



ONLINE PUBLIC COMMENT

From: [Bizzell, Rob](#)
To: [Klibansky, Lara](#)
Subject: Fwd: [External] Flounder Regulation Inequities
Date: Monday, March 15, 2021 10:32:07 AM

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From: Seth [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 10:18 AM
To: Bizzell, Rob; McNeill, Robert; Capt Tom Roller; Hendrickson, Tom; Cross, Doug; Blanton, Mike; Kornegay, K; Posey, Martin H; Romano, Sam
Cc: Bryant, Stephen
Subject: [External] Flounder Regulation Inequities

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Dear Commissioners,

It is with great concern that I am writing to you each **again** today regarding the state of our Southern Flounder Fishery in North Carolina's coastal waters. I am deeply disappointed in the most recent MFC meetings vote to disproportionately allocate the majority of southern flounder harvest to the commercial industry.

Like so many anglers I have watched the precipitous decline of our Flounder fishing, the stocks and size ranges of fish in our ecosystem over the last two decades. I'd like to ask that you each look closely at the science and consider how we've come to this crossroads in the health of our flounder stocks; why is the fishery decimated; **gillnets, pound nets and trawls**, what decisions were made in the last thirty years of MFC management to bring us to the brink, **status quo fishing practices that encourage over harvest by commercial operations**, and how are you going to end overfishing of what was once a vibrant fishery?

I've been fortunate to call the waters of North Carolina my home for the last twenty years making my living as a professional guide, tackle retailer and passionate steward of our resources. I've served on the SEAC to my home waters of the Cape Fear Coast and volunteered countless hours working towards a better brighter future for our coastal economies, the resource it relies on and the promise of a healthier ecosystem for our children to enjoy. I would like to ask that you each consider not only what your legacy will be regarding the decisions you make in the management of Souther Flounder in our state waters but also to hold yourselves accountable to making better decisions about the **future** of our fisheries than your predecessors have before you.

There's no debating the facts gentlemen. The fishery is at a tipping point. Will this be a time we look back on with regret that we allowed the last proverbial Bison to be killed for a hide price or will you make the more difficult, more informed and equitable decision to work to restore the stocks of these fish and the livelihoods that depend on them? I was appalled to learn that there was even the remotest possibility that our public trust resources would be carved up and allocated in a much greater percentage to the Commercial Fishing Industry. The very industry that is responsible for the demise of this fishery and all that profited by the culpable decisions made by past MFC members like yourselves. The optics of a decision such as this amid the troubles of Covid, an overfished resource and the Governor's office insistently claiming to work towards fair, **equitable** and just practices for its citizens is damning. On the low end of the spectrum our state will experience a displacement of effort from flounder onto other fisheries that face the same troubles as flounder due to the thousands of miles of gill net lining our waters. Until you eliminate the destructive gear practices the flounder fishery and other species that use our primary nursery areas will not recover. The flounder fishery definitely will not recover by allocating the majority percentage of harvest to the very hands that brought his fishery to the brink! On the high end of the spectrum you face the problem of further dividing fisheries user groups stoking a powder keg of conflict based off of a history of inequitable allocation. This is not a warning but rather an objective look at what is going to occur if you decide to give the commercial industry more than its fair allotment of the fishery.

It's time to move past special interests. The time is now to make amends, control over fishing, recover the stock and vote for a 50/50 equitable use of the southern flounder fishery as a public trust resource managed for "all users".

Tight Lines,
Capt Seth Vernon



From: [Bizzell, Rob](#)
To: [Klibansky, Lara](#)
Subject: Fwd: [External] RE: Southern Flounder concern
Date: Monday, March 15, 2021 10:51:57 AM

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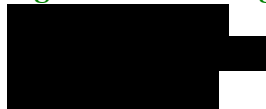
From: Randall Siegel [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 10:51 AM
To: Trace Adams; Posey, Martin H; Hendrickson, Tom; Bizzell, Rob; Cross, Doug; Blanton, Mike; Kornegay, K; McNeill, Robert; Roller, Thomas N; Romano, Sam; Cooper, Roy A
Subject: [External] RE: Southern Flounder concern

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Gov. Cooper and NC DENR leadership,

Please allow this email to serve as my concern for recreational flounder limits in Coastal NC. I am a NC citizen and recreational fisherman, I firmly believe the allocation should be 50/50 at minimum versus the current 70/30 split with commercial fisherman. The use of gillnets, pound nets and trawls are not monitored in my area of fishing (New Hanover, Pender and Brunswick Counties) and cause a great decrease and waste to our fishing resources. Please consider revising the 70/30 split to 50/50.

Randall Siegel,
President
Signature Plumbing Inc.



From: [Bizzell, Rob](#)
To: [Klibansky, Lara](#)
Subject: Fwd: [External] Southern Flounder concern
Date: Monday, March 15, 2021 11:41:20 AM

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From: Dan Rahe [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 11:11 AM
To: Cooper, Roy A; McNeill, Robert; Blanton, Mike; Roller, Thomas N; Kornegay, K; Cross, Doug; Bizzell, Rob; Romano, Sam; Hendrickson, Tom; Posey, Martin H
Subject: [External] Southern Flounder concern

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Gov. Cooper and MFC Leadership:

Please accept this as notification of my concerns related to the upcoming Southern Flounder. I believe that the commission should vote to more fairly allocate the flounder quota between the commercial and recreational sectors at a 50%/50% minimum split. The recreational fishing community in Southeastern North Carolina provides is an incredible economic driver and supports a host of jobs from boat building to retail services. Last years absurdity that recreational fisherman cannot keep a flounder while the commercial sector goes largely unchecked is a blatantly unfair allocation of the state's natural resources for the vast majority of North Carolinians', benefiting only a few.

And while this is not the subject, can you please, for the love of all that is holy, get gill nets our of the inshore waters in southeastern NC? There is no one that must gill net in creeks to earn a living here.

Thank you for your time.

Dan Rahe
[REDACTED]

From: [Bizzell, Rob](#)
To: [Klibansky, Lara](#)
Subject: Fwd: [External] Southern Flounder concern
Date: Monday, March 15, 2021 10:54:22 AM

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From: Trace [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 10:47 AM
To: Posey, Martin H; Hendrickson, Tom; Bizzell, Rob; Cross, Doug; Blanton, Mike; Kornegay, K; McNeill, Robert; Roller, Thomas N; Romano, Sam; Cooper, Roy A
Subject: [External] Southern Flounder concern

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Thank you,

William B. "Trace" Adams III

[REDACTED]

--

Trace Adams

[REDACTED]

From: [Bizzell, Rob](#)
To: [Klibansky, Lara](#)
Subject: Fwd: [External] Southern Flounder
Date: Monday, March 15, 2021 11:54:49 AM

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From: D.J. Struntz [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 11:53 AM
To: Bizzell, Rob
Subject: [External] Southern Flounder

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Dear Commissioners,

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Like so many anglers I have watched the precipitous decline of our Flounder fishing, the stocks and size ranges of fish in our ecosystem over the last two decades. I'd like to ask that you each look closely at the science and consider how we've come to this crossroads in the health of our flounder stocks; why is the fishery decimated; **gillnets, pound nets and trawls**, what decisions were made in the last thirty years of MFC management to bring us to the brink, **status quo fishing practices that encourage over harvest by commercial operations**, and how are you going to end overfishing of what was once a vibrant fishery?

I've been fortunate to call the waters of North Carolina my home for the last twenty years making my living as a professional fishing and diving photographer, and passionate steward of our resources. I would like to ask that you each consider not only what your legacy will be regarding the decisions you make in the management of Souther Flounder in our state waters but also to hold yourselves accountable to making better decisions about the **future** of our fisheries than your predecessors have before you.

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--

D.J. Struntz, Adventure Photographer
Minister of Propaganda, North American Rescue



#▼	SUBMITTED	NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW.
664	03/15/2021 - 12:01pm	Jimmy	NC	I believe banning all types of trawling in state waters will allow fish to recover.
663	03/15/2021 - 11:59am	Jamie L Cole	NC	Stop the gillnets and inshore trawling. Allow the recreational sector to utilize the resource and protect the stock for future generations.
662	03/15/2021 - 11:59am	Rodney Taylor	NC	It sickens me to see the obvious science ignored and our fisheries placed in such peril; all to appease a few commercial interest that have strong political backing. Why is NC the only east coast state still allowing trawling? Why is it always the recreational public the ones that have to shoulder the majority of the burden but consume much less of the resource per person.
661	03/15/2021 - 11:58am	Carter O'Donnell	North Carolina	I believe that we the people of North Carolina should get a second chance at harvesting Flounders, I see the problem lies with the Gill Netters! they are the problem! Like why do we still allow it? like why it's causing so much harm to are waterways, we are just 1 of the little amount of states that allow gill netting and it's sad. Just look at all the by-catch and just look at the amount of flounders they harvest, just think any number of those by acatch could be millions of little premature flounders, like if we could just open it up we could really show the damage there putting on are land, it's not us!
660	03/15/2021 - 11:58am	Carter O'Donnell	North Carolina	I believe that we the people of North Carolina should get a second chance at harvesting Flounders, I see the problem lies with the Gill Netters! they are the problem! Like why do we still allow it? like why it's causing so much harm to are waterways, we are just 1 of the little amount of states that allow gill netting and it's sad. Just look at all the by-catch and just look at the amount of flounders they harvest, just think any number of those by acatch could be millions of little premature flounders, like if we could just open it up we could really show the damage there putting on are land, it's not us!
659	03/15/2021 - 11:58am	B. Scott Cates	NC	I have been living and visiting the NC coast for the majority of my 58 years. The Flounder species has always been our focus in the warmer months. As a man that has purchased life time NCDNR coastal fishing licenses for all my grandchildren how can our state restrict the recreational angler to only 45 days a year while allowing the commercial fishing industry the majority of this sustainable resource? Last year was a great flounder season but way to short for most of my recreational fishing friends and family. Suggestion make the ratio of recreational and commercial 50/50 as that seems to be the best option. Expand our backwater (creeks, tributaries) to at least 60 days of flounder fishing (Aug-Sept) and allow all recreational anglers the opportunity to catch and keep legal (15 in+) flounder offshore in the ocean for 90-120 days (June-Sept) Less anglers fish offshore and the weather must be conducive. Both creel daily limits can remain at 4 per person however allowing a longer season in the ocean will not deplete the population at all while providing another source for

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				<p>fisherman. That's why we all pay to have a license. There are 16 members (Kids, grandkids) in my immediate family and we all have an Lifetime Unified Coastal Recreational Lifetime License that was not inexpensive. This was our commitment, I believe the state has to support our fishing needs while protecting our resources.</p> <p>Thanks for listening to my thoughts,</p> <p>B. Scott Cates</p>
658	03/15/2021 - 11:58am	Joe Norris	North Carolina	
657	03/15/2021 - 11:56am	Joe Norris	North Carolina	
656	03/15/2021 - 11:55am	Joe Norris	North Carolina	
655	03/15/2021 - 11:55am	Dave Timpy	NC	<p>These comments supplement those I submitted via online Wednesday, March 10th and the original comments a few months ago.</p> <p>On March 5, 2021, the NCDMF issued a proclamation to close commercial harvest of Red Drum. It is well known that red drum are a huge bycatch of the large mesh gill net fishery that takes place later in the year. It seems very reasonable to assume that closing gill net fishing for southern flounder must be considered by the commission. Moreover, the commission should consider prohibiting all gill net fishing, similar to the current closure of gill nets upstream of the ferry lines. An independent study of the impacts of these actions should also be done.</p>
654	03/15/2021 - 11:51am	Rick Beebe	NC	<p>After hearing of the rushed vote favoring commercial fisherman. I think it is unfair to penalize recreational fishermen who bring the most \$\$\$ value to NC. Politics are ruining everything!!!</p>
653	03/15/2021 - 11:50am	Steve Corriher	North Carolina	<p>Total allowable poundage should be reduced and then shared. After all recreational economical impact to the state is tremendous compared to commercial. We want the rebuilding of Southern Flounder fishery by sharing the load equally by commercial and recreational - 50/50 allocation. If poundage is exceeded by either party the party should be held responsible for the reduction.</p>
652	03/15/2021 - 11:49am	Logan Watson	NC	<p>Requesting a fair equitable 50/50 (commercial/recreational) share of flounder. Also, The Gill netters are absolutely crushing our populations of inshore species. It's saddens me to see how many fish are killed a year from them.</p>

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651	03/15/2021 - 11:48am	Rocky	NC	<p>As a long time recreational fisherman, I am deeply disappointed in how the single most important fish for recreational fisherman, the southern flounder, has been declining for decades. I was at the meeting when Joe Shute, Chairman of the flounder study committee in 2007, recommended an immediate substantial reduction in flounder harvest. The science was clear. Dwindling stocks had to be addressed immediately. The MFC chose to do nothing. Year after year this ongoing problem has been ignored. Now, recreational fishermen once again face reduced harvest while the group responsible for systematically removing our southern flounder are allocated 70% of the available harvest. It is increasingly apparent to recreational fishermen regulatory capture is standard practice in managing our fisheries. As we know through history, if proper restrictions are not placed on a resource, it can and will be depleted. Flounder overfishing is not the result of over harvesting by the commercial fishing industry. The law abiding waterman is only doing what the state allows. The Marine Fishery Commission is sworn to manage, restore, conserve, and protect our marine resources. Managing for sustainability is what the MFC and DMF are committed to do. In my opinion, they have failed southern flounder and all North Carolinians.</p>
650	03/15/2021 - 11:44am	Norma C Brittain	NC	<p>I am not on either side of this fiasco, commercial or recreational. I think the whole lot of people have lost their minds. On one hand it's ok for BIG commercial fishing entities to dominate but we also have the recreational people wanting limits on everything. We need to keep the lobbying out as well as BIG commercial fishing entities from other states/countries and quit relying on statistics and computer programs to tell us what's going on in the water. I know of several fishermen that have had fantastic years on the flounder side of things then everyone started screaming overfished yet a study done by the federal government said that the same flounder was underfished. All the restrictions are doing is making it harder and harder to make a living as a NORTH CAROLINA fisherman. If there is a problem in the Pamlico Sound with big shrimp boats, kick them out of the Pamlico Sound but leave the other areas in the inter coastal waterway alone. My husband and I first got a commercial fishing license years ago when he was laid off of his "regular" job and depended heavily on these licenses to make ends meet. We have since both obtained our MMC's and have done some chartering to prepare for our "working" retirement, as we do NOT expect the government to support us till we die. As all the restrictions have been rolling in at warp speed we have started looking at different trades as the fishing for the little guy is so UNPREDICTABLE and the proclamations are so UNREADABLE. TOO much government, TOO many special lobbying groups (on both sides) have made it an impossibility to rely on fishing as a viable source of living in the future. All of you will do what you want and the law suits will sit out there eating tax money instead of being properly spent on the resident, commercial and recreational, ability to fish, live and enjoy. Sincerely, Fed Up.</p>
649	03/15/2021 - 11:41am	David Rouse	NC	<p>I was hesitant to even take the time to write and submit this comment due to the feeling that our voices continuously fall on deaf ears. However my passion for fishing and our coastal waters forces my hand. A lot of this will be repetitive but in hopes that someone will listen here goes. I am a native to North Carolina and grew up fishing along the Pamlico River and</p>

