Public Reporting

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Public Comment Form

Meeting

September 2025 Council Meeting

Submit Date	Submitted By	Location	Affiliation	Comment
9/9/2025	First Name: Chris Last Name: McCaffity Email: freefish7@hotmail.com	City: Morehead State: North Carolina	Commercial	Sept. 2025 SAFMC Meeting Public Comment Our fishery is on the verge of collapse thanks to decades of mismanagement by this council. The council seems more interested in creating Regulatory Discards than properly managing quotas or addressing the Lionfish invasion that is decimating native fish populations. Please consider options for fishermen to harvest Lionfish by trapping them using pheromone baits that avoid by-catch. Fishermen from the Caribbean spoke of their success using this method at a Marine Resource Education Program. We can do much more to control the Lionfish population if we try. Please consider options for keeping as many fish legal to harvest as possible most of the time. This can be done with appropriate trip limits and by-catch allowances that avoid extended closures and excessive discards. This would follow Congressional mandates in the Magnuson-Stevens Act to limit waste, make efficient use of our Public Resources, and promote the safety of fishermen at sea as we target fish with higher limits while responsibly keeping most by-catch with lower limits. We could eliminate most of the dead discards and collect accurate landings data rather than relying on worst-case-scenario assumptions about how many illegal fish die after being discarded. Red Snapper is a perfect example of how closures, discards, and wild assumptions are hurting fish, fishermen, and seafood consumers. Over 5 MILLION pounds of Red Snapper are allocated annually to projected dead discards during prolonged closures after we are allowed to harvest less than 10% of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC). Please ask Congress to remove the hard rebuilding deadlines council staff use to justify wasteful mismanagement. Please split the recreational and commercial TAC on Red Snapper before projected dead discards are deducted. Please consider options for stocking snapper and other seafood to sustainably support historically high abundance and harvest levels. I am happy to answer any questions and/or provide more details. Thank you, Chris McCaffity
9/18/2025	First Name: Jeff Last Name: Marinko Email: Putridinnards@hotmail.com	City: Southport State: North Carolina	Commercial	I wanted to make a verbal comment this week but it was just too rough out here to pull my attention from my divers. I know I sound like a broken record but real multi day boats need something more. Ether higher trip limits or multi day trip limits. What we have now for grouper snapper just isn't working. 4 red snapper isnt commercial fishing for 4 day trips. 4 gag grouper a day isn't working. 4 red porgys a day isn't commercial fishing. This is ridiculous. And speaking of that why isn't red snapper closed? We're like 700 limits over now? But god forbid we're over 1 fish we receive a ticket. Also why is black grouper still open for the rec sector when y'all found that they can't tell the difference between a gag or a black. I do however want to say thank you to the counsel for trying to get starlink approval from the USCG. No one has a sat phone anymore with this flawless technology available from starlink. It needs to be accepted. Thank you for reading this