supported modifying the accountability measures to remove the use of the 3-year average.
- Many commenters recommended that there never be a closure for recreational harvest, or at least that the season always be open May through September/October.
- Recreational data collection should be improved.
- There should be more representation from Virginia on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.