#▼	SUBMITTED	NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW.
				<p>Pamlico Sound. Oh how I remember the “good ole days” of fishing. I long to see those days return and see the necessity of change in order to ensure that stocks replenish. I also see the historical lack of action on the Divisions part which has in turn led us to where we are today, scrambling to make a hasty decision. In fact a very hasty decision was made during the last meeting in regards to the proposed allocation split. I was disgusted at the way this was handled and while already apparent it became even more so that the board is anything but impartial when it comes to Recreational and Commercial fishermen. 70/30 split?! That may as well have been a literal slap in the face to every recreational fisherman in the state. I do hope that it is noted the surge of recreational participation and comments that are increasing for these meetings. WE ARE TIRED...tired of the increasing regulations, tired of dwindling stocks, and tired of the extremely poor fishery management. I was so appalled at the lack of discussion prior to the vote on the second motion I did not even listen to the remainder of the meeting. Maybe that is what is desired...for the Recreational fisherman just to keep taking the brunt of these decisions and quietly bicker amongst ourselves while continuing to purchase licenses, tackle, gas, boats and on and on and on every year. We contribute more revenue to the economy than the commercial industry could ever dream of yet they continue to rape and pillage our waters. Good God what will it take to gets the gill nets out of the water and either entirely remove or significantly decrease trawling efforts in the SOUND!!! This madness has got end and soon or I fear things will reach a point of no return. In the meantime handing 70% of the recommended quota to the commercial industry is completely unfair and needs to be revised. You all received 700 comments from the public! How about take the time to listen to what we have to say. I have said it before and I will say it again with zero remorse. I hope to one day see the DMF completely dissolved!</p>
648	03/15/2021 - 11:40am	Lonnie W Foreman	NC	I support the proposal that a 50/50 allocation for flounder be adopted and that shrimp trawling be curtailed so that flounder can have a chance to reproduce to acceptable numbers.
647	03/15/2021 - 11:40am	Kevin Collins	North Carolina	I think we should be able to fish all year have smaller bag limits with larger fines for over fishing and maybe an suspension of license. Commercial and recreational
646	03/15/2021 - 11:38am	Mirza Rustemov	NC	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>Please consider the recreational users of all of the natural resources this state offers when adopting resolutions that impact the non-commercial users. As an avid fisherman and hunter, I have seen both the decline of the blue fish that used to be seen in massive bio-masses at the coast to the ever shrinking size of the flounder that are caught in our waters. I understand the commercial and economic impacts to the state that would result in the reduction of commercial stock available, however it is becoming apparent that there is a preference towards commercial users vs recreational users in both the limits enforced as well as the impact both of these users present to the aquatic stock. Non-commercial users are being unfairly punished for impacts created by the commercial users, I ask that you please consider employing equal restrictions on both parties if the end goal is to save the flounder and other declining species.</p>

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				<p>The economic impact generated by both user groups are significant in their own respect and the negative impact (associated with restrictions to the both user groups) can be managed effectively to allow access to both equally.</p> <p>- as a side note, please consider allowing recreational users to keep a limited number of fish that are caught via line and hook outside of their season but that are inadvertently mortally wounded as a result of how the bait was taken. I have witnessed a number of flounder (of legal size) that swallowed the bait and subsequently the hook or have been hooked in such a way that caused massive bleeding that had to be returned to the ocean due to the season this year. One can argue that this needless waste of a resource would be consumed by predators once returned anyway, but why not let folks keep those fish, but implement a reporting system (maybe similar to how big game harvest is reported) that would track who has caught how many to study the impacts but also not waste the resources..just a thought.</p>
645	03/15/2021 - 11:33am	Thomas Mansfield	Virginia	I'm OK with the current restrictions for recreational flounder fishing. However, I would like a restriction on the commercial flounder fishing as I think the commercial harvesting is really hurting the flounder population.
644	03/15/2021 - 11:32am	Robert (Bob) Tally	NC	it is well past time that the commission do the right thing: protect the fishery. quit floundering around, and stop being shortsighted, just to please the commercial side. bt
643	03/15/2021 - 11:28am	Bill Worthington	NC	Allow a 50/50 split between recreational fishermen and commercial. We need a reasonable flounder limit for the recreational sportsman!
642	03/15/2021 - 11:24am	REGGIE ROBERTSON	NC	I support a rebuilding plan for Southern flounder that maximizes recovery of the fishery and is equitable for both Commercial fishermen and recreational anglers.
641	03/15/2021 - 11:17am	John d foss	Nc	Any angler that purchases fishing licenses is not going to deplete any species with a rod and reel its getting to the point that it is not worth the cost to go fishing when you are only allowed 1 fish and yet netters can kill em all speaking for the red drum a man with his family and recreational anglers should be allowed to keep supper after the cost of going
640	03/15/2021 - 11:14am	Bradley Smith	NC	50/50 split. Remember recreational fishing provides way more to this state than the commercial side.
639	03/15/2021 - 11:12am	Steve Wiles	NC	Something should have been done 20 years ago. But lower recreational quotas and raising commercial quotas. Is exactly what's wrong with the situation now. It hasn't been too many years ago I saw where commercial fisherman say the water was too rough and they wasn't able to fish as much as they should have so marine fisheries extended the season. So now everyone wonders what's wrong with the flounder stock.
638	03/15/2021 - 11:11am	Scott Gould	NC	I've been following these issues for 25+ years and assumed that sooner or later, common sense would prevail, but that has not happened. I doubt my email today will have any effect,


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				<p>but I care about the NC coast and remain hopeful that you folks in charge will make the right decisions. Please stop the mismanagement of our inshore fisheries. The recreational sector is willing to make big concessions, and the commercial sector needs to do the same. Fish farming is the path to the future for commercial industries, not netting and trawling - too much waste and destruction of habitat. We all know this, so why not do something substantial about it.</p> <p>Scott Gould</p>
637	03/15/2021 - 11:09am	Tripp Minges	Colorado	<p>Good morning, My name is Tripp Minges and I am a native to North Carolina and presently reside in Littleton, CO. The reason that I am a stakeholder in this discussion is that have been an avid recreational flounder fisherman for several decades. I would like to start off by thanking the commission for protecting this species for the next generation and the well being of the population and do agree that the species has been over fished. My family and group of life long friends gather twice a year to head to the NC beaches for one week of family and fishing and another dedicated solely to fishing. During the last few seasons, due to flounder being no longer in season, we have moved our trip to SC as the season is open in that state. I understand that the commercial fisherman has a large voice in this topic, but would like to speak for the recreational fisherman is well. The recreational fisherman contribute to local economies and have less of an impact on the species population. Please consider extending the season to December 1 for recreational fishing.</p> <p>Best regards, Tripp Minges [REDACTED]</p>
636	03/15/2021 - 11:07am	Michael Oppegaard	NC	<p>The commission has continued to punish the Recreational Angler. Why should the commercial industry have an allowance of 70 percent of Southern Flounder when they have contributed the most to the problem of overfishing the species? By the commissions own numbers the commercial sector was allowed to continue harvest even after your own stock assessment showed the spawning stock biomass had collapsed. Viable fisheries are essential to the economic growth of our state, especially the recreational sector that contributes 7 to 10 times the economic impact of the commercial sector. Fisheries management by the division staff has been an abject failure.</p> <p>Harvest of Southern Flounder should be closed to all sectors. Why do we even bother to impose the current limits when the models show no signs of recovery? Summer and Gulf Flounder should be open to the recreational sector. By closing the Southern season fully but allowing the harvest of the ocellated species the number of dead discards from recreational bycatch would be under the current allotment.</p>

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635	03/15/2021 - 11:07am	Derek Smith	NC	After serving 15+ years as an elected official I cannot believe there was a motion made that resulted in a vote being taken on a subject with hundreds of public comments that were not even considered. The numbers speak for themselves, the vast majority of revenues come from the recreational side. Even a 50/50 split is lopsided but would be considered more fair. You must approve an equal plan for all, not just the lobbyist.
634	03/15/2021 - 11:06am	George Kivett	NC	Southern Flounder: I keep wondering when the MFC will actually do the job they were appointed to do, manage the fisheries for the future. Instead, it is a constant flood of actions that will destroy the resource in the next few years. Please make an equitable division of the harvest instead of destroying the fishery for the short term economic gain of just a few, There are many thousands of NC businesses that depend on the recreational fishery to make their living. Those people deserve the consideration for there livelihood much more so than the Corporations that constantly lobby the commission while hiding behind the mirage that they represent the common commercial fisherman.
633	03/15/2021 - 11:05am	Vernon Hunter	NC	<p>Dear honorable commission members, I have made my living as a commercial fisherman so I understand this side of the fishery interest. However I do think the interests of the recreational fishermen and the resource itself is being ignored by overharvesting by commercial interests - mainly unintentional bycatch by the inshore dragging.</p> <p>I ask that you fully consider the recreational fishermen and protection of our resource by halting continued commercial overharvesting by the commercial fishery in North Carolina.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>R. Vernon Hunter [REDACTED] NC</p>
632	03/15/2021 - 11:03am	Evan J	NC	The 70/30 allocation for Southern Flounder is unjust to recreational fisherman and will lead to the eventual demise of the fishery. By implementing a 50/50 allocation you are choosing conservation and preserving the future for NC Southern Flounder. Obviously the current allocation isn't working, as we are still in the same situation with an overfished stock. Change the narrative and choose conservation so that future generations can enjoy the fishery.
631	03/15/2021 - 11:02am	Michael Davis	NC	I believe the State of NC needs to initiate a rebuilding plan for southern flounder. It needs to be equitable for recreational and commercial fisherman. A 50/50 split of the resource seems to be reasonable, just as it is with striped bass. The flounder fishing closure for recreational fishing is really hurting our economy, I have personally seen this. I think a good start would be removing gill nets. I no longer purchase any fin fish that are caught in NC.
630	03/15/2021 - 10:59am	William Kelly Wolfe	NC	If the goal and commission is to make prudent management decisions to help rebound our Southern Flounder stock all parties effecting the take of these fish should be reasonably

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				addressed. Choking the limit from Recreational has and will not accomplish the required goals. I really feel this is a waste of time and internet usage but "hey" maybe one day the millions of Recreational people and millions of dollars we put in the NC economy will matter to the DMF.
629	03/15/2021 - 10:59am	Walker Diab	NC	<p>I am sure you are receiving a lot of comments from people about the flounder fishing regulation amendments being proposed. I do not agree with the 70/30% split of quota between recreational and commercial because it makes no sense. Commercial fisherman make up much less of the population than rec fisherman. The quota should be split 50/50. Also, as far as limits and size requirements, I believe that increasing the size limit but still allowing 4 fish per person would be a good solution.</p> <p>I know you will probably not read most comments but I am hopeful you will make the right decision for our fishery. It seems pretty suspicious how some of these decisions are being made for the flounder fishery and why. Please allow equal access to the resource.</p>
628	03/15/2021 - 10:58am	Walker Diab	NC	<p>I am sure you are receiving a lot of comments from people about the flounder fishing regulation amendments being proposed. I do not agree with the 70/30% split of quota between recreational and commercial because it makes no sense. Commercial fisherman make up much less of the population than rec fisherman. The quota should be split 50/50. Also, as far as limits and size requirements, I believe that increasing the size limit but still allowing 4 fish per person would be a good solution.</p> <p>I know you will probably not read most comments but I am hopeful you will make the right decision for our fishery. It seems pretty suspicious how some of these decisions are being made for the flounder fishery and why. Please allow equal access to the resource.</p>
627	03/15/2021 - 10:57am	Joseph M Balleydier	NC	<p>I am disappointed that the commission continues to punish recreational flounder fishermen while completely failing to take action on the real root cause of the flounder population decline. Data clearly indicates that the bi-catch fish kill associated with inshore shrimp trawling and the large numbers of fish taken from nets. These two commercial fishing operations are clearly the cause of the decline. Even if the DMF bans recreational flounder fishing for the next 10 years, the problem will not be solve. Reductions or elimination on the in-shore shrimp trawling and flounder net operations are the only solution to restore the flounder population. Clearly the commission is the pocket of the commercial fishing lobby.</p>
626	03/15/2021 - 10:55am	Ricky Allen Herring	NC	<p>Do not mind limits if the commercial fishermen have to follow the same limits. If you keep letting commercial fishermen setting nets and depleting our resources because they have free range on taking what ever they want and no one is policing them. You should not be limiting the hook and line fisherman until you address the Systemic issue which is setting nets in our estuaries.</p>
625	03/15/2021 - 10:54am	Brandon Bowden	NC	<p>I'm currently in support of a more equitable share of the flounder quota between recreational and commercial fisherman. This should be 50/50. I would like to see an extended season and I am in favor of considering lowered quota per day to 2 fish as well as increased minimum</p>

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				size limit to 16" if this extends the season. The existing season is too short and doesn't provide an equal opportunity for youth in school to spend time on the water targeting flounder.
624	03/15/2021 - 10:51am	Ashley Morton	NC	50%. & 50%. commercial and recreational. only fair
623	03/15/2021 - 10:50am	Christopher Elkins	NC	<p>I have been following Southern flounder since 2005. The short of it is that recreational fishermen, including CCA NC, have supported cuts to harvesting and commercial fishermen have fought it tooth and nail, even going to court to prevent conservation measures. If we had listened to CCA NC, we would all be flounder fishing right now.</p> <p>The DMF and MFC talked a lot about history. NC in particular has a history, a very sorted history we try to sweep under the rug, from slavery to current racism and fisheries management. We can't go back, we need to fix things.</p> <p>The DMF and MFC talk a lot about equity. 75% harvest by commercials and 25% by recs is not equity. 75% of overfishing was done by comms and 25% done by recs. The cuts should be a 75% reduction in commercial harvest and a 25% cut for recs. That would be equitable. What you are doing is enhancing and encouraging overfishing by a sector that has overfished for decades and fought reform.</p> <p>Moreover, even though recs harvest 25% of flounder, they account for many times the commercial sector economic impact. We are talking tens of millions of dollars. If the MFC were business folks they would have been fired a decade ago.</p> <p>You want to talk equity. Why is it when flounder are caught IN NC coastal waters in the fall by non-federally permitted shrimp trawlers, they are Summer flounder? Why is it when recreational fishermen catch a flounder right next to the trawlers, they are Southern flounder? At least the recreational fishermen can identify flounder and release alive the Southern flounder, but those tail bag flounder are dead (and sold).</p> <p>I agree that many of the flounder caught near shore in NC are Southern flounder presently. We all know the Summers have moved north. Please do a study on tail bag flounders, to see whos catching what.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Chris Elkins PhD</p>

