

From: David Rouse

Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2019 11:08 AM

To: Bizzell, Rob

Subject: [External] Amendment 2

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Good morning Rob,

I attended the meeting last night and chose not to speak to give myself time to mull the suggestions over. To start I am a recreational fisherman and have been since I was old enough to walk. I have fished mainly from the upper Pamlico out to the Sound. I can't help but wonder how the new regulations would result in the percentages of reductions the DMF is projecting. A partial season during the most likely time to catch these fish in my opinion will simply result in more fish being caught during that time than normal. Granted the short season may (and I emphasize may) reduce overall harvest but I do believe for one second that it will be anywhere near as much as they are predicting. Boats are going to be out in full force catching as many as possible before time runs out. If I had my way I'd suggest pulling all the gear (especially gill nets) out of our joint waters and the sound but I understand this is not likely to happen and I want people to be able to earn a living. In my opinion the only way to guarantee a reduction in harvest would be to establish a quota on how many flounder (or all fish for that matter) can be harvested for whatever season that's established. Extend the season longer than the preposterous ones they are suggesting and once quotas are met an individual is no longer allowed to harvest any additional. By extending the season you would also eliminate the mad dash of folks out at once and putting so much stress on the fish in a short time by doing so. Setting a quota would be a much more controlled and guaranteed way of reducing the number of fish harvested. I also cannot understand why they do not have a max quota to begin with. As a recreational fisherman I am allowed 4 keeper flounder per day, why should commercial fishing not be limited as well? Why have they been allowed to take as much as possible for so long. If you keep taking water from a well with no consideration of the rain your well will eventually run dry. I am no expert by any means but just thought I would share my opinion. I thank you for your time and I hope and pray that an ideal solution will arise and ensure a sustainable fishery for

you, me, my kids and generations to come.

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Sincerely,
David Rouse