



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Charlie Phillips, Chair | Captain Mark Brown, Vice Chair
Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

October 11, 2017

LN# 201743

Dr. David Van Voorhees
Fisheries Statistics Division Chief
NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: SAFMC Request to Recalculate 2015 & 2016 Cobia Harvest Follow-up

Dear Dr. Van Voorhees:

Thank you for your letter on August 23rd, regarding the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's request for MRIP to re-calculate the 2015 and 2016 Atlantic cobia recreational harvest using the annual estimate of catch and effort. The Council appreciates that NOAA Fisheries remains committed to working with the Fishery Management Councils to develop statistically sound approaches appropriate for situations in which standard MRIP estimates are not sufficient or precise.

We understand that re-calculations of Atlantic cobia recreational harvest would require extensive resources and review, but could be available at a later date. As such, we request a timeline for recalculated 2015 and 2016 Atlantic cobia recreational landings, and for evaluation of alternative estimation approaches for species rarely encountered during access-point angler intercept surveys.

We would appreciate receiving this information on or before November 14, 2017, for inclusion in the briefing book for our December 2017 meeting. Thank you very much for your assistance with this request. If you have any questions, please contact John Carmichael or Gregg Waugh.

Best Regard,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charlie Phillips".

Charlie Phillips, Chair

cc: Council members and staff
Jack McGovern and Rick DeVictor
Monica Smit-Brunello
Theo Brainerd, Trika Gerard and Erik Williams