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622	03/15/2021 - 10:50am	Joe payne	NC	Y'all need to get some one that's going to be fair to everyone, the people with rod and reels are not the problem, all these net and fishing trawler are watch's mass up all the fishing they catch every thing, they kill a lot of fish that they are not evening after.
621	03/15/2021 - 10:43am	Herbert Harrell	North Carolina	Commercial flounder fishing is the cause of depleted flounder stocks. I know friends that put out 1000 yards of gill net because they have a license but they make their living not fishing. Fishing is an extra income for them. They push the rules at every turn and have had many tickets because of this.
620	03/15/2021 - 10:43am	Rob Powell	NC	I support a rebuilding plan for Southern flounder that maximizes recovery of the fishery and is equitable for both Commercial fishermen and recreational anglers. We all have a stake in this and need to work together. Thank you
619	03/15/2021 - 10:41am	Tim Chalmers	North Carolina	It is time to call a halt to the overfishing of Southern Flounder as evidenced by the continuing decline in fish stocks. Recent decisions to limit harvest should be implemented on an equitable basis for commercial and recreational fishermen. The current 70/30 harvest split is a failure to recognize the rights of all citizens to access this fishery. Permissive gill net harvest regulations and inshore shrimp trawling should be limited or eliminated to restore our fish stocks.
618	03/15/2021 - 10:40am	Christopher Bayned	North Carolina	Recreational fishing is vital to NC. Please consider an equitable 50/50 for commercial and recreational flounder fishing. Thanks, Chris Baynes
617	03/15/2021 - 10:39am	Kendall Turnage	NC	#1... Ban all inshore gill nets for at least 3 years to even the playing field, reduce substrate damage, restore seagrass and reduce bycatch. It is only fair to give a 50/50 split for recreational vs. commercial flounder harvest. Commercial netting does absolutely nothing for the resource and environment. I will never, ever understand why flounder gigging is allowed virtually all year long. And how on earth is gigging of our precious speckled trout allowed?
616	03/15/2021 - 10:38am	Thomas Philip Dark	NC	Please do not let our Flounder fishery become only a sport fish. Please make commercial fisherman do their part for conservation or their will be no fishery for ANYONE!
615	03/15/2021 - 10:38am	Luke Donat	North Carolina	Hey guys, My name is Luke Donat, and am a rec fishing guide in the Wilmington area. I have fished these waters for flounder for many years. I plead with you to rethink your approach to your flounder restrictions. If the flounder numbers are as bad as you say, restrict the catch fairly to all parties rec and Comm. It should be equal for all 50/50. I have no problem with a restriction, so long as if is fairly disseminated. If it is not, are you really trying to save the species? Because it seems as you are not. Please make the right choice. Thanks for your time. Luke Donat

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614	03/15/2021 - 10:37am	Ralph Haddock	N.C.	<p>I do not agree with a stop and go management for commercial. I do not agree with the 70/30 reallocation. It is time to address the elephant in the room, ban the gill nets and reign the pound nets in. Thanks to your mismanagement, South Carolina is even about to restrict NC recreational anglers fishing for flounder in SC state waters. Address the actual problems and quit punishing recreational anglers. As a recreational fisherman "great management" is destroying the recreational economy. The recreational economy is worth several times more than the commercial southern flounder fishery. It is not fair to destroy the entire economy for the benefit of a small group of gill netters. The same can be said for pound nets. Are we really going to punish the entire recreational sector for the benefit of 100 people who harvest during peak migration?</p>
613	03/15/2021 - 10:36am	David Slaughter	NC	<p>Can we join the 21st century like all of our neighboring states and remove large mesh gill nets and shrimp trawlers from our estuaries? These gears kill too many non-targeted species and marine life and have no place in our coastal sounds and rivers.</p> <p>Also, if you are going to split the southern flounder quota between the recreational and commercial sectors, it should be an even 50/50 split. There is no reason to go with the proposed 70/30 split in favor of the commercial sector. The commercial harvest is the main reason our southern flounder fishery is in the state it is in now.</p> <p>In my honest opinion, people that profit from a resource should not be allowed to make harvest decisions of that resource. For example. Why can you not be on the ABC board in NC if you or a family member own an ABC permit? Why can you not be on the DOT board in NC if you build roads? The answer to both is obvious; a conflict of financial interest in managing state assets. So then ask, if conflict of interest is that important, why do five members of the 9 MFC have to have a financial interest in the use or study of what they regulate just to be on the commission? Three commercial members, one recreational industry member whose income is dependent on harvest, and a scientist whose vote to study an issue rather than deal with it puts money in a peers pocket and historically in NC our scientists careers generate income from studying marine life. 5 out of 9 members have a financial interest in what they are managing for the state. Other commissions forbid financial interests to participate.</p> <p>In closing, I ask that you first and foremost put the resource first. Not the user groups. If the</p>

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				southern flounder fishery is as bad as NCDMF/DEQ/MFC data says it is, just close the fishery completely to all user groups. Zero harvest in 2021, perform a stock assessment, and report findings in 2022.
612	03/15/2021 - 10:35am	Donald Harrell	NC	Since there are far more recreational fisherman than commerical, I it seems fair to me to apply the same percentage to the limit.
611	03/15/2021 - 10:35am	Eric Bitler	NC	<p>Can we join the 21st century like all of our neighboring states and remove large mesh gill nets and shrimp trawlers from our estuaries? This gear kills too many non-targeted species and marine life and have no place in our coastal sounds and rivers.</p> <p>Also, if you are going to split the southern flounder quota between the recreational and commercial sectors, it should be an even 50/50 split. There is no reason to go with the proposed 70/30 split in favor of the commercial sector. The commercial harvest is the main reason our southern flounder fishery is in the state it is in now.</p> <p>Recreational fishing provides a significant economic impact to the state, yet is consistently ignored, tossed aside, and generally silenced by the commercial lobbyists.</p> <p>In my honest opinion, people that profit from a resource should not be allowed to make harvest decisions of that resource. For example. Why can you not be on the ABC board in NC if you or a family member own an ABC permit? Why can you not be on the DOT board in NC if you build roads? The answer to both is obvious; a conflict of financial interest in managing state assets. So then ask, if conflict of interest is that important, why do five members of the 9 MFC have to have a financial interest in the use or study of what they regulate just to be on the commission? Three commercial members, one recreational industry member whose income is dependent on harvest, and a scientist whose vote to study an issue rather than deal with it puts money in a peers pocket and historically in NC our scientists careers generate income from studying marine life. 5 out of 9 members have a financial interest in what they are managing for the state. Other commissions forbid financial interests to participate.</p> <p>In closing, I ask that you first and foremost put the resource first. Not the user groups. If the southern flounder fishery is as bad as NCDMF/DEQ/MFC data says it is, just close the fishery completely to all user groups. Zero harvest in 2021, perform a stock assessment, and report findings in 2022.</p>
610	03/15/2021 - 10:34am	William Sellers	North Carolina	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing to express my support for a 50/50 commercial/recreational allocation for flounder harvest. The proposed 70/30 split in favor of commercial fishermen does not make sense from an environmental impact standpoint, as commercial fishing contributes more heavily to</p>

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				<p>overfishing than do recreational fishermen, and can do damage to flounder populations much more quickly. On top of that, there will be an economic impact felt by a variety of North Carolina businesses, from fishing guides to restaurant owners.</p> <p>Recreational flounder fishing is of great importance to multiple industries along the North Carolina coastline. According to Division analysis, the recreational sector's annual economic contribution is +1100% higher than that of the commercial sector. Obviously guides depend on clients looking to catch flounder, but tackle shops, restaurants, hotels, and big box retailers also see a meaningful decline when the burden of fishing restrictions is passed primarily onto tourists and individual fishermen. Tackle manufacturers and tackle shops/retailers saw a decline in sales for flounder specific items due to the severe restrictions put into place last year, and they will see a further decline this year if restrictions such as decreased creel limits are passed onto recreational fishermen. Hotels and restaurants already struggling from a year of pandemic conditions will lose business as tourist fishermen and women decide to look elsewhere for their hard earned vacation time.</p> <p>The preservation of flounder stocks is of utmost importance for the future of the fishery and the future of the tourism industry along the mid-Atlantic coast. I fully support measures to preserve this natural resource, but doing so in a way that favors commercial fishermen at the expense of recreational fishermen and the businesses that depend on them does not make economic or ecological sense.</p> <p>Please reconsider this unfair split, North Carolina needs recreational fishermen and there will be consequences to neglecting them.</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>Will Sellers</p>
609	03/15/2021 - 10:32am	GEORGE Alex BROWN	NC	I demand equal shares of the flounder limit for commercial and recreational fishing!!!
608	03/15/2021 - 10:32am	Andrew Perry	NC	The proposed 70/30 split, regarding flounder, is a slap in the face to your biggest monetary asset: recreational fisherman. Why is it that when a reduction of possession limits is instituted, it's the recreational fisherman that are mainly impacted? Do us NC recreational fisherman a favor....stop lining your pockets and getting in bed with the commercial Industry and for once, just once, do something right for the recreational anglers. DO YOUR JOB....THE RIGHT WAY!!!
607	03/15/2021 - 10:31am	Justin Perry	NC	The state is in desperate need of shutting down nets period and really focusing their time on better research and developing a goal to eliminate commercial netting in out local inlets, waterways and creeks. Our fisheries do not suffer from the recreational fishermen they suffer from the lack of authority on commercial fishermen, granted there are many who may abide

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				by state laws n regulations, it does equate to the majority of individuals who clearly take advantage of our local waterways daily and nightly. Most of the illegal activities happen while you are asleep. I have been fishing local waters for 25 years and I've witnessed it all. We are the last state on the eastern seaboard to do away with netting, North Carolina has suffered enough and would see a positive change relatively quickly. Ban nets and stop allowing this nonsense (redneck mentality) you know it's wrong and it happens on your watch. As far as the flounder go for 2021...it would be a large mistake to give commercial fishermen a 70/30 split and take away from the recreational. The way I see it, since your not willing to move forward with the banning of all nets, the LEAST you can do is keep the game fair!!! Pretty simple. Pay attention N.C.
606	03/15/2021 - 10:31am	Johnny Burke	NC	A 70/30 split for founder is nowhere close to being fair to the recreational fisherman. Make it fair. Make it right. 50/50. Thanks for your consideration if your mind is still open.
605	03/15/2021 - 10:30am	Keith Hobbs	NC	Share the wealth!!!
604	03/15/2021 - 10:30am	Keith Hobbs	NC	Share the wealth!!!
603	03/15/2021 - 10:29am	Michael miller	NC	Inshore netting and trawling needs to go other state have seen great number for doing so . I don't understand how this state dose not see it.
602	03/15/2021 - 10:27am	Jason Baker	NC	Why do we have folks who have a financial interest in the fisheries issues sitting on the board that controls these issues? This defines conflict of interest and is clearly regulatory capture. First I think NCDMF should be absorbed by NC wildlife. DMF has a consistent history of failure in fisheries management and is well beyond a lack of confidence vote. Specifically on southern flounder issues? Either close the fishery for a year and give them a break; let no one pressure them or split the quota 50/50. Next to get to the root of the problem address the gill net and trawl fishery by placing it on a ballot for the people of NC to decide; this is a public trust resource that belongs to all the people of NC and major issues hurting that public trust resource should be addressed by the citizenry of NC directly. Thank you for listening.
601	03/15/2021 - 10:23am	David Merrill	NC	Commercial and non-commercial gigging of flounder is really where a big part of the problem is. Too many of these people are disobeying the rules. They are also using private and secluded places to launch. Also, they are avoiding detection by running without lights. I have caught a gigger with 18 flounder with only three adults in the boat. We need more enforcement if we are to grown and improve the fishery.
600	03/15/2021 - 10:18am	gregory w judy	North Carolina	On March 13, 2019, five members of the NCMFC closed the upper areas of the Neuse and Pamlico Rivers to the use of all gill nets to protect "native" striped bass. This little experiment was supposed to last two years. Guess what! Time is up! It is time for the MFC to rescind that action. I understand the need to provide protection for the stripers, so a spring time opening would not be in order at this time. My request is that the Commission would rethink this effort

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				so that gill nets could be used for the traditional fall and winter fisheries for flounder, mullet, white perch, and spotted sea trout. The NCDMF has current data that shows bycatch of stripers is low in these fisheries. Please use that information. When this action was taken, data that justified the closure began in 1980. I scratched my head a little, wondering why old data like that held sway over the Division's current observer data. But then it came to me. I worked as a technician for the NCDMF starting in 1972, and retired 41 years later. One thing that I observed during those early years was the striped bass spawn of 1978. It may have been one of the most successful spawns ever and certainly the most successful since the middle of the 20th century for the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico Rivers. To "cherry-pick" that data set as a starting point for a discussion of current striper management would be like standing on the top of Mt. Everest and proclaiming that every place else was in the flood plain. I implore the Commission to reconsider this closure. Rework it to provide striper protections; it can be done and still allow commercial gill net fisheries for other species. Thank you for the opportunity to present my request.
599	03/15/2021 - 10:16am	R Scott Gaylord	NC	I am 54 years old and have lived in NC all my life. I have fished for flounder at Wrightsville Beach since I was a little boy and have personally witnessed the decline of the southern flounder population. I support a rebuilding plan for southern flounder that maximizes recovery of the fishery and is equitable for both commercial fishermen and recreational anglers.
598	03/15/2021 - 10:08am	Danny TAYLOR	NC	...the flounder creel is mostly impacted by commercial fishing.....there is no way a "hook and line" fishermen is the cause of the flounder demise.... the recreational fisherman pays the cost..... please revisit
597	03/15/2021 - 10:06am	Nathan Durfee	North Carolina	Inshore gill netting needs to stop. Getting rid of it will help all inshore species due to bycatch. Creating a slot for flounder would help immensely by keeping breeders in our waters, thus increasing male flounder catch helping our breeding.
596	03/15/2021 - 10:05am	Matthew David	SC	It is unbelievable to be witness the abhorrent behavior and recommendations of the Marine Fisheries Commission with regards to their decision on how to manage the flounder fishery going forward. Time after time, studies have shown that recreational anglers have the LEAST impact on fishery status; irrespective of species. It can only be assumed that these decisions have been made to once again, satisfy the lobbying efforts of commercial fishermen within NC waters. Although I live in SC, I always purchase a year-long NC fishing license in order to take advantage of the nearshore fishing conditions that NC has to offer. However, as I continue to see the blatant disregard for recreational anglers and the game fish we all love to pursue, NC can no longer depend on my recreational dollars as the so-called scientists of the marine commission further support the depletion of a fishery in order to line their pockets. I wish you good luck going forward as NC remains the laughing stock of the nation in regards to fisheries management!
595	03/15/2021 - 10:00am	Jack Jackson	NC	I do not agree with a slot limit. I do not agree with a stop and go management for commercial.

