# **South Atlantic Fishery Management Council**

### Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18 Public Hearings

New Bern, NC November 3, 2009

#### **Summary Minutes**

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Mac Currin:

If you would state each of the amendments in turn. I don't care which order you do them in but please identify them. And then when you finish on one and want to go to another one, if you would just pause for a minute so Julie can reset the tape, give us your name again, the amendment you'd like to talk about and roll on from there.

Andy High 18:

Andy High, commercial fisherman from Wrights Beach. I'm going to basically speak to amendment 18.

That seems to be the one we keep bringing up year in and year out. As every one of ya'll know, I am one of the people who is in the upper range of the pots in the southeast. I'd like to point out to you some problems with the thought process that you'll have if we go forward with the options from amendment 18, having to deal with the sea bass.

As you know, I have a kind of a propensity to bring out that pesky little document called Magnuson-Stevens. Within this document, there are several references to the reduction in fishing gear effort and what they call capacity. Some of these that I'll list for you in the National Standards Section 301 of the Fisheries Management Law.

Conservation management measures shall be based upon the best scientific information available. On four, National Standard Four, it must be fair and equitable to all such fisherman and Six, conservation and management measures shall take into account and allow for variations among and contingencies in fisheries, fisheries resources and catches. Offer to pots limits in this manner violates National Standard Two in that this regulation is not based on any scientific information. It's based on want, need and desire. This action's a feel-good action that is brought up by well-meaning people with no basis in science as for its justification. Making new laws just because it might happen is a terrible way of doing business, especially when it hurts people.

In these economic times, reducing effort, reducing crew capacity, reducing anybody in employment just because somebody thinks something might be happening is irresponsible, in my opinion. It violates National Standard Four by not being fair and equitable to all such fisherman. If you're going to reduce my amount of tags assuming you go to 100 which is 50 percent of my tags, it isn't fair and equitable-- it should be fair and equitable to reduce everybody's track tags. If he's buying 25, take him to 12.

As I was talking with the young lady and the presenter, she basically brought up that only 22 vessels have 25 or more tags that are being used. So you have two people that have more than 100 tags-- ten percent fishery. You're going to put 90 percent of the burden on ten percent of the fishery. That goes to violate transition to sustain all the fisheries which is Section 312 of Magnuson-Stevens which is the fishing capacity reduction program.

In a fishery if the Secretary determines that the program is necessary to prevent or end fishing, rebuild stocks of fish or achieve measurable and significant improvements in the conservation management of the fishery it will prevent replacement of fishing capacity removed by the program through a moratorium of new entrants, restrictions on vessel upgrades and other effort control measures taking into account the full potential fishing capacity of the fleet.

Now, that was specifically written when they were doing some of the vessel reduction programs up in the northeast but I'll submit to you here that it's very relevant to what we're doing today or what you're wanting to do today. Nowhere in any of these alternatives have you stopped the issuances of any other tags. You've just reduced the number of tags per vessel.

So out of 22 people that are actually participating in this fishery, you have 690 or 680-some people that actually have unlimited snapper/grouper permits. You reduced me to 100 tags but yet someone who's never participated or two people that can never participate in a fishery can go out and buy 100 tags a piece. What have you done? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. I'll get back to that when I get to the section on my suggestions on what to do but just wanted to make sure that that got brought up.

On Section 304, action by the secretary of Magnuson-Stevens, rebuilding of overfished fisheries. In Section B, it says it must allocate both overfishing restrictions and recovery benefits fairly and equitably among sectors of the fishery. All we're doing is hurting two people with these options.

In your abstract and for the public hearing document, it states that the Council is concerned that the regulations implemented that more people increase incentive to fish for golden tile black sea bass. Again, all the management options you have here does nothing to stop what ya'll are after, none whatsoever. Let me take just a short, little time to dispel some of the rumors of how I fish that has been propagated all through the internet with emails and

some meetings.

I've had 200 tags I buy a year. Preferably, I like to have 150 traps in the water. I fish two traps to a line, 75 ropes. It takes me, if I leave the dock at 6:00 a.m., generally, I can be back at the dock at 5:00 p.m. and I have fished my 150 traps. Well, the benefits of that is I get to be home with my family at night. I have a wife and three children, one of which is at East Carolina and it's important to have that family time. These regulations, as you would implement it, are going to be put me in the ocean longer hours, put me in harm's way, put my crew in harm's way. Now, where do we go to see through who's going to hold the responsibility for if I have to stay in the ocean with my traps and it blows 40 the next day and I got to make an attempt to retrieve them traps. And my crew member gets hurts or God forbid, killed. Who's responsible for that? Because of a regulation, you're going to turn me into a criminal.

That's why we put escape panels in. We have the degradable escape panels. The comment was made in the other meeting that maybe they don't rust out fast enough for the likings of some fisherman or some of the Council people. Well, we can discuss alternative materials. We can spend time on alternate ways of wiring them in. But just to go out and completely destroy a way of life and to destroy someone's economic way because we've got a few people writing and telling you this is bad, that's not good business. That's not good management. It's poor management.

All right, suggestions on what we can do. If this-- and it's a big caveat here and I'll stipulate I don't agree with it but if something has to be done, what should we do? First thing the Council needs to do is to stop issuing any new tags to any new participants. At the same time, I understand in the other meeting there's 61 or 63 people that actually purchase tags but only 22 people are actually fishing them. We need to reduce the latent effort. And then we need to do an actual analysis of the people who are involved in the fishery.

I submit to you a man that has ten traps and ten trap tags goes out there is not full-time sea bass fishing. He's setting those pots and going offshore micro fishing or going offshore grouper fishing and coming back through and making that an insurance trip. We need to identify what the fishery is like, who the participants are since there's only 22 of us and the quota is only 309,000 pounds. And we're going to go through this grief again. It's kind of ridiculous.

Some of the rhetoric that gets portrayed in these meetings. I make a good living with 25 to 40 traps. Next time somebody does that, please have them define for you what a good living. I submit to you-- I've got to a wife and three children. I live in a nice house. I drive a nice truck and I got a nice boat. I'll guarantee you my definition of making a good living is different from theirs. Some o of these people are on social security and out there just making them a little check. I hate to throw any fisherman in the dirt but when I'm getting thrown in the dirt, it's fair game.

Hundreds of traps get abandoned every year is another one I hear. I don't know a fisherman out there with what it costs to build a trap. It costs me-- and I'm doing the labor myself-- about \$45.00 a trap without the labor in there. Who in their right mind is going to ditch \$4,500 worth of gear a year? That's one of the scratch your head moments.

The ghost fishing mantra that gets played, that's why we have the degradable panels. Again, like I said earlier, if we need to go back and revisit how the panels are done, that's easy to do. We can do that. I hear no one can work 150 to 170 traps a day. I do it routinely. I do it daily. Every day that-- I should've been there today but I had to come here. We do it on a daily basis. The Council should know this. You put an observer on my boat for ten trips. Has anybody at the Council ever actually got to look at the data or look at the conclusions from that observer?

His last words to me walking off my boat was, "What waste? What back edge?" But all of the sudden, his trap tags that he was using on my traps are still-- well, they were on the boat that went aground and that boy wrecked my boat but he still had his gear on there expecting to come back and somebody terminated him coming to observe on my boat. I'm not a conspiracy theorist but something wasn't being shown that needed to be shown and it ought to be looked into by Council and Council staff. Why did all of the sudden we stop getting good data off one of the boats that we're talking about?

The discussion of bringing the traps home every night, let's talk about the law of unintended consequences. And I know she said there is a provision. I have not seen it in the documentation. She says there's a provision there but I'm going to say that it is not. I set the gear, set my 100 traps and I start steaming back to the head of it and I blow a motor. I'm already breaking the law 'cause I can't get back to my traps, get them on deck and get home. I've had that happen to me twice where I've blown a motor in the

middle of working gear.

Set the gear, spend the night and in the morning, it's blowing 30 to 40 knots again. Who's going to be held responsible for my safety, my crew's safety, my gear's safety if I have to work in those conditions? All the time that we've been talking, a lot of the Council members say we don't want to set up a derby fishery 'cause it's too dangerous sending you out in foul weather. These regulations are going to keep me out in the ocean and keep me in foul weather. I'm going to have to fish harder, stay longer and put myself at risk.

I mean there's probably a dozen more unintended consequences I could put down here. The last thing that I want to talk about is it says that I'm wasting a lot of fish. There's no evidence of it. Do we have a handful of fish killed during the year? Yes and it's usually because there's a huge storm that there's a lot of swell but I'll submit to you that it's very less than what a dragger does shrimping in a day and that's for the whole fleet in a year. And if the Council is very upset about waste, why aren't we seeing an amendment to stop shrimp trolling in the EZ? Like I said, I hate throwing another fisherman under the bus but when I'm getting thrown under the bus, I'm going to have to do it.

Again, my recommendations would be status quo and stop selling new trap tags to anybody and identify who's actually fishing and get rid of the latent effort. Then, do a study and actually figure out if the fishery is in this dire need to have this thing done or if what this is one or two people that are just trying to make everybody else fish their way and they're bugging you to death and you're tired of hearing the squeaky wheel.

Thank you for your time and all your efforts. I know it's a pain.

Mac Currin: Thanks, Andy. Brian, question for you, Andy.

Andy High: Yes, sir?

Dr. Brian Cheuvront: Yeah, Andy, is it possible that say you're reading from notes, can

you write some of this up, too?

Andy High: I promised her that I'm going to type all this up and email

everyone of you a copy. Some of this stuff you've gotten before from me because I wrote it back in 2007 when we discussed this again. One last comment on this, the SSC back in 2007 said there was no scientific basis to do this and nothing has changed. No new

studies, none of them. So, hopefully, someone out in the SSC will make that comment again but-- that's what I hope-- but yes, I will make sure you get a copy, Brian, here in the next week and you,

too-- everybody.

