

Board of Commissioners

Mark Mansfield, Chair
Robin Comer, Vice-Chair
Bob Cavanaugh
Jimmy Farrington
Jonathan Robinson
Bill Smith
Ed Wheatly



County Manager

Tommy R. Burns

Clerk to the Board

Rachel B. Hammer

February 21, 2017

The Honorable Governor Roy Cooper
Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor Cooper:

The Carteret County Board of Commissioners, while sitting in regular session on Monday, February 20, 2017, adopted the enclosed Resolution regarding actions authorized by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council ("SAFMC") regarding red snapper management.

We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rachel B. Hammer
Clerk to the Board

/rbh
Enclosure

copy: Senator Norman W. Sanderson
Senator Richard Burr
Senator Phil Berger
Senator Harry Brown
Senator Thom Tillis
Representative Pat McElraft
Congressman Walter Jones
Dr. Roy Crabtree, NOAA Fisheries Regional Administrator
Doug Lamborn, Chair, Subcommittee on Water, Power & Oceans
Jared Huffman, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Water, Power & Oceans
Dan Sullivan, Chair, Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee
Gary Peters, Ranking Member, Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee
Dr. Michelle Duval, Chair, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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**CARTERET COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION AGAINST ACTIONS AUTHORIZED BY THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL ("SAFMC")**

WHEREAS, recreational and commercial fisheries are very important to Carteret County, as well to our State, and have been so for years. The management and actions authorized by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council ("SAFMC") regarding red snapper need immediate modification; and

WHEREAS, the current management measures established in 2013 under Amendment 28 of the SAFMC Snapper/Grouper Fishery Management Plan are not effective. We are confident that the SAFMC recognizes that their restrictions are flawed when discards that occur as bycatch in other snapper/grouper fisheries exceed the total allowable catch (annual catch limit). Also no access was allowed to this public trust resource in 2015 and 2016 due to excessive discards based on quantitative population projections. The fishery has been closed for seven years straight due to estimates that the population was low, with brief weekend openings allowed in some years; and

WHEREAS, we are greatly concerned about the red snapper discards that are occurring in our bottom fisheries and that the conservation efforts are resulting in much waste. We observe that discards are probably higher than what the National Marine Fishery Service estimates and note relatively high numbers of red snapper off North Carolina compared to recent years, indicating a growing population; and

WHEREAS, fishermen experience high catch rates of red snapper while fishing for other species, yet management measures do not allow access and probably result in discard mortality, which cannot be good to the red snapper resource off North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, we urge that the SAFMC actively engage and collaborate with informed fishermen to examine these flawed management policies and ask that they expedite modifying current measures. We also recommend that the SAFMC partner with North Carolina, and hopefully other states, to undertake an aggressive public education campaign on release techniques and tools that greatly aid in reducing bycatch mortality; and

WHEREAS, our fishermen desire sustainable fisheries and will do their part to ensure such; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Carteret County Board of Commissioners respectfully requests help in addressing red snapper management.

Adopted this the 20th day of February, 2017.

Mark Mansfield

Mark Mansfield, Chairman
Carteret County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Rachel B. Hammer

Rachel B. Hammer
Clerk to the Board

