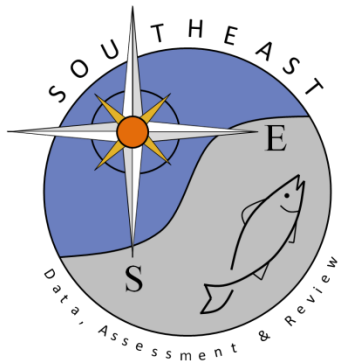


SEDAR 58 Public Comment Forum

SEDAR58- RW02

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Entry Id	Name	Last	Date	Email	Please type your comments in the space provided below for SEDAR 58 (Atlantic Cobia).	Date Created
1	Bill	Gorham	2018-06-07	Getbowedup40@gmail.com	<p>Hello, I would like to start out by expressing my disappointment in being unable to attend the review workshop due to illness. I have spent a long time waiting for this processes and truly enjoyed being a part of the stock ID workshop. Being an observer at the stock ID workshop I must voice my objection to parts of the summary documents. For example in the genetics work groups they concluded that "the current stock boundary or one that came as a result of SEDAR28 could not be refuted." When reviewing the rational for the current stock boundary, that ultimately being "...for ease of management, and there was no tagging or life history to dispute.." However, it goes on to clearly disclose that genetic did not "prove" nor narrow down the area in that location of the FL/GA boarder. I contend that the current stock ID CAN be refuted with new tagging from VA, both Atags and Sat tags both have fish going into NEFL with a 3rd making it's was prior to a premature release in South GA. Two different studies, both with yes limited samples, but if it were such a small fraction to went and wintered off NEFL than two studies with extremely small samples shouldn't have captured these fish in back to back years. That is BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE, you cannot tell me nor will anyone accept that these tagged fish are merely "strayers" and are to be overlooked and labeled "it's low sample size" when two UNSEEN fish can account for over 400,000lb of catch, resulting to federal waters being closed the following year and further restricting citizens access to their public resource. This migration pattern is also consistent with Spanish. The NEFL area accounts for the largest area of commercial catch and up to 45% of the EFL annual catch. I agree for ease of management it is likely best to keep the boundary where it is, however, I strongly believe science shows what we fishermen have known, NY to NEFL should be assessed as one management group and even when SC and GA Atag fish go off radar, the fishery in NEFL picks up, and it is shown again in the timing of the VA fish. If fish are leave one fishery and enter into another, they should either be managed or assessed together.</p>	2018-06-07 11:08:26
2	Bill	Gorham	2019-07-09	getbowedup40@gmail.com	<p>Reviewers Please take note of the MRIP 2015 and or 2016 catch totals. They were discussed, and addressed in the data workshop report section 4.3.1 (page 73-74, specifically in the catch estimates section), and graphs in section 4.12.1-3 (pg. 104 - 106). However, these data points are important on two ends, if you recall there was one year GA had zero or next to zero reported landings, that is as troubling as catch estimates that reflect daily effort in one day that isn't practical. Reviewers should also recognize that VMRC took over the surveying from subcontractors during this time period. These are important notes, since this assessment is working with extremely limited data, catch data will play a larger roll than one with more data such as independent surveys and or consistent caucus/age sampling across the entire management range. Thank you for your time Bill Gorham</p>	2019-07-09 12:31:27
3	Collins	Doughtie	2019-10-16	collinsdoughtie@icloud.com	<p>I am very sorry for missing this event but hopefully my comments about cobia, and that fishery itself, will finally be taken to heart. I realize some of you rely on your job compiling statistics and such but being out on the ocean as much as I am plus being heavily involved in the cobia research that has, and is, being done here at the Waddell Mariculture Center in Bluffton, SC, I feel the solution to insure healthy cobia populations for the future starts with one change. That is an across the board limit revision. For example, right here in SC there is a six fish per boat, per day limit. With the ever growing coastal population and popularity of cobia, this insanely liberal limit is unsustainable. I realize many of you are not fisherman but one cobia can feed a lot of folks. The yield per fish is substantial. I have caught a whole lot of cobia over the years and though I have pretty much gone to catch and release now, a two fish per boat per day limit is all anyone needs to satisfy those onboard. I know that a three fish limit has floated out there and that would be a good start but it has to be for all our Atlantic coastal states. My comments here are not based on statistics but rather observation and many years of catching these wonderful creatures. I have watched what over fishing has done to our area and unless changes are made quite quickly, I fear the rest of you will experience this very sad scenario in the not so distant future. Thank you for being involved!</p>	2019-10-16 10:18:55