Mac Currin: That's fine, Andy. I'll tell you what, if you want to just send it to

Kim at the Council office, she'll distribute it to everybody.

Andy High: Okay.

Mac Currin: Or if you can send it to me and I'll distribute it to everybody--

either way. Just let me know what you do. We'll put them in the

"to" line.

Andy High: I'll do it.

Mac Currin: All right, thank you.

Andy High: Thank you, Sir.

Mac Currin: Appreciate it. Good to see you.

Rita Merritt: Thanks, Andy.

*Mac Currin:* --self and then identify whichever amendment. There you go.

Once that light's on-- whichever amendment you're speaking to.

Go right ahead.

**Berry Blount 17B:** Well, I haven't really read the amendments. I'm just here to give

some input about the whole deal.

*Mac Currin:* Well, since--

Berry Blount: Well, on most of them--

Mac Currin: I'll be happy to listen to you.

Berry Blount: Most of it about the B-liners, right, and then, what? 17A and B and

all that?

*Mac Currin:* No, 17A is all red snapper.

Mac Currin: 17B probably is as close as it gets. And if you would make sure

you give us your name.

Berry Blount:

My name's Berry Blount. I've been fishing since 1975 to 2003. I became disabled when I had a heart attack and lost my leg. We've always pretty much policed ourselves when I started fishing. We stopped going places with small fish. We'd leave them and go find bigger fish. It is my experience the bigger fish eat the smaller fish. So when we're catching the bigger B-liners and stuff, sometimes, they'd be spitting out mouthfuls of little B-liners. All I figure we're doing is farming them. The more bigger ones we catch, the less little ones they're eating. So that's giving the little ones a better chance to grow. It's just like rotating a crop. That's exactly what it's like. It's just like farming. That's the main thing I wanted to say. Thank you for listening to me

Brian Todd 18:

My name is Brian Todd. I fish out of the Hampstead area, North Carolina and I'm commenting on the amendment 18. I am a sea bass fisherman, pot fisherman. I fish over 100 pots, 150 at times. I can see it putting me in harm's way. Making me fish less than 100 pots is cramping my style. That's my style of fishing. Everybody has their own styles of fishing but I can't understand why or where the science is to back the whole deal about reducing my trap numbers. Like Andy said-- I can't put any more better than he did. He covered everything but I am supporting everything he said.

It does put me home with my kids more. That's why I started sea bass fishing. I think I've been pretty successful with it. I think to cap the number of tags given out every year with-- I think that'd be the way to go and not issue anybody else the right to sea bass fish, I guess. But anyway, that's what I wanted to comment on.

Mac Currin:

Anybody else ready to comment at this point? We will wait.

Chris McCaffity17A: My name is Chris McCaffity. These are my comments on

amendment 17A. First, I believe the red snapper are already making a comeback. I've caught more this year than I have in previous years. I don't think that makes any difference as far as what the ACLs will end up being but if you're going to have ACLs, you should allow by catch at the very least to collect data as well as to not just waste the resource. It's a waste of the resources to throw these fish back and just have them die. You should at least allow one or two per trip per boat as a by catch. And most of the fishermen here know where these fish live, you know?

They know where the American Red Snappers live. They know where the Trigger Fish live. They can't avoid and we can work together to help the problem with the Red Snapper or whatever

other fish you have a problem with.

I'm opposed to any large area closures-- one, two, three, four--whichever one you have there-- through six. They should talk to the commercial fishermen, recreational fishermen again and do some small one-square-mile MPAs rather than large-area closures on key areas that would help the red snapper or whatever fish you're trying to help. In this case, it would be the red snapper.

Let's see what else you got here. Opposed to the VMA thing also, that's just another expense where you're putting us out of business as it is. It's hard enough to make the payments. Can't afford a \$10,000 monitoring system. All right, here's my pause.

My name is Chris McCaffity. These are my comments.

--amendment 17B. Same thing, we go for closing off the waters 240 feet offshore. That's overkill. It should not be done. It should not be allowed. Should be unconstitutional. Again, you should talk to the commercial fisherman. Find some key locations that hold the speckled hind or Kitty Mitchell and also, the Warsaw grouper. These fishermen have done this for years and years and years. I'm new as a captain compared to most of them.

In order to save the fishery, they would give up a few key locations. Some one-square-mile MPAs would do every bit as good to help the speckled hind and the Warsaw grouper as closing down-- I don't know how many square miles of bottom you've got closed here but it looks like all of the South Atlantic offshore 240 feet of water.

Again, with the different ACLs that you have in place, I'd argue that a lot of them are set far too low, especially like with vermillion snapper. This year, it of course got closed down September 18<sup>th</sup>. It puts our lives in danger. They had to go out there and run from vermillion snapper to try to catch other fish. Stay longer through rougher weather and it's just a terrible way to go about it.

So if the ACLs had to be there at such low levels, whatever level you set them at, you should have strict limits in place to ensure that the quota is met but also, does not get shut down early. What else do you have on that? I think you should also do the gag black red grouper or all the grouper separate, not lump them all together as a shallow-water fishery and shut it all down. You need to allow us to fish for everything at once, you know, in season, and keep whatever your trip limit's going to be to allow that to get filled.

Let's see. I think that's about it for 17B but I do, before I quit on that, I strongly urge you to do the trip limits on it so that we can stay in business throughout the whole year, not run from fish to fish, meanwhile, killing some of those fish, trying to run from them. It's counterproductive and a waste of the resource. All right, my name is Chris McCaffity and these are my comments--

--amendment 18. I agree with the state-by-state snowy grouper quota allocation and I think that should be for all the fishery. It should go state by state. North Carolina has a healthy fishery at this point. If you close down everything south of North Carolina and offshore waters, we're going to have everybody and their brother coming up here to North Carolina and pounding our bottom. And so it won't be long before that's devastated if you've got every snapper/grouper boat in the South Atlantic coming and fishing a few hundred miles of bottom.

And with all of this, I believe this 18, 17B, 17A all of that, the entire fishery could be enhanced through aggressive artificial reprogram. You put it in key locations. Again, the recreational commercial fisherman that do it for a living can tell you what areas would hold what fish and where the barren bottom is that it would be the biggest benefit. And I've heard people say that that is going to draw fish from other areas and make it easier for them to catch. If that's the case, make the new artificial reefs MPAs. They'll be a spawning ground and a sanctuary for those fish so that you will always have it there and you're not setting off God-giving bottom and making it off limits to where we can't fish.

God gave us this fishery and fish to feed the world, basically. That's why they have millions of eggs. That's why they can't grow faster if there's more fish for them to eat, more baked fish because there's fewer of the other adult fish. They can multiply. They can make up the difference, especially, in the case of vermillion snapper and some of the smaller fish that grow very fast and spawn very fast. Again, I object to seed our assessment on it and I think that the quota should be higher almost for this stuff but I just ask for mercy from the Council that you will allow us to stay in business and not put our lives in any more jeopardy than commercial fishing already does in the first place. It's a dangerous business and to make us have to stay out there in rough weather, rougher than normal, to stay long enough money just to make our payments and even pay our crew is un-American and I ask the Council to realize that, that this is a free country. This is America.

We need to go about it in an American, free-market-type way, not just a government tells us what to do and this is what we end up with where you get three or four bad options, you pick which bad option you like best or you disliked the least. I don't like any of these options right now. They're all bad. Some of the fisheries do need help but for the most part, I think you're going about it in the wrong way. Too harsh of regulations. Thank you very much.

Mac Currin:

Anybody else would like to provide any comments at this point? All right.

--might represent if you do so and identify the amendment about which you're commenting and give us a pause as you move from one to another so that we can separate those on the tape. Thank you.

Cindy McCaffity 17A: Okay, my name is Cindy McCaffity. My husband is a commercial fisherman here off of North Carolina. I'd like to comment on I believe it's 17A. I really don't believe in any of the actual areas, the closure areas-- two, three, four, five, six-- whichever ones. My reasoning with that is I know it's mainly for the red snapper, American red snapper which actually I know up here in North Carolina, it's only in-- the red snapper only in small areas. They don't actually stay on that entire bottom. So if we could actually take and distinguish which areas they're on and just close those off and then the rest of the area, the people in South Carolina or Florida or Georgia-- wherever they're at down there-- can still fish and catch whatever else is out there 'cause there's a lot more things than just American red snapper in there.

> One of our main fish here is the b-liner or vermillion snapper and that was closed this-- when was it? September, right. And right before the close-- I just want to mention this-- we had a commercial boat out fishing in the last days before the closure and of course, our weather here isn't always the best. It was very-- I don't know how high the seas were and I just know that my husband went out to try to get the last bit of red snapper and ended up turning back around and coming right back in.

> Now, some boats stayed out there because they need to make their boat payment or they need to pay their crew or they need to make sure everything is taken care of just to keep their business. So they went out to try to get as much red snapper as they could before it closed.

We had an incident where a person on one of the boats, because it

was so rough out, got slammed into something and cut open his jaw. They actually had to fly a surgeon out on Pedro stop the bleeding on this before they could even bring him into the hospital. So I don't know how much that cost that poor commercial fisherman but to take a surgeon out on a helicopter is a very expensive-- and that was just lucky that they had a surgeon to go out there to do that or else this man would be dead. He would've died right there on the boat. This is directly because he wanted to make sure that he had enough money to-- and enough of the red snapper before they were closed.

That puts a big hardship on us. I have to worry about whether he's going out in six-foot, ten-foot seas just to make the boat payment or just to make sure that his mate has money so he can pay his rent. These are things that all of the commercial fishermen have to do. This their life. This is their livelihood. This is how they make their money. If you close down grouper/snapper, that's what our people are, grouper/snapper fishermen.

