

# Captain Allan C. Foreman

*County Girl Headboat*

*Fishing out of Oregon Inlet 44 years*

100 Patty Lane

Manteo, NC 27954

February 27, 2015

Mr. Michael Collins  
Executive Director  
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
c/o Mr. Rick DeVictor  
NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Regional Office  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701-5505

Re: Comment regarding Proposed Regulations for Blueline Tilefish

Dear Mr. Collins:

I am Allan Foreman, a 69 year old boat captain who has been fishing out of Oregon Inlet for 54 years. My concern as a blueline tilefish fisherman is that the proposed regulation that would so greatly diminish blueline tilefish fishing along the North Carolina coastline above Cape Hatteras is based on a faulty premise.

My experience is that blueline tilefish NORTH of Cape Hatteras are caught from muddy bottoms; blueline tilefish SOUTH of Cape Hatteras are caught on rocky bottoms at shelf edges and on slope reefs. Most of the catches that are the premise of the proposed regulation were SOUTH of Cape Hatteras and perhaps the regulation has some basis down there, but I submit that the fishery NORTH of Cape Hatteras is different and additional study of the area NORTH of Cape Hatteras is essential to a fair and well-based regulation.

The mid-Atlantic Council has recognized the different fishery north of Cape Hatteras by allowing a 300 pound commercial limit and total catch limit per person of seven fish. So, if I fished one foot north of the Virginia-North Carolina line I could provide for my family and pay my debts, but since I live in North Carolina the same type of fishing allowed in Virginia based on their own data for essentially the same offshore bottoms, is NOT allowed and my headboat, the only one fishing along our coast north of Cape Hatteras, is out of business. This is just not right.

My experience has shown me that the Blueline Tilefish species is abundant NORTH of Cape Hatteras and I hope that the Council will differentiate between areas NORTH and SOUTH of Cape Hatteras based on actual data and studies derived from each area, and continue our limits of three per person per day for the upcoming seasons.

Sincerely,

Allan C. Foreman

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