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South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
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Mr. Chairman and Council Members:

Thanks for the opportunity to submit written comments on Amendment 7. I currently hold a limited access Rock Shrimp Endorsement. Because of the landing criteria I am faced with losing my endorsement. I encourage the council to consider establishing different guidelines to manage this fishery. While I am sure several boats will qualify under the existing criteria, I am convinced thru conversations with others that many other fishermen are in my same situation. Most of us stopped fishing because it was not economically feasible to continue. I think that all parties involved will agree that the Rock Shrimp Fishery was over harvested and it was necessary to remove effort in order for it to recover. While I understand that some vessels continued to fish, the boats that withdrew from the fishery played a key role in the recovery of this fishery. It would be justly unfair to deny them future participation in this fishery. I would like to see the council consider other alternatives as a management tool. The boats that have renewed their permits in accordance with regulations have shown their intent to participate in this fishery. With fuel and supplies at an all time high it would cause further undue hardship to revoke permits from deserving fishermen. Thanks for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Capt. Michael Ireland
F/V Fortune Hunter