So if grouper/snapper's closed down, they can't make enough money to pay these. You can't catch enough ringtails to make a boat payment. If you do, then you have to be out there for a very long period of time and through some weather that is not good for people to be out in. You know people are risking their lives to stay in this business because they've been in this business. They love this business. Once it's in your blood, it's in your blood. You know this is what you do and that's how you raise your family. So it's a hardship on our families here and I'm sure it's a hardship on all those people in South Carolina and Georgia.

If you keep all the fisheries open and just let them catch so much of each one, that would be much more desirable than closing things down, 'cause once you close something down, it makes the other fisheries much more-- makes them much more of a target to be overfished just like the one you just closed down. Say you close down this area in South Carolina, there's commercial fishermen in South Carolina that have been there for 30, 40 years. That's how they make their living. They don't know another way. What are they going to do?

They're going to come up here to North Carolina and they're going to catch our fish and they're going to make our fish exactly how their fishery is right now. So closing it down is not the answer. It just makes a bigger problem. It's the same thing with the size limits. We had size limits, okay? That was supposed to work. Well, the size limits, they caught all the bigger fish that had all--

more eggs than the little fish so they could've spawned much more fish than those little ones that we have left, you know. I think that was a mistake.

And then the ones especially in deeper water, you go past 100 foot, you're going to lose. You pull-- we're not pulling them up on hook and line. They're pulling them up on hydraulic reels. Hydraulic reels blow their air bladders out. These fish are dead, most of the time, when they get up here. You know if you're pulling them on hook and line, then it's much easier. They're fighting. They're kind of moving, staying alive the whole time. You pull them up in ten seconds flat, they're dead. It doesn't matter if they're three inches or 20 inches, they're still dead. You throw them back, it hasn't helped the fishery.

If we could do something to help the fishery besides close it down, I think that would be more beneficial. Like Chris said, the small areas, if there was meeting where the commercial fishermen talked to the people on the Council and said, "Okay, we have this area that has American red on it," I know of fishermen in here that have numbers, Loran numbers before, now, GPS numbers that they can say, "Okay, these numbers right here, you can catch American reds there. On these numbers over here, you can catch hognose. On these numbers over here, you can catch Warsaw." And they're not all in the same area.

So like he said, one-square-mile areas, MPAs, whatever they're called, one square mile areas that they know they're not allowed to catch fish on that area, then I mean, it is. It's hard to-- like somebody said, that's hard to enforce. Yeah, it's hard to enforce but these fishermen, they're not doing this because they want to be against the law or because-- and if they know that that's going to keep the fishery open, I don't think you're going to have fishermen out there fishing on them, not these people that have been here for 35 years. I mean, what do you guys think? They're going to fish on areas that are-- on the small areas that are closed when they could go to all these other areas around and catch their vermillion or whatever they need to catch?

Mac Currin:

Okay.

Mac Currin:

Anybody else who would like to provide comments to the Council? Thank you, Sir. If you would just make sure you identify yourself and--

--identify the amendment about which you'd like to speak and

then--

Gilbert Mathis 17A: All right, I'm Captain Gilbert Mathis, Morehead City, commercial fisherman for over 35 years. I want to comment on amendment 17A. I was just over there listening to Rick over there in the other room talking about his-- where ya'll derived the overfishing from and building stocks up from the percentage it is to where it was in the 1940s. I want to know where they got the information in the 1940s when there was no commercial fishermen. How can they derive that data from 1940 to now?

Mac Currin:

You could probably get a better answer out of Rick but then, Brian, you jump in. But my recollection of that is there were, in fact, commercial landings of red snapper back then, maybe not in the State of North Carolina but there were--

Gilbert Mathis:

Not in the State of Florida.

Mac Currin:

--some reported. And there were recreational estimates made by the Fishing Wildlife Service at least into the '50s and 60s \_\_\_\_\_ 1940s.

Gilbert Mathis:

I know maybe in the '50s, but not in the '40s.

Mac Currin:

Yeah, I couldn't tell you exactly where--

Gilbert Mathis:

You know I mean and trying to judge the data from that, you know from the 1940s to here we are in 2000, coming up on 2010, I think it's incorrect data and this hypothetical biomass the scientists put out, you know and it's just hypothetical. It's not true and valid data to measure how many fish we have in the ocean. I mean it's just not possible on the red snapper, you know, I mean how you know how many red snapper is out here? How can you derive how many is there by a biomass? And it's a hypothetical, you know, it's just what somebody thinks. And how'd they come up with this formula?

Mac Currin:

Well, it's an estimate that was derived through the assessment process and the assessment is out there for CR-- what was it-- 17, I believe on red snapper and they gathered all the information that scientists, fishermen, everybody that had any information available to them, the scientists looked at it, said, "Yes, we can use this to help develop the model to model a population" and that's where the estimates of biomass came. They're not hypothetical. They're estimates. Now, you may look at them and say they're the same

thing but--

Gilbert Mathis: Yeah.

Mac Currin: But I would prefer to refer to them as estimates.

Gilbert Mathis: Estimate, well--

Mac Currin: Right.

Gilbert Mathis: --just giving an estimate, it's not a real formula. It's no proof. It's

really no proof if it's just on a formula then.

Dr. Brian Cheuvront: The reason why they figured that they could go back to the 1940s

is they tried to figure it out mathematically going back to the '40s and they figured that during World War II, there was next to no

commercial fishing going on--

Gilbert Mathis: That's right.

Dr. Brian Cheuvront: --in the country. And there was very little fishing going on period

during that time because it was dangerous to do so on the east coast of the United States. So that's how they decided that that was where they wanted to be for the virgin stock level 'cause the assumption was, was nobody was fishing on it. That's how they

decided where they were going to go back to.

Now, the mathematical formula that they used, the used the numbers that they had available and the best math models that they could to estimate backwards to what that amount of fish was. They agree that it's not real accurate but when you're doing a stock assessment, the data that you have in more recent years is much more important to you in telling you the status of your stock than it is a long time ago. And matter of fact, the data from those 1940s and all that, they actually-- I can't say with certainty that they did it for red snapper. I know they've done it for other species-- they've pulled those data out for those really old years and then looked at the model again and see if it had a significant impact on the

outcome and it typically doesn't.

*Mac Currin:* They did do that for red snapper.

*Dr. Brian Cheuvront:* They did do that for red snapper?

Gilbert Mathis: I was reading in the magazine just here the other day about Dr.

Crabtree which is on the Council here. I was reading in there

where he was talking about the data. He didn't care what the data was, that he was going to go right on through with this amendment 17A and 17B. I was just reading it in the magazine the other day. He didn't care what the data was. Well, how can that be? How can that be?

Mac Currin: I find that hard to believe that he said that.

Gilbert Mathis: Well, this was in the magazine.

Mac Currin: I haven't seen a magazine like that.

Gilbert Mathis: Maybe I need to bring the magazine to you to show you.

Mac Currin: Yeah, I'd enjoy looking at it. It's hard for me to believe that that

was an actual--

Gilbert Mathis: Got the magazine right here.

*Mac Currin:* --quote from Dr. Crabtree.

Mac Currin: I'll be happy to pass it to you and let you read it. I don't know

whether, in fact, this is what Dr. Crabtree said or not. I mean, it would be surprising to me if, in fact, that's an accurate quote.

Gilbert Mathis: It's in the magazine.

Mac Currin: Yeah, I don't know. There's a lot in magazines.

Gilbert Mathis: It's got to be accurate if it's in the magazine.

*Mac Currin:* No, not necessarily.

Gilbert Mathis: Letting the whole world know it. Most of the time, I come to these

meetings-- I've been coming to meetings for many years now. And every time I've been to one of these meetings is that it's just a format you have to go through 'cause everything that has been amended, the fisherman has no say whatsoever. It goes right on through. It doesn't matter how many times we come. It's always the same thing. It's always save the fishermen. Well, we're not saving the fishermen. We're just trying to save the fish out here

and people need to work.

Right now, in our economy is so down low and people out of work

and you're just trying to put us out of work. What kind of

government is that trying to put us out of work, putting closures in,

closing off the coast and putting people out of work? I mean, what

can ya'll say about it?

Mac Currin: Well, I can tell you that, yes, there are some bad economic

consequences--

Gilbert Mathis: It's very bad. I mean--

*Mac Currin:* --of the management actions that are--

Gilbert Mathis: --I don't believe you would like say, "Hey, I'm going to take 40

percent of your paycheck every week."

Mac Currin: I wouldn't like it.

Gilbert Mathis: No, you wouldn't like it at all. Well, fishermen don't like it either.

I mean, there's ways to sustain a good fishery instead of closures. There are very good ways to-- and overfishing, you had a two-forone buy out on top of that. That was supposed to help ending overfishing. Size limits was supposed to help ending overfishing. And then you want to put closures in to even further do it more. Well, the reduction in permits was 2,300 permits. It's been reduced down to 466 permits, commercial. That's an 80 percent reduction in overfishing right there as I see it. Now how much

further are ya'll going to go to keep on and on and on?

I mean, I need to make a living, too just like you need to make a living. And I can't see where the fishing's overfished. I've been fishing for over 35 years. That's a long time. I've always made a good catch. Even though this reduction is being put in place, ya'll never give nothing time to work. I mean, it's just like the silver snapper.

You had a fellow, Charles Stone that was on the Council. He goes fishing one day-- he didn't catch a silver snapper. Well, maybe he went to the wrong place. Maybe his rant was out but he comes back to the Council and says, "Well, there's no more silver snappers." Within six months, it became law there was no snapper grouper fishing. I mean, that's just from one of yawl's fellows that was on the Council. He wasn't a true commercial fisherman.

Things happen. Some days, fish bite. Some days, fish don't. Fish has got a tail. He can swim. He can swim from here to South America. So how can you derive your stock formula when fish who've got tails can swim from North America to South America?

How can your assessments be correct? They can't be.

Mac Currin: Brian.

