**Public Reporting** 

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council



Public Comment For

Meeting

## **December 2024 Council Meeting**

Submit Date	Submitted By	Location	Affiliation	Comment
11/28/2024	First Name: Chris Last Name: McCaffity Email: freefish7@hotmail.com	City: Morehead City State: North Carolina	Commercial	This has been a tough year for fishing with all of the closures forcing everyone to target the same few legal fish in the same areas. The retroactive reduction of Gag Grouper quota at the end of last year requiring absurd paybacks this year really made many fishermen wonder why the council seems so intent on managing our fisheries in the most wasteful ways possible. A council member once told me that closures and discards were seen as a sign of success by some fishery managers. This would make sense since that often seems to be the council's goal. I will ask again as I have for well over a decade that the council manage quotas with appropriate possession limits to avoid extended closures and excessive discards. Please stop the premeditated government mandated wanton waste of our Public Resources by following Congressional guidelines in the Magnuson Stevens Act to limit waste, make efficient use of our resources, and promote the safety of fishermen at sea. I am happy to explain how each individual quota in our multi-species fishery can be managed responsibly if the council is interested. Our goal should be to make Regulatory Discards rare rather than trying to create more. By-catch Allowances are a great way to keep seasons open so we can target fish with higher limits while keeping most of the by-catch with lower limits. This simple solution would allow us to responsibly harvest a variety of seafood consumers can enjoy all year. It also provides accurate data for stock assessments instead of relying on worst-case-scenario assumptions.
12/4/2024	First Name: bob Last Name: zales Email: bobzales@sfaonline.org	City: panama city State: Florida	Private Recreational, Commercial, For- Hire, Wholesale/Dealer /Retail, Non-Govt Org (NGO), Other	want to provide comments by webinar and will submit written comments