

Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 34
(Special Management Zones off North and South Carolina)
Public Scoping Comments Summary

Summary of attendance and number of comments:

- Three comments were received online (as of 11/1/2019). Comments available [HERE](#).
- Scoping hearings were held over three days, October 28-30, 2019 with three listening stations in Manteo, Morehead City, and Wilmington, North Carolina.
- Six members of the public (non-Council or other agency staff) attended the listening stations.
- A total of four comments were provided during webinar/listening stations.
- Six members of the public (non-Council or other agency staff) attended the webinars.

Summary of comments:

Action 1 – Establish Special Management Zones off North Carolina

- One commenter had no objection to the designation and thought it would be useful.
- Artificial reefs off North Carolina were built with recreational funding (Coastal Recreational Fishing License) and it would be helpful to that sector to limit commercial gear on the artificial reefs.
- One commenter maintained the artificial reefs are owned by the federal government and the law (National Fishery Enhancement Act of 1984) requires that the reefs facilitate utilization of the artificial reefs by both commercial and recreational fishermen.
- One commercial fisherman stated that he does not utilize any artificial reefs so the designation would not affect him.

Action 2 – Establish Additional Special Management Zones off South Carolina

- There were no comments regarding this action.

Other Comments:

- There are no snapper and grouper in reefs north of Hatteras except for black sea bass.