Dr. Brian Cheuvront: Mr. Mathis, one of the things that we've always been trying to do

is to encourage fishermen to come to our stock assessments. I have earlier in October, I went to a stock assessment done by SEDAR for black and red grouper. Commercial fishermen were invited to come. Some were invited to come at the Council's expense. Do you know how many showed up? Zero. One commercial fisherman came at his own expense outside there. So

I'm not going to buy it that you're saying we don't include

fishermen, we don't include them in the process.

Gilbert Mathis: Well, the only thing I can say--

Dr. Brian Cheuvront: --we asked them to come-- excuse me. Let me finish what I'm

saying first. We asked the fishermen to come. We had even offered to pay for them to come and then they don't show up.

How's that supposed to make the Council feel?

Gilbert Mathis: We'll, how you think it makes me feel when I've never had a

requisition at my house saying-- nobody paying me to go to a meeting. I've never seen one in my mailbox. I have never seen

one.

*Dr. Brian Cheuvront:* It comes from people who are showing interest.

Gilbert Mathis: Well, I show interest. Like I said, I've been to just about every one

of these meetings that's ever been since I've been fishing.

Mac Currin: Mr. Mathis, there's a method to get you to that point and by

applying to serve on some of the advisory panels for the Council

and--

Gilbert Mathis: I would love to.

Mac Currin: --they're advertised-- well, if you can contact Kim Iverson or talk

to her out at the table right now, she'll be happy to provide you with an application and there are a number of advisory panels on which commercial fishermen, recreational fishermen, just everyday

citizens who are interested and--

Gilbert Mathis: All I know is I'm saying no--

*Mac Currin:* --have the inclination to do it.

Gilbert Mathis: --to amendment A and amendment B for all closures.

*Mac Currin:* Okay.

Gilbert Mathis: And to the ending of red snapper.

*Mac Currin:* Okay.

Gilbert Mathis: Everything.

Mac Currin: That was going to be my next point. We need to get back on these

amendments.

Gilbert Mathis: All right, I'm back on that.

Mac Currin: All right, thank you. Appreciate you coming

Holly Binns: Great. My name is Holly Binns. I'm here on behalf on the Pew

Environment Groups, Ending Overfishing and the Southeast Campaign and I want to thank you all for the opportunity to provide input regarding Amendment 17A to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils, Snapper/Grouper Fishery Management Plan. And I want to just start by thanking the Council and the staff for all the work you've put into bringing the

amendment to this point. I know it's been a tremendous undertaking and I think we all anticipate that it will lead to rules that ensure healthy and sustainable red snapper fishery for the

future.

After nearly 40 years of fishery management in the United States, still one in five fisheries are in trouble and in the South Atlantic, we have ten populations that are undergoing overfishing which is the highest number of populations of any region in the country. And as a result, we have fisheries that yield just a fraction of their potential value which makes vulnerable both the resource and those who depend on the resource.

Amendment 17A to the Snapper/Grouper Management Plan is looking to end 40 years of overfishing of red snapper and to do it within the stricter confines of the new law, the revised Magnuson-Stevens Act. One of the biggest changes in the law is the requirement to use buffers and accountability measures and the development of annual catch limits and accountability measures. The National Marine Fishery Service requires that Councils must

take an approach that considers uncertainty and scientific information and in management control, the fishery. Annual catch limits must account for landed catch, as well as for discarded fish and mustn't exceed the recommendations of the Council scientist.

In the past, red snapper, like many fisheries, has not had an annual catch limit for the recreational sector but instead had regulation to control the size of the fish that could be retained or the number that could be kept during each trip. The new law requires that we have ACLs for every fishery and there must now also be accountability measures to prevent the ACL from being exceeded. These accountability measures could take a few different forms.

Some accountability measures are an annual catch target that is set below the annual catch limit to provide a cautious margin of error so that delays in data collection and analysis don't cause the ACL to be exceeded. Other accountability measures include the closure of the fishing season when the ACL is met or require the payback of any overage by shortening the following fishing year or reducing the following year's annual catch limit. Again, under the new law, accountability measures are required for every fishery and we recommend that recreational fishing accountability measures include the use of an annual catch target as we do have significant delays in the collection analysis of data for the recreational sector at this time and that the commercial fisheries' accountability measures include an overage provision.

The current draft of Amendment 17A does not include either of these accountability measures for red snapper and so we would like to strongly urge the Council to add two more accountability measures to your preferred alternative so that you're adding an ACT for the recreational sector and a pay pact provision for the commercial sector. Without these accountability measures, we are very concerned that the preferred alternatives may not succeed in ending overfishing.

We think that the requirements for these ACLs and accountability measures can be more than just bureaucratic mumbo jumbo if they're desired correctly. And that they can be used to end overfishing and to manage our fisheries with a long-range view towards sustainability. So I think I'll stop there and if you guys have any questions, I'm happy to answer them but otherwise, just really appreciate the opportunity to give you guys input and for all the hard work you're doing to protect our resources down here.

Mac Currin:

Thank you, Holly. Any questions for Holly? All right. Anyone else prepared to provide comments to the Council at this time? If you would come up, please and identify yourself. If you represent an organization, tell us who that might be.

Jimmy Eady:

My name is Jim Eady. I own a zigzag and I'm just going to-Amendment 17A, 17B and 18, we shouldn't even be to this point because if you take the 650 permits that are left, if you look at the average age that people own these permits in 15 years, probably about 95 percent of the people are going to be out of it and gone. Won't be no fishing left anyway.

Now, these Amendments are going to do away with us period. It's a bulldozer effect. You've already got it in your minds this is just a hearing or a meeting and what's done's done but it says in the Magnuson-Steven Act that you can't do this stuff to me because you got to give me either-- do like the farmers and pay me, subsidize me or buy me out because you're going to put me out of business anyway and we don't need this.

We need to be able to just make our living like you do. You wouldn't want nobody to take your house away from you and your food or anything else and it says right here from the Magnuson-Steven Act that fish-- well, I ain't even got my glasses but it says just want I told you anyway. And none of these-- I got my crew here and they don't want to lose their jobs. We're too old to do anything else.

I mean, they going to tell me when I go down there to get a job, you're overqualified, just like you hear on the news and everything else and you wouldn't want your stuff taken away from you like that. You know so that's all I got to say about that.

Mac Currin: Thank you

Thank you, Mr. Eady. You got a question? Mr. Eady, Rita Merritt's got a question for you.

Jimmy Eady: Yes, ma'am?

Rita Merritt: Mr. Eady, when you talk about buyouts, what have you got in

mind? You're talking about buying the permits, buying--

Jimmy Eady: My permits, my boat from me. I won't fish again. I'll live off that

and do odd-and-end jobs to make it easier for my family and stuff,

you know? I work like a dog. I don't even work long. The weather permits me in North Carolina about an average of 130

days out of the year to go out in that ocean and work. I ain't got no 55, 60-foot-boat that does it all, that stays through gale force winds. What you see on the news, coast guard coming out there to pick them up 'cause they didn't come in when they were supposed to. We all stick together.

When we go out, we usually come in together and everybody looks out for each other. Those boats down there, they stay out for ten to 14 days-- they're big boats. Most of them boats down south pick on a certain species. Up here, most of us try to work 30 fathoms right on and go out from there according to the current, according to Mother Nature and get what they got to get. I mean, I don't know what anybody thinks their permit's worth but to me, \$500,000, you know, for all the money I've had to put in my boat to keep it going, the boat ain't nothing but a big hole that you throw money into anyway. To be out in that little-- big-ass ocean in a little boat, you got to have two of everything. It's not like you can go out there with one alternator. As soon as your alternator is done, you're through. You got to come home. If you've got two of them, you turn it off, put the other one on and go on. Same thing with your anchors, everything.

Rita Merritt: Thank you, sir. I know what you mean but I was trying to get to

what you felt was satisfactory, in terms of a buyout, whether it be permits and what kind of dollar figure or boat being bought out.

Jimmy Eady: Boat, permits, everything to me--

*Rita Merritt:* Everything.

Jimmy Eady: 500,000 or more.

Rita Merritt: Versus what you had talked--

Jimmy Eady: I mean--

Rita Merritt: You had talked earlier about like farmers having subsidies. So is

that something else that you've got in mind?

Jimmy Eady: It's something I got in mind but it's something that, it's just like

with all your MAPs and LCSs and this and that, oh, you throw it on a piece of paper, you think, well, everybody that damn can read just best know what all this mumbo jumbo shit is. And ain't half of them know what the hell it is unless you sit down and say, "Tell it to me like you're going to tell your four-year-old kid," you

know? I know you guys wanted to do LAPs but do I know LAPs is

right for us when you started doing that about three months ago or six months ago? No, I don't. Nobody would-- they throw it to you and show you graphs and this and that but it's just a cover-up, a smokescreen for the government to do what the hell they want to do and get it right by-- I ain't got by tenth grade education. I know a bunch but I don't know all that to make it in my head what's right and right, you know?

Rita Merritt:

Thanks.

Mac Currin:

Mr. Eady and everybody else for that matter, if you haven't been over, there's some people here that will be happy to explain it to you. Make sure that you understand it. If you don't get what they're talking about, please ask them a question. There's a lady over there, Kate is here and would be happy to talk to you about LAPs in general. She knows a whole lot about them.

You know the Council's talked about LAPs in the past and we're probably going to continue to talk about ITQs or LAPs or IFQs or whatever you want to call them. Just throw them in a bag and they come out looking the same way.

Jimmy Eady:

I'd like to do anything to catch a little bit of something of every species all year round than to just close it out and whatever.

Mac Currin:

Yeah. I understand but I'm just trying to make the point that there's people here today that provide you with the opportunity to answer some questions that you've got about any of those issues and I'd encourage you to make sure you run over there and spend some time to talking to them, either individually or they've got some presentations prepared as well.

I think Mike's been bringing these sheets in to me and he may continue to do that but I think everybody filled out a sheet when you came in. And if you can, before you talk, it would help us out if you could retrieve that sheet from Kim or wherever it is if you don't have it with you and just turn that in when you talk. That'll help us out as well. If not, we'll find it somewhere.