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				I do not agree with the 70/30 reallocation. It is time to address the elephant in the room, ban the gill nets, get the shrimp trawlers out of our sounds and rivers and reign the pound nets in. Address the actual problems and quit punishing recreational anglers. The recreational economy is worth several times more than the commercial southern flounder fishery. It is not fair to destroy the entire economy for the benefit of a small group of gill netters. The same can be said for pound nets. Are we really going to punish the entire recreational sector for the benefit of 100 people who harvest during peak migration?
594	03/15/2021 - 9:58am	Van Parrish	North Carolina	Please note we support a flounder management plan that maximizes the recovery and is equitable for all NC Citizens (Commercial and Recreational)...It is imperative that massive bycatch caused by shrimp trawls and gill nets are removed from all Also the ocean flounder needs to be opened to the recreational fisherman.
593	03/15/2021 - 9:56am	April Smith	NC	The management plan must equal for both Rec and Comm. I'm sure Rec contribute more money to NC then the Comm as a whole!
592	03/15/2021 - 9:55am	Janet Farmer	NC	I believe it is vital that the Southern Flounder fishery be managed in a way that maximizes recovery. This species is very clearly in danger and needs significant time to rebuild. Management practices for this and other fisheries need to be equitable to all stakeholders, not just commercial interests.
591	03/15/2021 - 9:53am	Allen Jernigan	Nc	I do not agree with a slot limit. I do not agree with a stop and go management for commercial. I do not agree with the 70/30 reallocation. It is time to address the elephant in the room, ban the gill nets and reign the pound nets in. Thanks to your mismanagement, South Carolina is even about to restrict NC recreational anglers fishing for flounder in SC state waters. Address the actual problems and quit punishing recreational anglers. As a guide your "great management" is destroying my livelihood and is destroying the recreational economy. The recreational economy is worth several times more than the commercial southern flounder fishery. It is not fair to destroy the entire economy for the benefit of a small group of gill netters. The same can be said for pound nets. Are we really going to punish the entire recreational sector for the benefit of 100 people who harvest during peak migration?
590	03/15/2021 - 9:53am	william glover	NC	Unless the bays and estuaries are protected there won't be any fish left to protect. Small Charter Captains will be out of work with the limits we have now. If you truly want to protect the resource, end the nets and shrimping inshore. Bill Glover
589	03/15/2021 - 9:53am	Stacy Sasser	NC	Tighter restrictions on commercial fishermen should be enforced. Nets inshore should not be allowed especially during the spawn. Trollers should not be allowed to come so far inshore to allow the fish a better chance of survival.
588	03/15/2021 - 9:52am	Harry James	NC	To all of the people on the commission. I ask that the commission please make decisions based on the good for all of the citizens of NC. The fisheries are a public resource which has been consistently managed for the commercial sector. How anyone could argue that giving

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				<p>the commercial sector 70% of a diminishing resource is unbelievable to the normal citizen. It is clear and without dispute the economical impact of the recreational fisherman far outweighs the commercial.</p> <p>We watched last year as our friends and relatives who hold commercial license caught more flounder the first night of commercial season than we did during the whole our season. I have heard hearsay that the commission does not " receive comments from the recreational fisherman",</p> <p>If this is true - why would be the question you should ask.</p> <p>The reason you don't hear from the normal recreational fisherman is most believe their voice doesn't matter. We have watched as the resource has diminished while other states in the Southeast have flourished. Our creel limits get smaller every year as we watch commercial boats from here and all over the SE descend here in the fall.</p> <p>Every year we watch this scripted conversation begin and end with the same outcome. I humbly ask that you impose the same restrictions on both sectors. Meaning whatever you impose on us the recreational sector, please impose the same restriction on the commercial sector.</p>
587	03/15/2021 - 9:51am	Jerry Hartsell	NC	Commercial should not receive 70% of quota. And recreational should not be allowed to gig!
586	03/15/2021 - 9:51am	Ryan Medric	North Carolina	A 50/50 split is only fair! Recreational anglers are extremely valuable to this state and the resources belong to the people!
585	03/15/2021 - 9:50am	Tim Smith	NC	<p>I believe the issue must be looked at as a whole. The NC stock assessments show a decline in more then just Summer Flounder and the reason must be identified in order to fine the solution. If the problem was overfishing why is it mainly just Summer Flounder and not the other species of Flounder located in the NC waters?</p> <p>The answer to that likely has something to do with their life cycle, spawning location, where to young grow, migrate, etc. In studying that we may find what is leading to their decline is also causing the decline in other species in the stock assessments. Without proof otherwise, I cannot help but put a large blame on by-catch from netting that kills without discrimination. I'm not opposed to netting or commercial fishing; they are a large industry and part of our history. But the commercial side cannot receive all the priority to the fishery. Other states have published numbers showing that the Rec fisherman account for about 90% of the state revenue. Even with a margin of error and adjustment the state revenue from Rec and Comm fishing could not be any closer than 50/50.</p> <p>With that said, I can only support a science-based management plan that is equal for both sectors.</p> <p>I feel that there are a lot of options that should be researched.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the locations nets are allowed. • If male fish are typically under 15" would some sort of slot system be beneficial? • Hatchery – other fish throughout the state are supplemented, I understand Southern Flounder do not respond "as well" but what is well, 50-75%? That's still a benefit to the

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				<p>fishery. These are just a few thoughts. One more would be a tagging program to aid in studying movement etc., I for one would gladly assist in tagging.</p>
584	03/15/2021 - 9:49am	Jonathan Edwards	NC	<p>Can we join the 21st century like all of our neighboring states and remove large mesh gill nets and shrimp trawlers from our estuaries? These gears kill too many non-targeted species and marine life and have no place in our coastal sounds and rivers.</p> <p>Also, if you are going to split the southern flounder quota between the recreational and commercial sectors, it should be an even 50/50 split. There is no reason to go with the proposed 70/30 split in favor of the commercial sector. The commercial harvest is the main reason our southern flounder fishery is in the state it is in now.</p> <p>In my honest opinion, people that profit from a resource should not be allowed to make harvest decisions of that resource. For example. Why can you not be on the ABC board in NC if you or a family member own an ABC permit? Why can you not be on the DOT board in NC if you build roads? The answer to both is obvious; a conflict of financial interest in managing state assets. So then ask, if conflict of interest is that important, why do five members of the 9 MFC have to have a financial interest in the use or study of what they regulate just to be on the commission? Three commercial members, one recreational industry member whose income is dependent on harvest, and a scientist whose vote to study an issue rather than deal with it puts money in a peers pocket and historically in NC our scientists careers generate income from studying marine life. 5 out of 9 members have a financial interest in what they are managing for the state. Other commissions forbid financial interests to participate.</p> <p>In closing, I ask that you first and foremost put the resource first. Not the user groups. If the southern flounder fishery is as bad as NCDMF/DEQ/MFC data says it is, just close the fishery completely to all user groups. Zero harvest in 2021, perform a stock assessment, and report findings in 2022.</p>
583	03/15/2021 - 9:47am	Elaine Levine	North Carolina	<p>I support a recovery plan for flounder stocks that is more equitable for recreational anglers, even if that means severely curtailing commercial flounder fishing. Commercial fishing has been unfairly favored for decades by Marine Fisheries despite having only a fraction of the economic benefit of recreational fishing. Proposed recovery plan sets very strict limits for recreational fishermen, but not for commercial.</p>
582	03/15/2021 - 9:47am	Jackie Freeman	North Carolina	<p>I support a 50/50 equal commercial recreational split on southern flounder fishery. Same season. Ocean gulf and summer flounder open June - October with 2 fish per person. 18 inches. Live and cut bait must use circle hooks. J hooks on jigs. I'm retired and have supported NC conservation</p>

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581	03/15/2021 - 9:47am	Jackie Freeman	North Carolina	I support a 50/50 equal commercial recreational split on southern flounder fishery. Same season. Ocean gulf and summer flounder open June - October with 2 fish per person. 18 inches. Live and cut bait must use circle hooks. J hooks on jigs. I'm retired and have supported NC conservation
580	03/15/2021 - 9:47am	George maravelas	North carolina	I have been fishing in NC waters for over 20 years and the commercial fishermen have devastated our local fisheries to the point of total destruction of the flounder. The locals have a saying, " we don't care how you did it up north " take a lesson from us, we put the winter flounder under endangered species list, striped bass, cod, Pollack, cusk, tautog, all due to commercial fishermen over fishing. We need tighter regulations on commercial fishing. Or, go to plan B take up golfing.
579	03/15/2021 - 9:47am	Anthony Holleman	NC	It goes without saying (or it should) that this 70/30 split on Southern Flounder is an insult to the public and the species. Why is the commercial fishing industry time and time again shown favoritism. Common sense tells us all that nets and trolling have the largest impact to many fish species including flounder. This is a public resource and one group shouldn't be able to profit from the harvest of these fish while the public is pushed to the side. We are all tax payers and deserve an equal share. We should not be forced to buy our fish from a fish market if we want flounder. We should be able to harvest our own if we so choose. I believe we ALL need to do what we can to save the southern flounder but the burden can't fall on only the recreational angler. A 50/50 split is the only fair thing to do. Do you really want the flounder population to recover? You know how to fix this problem and how to do it fairly and ethically.
578	03/15/2021 - 9:46am	Rodger Lentz	NC	Again we are talking about flounder and overfishing. It's been a problem for years with an obvious solution, ban nets from our sounds. Yet, instead of taking this sensible step, we place the burden of catch reduction mainly on recreational fishermen. So many other states have taken steps to limit Gil and other nets and have no problems with their flounder population. They benefit from the tourism that good recreational fishing brings. It's time for the commission to change its thinking and take the steps it knows it needs to take to rebuild our fisheries. Ban the nets and trawling in our sounds. And in a few years we will all reap the benefits of your leadership.
577	03/15/2021 - 9:45am	Ed Mondello	Nc	Please get rid of gills nets inshore and reside the commercial limits of flounder from 70% to 50%
576	03/15/2021 - 9:44am	Patrick Horning	NC	We need 50/50 split commercial and recreational flounder limits
575	03/15/2021 - 9:43am	Alfonso R. Gorena	NC	Dear Sirs, my name is Alfonso R. Gorena and I'm a recreational fisherman from the Clayton, NC area. I would encourage you to reconsider your final vote to make the Osolated Flounder limit distribution a 70/30 harvest ratio in favor of commercial fishing. This harvest distribution

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				<p>should be a 50/50 distribution between commercial and recreational fisherman based on the science presented to your Commission as well as historical catch records. I'm originally from Texas and have seen what gill nets and excessive commercial fishing can do to a fish environment. They are devastating to it! In the 1980's gill nets were banned from inland waters and commercial and recreational harvests were lowered in TX in the Gulf Coast inland waters and now the Redfish, Trout and Flounder numbers have come back to full levels and both commercial fisherman and recreational fisherman are enjoying a bounty of fish. A 50/50 harvest ratio for both groups will give both groups equal representation and responsibility in managing this valuable resource. I feel like this 70/30 split is more political than science based and if this is your decision know that political decisions have political consequences. Allowing the commercial fishing industry to have a larger limit is only going to make the recovery of this fish take longer or potentially cause it to get worse. Most recreational fisherman harvest a small portion of fish as compared to the commercial fisherman. We both have stake in the recovery of this fish so use the science based info that is available to your office. Many thanks for your time and consideration and for allowing me to voice my opinion in this matter.</p> <p>Regards, Alfonso R. Gorena</p>
574	03/15/2021 - 9:42am	Kenneth P Broadwell	NC	Please keep recreational creel limit at 4 fish and 15" min size.
573	03/15/2021 - 9:42am	Victor Norris	NC	As a recreational coastal fisherman that only gets to come three or four times a year and usually fish from shore and have friends in the guiding business, I wholeheartedly support a rebuilding plan for Southern flounder that maximizes recovery of the fishery and is equitable for both Commercial fishermen and recreational anglers. I am really concerned and have been for years of the awful numbers of the bycatch of juvenile fish from trawlers in the sounds and near shore. I have witnessed a steady decline of amounts of fish actually being caught from the waterways and surf through out my life. Please make a move to help restore our flounder populations before it's too late.
572	03/15/2021 - 9:36am	Glenn Ham	Nc	Open up flounder to nc residents all year.
571	03/15/2021 - 9:35am	Robert Pesta	North Carolina	The commission is responsible to manage fish stocks for everyone to benefit. With proposed restrictions to the flounder season for general public or recreational fishermen while not imposing similar restrictions to commercial fishermen all the commission is doing is punishing people that purchase a fishing license. Take stock on the amount of money spent by the recreational fishermen. Personally I've bought a house close to the ocean, a boat, hundreds of dollars worth rods, reels and fishing tackle, fishing licenses. All these dollars help the economy on the coast, and I can't keep a flounder if I catch one. The amount of juvenile flounder caught and destroyed in the shrimp trawling right off the beach is horrendous and

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				restrictions need to be put in place. As commissioners your job is to manage the stocks for regeneration rather than destruction.
570	03/15/2021 - 9:35am	Anthony Jackson	NC	Please do not approve this amendment. Recreational fisherman have already taken such a hit from this whole flounder ordeal and cutting us back to 1 fish per person is going to really hurt the billion dollar recreational industry. If you really care about the fishery, I suggest you focus your efforts where the actual impact is and you can use your own data to see that the problem is on the commercial side and it's because of pound nets and gill nets. Do away with the 70/30 split and make it 50/50 and start managing the fishery the way it should be managed and that's for the fish, not the commercial sector.
569	03/15/2021 - 9:32am	Byron LAMBDIN	NC	Not supportive of the 70/30 split. Support flounder conservation by daily limit.. Support banning trawling in the Neuse river and Pamlico sound . Not sure why I'm wasting my time as you don't give a damn about recreational fisherman .
568	03/15/2021 - 9:31am	Dwain Felton Elmore	North Carolina	I would like to submit my concern on the southern flounder issue. I would like to see the stock rebuild to successful levels. But I feel the measurements that are implemented are unfair to recreational fishermen. I think the harvest should be equal between commercial and recreational. I also think it is only fair if recreational fishermen are completely closed out for harvest that should also go for commercial fishermen. I would also like for the ocean flounder fishing to be open for recreational fishermen for summer and gulf flounder. To deny this is completely unfair. It's time recreational fishermen get a fair representation. They have been pushed aside enough. Equality is only fair.
567	03/15/2021 - 9:29am	Blake Clayton	NC	The idea that recreational anglers should continue to be punished for the gross mismanagement of the public's fishery is absurd. Every year the recreational angler gets less and less and the commercial fishermen go on with business as usual. A 70/30 split between commercial and recreational doesn't make one iota of sense and doesn't even come close to being considered fair. Regulations like this are the main reason we are going to be splitting 0% at 70/30 before long. There is no other options but a 50/50 split that should be considered fair and equitable to the tax payers for use of the own public resource.
566	03/15/2021 - 9:29am	Woodburn M Williams	NC	I support the rebuilding plan for Southern flounder that maximizes recovery of the fishery for recreational fisherman.
565	03/15/2021 - 9:29am	Craig A. Myler	North Carolina	To reach the SSB target by 2028, fishing mortality would need to be lowered to 0.18 (H=0.16, discrete rate) and total catch would need to be reduced by 72% (Figure 5.5). The above recommendation should be implemented for flounder. A 50/50 split (commercial/recreational) to achieve this level should be adopted. The split should be of the current level of each reduced by 72%.

