**CMP Amendment 31**

**Scoping Summary**

**(Comments received through August 18, 2017)**

This summary includes comments received during the scoping webinar on August 15, 2017, along with written comments received as of August 18, 2017. Three individuals provided comments during the scoping webinar. The minutes from the comment session during the webinar are included in this attachment along with the Q&A log from the webinar. Online comments (n=6) are available to view at: <https://safmc.wufoo.com/reports/cmp-amendment-31/>.

Overall:

- There were 4 online comments from Florida, one from South Carolina and one from North Carolina. Primarily these comments addressed management measures (bag/vessel limits, size limits, gaffing) and may be more in response to FWC’s Gulf cobia proposed actions or the ASMFC draft interstate plan. One commenter recommended that the states take over management of cobia.

- There were 5 speakers who provided comments during the scoping webinar (North Carolina and Virginia).

- There was concern about the current stock boundary, annual catch limit, and MRIP data used for setting the ACL and for tracking landings.

- Three commenters recommended that the SAFMC and ASMFC delay actions until after the stock assessment.

- Two commenters felt that because cobia are migratory and there may be some changes in the availability in the future, both federal and state management is necessary.

- Some benefits of ASMFC management that were noted included faster processes for management changes, ability to use other data streams for recreational landings, and possibly not being held to the current ACL by removing the federal mandate for ACL.

- One commenter recommended a slot limit similar to reduce the number of large fish being harvested.

There were also two comments received on the amendment comment form after August 18.

- The North Carolina Watermen United letter opposed complementary management and recommended a delay in action until after the next stock assessment, due to concerns about data used in the last assessment and new data available for the next assessment. The letter also included several management recommendations (ACLs, bag limit etc).

- A commenter from Georgia expressed concern about lack of details on how removing cobia from the federal FMP would affect fishermen, and concern about public involvement.

SAFMC meeting online form comments

- support for ASMFC management, but delay until after the stock assessment.

- some recommendations for management measures