If you would, Kelly, make sure you identify yourself and identify the Amendment to which you are speaking and pause for a minute as you move from one to the other and identify that next Amendment with your name so that we can keep them straight for the Council members.

Kelly Schoolcraft 17B: My name is Kelly Schoolcraft. I want to make a comment on Amendment 17B I guess it is. About in particular moving the South Atlantic's jurisdiction north to include all the states north of Cape Hatteras. I'm highly objected to this issue and I want to read a quote here which goes right to my comment on this issue.

"We're supposed to be sampling in all states. If this isn't the issue, it is a problem." And this was a direct quote by Gregg Waugh. The fact of the matter is this did not happen when the deepwater snowy grouper plan was being addressed in 2006, I believe or prior to Amendment 13. All the data that went into the formulation of this plan came out of Florida and it was head boat data. As a result, fishermen in North Carolina lost a seasonal fishery that the guys depended on. And to try to extend this jurisdiction based on that flawed data is just absolutely atrocious and should not even be attempted and I hope Virginia rejects that.

That being said, Virginia has formulated their own plan in the Mid Atlantic and they did so before this came out. And what Virginia has in place is a two-fish trip limit per vessel per day recreationally and 175-pound shrimp limit for commercials. While this is low, it is better than what the South Atlantic has and it's based on some science that they've been gathering. And there again for the South Atlantic to try to extend their jurisdiction based on this flawed data that this management plan went into just shouldn't be attempted in my opinion.

Virginia needs-- the Mid Atlantic did write a letter to the South Atlantic asking them to sign off so they can formulate their own management plan. I do support this. And I think that the Mid Atlantic ought to be given this opportunity. But don't allocate a percent-- the percent that I heard in another room was one percent of the TAC. That's just nothing. There's a fledging fishing in Virginia and it's basically recreationally and they don't know what they have up there but given the chance, they could find out and it could help their fishermen indeed. And , North Carolina is part of the Mid-Atlantic States. I'm also for some sort of opportunity for some fishermen up from North Carolina to participate in a snowy grouper fishery formulated by the Mid-Atlantic States.

The way that could be achieved would be through discussions or what not but there again, try to extend a management plan based on data that wasn't represented of all states. You don't know how much of the stock is out there to begin with and it all came from

Florida is just not acceptable.

Moving on, I'm a make a comment on **Amendment 18**. There, again, my name is Kelly Schoolcraft of Frisco, North Carolina and-

--comments made for Amendment 18. My concern is the move by the South Atlantic to close all bottom fishing seaward of 40 fathoms 240 feet. I hold a Northeast Moratorium Sea Bass permit which allows me to fish for sea bass north of 35 15 which is the longitude/latitude of Cape Hatteras lighthouse. You go east from that is where I can start my fishing for sea bass. Exclusively-exclusively, it's done in 50 to 60 fathoms.

Now, I don't know what the other states do. I'm sure it's a shallower water fishery. There's a lot of trap fishing in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Virginia, what not but my-- I guess my concern is sea bass in the North East is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. Got stock assessment of 2008.

We, in fact, in the Northeast, we're supposed to get a raise in North Carolina's quota this year but that didn't happen because of their SSC said there was too many unknown variables so our stock remained the same. But there again, it's not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. So by the South Atlantic trying to extend seaward 40 fathoms, how would that affect me, based that I'm fishing on a totally different management plan than the South Atlantic has for sea bass?

You know it's just I have no problem with fisheries management as long as science and good science supports the management issues. And more and more in the last two or three years, you're seeing this as a big shift and people in Congress and Senate, they're all questioning \_\_\_\_ and the whole shooting match on the science-gathering data process, okay? And there again, what would be the ramifications permitted vessels with Mid Atlantic fishing for sea bass if the seaward 40 fathoms goes in effect?

I mean, who do I talk about on that? Anybody?

Mac Currin:

Well, you've already talked about it and I'm glad you brought it up. I'm not sure that that's been mentioned in our discussions of either 18-- well, we have talked about it a little bit.

Dr. Brian Cheuvront: Actually, I don't know that we have talked about it in the Snapper Grouper Committee or at the Council. I know Kelly has called me and talked to me about it again since separately but that has not

come up yet and that is a jurisdictional issue that--

*Kelly Schoolcraft:* If I had a recommendation on--

Mac Currin: Make sure your mic's on, Kelly.

Kelly Schoolcraft: If I had a recommendation jurisdiction wise, I would back up the

South Atlantic's jurisdiction to 35 15 and let each jurisdiction work out its own management plans. You know I mean science has proven there's two different stocks of king mackerel and it's managed as such. Science has proved there's two different stocks of flounders and it's managed as such, southern flounder and summer flounder. Science has proved there's two different stocks of golden tilefish and it's managed as such. And given the chance, science can prove that there's two totally different stocks of snowy

groupers and needs to be managed as such.

So I guess I will close my public comment on that.

Mac Currin: Yeah, I can just tell you, Kelly that from-- are you pot fishing or

hook-and-line fishing?

Kelly Schoolcraft: For sea bass--

Mac Currin: Yeah.

*Kelly Schoolcraft:* --it's a little bit of both. Because of the depth of the water and

where I fish, it's mainly hook and line.

*Mac Currin:* Okay.

Kelly Schoolcraft: But when I give them the right conditions, when the tide's not

running, I will set traps and I do carry my traps in and out with me and the number of traps that I fish in the northeast region is 25. And there again, I couldn't fish-- and this is the difference-- I couldn't fish that this year because-- and you all will hear come December what happened to North Carolina sea bass quota on that.

Mac Currin: And we're going to try to work on that, too.

*Kelly Schoolcraft:* Great. All right, I appreciate everything.

Mac Currin: Thank you, Kelly. Appreciate it.

*Kelly Schoolcraft:* Thank you much for your time.

Mac Currin: Anybody else ready to make comments?

Anybody you present in your organization you might represent and if you would, since we have three amendments, we're taking your comments upon identify those-- the particular Amendment, take a pause before you move to the next one, say your name, again, that Amendment number, same thing with the third one, if that's what you'd like to do.

Larry Leuthauser: Okay.

Mac Currin: Punch that button till it lights up.

Larry Leuthauser: My name is Larry Leuthauser. I'm a commercial snapper grouper

fisherman and I guess my comments aren't necessarily on a particular amendment. I see the closures of 17B and the red snapper closures of 17A and going over all of the potential costs associated with 18 of reporting and then having vessel monitoring again and what I see continuing to happen though is a reduced area for fishing, reduced time that we can go out because of the closures. It's forcing us to fish the same fish every fisherman all

the time.

So recently, I've seen fish prices dropping because we got put on the market because guys that were snapper fishing now are grouper fishing. Everybody's planning on running the bass and fish pots for January 'cause the grouper will be closed and the weather won't allow us around here to get far enough offshore for snapper for any length of time. Or if we do, it just gets too hazardous. Yet I don't-- we're painted into a corner. I know I see myself where I am continuing a reduction in the ability to earn money fishing but yet, my expenses are the same or increasing, so the margins are getting thinner and I don't see anybody trying to help us at all with any of that.

The economic studies that you show just seem to be yeah, we show an economic study but it says it doesn't affect us. By us, I mean the Council or other people here. I mean, us fishermen are the only ones affected by it economically. And that's acceptable apparently. I don't know if there's any way of any kind of disaster relief. We're at a point now where we can't sell our boats. People aren't buying it. We can't sell our permits. You obviously can't sell your permit until you sell your boat first. I find myself fishing just to pay the bills, not necessarily to earn an income. And I'm finding myself trapped, no way out. I've got a mortgage on the house that basically—with the investment for my fishing and I

can't get out from under it to move on to anything else.

It's a poor fishery. The South Atlantic's the smallest fishery. Fishermen, there's not that many of us. Very independent people but there's no organizations to fight for us and we don't have the money to fight for ourselves. I don't really know a solution but it's just something that's got to be said. I kind of expect that this is eventually going to be nothing but a recreational fishery in the South Atlantic. Commercial fishermen are going the way of commercial hunters and I'm just disappointed that our country is seeing it fit to bankrupt us rather than find an economic solution for us. Thanks.

Mac Currin:

Thank you.

Mike Witt 17A:

Yeah, the closures they want to do is just like Mr. Mathis said, it's going to be a terrible economic impact on the commercial fisherman. Right now, in Morehead City, there's only two, three-three places that you can sell your fish. One is going out of business. That's Homer Schmidt's. They do not have the fish coming in to justify staying in business. They don't have the fish coming in because we aren't allowed to catch them. And so they going to turn this into a nice little marina for these people that got millions of dollars, they can put their mega yachts in there.

So okay, we're losing one right there and it's just a matter of time before we lose another one and that's Luther Smith's Seafood. I mean there's one person that's holding out that make that whole location right in there condominiums. So after they close down probably in the next year or two when somebody buys them out, there's not going to be a place to sell your fish. So that takes care of the fishing right there. You guys don't have to worry about nothing 'cause we don't have a place to sell the fish so what difference does it make? Are we going to try to peddle them to Raleigh? Are we going to try to take them down south somewhere in our pickup trucks?

So I mean it's a catch 20/20. It's a no-win situation. These Amendments, all they're going to do is absolutely put everybody out of business. I'm serious. Just as serious as a heart attack. And my God, people, they cannot understand what's going on out there. They don't. Just like Milton said, when you hit one-- the big liners out there, they are so thick right now, it's pathetic. And when you try to go grouper fishing and you can't even catch a grouper 'cause of the barrier there, I mean, do you move inshore, get closer in, go

into 60 feet of water, what do you catch? B-liners. The grouper have been hammered, they're getting hammered and when you jump from one species to another, that's just like shooting ducks. And it's a no-win situation. It's the fish-- actually, what the government is doing, we aren't killing the fish, the government is killing the fish. Having to throw away fish that we caught is the most stupid thing there ever was. I mean why throw a fish away when he could be sold? I mean just throw him back in and watch him float off. It's ignorance. The government is what's killing the fish off. It's not the commercial fishermen. That's all I got to say.