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564	03/15/2021 - 9:29am	Jack Dunn	NC	I believe a 60 percent commercial and 40% recreational is more equitable and in the overall best interest of the State of North Carolina. More importantly there should be a hard cap on southern flounder harvesting and when that cap is reached all forms of bycatch should be removed from inshore waters(shrimp trawling and gill netting) for the remainder of the year. It's defies logic that we characterize a population as overfished and then permit incidental by-catch after the dedicated catch requirement is exceeded. Every year you fail to get ahead of declining populations I'd going to lead to multiple years of future restrictions.
563	03/15/2021 - 9:28am	Gary Kreiser	NC	I support a fisheries management plan that is equitable for both commercial fishermen and recreational anglers. The 70/30 plan puts too much burden on the recreational fisherman. For the past 15 years, my family and I have spent at least a week at the beach during the summer. A good portion of that time has been spent fishing. This past summer, I was disappointed that recreational harvest for flounder was closed during our stay, while commercial fishing was still operating. I believe that the southern flounder fisheries are in jeopardy, but both commercial and recreational fisherman need to have to follow the same restrictions to allow for recovery of this valuable species.
562	03/15/2021 - 9:24am	Jim Hardin	NC	<p>I support better management and the need to reduce harvest of the southern flounder fishery in NC. We, once again, see the proposals to severely cut recreational harvest by strict bags and a very limited season.</p> <p>Please allow the public to harvest oscillated flounder at a four-fish daily limit.</p> <p>The NCMFC continues to ignore the much higher economic value of the recreational fishery over the commercial fishery and the allocation should be split more evenly to recognize this value. The current proposal of 70:30 commercial to recreational is unfair and should be more like 50:50.</p> <p>Eliminate or greatly reduce the inshore trawling in areas and during times when the by-catch has a high percentage of juvenile flounder.</p> <p>Eliminate the RCGL use of gill nets statewide.</p> <p>Remove the use of large mesh gill nets in inshore waters statewide.</p> <p>There have been constant calls to better manage our southern flounder fishery for many years that have continued to be ignored. Now is the time to take all actions that can positively impact the fishery and allow fair access to the recreational anglers of NC.</p>
561	03/15/2021 - 9:24am	Jason Ginn	NC	Please stop the gill nets in NC.. You have a right to the people of NC to save our fishery. Please look at our neighboring states and follow their guidelines.

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560	03/15/2021 - 9:24am	Flint Hill	NC	Recreational fisherman deserve at least 50 percent of the flounder quota, These limits on what we can keep are making it not worth owning a boat or spending our money to fish here in NC.
559	03/15/2021 - 9:23am	Phil Work	North Carolina	As an NC resident residing on the New River, I think the 70/30 commercial/recreational split is very unfair. At least adjust the proportion to 60/40, or 50/50, and also limit some of the areas available to the commercial fishermen. Flounder stock is being depleted, and it's not due to recreational fishing, with the limits that have been placed upon us.
558	03/15/2021 - 9:22am	jerry james	nc	please consider the 50/50 split for the southern flounder fishery. leave the rec quota at 4 per person. rec industry cannot keep taking the cuts. thank you jerry
557	03/15/2021 - 9:21am	DENICA PLUMMER	NC	<p>I support a rebuilding plan for Southern flounder that maximizes recovery of the fishery. The plan must be equitable for both commercial fishermen and recreational anglers.</p> <p>Why do the Commissioners ignore the economic impact of recreational fishing?</p> <p>Why are the Commissioners so afraid of public debate and to consider public comments?</p> <p>Makes me wonder what's going on that caused such a rush to vote at the last meeting. Perhaps someone should investigate this??</p>
556	03/15/2021 - 9:21am	Dennis carter	Nc	You people are going to keep catering to the God damn commercial guys so what is the fucking use to try to fight any more. I can find other things to do with my time!
555	03/15/2021 - 9:19am	Robert Patterson Sr.	nc	you are hurting the people that come down for vacation to fish stop this. do the 50/50 or find anew job !!!!!!!
554	03/15/2021 - 9:18am	Luke Funderburk	NC	Stop the use of gill nets. I want my son to be able to catch and eat flounder when he is old enough to fish. Ban the use of gill nets inshore. The by-catch is harmful to the entire ecosystem. Ban flounder gigging. How is it sustainable to go out night after night and kill hundreds of fish? Keep hook and line open year round. Set regulations that would help flounder populations bounce back (maybe one flounder per day per person within a slot size). When recreational flounder season closed last September, there were still commercial fisherman removing thousands of fish from the water. Ban gill nets in inshore waters!
553	03/15/2021 - 9:17am	Jonathan Barnes	NC	The idea that recreational anglers should continue to be punished for the gross mismanagement of the fishery we all pay taxes to be able to use is absurd. Every year, the recreational angler gets less and less, and the commercial fishermen go on with business as usual. A 70/30 split between commercial and recreational doesn't make one iota of sense and doesn't even come close to being considered fair; regulations like this are the main reason we are going to be splitting 0% at 70/30 before much longer. There is no other option but a 50/50 split that should be considered fair and equitable to the tax payers for use of their own public resource.

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552	03/15/2021 - 9:16am	People's right's	Nc	<p>1st you really can't think this is fair or even ethical. 2nd 1 fish are you serious 3rd who pays for these rules to get passed cause it isn't anyone that I know, no one benifets from this unless you make money from it 4th you defiantly dont have the people's intrest in you're thoughts 5th how can you side with the money over the people that wont help you sleep 6th can we please get rid of gigging flounder as a whole. Its just to easy. 7th i have been on the water my whole life and the cape fear is at its worst no than ever in my lifetime</p> <p>8thNow more than ever, we need people that will represent the people's best intrest commercial and recreational. What we are seeing is a very poor excuse of this process. I learned along time ago if you don't enjoy you're job you won't be your best at it, so if you're heart isn't in this the people need you to step down. I want my kids, kids to see the cape fear the way i seen it many years ago. Not a gen-x filled river with the lack or sea life. Written and submitted bye the people for the people. Do the right thing.....</p>
551	03/15/2021 - 9:15am	Jack	NC	<p>Unfounded-Disproportionate allocation of flounder to small percentage of commercial individuals compared to large numbers of recreational fisherman ... Please re-think this allocation</p>
550	03/15/2021 - 9:12am	David	NC	<p>I do not support the restrictions.</p>
549	03/15/2021 - 9:12am	alan boyette	NC	<p>Every year data is presented of the flounder population being critical. You have reduced the recreational fisherman creel limits year after year. No improvement. reduce your commercial flounder for 3 years as drastically as you have the recreational and you hear a lot of complaints and livelihood issues, but you will improve the environment and the flounder population. This commission needs to look at the 240/20 million numbers and make the percentage split reflect that number. Again a lot of whining and livelihood complaints. If the emphasis is on the species then show plans with common sense, instead of using political tactics to fill your pockets. If we cannot keep any fish, why should we buy a license. Never heard that catch and release was illegal.</p>
548	03/15/2021 - 9:11am	Igor Klem	NC	<p>As an occasional recreational fisher I support the protection of overfished species. I think that commercial fishing should be scrutinized for minimizing bycatch using scientific data. Furthermore, while supporting fish stock I found it quite limiting to be able to catch onle one fish in a very shor period of time, while rading that 30% of shrimp bycatch are juvenile</p>

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				flounder. This is disrespectful for the purpose, of recreational fishers, and the community as a whole.
547	03/15/2021 - 9:09am	jeff Leaver	NC	<p>I understand the importance of maintaining a commercial fishing community in NC. I also know that the recreational fishing industry supports a lot more jobs. I live near Holden Beach and I mainly go flounder gigging. I did notice an increased number of flounder this past season and larger fish and I think there should be a more equitable share between commercial and recreational fishing.</p> <p>Thanks Jeff Leaver</p>
546	03/15/2021 - 9:09am	Donald Beaver	North Carolina	In my opinion it is past time Marine Fisheries Commission to stop favoring the commercial fishermen in their decisions.
545	03/15/2021 - 8:59am	Jon Purinai	North Carolina	<p>The flounder resource belongs to everyone in the state of NC. It is unfair for 70% of the quote to go to a handful of individuals. The state would economically benefit so much more from increased recreational fishing of flounder. I would say every coastal town saw increased traffic and spending while flounder season was open recreationally.</p> <p>Let the resource stay with the people of nc and not with commercials guys who will sell our fish all over the country.</p>
544	03/15/2021 - 8:59am	Chad Harris	NC	Please use common sense on this issue. We are asking for the catch to be 50/50. We are sick and tired of the commercial guys killing this fishery for recreational fisherman.
543	03/15/2021 - 8:59am	Ron Dorsey Jr	North Carolina	As a recreational fisherman in North Carolina that has seen the allocation of the resources given more heavily to the commercial segment over the years than the recreational segment I ask why? Why should we not share equally? For the allocation of the flounder fishery it should be 50% recreational and 50% commercial! The recreational fishermen deserve to have use of half of the resource!
542	03/15/2021 - 8:57am	Bobby Rowell	South Carolina	Please consider the reduction in commercial over fishing. It is clear to me that as the commercial fishing industry get better or more less fish are available for a license holder to enjoy. It would seem that all you would have to look at is the recreational license money contribution factor private VS commercial and it would be very clear -Raise the commercial license fees to match the same amount and I would have less to talk about -- Just a lowly inland fisherman , Bobby Rowell
541	03/15/2021 - 8:55am	Nick Bolton	NC	I ask for a fair and equitable 50/50% (commercial/recreational) share of Flounder. The planned to be 70/30% split (commercial/recreational), is not even remotely fair. The state benefits many millions of dollars from recreational flounder fishing. Flounder are a public trust, it's time for the catch Allocation to be split evenly, 50/50% across the board.

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540	03/15/2021 - 8:53am	garrett harrell	North Carolina	Stop punishing recreational anglers for the damage nets have done!! 50 50 split only fair way to do it. Get rid of nets and not the recreational anglers. Flounder belong to all of us not just the commercial fisherman. Striper is already taken from us and if it keeps on there isn't much reason to purchase a saltwater fishing license in the future.
539	03/15/2021 - 8:53am	Von Hall	NC	We respectfully ask to vote at least a 50/50 split between recreational fishers and the commercial sector concerning our NC flounder. It's been proven by other States that a strong fishery for the recreational side has proven very lucrative to the States economy. Thank you.
538	03/15/2021 - 8:49am	Norman Powell	NC	While I agree that professional fishermen need to be able to catch flounder, as a coastal fisherman I would like to be able to keep my share of flounder. We fish several times a month... Not enough to impact the resource. I think 1 fish a day is fair.
537	03/15/2021 - 8:31am	Brian Joyner	North Carolina	50/50 for flounder. NC should be leader not the problem.

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536	03/15/2021 - 8:27am	Jean mcginty	North Carolina	Id just like to say,im in favor of preserving our oceans, lakes and streams however, commercial fishermen all around the world cummulatively are destroying ur oceans. They're nets catch other fish that are lost. The commercial disherman are catching undersized flounder without penalty where the recreational fisher are extremely limited with potential fines. I asking that you review other options that make it 50/50 commercial/recreational. Its only fair to give the exact same option. Thankyou Jean Mcginty
535	03/15/2021 - 8:20am	Thomas Dean	North Carolina	Inshore gill net operations in the state of North Carolina should be heavily decreased, not just due to the high mortality rates in target species, but also high mortality rates in non-target commercial species, such as red drum. Both flounder and red drum are high value species to recreational anglers and provide much opportunity to the residents of North Carolina. These Anglers would prefer to have more robust stocks, like many other southern states who do not allow, or have heavily reduced, their use of inshore gill nets, than be able to find flounder more readily at the fish market.
534	03/15/2021 - 8:04am	Donald O. Horton	North Carolina	Gentlemen, Relative to the proposed flounder management plan, I respectfully request equitable distribution of allotment between the recreational and commercial interest. The resource belongs to all the people of NC and the proposed 70/30 allocation in favor of the commercial interest violates any semblance of equity. Further, implementation would have dire economic impact of the coastal communities that cater to recreational fishermen who pursue Flounder. As you know the recreational fishermen spend millions of dollars in these communities every year. Lastly, if the final distribution remains shifted heavily in favor commercial interest, the recreational interest will interpret the rules as unjust and unfair. As such, there is an increased likelihood of recreational interest self interpreting limits what is fair and just and acting outside of the rule. In other words, the perception of fairness will lead to compliance, else if rule are perceived as unfair, rules may be ignored, and the intent of the rules are totally undermined. I ask for implementation of a 50/50 distribution of the flounder quota.
533	03/15/2021 - 8:04am	Ronnie Melton	NC	Flounder fishing by recreational fisherman brings in millions of dollars to this state and the allocation of these fish should be a 50/50 split between recs and commercial fisherman.
532	03/15/2021 - 7:54am	Jordan isles	North Carolina	The restrictions placed on recreational anglers is grossly inequitable. The bycatch wasted by commercial fisherman is diminishing out states natural recourses that will be gone with the commercial fishermen continuing to fish the way they have been allowed to. The state continues to put stricter and stricter regulations on recreational mostly weekend anglers who use to be able to enjoy a flounder dinner year round. Now we have been forced to purchase fish we were once able to take home ourselves. It's ridiculous to walk I to a seafood market and see the hundreds of flounder that

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				commercial anglers are able to catch and sell while I caught a fish of similar size but was forced to return for them to profit off of the states disproportionate regulations. A 50/50 split is the only reasonable answer to give to the fishermen of North Carolina commercial and recreational.
531	03/15/2021 - 7:33am	Howard Collins	NC	50/50 split commercial/recreational!! Flounder represents one of the best fishing experiences for families and especially kids. Don't penalize the recreational fisherman!!
530	03/15/2021 - 7:20am	James	NC	Make commercial and recreational allocation equal.
529	03/15/2021 - 7:19am	James Cronin	NC	Increase recreational flounder limit to 3.
528	03/15/2021 - 7:16am	George Kalinchak	NC.	It's time for your commission to be aware of the generated dollars that recreational fishing can bring to our state and flounder fishing is at the top of many peoples list. Not only dollars for licenses to fish but all of the businesses that are supported locally. Just give us our fair share of time and quantity.
527	03/15/2021 - 6:56am	Jot Owens	NC	Good morning. First thank you for serving on the Marine fisheries commission, I appreciate your time and dedication to our fisheries. I ask that the commission votes on a fair and equitable 50-50 commercial/recreational split of Southern Flounder. The recreational fishing industry greatly needs this, millions and millions of tourist dollars come in from this fishery. I also urge that the summer and gulf Flounder fisheries in the ocean be manage separately from the southern that we have more access to those fish. Thank you again, Capt. Jot Owens
526	03/15/2021 - 6:54am	John Timberlake	NC	Recreational fishing accounts for more money coming into the economy than commercial. The recreational fisherman has less of an impact on the fishing stocks. Please remove the nets from inshore
525	03/15/2021 - 6:46am	Eric Pascoe	NC	Please consider commercial and recreational catch restrictions for three years or until the stock rebounds. Protect juvenile stocks from indiscriminate catch in shrimp drag nets. Use recreational catch and release strategies to also protect stocks!
524	03/15/2021 - 6:42am	Keith wells	North Carolina	Please make it 50/50 with the flounder and do the right thing.

