



**COASTAL
CONSERVATION
LEAGUE**

June 6, 2014

Ben C. Hartig, Chairman
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201
North Charleston, SC 29405

RE: Trap/pot fishing for black sea bass

Dear Chairman Hartig and Councilmembers:

The Coastal Conservation League (“the League”) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the prohibition of trap/pot fishing for black sea bass during the winter. This prohibition, implemented by NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), prevents entanglement of North Atlantic Right Whales during migratory and calving seasons off the southeastern coast. As your Council is well aware, these whales are endangered. The League supports any policies and regulations in place to protect this species.

We ask that you choose Alternative 1, the Status Quo option, and do not lift the ban of trap/pot fishing for black sea bass. The area in which this fishery would operate is within known Right Whale calving areas. Maintaining the prohibition in the southeast would pose no added economic harm to the fishery since quota restrictions are already in place.

Thank you for considering the League’s comments. Please notify me of any future decisions, reports, and public meetings for this issue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katie Zimmerman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Katie Zimmerman
Program Director
Air, Water, & Public Health

“Nature and Community in Balance”

P.O. Box 1765 • Charleston, S.C. 29402-1765 • Telephone (843) 723-8035 • Fax (843) 723-8308
www.CoastalConservationLeague.org