Mac Currin:

Thank you, Mr. Witt. I appreciate you being here. Anybody else prepared to provide comments. If you would, come on up and state your name and be specific about the Amendment.

*Milton Mathis 17A:* My name's Milton Mathis.

Mac Currin: Yeah.

Milton Mathis: Endangered species. If we could get some help subsidize or

anything or just let us catch so many pounds of all the fish would be good. Five-hundred pounds on grouper, 500 pounds \_\_\_\_\_ you know, year round but if you-- like I was saying a while ago, if it continues like this, I know for a fact that I'm a lose my home. I

know for a fact. There's no doubt about it.

Male: It's going to be soon, too.

Milton Mathis: I'm a lose my home. I'm a lose my boat. So something has got to

be done. It's easy to sit back and say, oh, let's pass this law. But it's all right if you're on the passing. If you're making \$85,000 a year, you're getting paid doing something else but we're not. I fish for a living, 100 percent fish. That's it and with these closures, I ain't making the bills and I'm getting further behind. And like I said, Mother Nature-- I'm saying for North Carolina. I don't know about Florida. I don't fish in Florida. But for North Carolina, we ain't been out in two weeks. Can't get out for the weather. So if you're going to shut down something, we need to be buy out-- like

I said, we had a meeting last night at my brother's house.

Do a buyout, buy half the boats out, put it on the lottery system, buy half of them out or subsidize but something's got to be done. If you're going to shut the fisheries down, you just can't do people like that. It's not American. You just don't throw them to the curb. We work. I work hard for a living. I did for 37 years. I don't want to thrown out of business. I don't believe it's what I've

worked for. I mean I don't know about ya'll. I know if I come talk to yawl's house, ya'll wouldn't be happy, would you?

Mac Currin: No. And I understand why you're not happy. I sure do.

Milton Mathis: You know and it makes you mad and I say things sometimes I

shouldn't but when you're up against the wall, you got nowhere to

turn to, that's the reason I'm here today is to seek help.

Mac Currin: All right, thank you very much.

Milton Mathis: Thank you.

Mac Currin: Anybody else that's prepared at this point to provide some

comments to the Council on these three Amendments? Again, no

hurry. Sit. Sit back till you're comfortable or ready.

Robert Freeman 17A:I'm Robert Freeman. I run Sunrise Charters out of Captain Stacy Fishing Center. I've been there 20 years. I started fishing for Snapper Grouper in 1972 in a 20-foot boat. I currently run 100 to 130 charters a year primarily every day targeting snowy grouper,

tilefish, that sort of thing in the deepwater.

Amendment 17A, I'd like to recommend no action there. It says here red snapper are undergoing overfishing and are overfished. And Greg's presentation there, he's describing how some of the data is being collected. Boat ramp surveys. Well, I just don't know how many trailable boats are out there beating up on these snapper and grouper.

Another one was random telephone calls to individual households to see who is going snapper grouper fishing. Well, 50 to 60 percent of my customers are Virginia and northward calling around North Carolina to find out who's fishing who's catching what ain't going to hack it. My point is I continue to be sorely disappointed in coming to these meetings and hearing these glorious presentations on all this data that's being collected and I have a serious problem with the methodology being used. It is a criminal offense to all these guys here that make their living trying to farm that ocean out there and it's an insult to them to keep increasing these amendments that are shutting down various fisheries one after another.

There are fish out there that we need to be allowed to catch. These guys, if they know-- well, the red snapper is closed, they'll go

somewhere the red snapper don't live so they minimize the impact on that. But to randomly shut down thousands of square miles of that ocean out there and allow absolutely no fishing is ludicrous.

Amendment 17B catch limits and accountability measures, like I said, I've been licensed to charter boats since 1983-- 35,000 to 40,000 hours spent in that ocean out there. At one time, I submitted data to, I guess, to \_\_\_\_ Marine Fisheries in St. Petersburg. And after about a year and a half submitting data, found out the data was not showing up in their publications and it was told to me later on that because there weren't enough people submitting data they weren't allowed to publish mine.

Well, you need to come up with a viable way to collect data that us fishermen have some confidence in that you really know what's in that ocean out there. I went out this weekend, you know, two charters, bad weather, bad weather, four-to-six-foot, drifting two miles an hour, two hours were limited out on tilefish, snowy grouper and then we'd go catch 120 triggerfish in three hours. The fish are out there in North Carolina, the areas I fish. We'd fish, oh, probably 40 miles northeast of Frying Pan and northward for about 50 miles. That's the general area that we target. It just continues to grate on me that we come here time after time and others have pointed out we come here and it is though we never participated in this process all the concern that seems to be paid to these guys that are out there catching the fish.

In this day of computers and all that, this how many fish are out there, they're being counted by somebody with a computer in an office somewhere and it's insulting to me because I don't see them out there where the fish really live. They need to improve on this process so that there is some real data. And you sit down and explain to me how you came up with these numbers. There's something—like I say, you did the best you could but I don't see that happening. It's just a crying shame.

I've got a headline here on an article and regrettably, I didn't collect which agency this came from but says, "The Obama Administration ignores \$125 billion sport fishing industry in the New Ocean and Great Lakes Management Policy." Well, one of the directors of the American Sport Fishing Association made the comment, "As with any good federal policy decision, discussions about measures that may restrict public access to public resources must involve an open public process, have a solid scientific basis and incorporate specific guidelines on implementation and follow-up." Well, we're kind of missing some of those points and what's

going on continually in these restrictions and amendments that are shutting down various fisheries. You really need to fix this thing. It's just a crying shame.

In some of the public hearing comments on the postcard that was sent out modify bag limits under 17B for snowy grouper, I've heard nothing today that even address what was implied in that. Can you help me out here?

Mac Currin:

I can't off the top of my head. I've have to get a copy of the Amendment to look at the alternatives to specifically address that.

Robert Freeman:

Well, I'd previously heard that for the entire South Atlantic fishery, they were proposing 500 and some snowy grouper as the total allowable recreational catch. We're catching more than that on my boat.

Mac Currin:

Yeah and in fact, that's one of the things that we are considering changing is going from the poundage requirement or poundage quota for recreational fishery which works out to be about 1,400 pounds I think. Something like that. Or is it 5,000? I can't remember the exact number. But anyway, because of the variability in the estimates through the Marine Recreational Fishing Statistic Survey, it was felt that tracking that quota by a number would be a better methodology than trying to track it by poundage. So we're basically got an average weight for the coast and express that quota as a number which is 553 fish.

Robert Freeman:

Well, I'm fairly confident if you continue to use a methodology to collect that data that you've been doing for this other stuff then we probably won't get shut down on that one because I don't feel like you're going to find that guy in DC that went out and caught his snowy and that sort of thing. But it's just pitiful for the amount of fish that are out there and to say in four states-- I don't know exactly. My mathematics won't be quite right but we're probably talking about a 1,300 or 1,400-mile-long coastline and maybe a five-mile-wide strip that these fish would inhabit between North Carolina and Florida and now, they're actually standing into Virginia which I guess is Amendment 18. Well, if we've got to share the pain, I guess they might as well bend over 'cause here it comes for them also.

But there's just-- I don't know it just about makes me want to cry that all these guys including myself are being subjected to the punishment we are receiving based on hypothetical numbers being fabricated in somebody's office on a computer somewhere. It's just shameful. That's all I got to say. Thanks for the opportunity.

Mac Currin:

Thank you, Captain Freeman. Is there anybody else who would like to provide comments at this time to Council on Amendments 17A, 17B or 18?

Mr. Freeman, regarding your comments about the trailer counts, that's a fairly common method that's utilized in North Carolina exclusively for estimation of-- the only place I know it's used estimating striped bass effort and their ramps around Albemarle Sound where the Division employees will utilize that method. I couldn't agree more with you off of North Carolina. There probably aren't too many trailable boats that are fishing way offshore. There are some but however in the State of Florida, there are a large number of trailable boats that fish for snapper grouper there and they have access to 100 fathoms or more water within a very short ride from the coast.

So my guess is that the trailer counts are used coming primarily out of Florida, not out of the Georgia/South Carolina/North Carolina areas as far as snapper grouper. That'd be my guess. I don't know that for sure.

Mac Currin:

If you would, Sonny Davis, make sure you identify yourself and identify the Amendments about which you'd like to speak and before you switch to another, just give us a pause and then name the Amendment and move on.

Sonny Davis 17A: You wa

You want me to push this button?

Mac Currin:

Yes, sir. It's on. Go ahead. Well, you cut it off, I think. There you go. You're on.

Sonny Davis:

Sonny Davis or Leslie Davis, own the Captain Stacy head boat out of Atlantic Beach, a charter boat, Captain Stacy Seven, Captain Stacy Fishing Center which consists of I think ten other boats. And one of the reasons I'm here is there Amendments, well, take the 16 on the B-liners. I'm going to bring that up to start with and show that's what that's done to our business and the economy of our area.

Well, starting the first of this month, we were-- first of all, we've cut down to five B-liners per person on the head boat. It didn't hurt us all that bad. We could get by that. We had to work around the B-liners, stay out of them and try to make a catch up of some

other type fish to keep the people happy. But then the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, they stopped B-liners completely. None at all. And since that come into place, our telephone has been dead. No ring at all hardly. No people want to go fishing because they're read it in the papers. And every time they pick up a paper, they see something about overfishing, overfishing. It is being drilled in these people's heads that don't fish that us fishermen, the people that do fish is killing the ocean. I don't know where they're coming up with this idea because last year, the economy-- the price of fuel, not everybody's business in the head at least 40 percent because people couldn't afford to go fishing. They didn't have the money, couldn't afford the gas to get down here.