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523	03/15/2021 - 6:39am	Danny Hill	Nc	50/50 is the only fair way
522	03/15/2021 - 6:29am	Thomas Stewart	NC	When will NC every do away with away with gill nets and inshore trawling? And stop taking advantage of the recreational fishermen!
521	03/15/2021 - 6:07am	Jim Wallis	NC	If any restrictions are made commercial fishing should be included.
520	03/15/2021 - 5:40am	William Carey Griffin, Jr.	NC	I vote for 50/50 split between commercial and recreational fisherman. The bycatch of what commercial fisherman catch and kill is what's causing the lack of flounder, trout and all other species of fish! You don't see recreational fisherman catching small fish and killing them!
519	03/15/2021 - 5:16am	Richard	NC	We lag behind every coastal state in e recreational catch no inshore Gill netting would be a huge step to rectifying that
518	03/15/2021 - 1:29am	Mark Wilkins	NC	<p>NC Marine Fisheries Commission should consider the following when evaluating the recommendations in Draft Amendment 3 to the Flounder Management Plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When evaluating catch pounds for NC, Ga, SC, and the Florida east coast, NC commercial fishermen land 98.5% of the southern flounder. 2. Evaluating catch pounds for NC, Ga, SC, and the Florida east coast, NC recreational fishermen typically harvest less than 50% of the total southern flounder landed. 3. Although the contribution to the economy from the commercial catch and sale of southern flounder is significant, it is dwarfed by the economic contribution made by recreational fishermen pursuing southern flounder. 4. The recent historical reductions in the amount of southern flounder caught by commercial fishermen is - for the most part - the result of indirect action (i.e. actions taken to address a non-flounder issue have impacted annual commercial flounder landings). However, historical reductions in the amount of southern flounder landed by recreational fishermen is mainly the result of direct action against recreational fishermen catching and keeping flounder. This does not seem to be equal treatment for both parties. 5. According to the demographic research provided in the Southern Flounder FMP, the MFC must consider whether maintaining a commercial/recreational ratio of 70%/30% continues racial inequity issues due to the majority (95%) of commercial flounder fishermen being male and Caucasian. (Only easily available information this commenter could find show recreational fishermen are approximately 87% white while 13% are minorities). 6. To assist faster reparation of the southern flounder stock, would recommend 1 year moratorium on recreational possession of southern flounder. There should be a limit of 3 fish per person per day of summer or gulf flounder for whatever length of season the Commission recommends. It is almost always a simple observation to tell the flounder

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				species apart. If someone is caught with the wrong flounder, they should pay the penalty. It is not fair and equitable to pre-punish everyone for what might be the inappropriate behavior (i.e. illegally possessing the wrong flounder) of individuals.
517	03/15/2021 - 12:53am	Brooks Emerson	Nc	I believe the flounder season harvest should be split 50/50 between the commercial and recreational fisherman
516	03/15/2021 - 12:22am	Thomas Gibson	North Carolina	The delegation of this topic needs to be an equal split, meaning 50/50. That is the only way it will be equal.
515	03/15/2021 - 12:19am	Derrell Boyd	NC	It is only fair to all to use the 50/50 rule. 70/30 is making people really upset. How would you feel not being able to provide enough for your family. It cost a lot of money to go out fishing especially with fuel being so high and we need to take care of ourselves. 50/50 Please
514	03/15/2021 - 12:11am	Richard Turner	NC	The split between recreational and commercial fishermen should be equal with respect to the flounder harvest. In addition there should be much reduced or, eliminated, seine or net fishing in the sounds.
513	03/14/2021 - 11:36pm	Thomas hyson	North carolina	The fact your organization would rather limit flounder, redfish, and trout for recreational hook and line fisherman rather than ban nets shows how deep the commercial fishing industry has lined your board member's pockets. Look just north and south of us across state lines and note the difference of regulation and limits. It may be a good starting point for the ineffective political bureaucrats that comprise your board. Hope one day yall can get it together, in the meantime our fishery will continue to suffer.
512	03/14/2021 - 10:55pm	Dennis Fair	N.C.	I'm in favor of removing nets from all inland waters as Venice La has done, and if you fish you should know Venice has some of the worlds best inland fishing. I'm also in favor a fair 50/50 spit on flounder harvest. Recreational fisherman spend way more per pound than commercial fisherman. It's important to gets kids excited about catching fish as we use to, before over harvesting. I think the reporting of poundage each day from all will reduce over harvesting as the season goes on. Thanks
511	03/14/2021 - 10:35pm	Steven Acuna	North Carolina	I am for a 50/50 split commercial and recreational anglers flounder season for 2021.
510	03/14/2021 - 10:34pm	Jason Hall	Nc	In regards to the management of our coastal fishery specifically flounder. Myself and my wife bought our children lifetime hunting/fishing license with coastal fishing as well. These were bought to invest in there future and the future of our fishery. I can not understand how it is that something we share together and the ability to put food on our own tables can be taken away from us. In that same mindset that we can go across the street and purchase these fish. Will out money be reimbursed? Will changes be made that makes more sense? Slot limits? All the larger fish that are caught are the breeding stock the smaller fish under 15" are generally males and have there part as well, but

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				<p>there are many other options that will help the fishery grow much stronger than continuing to limit recreational fishermen/fisherwomen which fish got much more than recreation. We fish for the experience, the table fare and the memories. I urge anyone with input to the decisions to look at other options to allow us all to continue to do just that.</p> <p>Regards A Concerned Investor In Our Fishery</p>
509	03/14/2021 - 10:31pm	Brian pait	NC	As a recreational fisherman I believe it should be 50/50 split on the harvest for flounder. Recreational fishing is hurting from the implementation of unfair laws for recreational fishermen. If everyone must do their part it should be fair and even.
508	03/14/2021 - 10:20pm	Robert Horne	Nc	Open flounder for commercial harvest and account for gigs, gill and pound nets. Trip limits/quota to achieve harvest reduction.
507	03/14/2021 - 10:12pm	Pete Sanderson	North Carolina	Please make the split 50/50 Thanks
506	03/14/2021 - 10:10pm	Craig Ganoe	Virginia	I visit the outer banks 4 to 5 times a year. I am an avid fishermen both in the sound and the surf and am sickened by what the state has been doing to recreational fishermen concerning the legal harvest of flounder. The season only being open for a couple months is ridiculous as no other state is implementing the same practices. The fact the commercial fishermen are permitted to use gill and drag nets, gig and harvest 10 times what a recreational fishermen can is preposterous. If there needs to be some stricter laws put in place to protect the flounder population shouldn't it be applied to them and not on the man who wants to catch and eat a flounder in October? I know fish and fishing is a large business for north Carolina but think how much money just me and my family pump into the economy for the weeks that we visit.
505	03/14/2021 - 10:10pm	Jarrold Quinlivan	North Carolina	Recreational flounder regulations in North Carolina are atrocious. I recommend a 50/50 split with commercial fishermen and allowing a longer season and/or smaller bag limits throughout the year to allow for recreational flounder fishing throughout the year. Please limit the commercial fishing if it is determined the fishery is in danger,
504	03/14/2021 - 9:57pm	Cecil Kemp	Va	<p>I come to NC every year for a week to flounder fish. Spend money on license gas house rental food and more. I try to follow the rules and regulations for both commercial fishing and recreational fishing and the reason for the allocation of fish but with the few fish allowed this maybe the end of the yearly fishing trip. It is hopefully that you may reconsider the recreational fishing with the size limits and increase the number of fish per day as opposed to the commercial fishing that has no size limits.</p> <p>Thank you for allowing me to relay my thoughts to commission</p>

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503	03/14/2021 - 9:41pm	Charles Dellinger Jr	North Carolina	Flounder limits should be a minimum of a 50/50 split between recreational / commercial. Anything else will probably keep me and many of my recreational friends from making trips to the NC coast. Will probably drive us farther south from our home state.
502	03/14/2021 - 9:36pm	Alan Waters	NC	EQUAL FISH FOR ALL.
501	03/14/2021 - 9:34pm	Chris Ivey	NC	As a recreational fisherman, who is strongly conservative with OUR natural resources, I am appalled that OUR resource is allocated more to a commercial fishery that does not generate NEARLY the economic benefit of the recreational fishery. This state, and whoever has sat on the MFC, now and in the past, has squandered our resource to keep money in the pockets of a few. I demand at least a fair 50/50 split between recreational and commercial for this year's flounder season. Our waters are raped by gill netters, trawlers, and the commercial industry at a fraction of what the recreational fishery generates economically. Get the nets and trawlers out of our creeks, rivers, and sounds and watch the fishery recover and draw more economic benefit like all of the other states that HAVE done their JOBS and protected their resource. Thank you.
500	03/14/2021 - 9:30pm	Mike Millinder	NC	Fishing for Equality. I support the 50/50 commercial/recreational split for flounder in NC
499	03/14/2021 - 9:30pm	Brian Shields	NC	The proposal of a 70/30 split in favor of commercial is nonsensical at the least. It has been shown over and over again the economic impact of the recreation industry far outweighs the commercial. The recreation industry is also a far cleaner fishery using hook and line or gig making it selective with little to no by catch . At this point there are very little fish to take home on a inshore fishing trip. Something has to change as this continued backward management of our fishery will only continue to destroy what could easily be one of the best fisheries in the east coast. Please start guiding our fisheries with science and not politics. Thank you for your consideration.
498	03/14/2021 - 9:22pm	Danny Clodfelter	32: NC	You need to step up to the plate and do the right thing for a change. Do not continue the slant in favor of commercial interests. It's time to reverse the course of killing our fisheries. Fishing rights are a public trust. They belong to the people, not commercial interests.
497	03/14/2021 - 9:17pm	Karl Smith	NC	Please do not give the fish to the commercial sector. They RAPE the resource at the publics cost. Please stop with the asinine way that "Raleigh" and big money people ruin sport fishing in NC. Sport fishing is WAY more beneficial to NC than Commercial fishing is.
496	03/14/2021 - 9:14pm	Eddy Dawson	Nc	50/50 split on flounder

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495	03/14/2021 - 9:11pm	Tony Jackson	NC	I'm new to saltwater fishing but the main reason I bought a boat was to learn to catch flounder. My question is why is North Carolina the only state to still allow the netting the way the state allows. It should be 70% hook and line and 30% commercial and slowly do away with the netting like the rest of the coastal states have done!
494	03/14/2021 - 9:09pm	Billy Ray Lucas Jr.	NC	This is absolutely a disgrace for the Recreational Fishermen. We have voiced our concern on every platform without being taken serious. You go through the process because it's protocol. You guys need to give us equal allowances as the commercial side. If you do what you should do you'll get the commercial gear out of our estuaries and we both can enjoy a bountiful amount of fish like our neighboring states. It's been long enough for the one sided votes and discrimination against the recreational fishermen. Do what's correct for a change. Surprise us all.
493	03/14/2021 - 9:08pm	Clyde Swindell	NC	I'm for any kind of reasonable regulation to get flounder to maturity. I believe in moving trawler out of all rivers and back into the sound. To many little fish killed by them especially flounders.
492	03/14/2021 - 8:58pm	Connie Lecompte	NC	As a land and home owner I feel recreational fishing for flounder is equal important as commercial, so no 70/30 split not even close to fair. 50/50 across board no special treatment its was their choice to do commercial fishing for living,,, but it's my right and choice to have equal rights to all fish as they do
491	03/14/2021 - 8:56pm	Jerry	N.C.	Keep it fair. 50/50
490	03/14/2021 - 8:48pm	Jamie Cooper	NC	50/50 commercial recreational that is the only fare way
489	03/14/2021 - 8:42pm	Richard Raymond	NC	Try ending giggering for a couple of years. There are just a few flounder to be caught on rod and reel because they are taking their limit at night , every night. I'm not opposed to reducing the limit on daily catch to 2. Really, who needs to fill their freezer every night. I'm just a recreational fisherman trying to catch an occasional flounder dinner. No closed season on flounder, watch the numbers go up when you stop the giggering. I have cut my time on the water by 70% because of the restrictions on flounder. That means less money spent on gas,tackle,ramp fees at CB State Park and even food. Which hurts local economy. Its been hard enough for local business this past year and this won't help them this year. Thanks for the opportunity to voice my feelings. Tight Lines
488	03/14/2021 - 8:37pm	Alex Hunt	North Carolina	My son and I love to flounder fish and gig and keep a few and eat them throughout the year. I feel that this fishery has been mishandled and allowed gill netting and commercial fisherman to take and take and take from our resource. Leaving the recreational fisherman to bear the consequences. I understand that that is how some people make a living, but it needs to be recognized that lifetime north Carolinians not able to have a reasonable recreational season just isn't right. We pay for our license and we pay our

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				<p>taxes and have been our entire lives. I just bought both of my sons lifetime fishing and hunting licenses in hopes that the right decisions will be made for the recreational fisherman and hunter. Our resources must be managed carefully and fairly. Conservation is the most important thing for us in my household and rarely do we take more than we need or keep "limits." We have to think of our children and the future fisherman out there and the experience of catching, cleaning, and cooking your own meat. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Lex Hunt</p>
487	03/14/2021 - 8:36pm	Marcus Clayton	N.C.	I understand that commercial fisherman make a living by catching and selling flounder but the recreational fisherman also deserve the right to catch flounder throughout the year. There should definitely be a 50/50 split on the catch.
486	03/14/2021 - 8:33pm	Richard L Laton	NorthCarolina	I believe the flounder season for recreational fisherman should be equal to the commercial fishermen. Recreational fishermen put a lot of money into the local coastal economy.
485	03/14/2021 - 8:25pm	Robert Keith	NC	The allocation of the flounder catch should be 50% to recreational fisherman and 50% to commercial fisherman. It is grossly unfair to penalize the recreational fisherman and recreational fishing industry who generate more tax and tourism revenues. The lack of effective regulation of commercial fishing, especially in inshore waters is primarily responsible for the stress on the flounder fishery and recreational fisherman should not suffer because of this.
484	03/14/2021 - 8:15pm	Jamie Jenkins	NC	50/50
483	03/14/2021 - 8:15pm	Savannah	North Carolina	Make it even between commercial and Rec. 50/50 for take. Also ban inshore gills nets to follow what other states have done. Other states closed those inshore gill nets due to lack of sustainability. Keep gill nets in the ocean only my. Too many non targets and the nets kill more then a daily limit of fish
482	03/14/2021 - 8:03pm	THOMAS S COLTRAIN	North Carolina	50 50 split for each. They do not have any more right to these fish than I do. Why can't you people see what is going on in NC. Why are the other states not having these problems? Why do they have more creel limits than NC? What is the difference? NO GILL NETS and NO INSHORE OTTER TRAWLS FOR SHRIMP. It is not that hard to figure out, you just got to stand up for what is right not the greed for a DOLLAR. You manage for a Dollar not the fish and that is why NC has no flounder, gray trout, stripers, croakers, spots and river herring. You now have put all the pressure on sea trout and it is just a matter of time you will cut the limit on them so more can be sold for a Dollar.

