

From: info.billcollectorcharters.com
To: [SAFMC Administrator](#)
Subject: Dolphin Amendment 3
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 8:11:54 AM

Council members, I oppose any action to implement Dolphin size limits and reduced bag limits off North Carolina. Our charter fishery relies heavily on Dolphin as our primary summer fishery, especially bailer Dolphin. With a fragile economy, high fuel prices and escalating operational overhead, it is tough to be in the charter business right now. Our daily charter rates are as high as they have ever been and we rely heavily on Dolphin to keep our clients happy. If a size limit is imposed on us, it will force us to cull through Dolphin until we have our catch. I firmly believe that culling the catch will be more harmful than just letting us catch without size limits. Having read through NMFS data and supposedly the bailers being harvested before they reach spawning size is the issue here, but what about the open access long line Dolphin fishery. They are taking the spawning mature fish. Every Spring and early Summer there are days we can hardly fish a change for the amount of longline gear being set.

I oppose any action to implement a size limit or further reduce our daily bag limit on the NC For-Hire fleet.

Capt. Stephen Draughon
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