And this past year, the economy has killed everybody. And the ones that do go fishing with us that are lucky enough to have a job, when they do go, they want to catch something to take, put in their cooler or to have it claimed at our fish claim station and put it in their cooler to take home to eat to help supplement paying for their trip which they probably could hardly afford to start with. They come from Washington, D.C., all over the eastern seaboard to go fishing out to catch the grouper snapper. They want some to take home to eat.

And these new rules, the bag limits has been going down, down, down. And I thought when they first put the bag limits on these fish, it was to help the fisheries but it hasn't had a chance to work. It's like the pinkies, the silver snapper, they started out with one but they had the wrong data that was going on a porgy instead of a silver snapper or a red porgy. They was going on another type porgy then find out the mistake, so they raised it up to three. Well, instead of coming on up from three when they cut the B-liners down to put the silvers up to five or so where people could live with the catches, they kept them down and put the B-liners down. And then all of the sudden, they just put a closure on it. None at all for five months-- five months. I mean how in the world can you make a living laying to the dock five months out of the year? And on top of this, we've got the whale watch starts the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. That knocks us out of an hour and a half to two-hour fishing every day we leave the dock. Do you know what a whale watch is?

Mac Currin: Yes, sir, I do and we don't have anything to do with that.

Sonny Davis: Well, that's another thing that's cutting us back from overfishing.

Mac Currin: Captain Davis--

Sonny Davis: We can't do but ten knots 20 miles offshore.

Mac Currin: I'm aware of it.

Sonny Davis: All right, then another thing. If you stop, completely stop the red

snapper fishing, that's another X on our part of the economy. It's getting to where there's no boat-building going on, no tackle sales going on and if you keep right on and on with this amendment, putting them down and down and down, the coastal area is going to be ghost town putting people out of work and the tourists is not going to come to these places where they can't keep nothing.

And then on that new thing that Gilbert was talking about, from 1940, that is a bunch of bull to start with. I was fishing, starting fishing in 1957 in the Gulf of Mexico. I fished down there ten years and on my way back, I would stop off in Savannah, Georgia, red snapper fishing. I fished out of there weeks and weeks and weeks at a time and never seen the first boat-- never. If I did see one, it was a shrimp trailer following me out of Savannah to try to find out where I was catching there red snappers. And they didn't do nothing. That's the only boats I seen. And it wasn't hardly any boats working off of North Carolina at the time. And where they come out with this high catch of red snapper in the 1940s and it drops on down to the '60s, that is a bunch of bull that comes from--I don't know where I come from because the red snapper really started fishing the commercial part of it in early 1960s and onto the '70s.

The point I'm trying to make is if you keep closing these fisheries down, you going to keep putting businesses, people out of work and the way this economy is going today, I don't know what they will go do. The boat building is down-- none at all. No boat building in our area because why would anybody want a boat if they can't go fishing? And where would we go to work? We don't know how to be a doctor. If we did, we wouldn't be here begging for our life. We'd be somewhere up there in Raleigh or somewhere up there in the high place trying to make these laws where you couldn't go fishing. That's the ones making them anyway, it's not the fishermen. It's the ones higher up just doing it, trying to kill the coastal area. It's not fair to the working-class people, the people that work for living.

It's taking every opportunity they have to do anything. They can't afford to go golfing or to do anything else. They go fishing once

in a while. They can spend \$80 or \$90. If they catch some, take them home. The commercial fisherman work their butts off to try to make ends meet and they're trying to make it honestly. I mean, it's hard work. You go out there and spend night and day, about to kill yourself trying to catch a snapper, then the government going to stop them from doing that. What are they supposed to do? The government's not going to look after us. There's got to be something done besides just closing the areas completely. It's got to be leveled off where people can keep making a living and keep fishing. And that's about all I got to say.

Mac Currin:

Anybody else--

Tony Austin 18:

I first fished in North Carolina in 1956, for the record. But what you've done is you've got an open-ended closure once the quota's met. You've got an open-ended closure. You've got to do what's called trip limits. That's the only way to do this sensibly. That gives these guys an income year round. Weather be damned, there's a lot of times they can't get out in the winter time-- I can't either. If you've got trip limits, you eliminate what you've got now which is derby fishing and there's no sense in having people go out there and kill fish left and right and not even be able to bring them to the dock which is what's happening.

And derby fishing is what primarily the Magnuson Act's against derby fishing. I say it's designed to get rid of derby fishing. And it's also designed to get rid of by catch. By catch is not as big a problem in my fishery which is trap fishery as it is for these guys. But to put them completely out of business isn't right. If you're going to have a quota, have trip limits. You follow me? I don't know why it wasn't done when you put the quota in. It's an obvious answer, isn't it?

Mac Currin:

Well, Tony, it was considered. There were trip limit options and alternatives in Amendment 16 and what we heard from the majority of the fishermen-- again, correct me if I'm wrong-- was that they were not interested in trip limits. They wanted to get on the water and compete for those fish. Now, those are the people we heard from. Granted, we did hear from you and there may have been a few more that were interested in trip limits but by far, there was not that much support, as a I recall, for trip limits in Amendment 16.

Tony Austin:

I think you might get a different reaction now.

Mac Currin: Okay. All right.

Dr. Brian Cheuvront: Probably after this season.

Mac Currin: Okay, all right.



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18				
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)  New Bern, NC  Date of Meeting  November 3, 2009				
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)  RONALD G. AUSTIN 1-252-648-1369				
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)  304 N. 18 TAST MORE LEAD CITY				
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)				
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY	Amendment 17 A	YES	NO	
IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 B	YES	NO	
	Amendment 18	YES	NO	



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18			
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE	Bern, NC	Novem	ber 3, 2009
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)  Mark Beaudry J  MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE S  180   Canal Drive  BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REI	GIREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE  Minit D-6 Caroling Beach	Ē)	RER (& AREA CODE)
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A Amendment 17 B Amendment 18	YES YES YES	NO NO NO



# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL ADD A 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405 PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD 457

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Snapper (	Grouper Amendment	s 17A, 17B a	nd 18
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE	Bern, NC	Novemb	per 3, 2009
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	sley	TELEPHONE NUMB	ER (& AREA CODE)  - (563
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DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A Amendment 17 B	YES YES	NO NO

**Amendment 18** 

NO

YES



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18			
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)		DATE OF MEETING	
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MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STR	REET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE  72 Carolina 1	Beach U.C.	. 28418
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRE			
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A	YES	NO
F AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 B	YES	NO
	Amendment 18	YES	NO



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18			
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)		DATE OF MEETING	
· New Be	ern, NC	November 3	3, 2009
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)  TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)  910 796-7292			
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)  127 (acdinal De Wharston NC 28405)			
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)			
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY	Amendment 17 A	YES	NO
IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 B	YES	NO
	Amendment 18	YES	NO



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18			
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)		DATE OF MEETING	
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DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A	YES	NO
	Amendment 17 B	YES	NO
	Amendment 18	YES	NO NO



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18					
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)	LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)  DATE OF MEETING				
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BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRE	Senator Richard	11 .	.)		
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A		YES	NO	
IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 B		YES	NO NO	
	Amendment 18		YES	NO	



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18				
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Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18			
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Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18				
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YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)  TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)				
101 Pivers	STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE	aufort, NC	28516	
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REF	PRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)	,		
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A	YES	NO	
	Amendment 17 B	YES	NO	
	Amendment 18	YES	✓ NO	



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18			
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)		DATE OF MEETING	
· New Be	ern, NC	November	3, 2009
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)  TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)  252-636-0486			
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)			
1708 Pennicova	1 Court, Now Be	MNC 2856	52
1708 Pennsonal Court, Now Bern WC 28562  BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)			
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY	Amendment 17 A	YES	☐ NO
IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 B	YES	NO
	Amendment 18	YES	NO



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18			
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)		DATE OF MEETING	
New I	Bern, NC	Novembe	er 3, 2009
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) SARAH HOD	SON	752-636-	•
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DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A Amendment 17 B Amendment 18	YES YES YES	NO NO NO



Snapper G	Grouper Amendments	17A, 17B and	d 18
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)		DATE OF MEETING	
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3510 MEADOW	DR. Morehead (	11th NC 285	,57
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPR	ESENT (IF APPLICABLE)	)'	
NC Division	of Marine Fisheries	and SSC	
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A	YES	NO
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Amendment 17 B	YES	NO
	Amendment 18	YES	NO



Snapper (	<b>Grouper Amendments</b>	17A, 17B and	d 18
I	Bern, NC	Novembe	er 3, 2009
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) Louis Jacks		TELEPHONE NUMBER (	& AREA CODE)
	RESENT (IF APPLICABLE)	28562	
Easter Caroling Saltu			
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A	YES	NO
,	Amendment 17 B	YES	NO NO
	Amendment 18	YES	NO



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18					
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1904 CALICO DE Morehard City No 28557				7	
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Commercial	Commacal Fishing				
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY	Amendment 17 A		YES	→ NO	
IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 B		YES	NO	
	Amendment 18		YES	NO NO	



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18			
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)  New B	ern, NC	Novembe	r 3, 2009
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)  CATHERINE LATAMICH		TELEPHONE NUMBER (8	& AREA CODE)
	LAB RD. BCAUFORT NO	- 28516	
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRES FISHERIES LENDERSHIP	FOSTAINABILITY FOLLM		
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A  Amendment 17 B  Amendment 18	YES YES YES	✓ NO ✓ NO ✓ NO



Snapper G	rouper Amendment	s 17A, 17B	and 18
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DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A	YES	NO
	Amendment 17 B	YES	NO
	Amendment 18	YES	NO NO



Snapper (	Grouper Amendments	s 17A, 17B a	and 18
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	Amendment 18	YES	NO