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				The last fish in NC will be sold for a Dollar. YOU MUST BE PROUD OF YOUR FISHERY MANAGEMENT IN NC !!!!!
481	03/14/2021 - 7:56pm	Ronald Hearn	NC	I think it should be at least 50/50 I don't understand how you can let boats take 1000lbs per day and try to stop us weeken fisherman that spend out money to come to beach to fish for flounder and not let us have but 4 per days as of now and even talking about taking 3 of them away !!! Not far at all
480	03/14/2021 - 7:48pm	Tyler Cvetan	NC	This resource should be split 50%-50%. If there isn't enough for recreational fisherman, there are not enough for commercial. Open the season for both groups and close it for both when the limit is reached.
479	03/14/2021 - 7:39pm	Mike Sutton	North Carolina	Please go to a 50/50 rec versus commercial limits. Also there needs to be limits on the commercial giggering numbers.
478	03/14/2021 - 7:38pm	Laurie Wetherington	Nc	There needs to be a 50/50 split between commercial fishermen and recreational fishermen.
477	03/14/2021 - 7:22pm	Dean Crenshaw	NC	I think our flounder fishery should be a little different. Our flounder season last year created a panic frenzy of, "how many flounder can we get in the cooler while our season is open". I understand spawning months but if we wipe out a population during the summer, spawning will never happen. I think the regulations should be 1-2 flounder per person instead of 4 during those august-September months. And during the off season, 1 flounder per boat. Please take this into consideration. Thanks, Dean Crenshaw
476	03/14/2021 - 7:19pm	Tyler Williams	NC	I have lived in this state all my life and have fished here all my life and to see our fishery decline is sad. We have some of the best habitat on the east coast for inshore fishing and it is time the state's management does the right think and get stiffer registration on commercial fishing so we can both enjoy the fishing once it's recovered! Do the right thing NC and make flounder registration to commercial to match what needs to happen to help this fishery. Us the recreational angler are not the one killing this fishery we're trying to protect it for years to come!
475	03/14/2021 - 7:13pm	Billy	N.C.	Support your recreational fishermen vote 50/50 split on the flounder.
474	03/14/2021 - 7:06pm	JOSEPH A GREENE	NC	I think you blame the recreational fisherman for the down fall of the flounder fishing but I know from gowning up in North Carolina it's not recreational fisherman. Your the blame for not implementing structure in our species for not following other states an keeping fish plentiful. I will TAKE my fishing an spend my money somewhere else if you don't become 50/50 with recreation an commercial fishing. I have seen the nets that have

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				killed fish an unattended nets even crab pots. Dying fish rotten fish turtles caught in nets your laws are not helping out there ridiculous you have lots of money spent in NC recreation fisherman you have no fair ways in the way you implement your rules. Good day because I will take my money South or North of here.
473	03/14/2021 - 6:45pm	Ian Perna	North Carolina	As a recreational fisher who pays for a fishing license I believe we deserve an equal share of the allotted catch of flounder. It should be a 50/50% share with commercial fisherman. We have a right to the natural just like they do.
472	03/14/2021 - 6:44pm	Tim Matthews	North Carolina	I spend countless time and money fishing nc coastal waters, all I ask is to be able to keep enough of my catch to make it worth while. 1 flounder is not enough! At least share the quota and let us keep enough for supper.
471	03/14/2021 - 6:17pm	Brian Koontz	NC	Been flounder fishing since the 1980s. I've watched size limits go up and limits go down since but I catch fewer undersized flounder than ever. How can that be unless someone is able to keep or are killing small flounder. Whatever is causing the loss of undersized flounder must be fixed or no other measure will work!!
470	03/14/2021 - 6:12pm	Victor Safarian	NC	Please make it fair for the recreational flounder fisherman. There are those of us that love to fish for nothing but flounder and you're killing the recreational guys with your laws!
469	03/14/2021 - 6:11pm	Robin lowery9	NC	Understanding the goal is hard. When you have houses on the waterways keeping fish when they want to. This is not right to have a rule that you can't police fairly. I see people keeping flounder all the time. This is sad that the other states around North Carolina continues to allow fishing but the committee for North Carolina closing their eyes and makes theses decision. It all comes down to political parties and big buying these people out.
468	03/14/2021 - 6:10pm	Chris Bortnick	NC	Allow recreational anglers a greater opportunity to catch flounder. Commercial quotas should not be significantly greater than that of the recreational. Furthermore, I have concerns regarding the amount of by-catch associated with commercial fishing.
467	03/14/2021 - 6:05pm	Chuck Buterbaugh	NC	I'd really appreciate a fair 50/50 split between recreational fisherman as in myself and thousands of others.. the commercial fisherman seems to always get the better end of the bargain every year and we get dealt the scraps.. there's no reason why there can't be a 50/50 split that makes all fisherman happy.. its called fishing for a reason... Getting politics involved ruins it for all!
466	03/14/2021 - 6:03pm	Jeff Haywood	NC	I'm a life long resident, and have flounder fished from the surf starting with my Dad when I was 7 or 8. I'm now approaching 60. The recreational fishermen are not getting a fair shake,if we don't get a longer season. Don't think we are hurting the population at all. It's commercial, by catch from shrimp boats, and alot of giggers out all night, and back in, and home before officials can hit the water in the mornings. Alot of understaffed counties

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				I'm sure, and not all would take advantage of understaffing, don't get me wrong. I'm just saying the recreational guys with a rod and reel are not hurting. You run them off, loss of alot of money to the state, and local economies. Thanks for allowing me to comment.
465	03/14/2021 - 6:00pm	Harrison Prince	NC	50/50 split would be a great decision. The recreational side brings in so much revenue it would only be fair
464	03/14/2021 - 5:54pm	Nick	NC	Commercial fisherman deserve to be able to catch the fish they need to support their livelihood but not an overkill that takes away from the sport of fishing. Take care of the waters and what lives in it and it will take care of you
463	03/14/2021 - 5:46pm	Dennis Hale	NC	Please allow 50/50 quota for flounder it's only fair
462	03/14/2021 - 5:43pm	Kurt Geisler	North Carolina	NCDMF doesn't give a rats rear end what my opinion is. Never have.
461	03/14/2021 - 5:35pm	Charles Wood	NC	The 70/30 split is absurd. Why would the commercials get more of the flounder catch when according to all the stats for NC they have historically taken the most. We need to address why we still allow gill nets, a very destructive gear that doesn't discriminate and causes many dead discards. Every state on the east coast and gulf has banned this destructive gear, yet our declining fishery continues to allow it. Every other state also allocates the resource to the citizens/ rec anglers first and what is left over is the allocated to the commercials.
460	03/14/2021 - 5:28pm	Joe P.	North Carolina	70/30 split shows that the date wants to manage its resource only for revenue and not for its actual tax paying citizens. Citizens should have the same opportunity to Harvey their fish as the commercial fisherman. It should be 50/50 and if it's not, then Closing the season completely would be a better management option. I also feel that inshore gill netting should be prohibited. Leave the netting and trawling for outside the inlets where the fish will have a chance to reproduce. All states along the east coast have no inshore netting. There is a scientific reason for this and the data doesn't lie. Inshore netting is not sustainable. I have removed multiple Double crested cormorants, loons and pelicans from unattended nets in the Neuse and new river. The other states on east coast figured it out but our state seems to be lacking the ability to learn from history.
459	03/14/2021 - 5:27pm	Robert Crowley	NC	A 70/30 split is disproportionate to the tax payers who fund this fishery. The willingness to sell our fishery off for the commercial gain is a disgrace. The tax payers should not be the ones who suffer for this, when we're the ones who pay for management of the resource.
458	03/14/2021 - 5:21pm	Ray thomas	North carolina	I am a average recreational fisherman and spend around 4,000.00 a year at our coast. Dropping flounder to one per day is shutting me off completely of a resource i helped

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pay for 79 years. Recognize the recreational fisherman for what he contributed to the coastal economy and keep the four per day limit.

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457	03/14/2021 - 5:18pm	Wesley McGee	NC	The flounder limits set should be evenly split at 50/50 between the commercial and recreational fishermen.
456	03/14/2021 - 5:09pm	Karen Hamrick	NC	Please allow recreational anglers an equitable 50/50 split with commercial fisherman for the upcoming flounder season. We faithfully purchase our NC recreational licenses every year and every year the share of fish recreational fisherman can harvest is reduced. Please prohibit gill netting if you are truly interested in making a difference. If things continue to decline for recreational fishermen in our area we should just buy South Carolina licenses and trailer our boats there so we can actually harvest fish. Thank You.
455	03/14/2021 - 5:07pm	Andrew Couch	NC	There should be a 50 50 split between recreational and commercial fishermen on the flounder.
454	03/14/2021 - 5:06pm	Robert Brunner	NC	I don't understand the regulation of certain species of fish. We pay for a license to fish which by the way is crazy to me as well. Things like this is why America is going the way it is you all just do what you want and take away or limit everything. All we are asking for as recreational fisherman is to keep a few fish a day "flounder" when we catch them with our gear we paid for and our license we have purchased.
453	03/14/2021 - 5:05pm	Robert Corthell	NC	50/50 is the only fair split in the flounder fishery. Netting inland waters in today's equivalent to the days of market hunting waterfowl with punt guns.
452	03/14/2021 - 5:04pm	Clayton mclawhorn	Nc	We need 50/50 split not right to drop recreational fisherman to 1 flounder a day
451	03/14/2021 - 5:03pm	Tucker Hill	North Carolina	I find it quite sad how this fishery is managed, as a kid who grew up on the coast near wilmington I always enjoyed the coastal inshore fishing and took advantage of that daily. Now I can't even go out and catch the fish I normally do because of the commercial regulation. Adding on to that the legislation allowing gill nets is baffling to me and now a 70/30 distribution of the flounder resource, I mean cmon, it is quite sad. It's about time you guys wake up and actually due something productive for this fishery instead of being individuals who only care about the short term goals. I want to take my kids fishing and teach them all the tricks I learned through fishing the inshore waters and to show them how to cook and eat the flounder we catch. I almost assure you all, who are supposed to know this information by the way, that in 5-10 years I won't even be able to do that. Wake up and give us a fishery we can sustain, a fair share of the resource.
450	03/14/2021 - 5:02pm	Corey Bustle	North Carolina	The commercial fisherman are the problem, everyone that fishes knows that. The recreational fisherman are getting penalized for them which is not right. I fish OKI every year for flounder and I hardly ever catch keeper flounder. I may catch 2 keepers a year. So I'm pretty sure it's not recreational hurting the population. I would say between the gill nets and commercial boats, and the gigging boats is where the problem is.

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449	03/14/2021 - 5:02pm	Daniel Burnette	North Carolina	Making sure recreational fishing has a fair share and shot of the states wildlife and fisheries resources is essential to the states small businesses and local coastal economies. A 70/30 split will dramatically hurt local coastal towns and economies as well as hurting the tax paying North Carolinian.
448	03/14/2021 - 4:58pm	Ben Chesney	NC	As a manager of saltwater fishing outfitter I know the importance of recreational flounder fishing. Flounder anglers and flounder fishing produce more than 25% of our summertime/fall revenue through tackle and bait. Taking away flounder limits from recreational anglers is detrimental to our local economy and also will have an effect on other species of fish that will get targeting in leu of flounder.
447	03/14/2021 - 4:56pm	Ryan Clark	NC	There needs to be a 50/50 ratio for commercial and recreational harvest period. I'm ok with a longer season and reduce bags. Look into year round fishery with slot limits.
446	03/14/2021 - 4:55pm	Tom Himmel	NC	As a taxpayer in this state I find it sad that there is not an equitable split of flounder caught between commercial and recreational fishermen. There are many recreational charter boats who earn a living fishing and teaching others to fish. The current regulations are simply not right for all of the captains and customers who fish for flounder.
445	03/14/2021 - 4:53pm	Phong Nguyen	Nc	50/50 splits for rec and commercial
444	03/14/2021 - 4:45pm	Donald Stocks	North carolina	Please treat recreational fisberman fairly.
443	03/14/2021 - 4:39pm	David Nuttall	NC	Requesting consideration for 50/50 split for flounder between commercial and recreational fisherman, thank you!
442	03/14/2021 - 4:36pm	Daniel Anderson	NC	50/50 split between commercial / recreational flounder.
441	03/14/2021 - 4:17pm	Keith Templeton	NC	In regards to the proposed 70/30 commercial/recreational split for the flounder season: Not sure how this is remotely fair to the tax paying recreational fishers of NC. As a NC citizen, tax payer, and license holder I urge the Marine Fisheries Commission to reconsider this split to a more equitable split of 50/50. Not sure what the Marine Fisheries motto is, but perhaps you could follow the NC Wildlife Resources Commission's motto, "more sport for more people and an equal opportunity for all". Also these resources belong to the public and are held in trust by the state to be managed; these proposed management practices seem unfair. How about an EQUAL opportunity for all!!! Thank-you for your consideration.

