**Public Reporting** 

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council



Public Comment For

## Meeting

## Nov 2024 Snapper Grouper Commercial Sub-Committee Meeting

Submit Date	Submitted By	Location	Affiliation	Comment
	lame: Chris ame: McCaffity freefish7@hotmail.com	City: Morehead City State: North Carolina	Commercial	Please manage commercial quotas with appropriate possession limits to avoid extended closures and excessive discards. Multiple extended closures this year have forced the entire fleet to work the same areas targeting the same few legal fish. Keeping most of the fish we catch legal at the same time would greatly reduce regulatory discards while providing accurate landings data, so the council doesn't have to rely on worst-case-scenario assumptions. Fishermen could spread out across a broader area, so we aren't causing localized depletions. We could provide a variety of fresh seafood for consumers rather than flooding the market with a few species. This approach would follow Congressional MSA mandates to limit waste, make efficient use of Public Resources, and promote the safety of fishermen at sea. I am happ to show how each quota experiencing extended closures and excessive discards can be managed responsibly. Wise use of By-catch Allowances that allow limited harvest rather than complete closures are the key to success. Thank you.