Snapper	Grouper Amendment	ts 17A, 17B and 18	
	Bern, NC	November 3, 2009	
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	Amendment 18	YES \ NO	



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DO YOU WISH TO MAKE & STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY	Amendment 17 A	YES		
IF AVAILABLE)		I ES	NO	
	Amendment 17 B	YES	NO	
	Amendment 18	YES	NO	



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18			
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)		DATE OF MEETING	
· New Be	ern, NC	November	3, 2009
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	4	TELEPHONE NUMBER (&	. '
MICHAEL MER	RUT	910-256-31	197
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)  38 PELICAN DR. WRIGHTSVILLE BCh. N.C.2898			
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)			
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY	Amendment 17 A	YES	NO
F AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 B	YES	√ NO
	Amendment 18	YES	<u></u> NO

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#### SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

Snapper G	Frouper Amendment	s 17	'A, 17B and	d 18
	Bern, NC		Novembe	er 3, 2009
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE) 9/0-353-2659				
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)  105 Small leaf CT Jack Sonville NC 28546  BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)				
ONS/OW BAY SAIT	Water Fishing Clus	b		
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A		YES	NO NO
	Amendment 17 B		YES	∐ NO
	Amendment 18		YES	NO



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18				
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)		DATE OF MEETING	_	
	ern, NC	November 3, 2009		
LAUC KAUDENBUS	YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)  TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)  POL PAUDENSUS   904 838 047 (			
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)  4346 COGUINA DRIVE VACUSONULE, FL 32250				
	SENT (IF APPLICABLE)			
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A	YES NO		
<del></del> ,	Amendment 17 B	YES NO		
	Amendment 18	YES NO		



Snapper (	Grouper Amendment	s 17A, 17B	and 18
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE  New	Bern, NC	DATE OF MEETIN	nber 3, 2009
POUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)  OAU'O SA'CK	ビアナ	752-24	1BER (& AREA CODE) 7 - 2306
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDES  208 PAAAMA TE  BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REP	RESENT (IF APPLICABLE)	i) uobity Nib	28557
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A Amendment 17 B Amendment 18	YES YES YES	NO NO NO



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18				
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)	NO	DATE OF MEETING	0.0000	
	Bern, NC	Novembe	er 3, 2009	
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	W-1	TELEPHONE NUMBER	R (& AREA CODE)	
Debbie Salano	ne	321-972-50	<del>9</del> 0.	
	FREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CO	DE)		
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REP	RESENT (IF APPLICABLE)			
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A	YES	NO	
IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 B	YES	NO	
	Amendment 18	YES	NO	



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18			
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)  New	Bern, NC	DATE OF MEETING Novem	s ber 3, 2009
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)  TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE  (719) 522 3083			,
	REET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)		
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPR	ESENT (IF APPLICABLE)		
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A	YES	★ NO
,	Amendment 17 B	YES	× NO
	Amendment 18	YES	X NO



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18			
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)		DATE OF MEETING	
New Bern, NC November 3, 2009			r 3, 2009
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)  OSEPH 6/1650N  TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)			
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE ST	REET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE;	CITY, NC	28570
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPR	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		,
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY	Amendment 17 A	YES	NO
IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 B	YES	NO
	Amendment 18	YES	NO



Snapper G	Grouper Amendment	ts 17A, 17B a	and 18
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)		DATE OF MEETIN	G
L.,	Bern, NC	Novem	ber 3, 2009
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)		TELEPHONE NUM	BER (& AREA CODE)
Barry Whita	.ker 25	52-762-8	193
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STI	REET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP COD	E)	
PO BOX 458	AtLANTIC BEACH	NC 2851	Q .
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPR	ESENT (IF APPLICABLE)		
Atlantic Rose	SPOTTFISHING INC.		
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A	YES	NO
	Amendment 17 B	YES	NO
	Amendment 18	YES	NO I



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18			
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)		DATE OF MEETING	
. New I	Bern, NC	Novembei	r 3, 2009
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	1 ./[	TELEPHONE NUMBER (	
Larry C	Leuthauser	252393	1237
107 Long L; BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPE	TREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP COD	•	7584
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A	YES	NO
The state of the s	Amendment 17 B	YES	NO
	Amendment 18	YES	NO



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18				
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE  New	Bern, NC	DATE OF MEETIN	nber 3, 2009	
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)  TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)  573.754.0659				
ll 1 - 1		3347		
American	Cital			
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A	YES	NO	
,	Amendment 17 B	YES	NO	
	Amendment 18	YES	NO	



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18				
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)		DATE OF MEETING		
New E	Bern, NC	Novemb	er 3, 2009	
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)		TELEPHONE NUMBE	R (& AREA CODE)	
Holly Bins				
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STR	EET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)	<u> </u>		
2107 Mulberr	Bud. Tallahassee	FL 32303		
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRE	SENT (IF APPLICABLE)			
Pew Environa	nent Group			
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A	YES	NO NO	
	Amendment 17 B	YES	✓ NO	
	Amendment 18	YES	₩ NO	



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18				
	Bern, NC	Novem	ber 3, 2009	
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)  TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)  ALL HOW MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)				
305 Month 7. BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REP		Ad City A	V.C	
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A Amendment 17 B Amendment 18	YES YES YES	NO NO NO	



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18				
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)		DATE OF MEETING		
New Bern, NC November 3, 2009				
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)  TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)				
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE S	TREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP COD	lorehend (	IX NC	
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REP	RESENT, (IF APPLICABLE)		LA	
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY	Amendment 17 A	YES	NO	
IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 B	YES	NO	
	Amendment 18	YES	No	



Snapper	Grouper Amendments	s 17A, 17B a	nd 18
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STAT	Bern, NC	DATE OF MEETING Novemb	per 3, 2009
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)		TELEPHONE NUMB	ER (& AREA CODE)
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REF	STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE;	ad NC	28557
% F/v 6	Z/G Z/D		
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STÄTEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A	YES	No No
	Amendment 17 B	YES	NO
	Amendment 18	YES	✓ NO



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18				
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)		DATE OF MEETIN	- <del>-</del>	
New E	Bern, NC	Novem	nber 3, 2009	
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)  WWW. TONC ]	AN MONI Mish		BER (& AREA CODE)	
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STR		Ε)		
276 GOOSE	Creek 120.			
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRE	SENT (IF APPLICABLE)			
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY	Amendment 17 A	YES	NO	
IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 B	YES	NO	
	Amendment 18	YES	NO NO	



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18			
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)		DATE OF MEETING	
New I	Bern, NC	Novembe	er 3, 2009
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)		TELEPHONE NUMBER	
CHRIS M	recoffity	(252)2	40-12BC
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE S	TREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE	)	
110 splem	St. moreveno n	1.C. Z8557	
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REP	RESENT (IF APPLICABLE)		
Ro	PC JOB		
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A	✓ YES	NO
	Amendment 17 B	YES	NO
	Amendment 18	V YES	NO



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18			
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STAT New	Bern, NC	Noven	nber 3, 2009
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)  TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)  MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)			
219— & BAG BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU RE	1boraNC. 285	15	
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A Amendment 17 B Amendment 18	YES YES YES	NO NO



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18				
	Bern, NC	November 3, 2009		
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)  ANDY HIGH  910 617 0528				
5814 MASTER BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REP		NC 28409		
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?				
PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A Amendment 17 B Amendment 18	YES NO NO YES NO		



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18			
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)		DATE OF MEETING	
New B	ern, NC	November	3, 2009
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)		TELEPHONE NUMBER (&	AREA CODE)
KELLY SCHOOLCRAFT 252-995-4029			
	REET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE		<del></del>
P.O. Box 2	12 FRISCO N.C.		
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)			
FIV COUNTRY TIME			
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A	YES	NO
	Amendment 17 B	YES	NO
	Amendment 18	YES	NO



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18			
	Bern, NC	Novem	ber 3, 2009
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)  TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)  910-470-9960			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE S  72 Shandy Wo  BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REP	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	)	
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?			
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A  Amendment 17 B	YES YES	NO NO
	Amendment 18	YES	NO NO



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18				
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)  New 1	Bern, NC		E OF MEETING Vovembe	r 3, 2009
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)  CINOM McCaffity  (350) 240-1205				
	H. More head	ODE)	<u>-</u>	
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)  REL TO B FI Shire				
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A	AP Y	/ES	√ NO
	Amendment 17 B	SP 1	/ES	√ NO
	Amendment 18	Jack \	/ES	NO



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18				
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Bern, NC	Novem	nber 3, 2009	
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)  TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)  MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)				
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REF	Intogo Do Hero	Move	and 8	
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A Amendment 17 B Amendment 18	YES YES YES	NO NO NO	



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18			
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)		DATE OF MEETING	<del></del>
	Bern, NC	November	3, 2009
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) JONNY	,	TELEPHONE NUMBER (&	AREA CODE)
heslie M. DAU	115 SR.	726-46	,75
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STE	REET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)		
V.O. Box 3013 AThantie Beneh W.C-			
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)			
(Apt Stacy II + CApt Stacy Fishing Contra			
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A	YES	NO
	Amendment 17 B	YES	NO
	Amendment 18	YES	NO



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18				
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)	LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)  DATE OF MEETING			
New B	New Bern, NC November 3, 2009			
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)  ROBERT FREEMAN				
	REET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE			
221 SMITH ST. 1	ATLANTIC BEACH,	U.C. 28512	-	
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)				
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY	Amendment 17 A	YES	NO	
IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 B	YES	NO	
	Amendment 18	YES	NO	



Snapper Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B and 18				
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)  New Bern, NC		November 3, 2009		
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)  TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)  252 635 5663				
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STI	New Bern NC	2856/		
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPR	ESENT (IF APPLICABLE)			
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	Amendment 17 A	YES	NO NO	
IF AVAILABLE!	Amendment 17 B	YES	<u>                                     </u>	
	Amendment 18	YES	NO	