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440	03/14/2021 - 4:14pm	Benjamin horne	NC	The flounder fishery in NC is more then healthy enough for an 50/50 split between commercial and recreational fishermen. If anything a size limit increases on dredge nets should be put into place so small founder can grow and reproduce. Recreational fisherman can better decide what is caught and released allowing for a healthier population while netting causes mass by catch in the population.
439	03/14/2021 - 4:00pm	Steven Adrian	NC	I find it hard to believe that our neighbor to the south (South Carolina) has a 14"- 10 fish limit for recreational; flounder and we in North Carolina have either none or a short season with 1 as a limit. I also can't see the sense of putting our charter captains out of business while letting the commercial fishermen have a near free reign on flounder. Please reconsider the sport fisherman and open the flounder season for 2021.
438	03/14/2021 - 3:54pm	Bill Gorham	North Carolina	<p>No recreational "paybacks", MRIP is highly variable and could/will result is open/close annual fisheries, any attempt at passing such a provision is an attempt to close the fishery. If reductions at met and abundance increases catch will surely go up, again leading to closures. Also, with no accepted method of quick quota monitoring their is no way to prevent or limit overages.</p> <p>Despite the comments made at the last MFC meeting, MRIP has never been audited for accuracy, to suggest anything different is not founded in reality. Congress passed a budget this year that contained 2.5 million to help states start an on line or phone app, there are multiple efforts to look at other forms of catch estimates, ALL because of the issues with MRIP.</p> <p>Going to a 1 fish bag limit results in a 1 dead discard for every 1 15" plus harvested fish. Rebuilding year classes require slot limits and or closures, min size limits that result in high discards must be avoided.</p> <p>Allocations, the people deserve the ability to see what the prior outlined allocations result in for a season and bag limits, THEN give comment. To date, I am unable to give an informed position on what percent allocation is fair, but a one fish bag limit and 45 day season, on it's face, doesn't look fair for individual fishers.</p> <p>The commercial sector should look at trip limits to control the rate of catch, dealers should upgrade systems to allow for "real time" reporting, unlike with the recreational sector, these reporting systems are available and should be used.</p> <p>This fisheries management is a disaster, we can change the past nor should it prevent better choices moving forward. Current regulations are almost at critical access to prevent greatest economic impact.</p>

#▼	SUBMITTED	NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW.
				Good luck!
437	03/14/2021 - 3:51pm	Wayland Kennedy	NC	Please allow a 50/50 split.The flounder caught commercially are exported anyway.Let us recreational anglers keep our fair share! Thank You
436	03/14/2021 - 3:39pm	Matthew Morgan	Nc	In any inheritance issue with 2 children mediation attempts divy out property as close to 50/50 as possible. This 50/50 is only fair for two children unless the will states otherwise. In that case the will separates fairness for favorites. I hope NCDMF does not play favorites by allowing on child more than another.
435	03/14/2021 - 3:39pm	Matthew Morgan	Nc	In any inheritance issue with 2 children mediation attempts divy out property as close to 50/50 as possible. This 50/50 is only fair for two children unless the will states otherwise. In that case the will separates fairness for favorites. I hope NCDMF does not play favorites by allowing on child more than another.
434	03/14/2021 - 3:30pm	Eric Furr	Norh Carolina	Open the season back up for recreation because one state cannot protect the species when all the other states are open
433	03/14/2021 - 3:26pm	Michael Goins	North Carolina	Totally unfair the recreational fishermen don't get more flounder. I fish out of a kayak, the gut hooked flounder I have to throw back? Shameful
432	03/14/2021 - 3:12pm	gina huthmacher	NC	My husband is retired Military and also disabled. We are on a fixed income and love fish (flounder) a few times a year. Please keep our limits at 4 so we can have At least some in the Freezer for winter. 1 just doesn't work for us. Please CONSIDER AND Vote for Commercial and Rec to be equal. It's Only Fair Thanks Gina B Huthmacher Charles A Huthmacher
431	03/14/2021 - 3:09pm	Martin	North Carolina	50/50 is fair allocation of resources.
430	03/14/2021 - 3:05pm	Jason Gillikin	NC	I have been fishing ball my life in NC and would love to be able to continue catching summer flounder. I feel as a lifetime native I deserve an equitable share in flounder
429	03/14/2021 - 2:51pm	Bill Davis	NC	I would like to see a total closure of Flounder harvest for the recreational and commercial anglers until the stock recovers. To penalize the recreational angler, but allow the commercial sector continue to deplete the stock just makes no sense. Although I don't Flounder fish I can imagine anglers putting a 16" Flounder in their cooler,

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				<p>much later catching a 20" fish and dumping the smaller dead fish over to feed the crabs if there is a one fish limit. Could you blame them if they're trying to feed two people?</p> <p>You folks need to get this one right.</p>
428	03/14/2021 - 2:42pm	John Kennedy	Nc	50/50 and (STOP ALL TRAWLING INSIDE) Chesapeake bay did it and the fishing returned in 5 years. Trawling KILLS the estuaries!!
427	03/14/2021 - 2:38pm	Marc Hennen	NC	We need more opportunities for the recreational fishermen to catch flounder. You need to allow more flounder for recreational fisherman
426	03/14/2021 - 2:35pm	Nathan Culp	North Carolina	My 4 year old son Loves flounder fishing with his dad. Putting these types of restrictions on recreational fisherman while allowing commercial fishermen to wipe out a resource is disgusting and robbing our future generations of the opportunities to learn the sport.
425	03/14/2021 - 2:18pm	Kenneth Moser	North Carolina	It should be 50/50 same for recreational as commercial. Why punish recreational fisherman, and the local economy.
424	03/14/2021 - 2:18pm	Norman kirby	N.c.	Split the sounds down the middle no shrimping or netting on one side of the sounds for a year give the Juvenile fish a chance to grow up next year switch side everyone will benefit this is not hard people
423	03/14/2021 - 2:16pm	Pete Moyer	North Carolina	Please allow a 50/50 split between recreational fishing limits & commercial fishing limits for Flounder in NC.
422	03/14/2021 - 2:14pm	Jeff Smith	NC	Need more recreational floundering longer season and keep more fish.
421	03/14/2021 - 2:10pm	Jame	NC	50/50 flounder
420	03/14/2021 - 2:10pm	Jame	NC	50/50 flounder
419	03/14/2021 - 2:05pm	Mike kucich	NC	Please make this even 50/50. We spend so much money on bait, tackle, boats, kayaks, plus the service industry makes a killing on getting our boats in tune. If you want a return of flounder then shut down flounder fishing for the whole year for recreational and commercial or make it an even split for everyone.
418	03/14/2021 - 2:03pm	Mansfield Fisher	NC	Please allow an equitable split between rec and commercial fisherman.
417	03/14/2021 - 1:55pm	Dominic Genzano	Nc	Since the rec fishermen and women got screwed again at least allow us to catch a 4 fish limit during our "season". Which is Bullshit to begin with.

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416	03/14/2021 - 1:45pm	John Haughn	NC	50 /50 would be appropriate
415	03/14/2021 - 1:37pm	Isaiah Robinson	NC	
414	03/14/2021 - 1:36pm	Hudson	North Carolina	You continue to take this resource away from hard working tax payers of North Carolina but yet you allow gill netting to continue in are estuaries this hypocrisy cannot stand and if it does not change what happened pend with the capital this year will look like nothing
413	03/14/2021 - 1:35pm	Nick Inchaustegui	NC	It should be a fair 50/50 allocation between recreational and commercial fisherman. Make it fair!!!
412	03/14/2021 - 1:26pm	Brad	North Carolina	Flounder fishing is one of the main fish resources in north Carolina I consider it the most popular fish to catch and would like to keep catching and eating them for years to come as well as for my children if you take this from north Carolina you will loose lots of money people come from all over to fish for these flounder and buy fishing license,bait,tackle ect.... Do us north Carolina fishing lovers a favor and get your head out of your asses and see the real problem is commercial fishing damn a little common sense can go a long way
411	03/14/2021 - 1:24pm	Jeff Arciola	N.C.	Why is it fair for a 70/30 split. I am a boat owner and love to fish. This is not fair for the recreational fisherman. Let it be a 50/50 split for flounder season. Thanks
410	03/14/2021 - 1:22pm	Kevin Collie	NC	Is the NC Flounder stock healthy enough? How can the recreational angler expect to be satisfied with a 70:30 split? What justification is there for the commercial anglers to retain more of this resource than the other citizens of North Carolina? How can the science back up this decision? Before this is voted on; we, the recreational anglers and conservation-minded citizens, deserve to have these questions answered.
409	03/14/2021 - 1:20pm	Larry Dollar	NC	You made people buy a salt water license to improve our fishing but I don't guess that worked. You let the shrimp boats come right up on the beach in the winter time where do think the fish go in winter They go to the ocean Why don't see how many fish they are killing Why should I have to buy flounder for my dinner when you make me buy a salt water license and can't kept what I like to eat
408	03/14/2021 - 1:19pm	Calvin Honeycutt	NC	Each year it seems like the recreational fisherman gets squeezed and restricted more and more. I can accept an act of God/nature that cause fish kills and DNR is forced to shut down harvesting a certain species to help preserve the stock. What I can't accept is when recreational fisherman are squeezed when commercial fisherman continue to deplete juvenile fish before they are able to reproduce. Wouldn't it be awesome if Carolina Beach

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				and surrounding areas had the best fishing on the east coast? Wonder what that would do for the local economy? More tackle sold, more guides on the water, more people spending money at local hotels and shop!! Instead DNR expects for fisherman to be happy with a "flounder season" where possibly you can harvest 1 flounder per person and make it worth it?!? I wouldn't see paying a guide \$600 to catch and release healthy fish. I have 2 small girls and want them to be able to catch fish when they are my age so conservation is very important to me. But I think there are other issues that need to be addressed (gill nets, shrimping on the inside, etc) before blaming the depleted stocks on recreational fisherman. If we need to stand up and PAD THE POCKETS of our Congress men and women that keep the commercial guys a priority I am willing to be the first to make a donation. This nonsense has to stop and there be a fair playing field for all fisherman!!!!
407	03/14/2021 - 1:18pm	Rick Dryer	North Carolina	There needs to be a 50/50 split on flounder harvest. Recreational fishing help boost local economy but people purchasing gas, hotels, restaurants, and bait & tackle. COVID has been bad enough help get people out fishing again to boost our local economy on the coast. The small quote we have now we're going to lose a lot of interest in fishing help us keep this tradition alive by allowing an even split for Rec and commercial fishing.
406	03/14/2021 - 1:18pm	Rick Dryer	North Carolina	There needs to be a 50/50 split on flounder harvest. Recreational fishing help boost local economy but people purchasing gas, hotels, restaurants, and bait & tackle. COVID has been bad enough help get people out fishing again to boost our local economy on the coast. The small quote we have now we're going to lose a lot of interest in fishing help us keep this tradition alive by allowing an even split for Rec and commercial fishing.
405	03/14/2021 - 1:17pm	Kyle Harvey	North Carolina	This whole fishing community is on board with this. And we would really love to take some action to help save our fisheries for our future generation of anglers including my children. Please hear us out. You are destroying our fisheries. Thousands of anglers have watched for years with no action. There should be no reason for a species to be in danger. Kind regards Wilmington North Carolina residents.
404	03/14/2021 - 1:14pm	Chelsey Dryer	North Carolina	There needs to be a 50/50 split on flounder harvest. Recreational fishing help boost local economy via gas, hotels, restaurants, and bait & tackle. COVID has been bad enough help get people out fishing again to boost our local economy on the coast.
403	03/14/2021 - 1:13pm	Herman Harke	NC	,70/30 is ridiculous. The pseudo scientist's grants are funded by commercial fisherman. He has pimped hisself out. Go 50/50 at least.
402	03/14/2021 - 1:13pm	Jeremy	NC	This is not even remotely fair for public fishermen. Commercial fishermen should not get more privileges than the paying recreational fishermen. Split it up 50/50 like it should be then get the trawling gear out of the sounds and we want be talking about this later.
401	03/14/2021 - 1:10pm	Chelsey Dryer	North Carolina	

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400	03/14/2021 - 1:10pm	Rick	NC	
399	03/14/2021 - 1:09pm	Joel Shawn Spencer	NC	As a small business owner who relies on tourism, buys an annual fishing license every year to support the fishery, graduated from UNCW in Parks and Rec, and enjoys flounder fishing with my children, please AT LEAST allow a 50/50 split in the annual quota between commercial and recreation fishing. Sincerely Shawn Spencer
398	03/14/2021 - 1:00pm	Allen Darst	North Carolina	We the recreational fishermen in NC deserve the right to a fair share of the flounder quota. The money that the recreational fisherman bring to the coast of NC. We as a group deserve the opportunity to feed our families with the bounty of our coast just as much as the commercial fisherman deserves the right to sell the bounty. You need to stop the out of town commercial fisherman from taking our precious allotment for their benefit without paying there fare share to our economy! I vote for a 50/50 quota!
397	03/14/2021 - 1:00pm	Brandon Koch	North Carolina	North Carolina law makers are unfairly lobbied by the commercial fishing industry. Deep pockets influence is adversely impacting the recreational fishermen (and woman). Flounders are not only extremely fun to catch, but also provide a great source of food to many households. Along with evenly distributing catch ratio, NC needs to ban gill netting, full stop.
396	03/14/2021 - 12:58pm	Christopher J Exley Sr.	NC	It's due time for the commercial industry to take less or even none. Rec anglers represent a wide swath of those on the water, targeting multiple species, with less invasive methods of taking flounder (hook and line). We are battling for better stewardship of our stocks as rec fishermen and women. We are done not being represented and our hired "professionals" need to step up to the plate before NC fishing gets yet more restrictive for recreational anglers but commercial operations get to feed massive schools of sharks behind their trawlers s they sort their bycatch from their intended target species. This has to stop, it must stop. We are entrusted as Americans to protect, provide stewardship of, and harvest the game that God put here to sustain us. You want to make money? Reinvigorate our fish stocks with fair and equitable management by doing what the science tells you to do. Our fish and our waters need more protection from waste and invasive chemical and pollutant runoff as well. Plastic waste, dirty water from erosion, and chemicals from farming all need massive improvement here in NC. I sincerely thank you for your time and I entrust that you will all do the right thing. Resources are finite, we are the keepers of our future world. We must get past the past, learn from it, come together, and as a whole work to clean up our waters.
395	03/14/2021 - 12:58pm	Chris Noble	NC	50/50
394	03/14/2021 - 12:53pm	Mark Miller	NC	My family and I heavily dissagree on the implementation of amendment 3 for Flounder!!! We are "demanding" for our fair and equitable 50/50% (commercial/recreational) share of

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				<p>Flounder. It's planned to be 70/30% split (commercial/recreational), how is that even remotely fair?!?! The state benefits many millions of dollars from recreational flounder fishing! Flounder are a public trust it's time for the catch Allocation to be fair across the board. We are a recreational fishing family of five (5). We demand our "fair" share !!</p> <p>Thank you, Mark, Susan, Nick, Stephen, Piper, Adam Miller.</p>
393	03/14/2021 - 12:52pm	Kevin kiker	nc	We deserve our equal share!!
392	03/14/2021 - 12:50pm	Nick liles	North Carolina	50/50 across the board.. last year I couldn't even keep a flounder to feed my family, but commercial fisherman can go out and gig,net,fish,etc... thats not fair to the people whom just enjoy going out fishing
391	03/14/2021 - 12:46pm	Mark Miller	NC	DUPLICATE
390	03/14/2021 - 12:44pm	Corey cutler	NC	50/50. commercial/recreational
389	03/14/2021 - 12:41pm	Emily Grantham	North Carolina	50/50 split is better for the economy, fish, and communities! Give the fish a break from harsh netting that hurts more than just flounder numbers and give a chance for more kids to go outdoors and enjoy times with their families fishing!! 50/50 split commercial fishers will fair just fine with supply and demand helping control the market price so they will stay profitable
388	03/14/2021 - 12:39pm	chad hord	north carolina	<p>I will not be renewing my NC fishing licenses this year due to the piss poor decision making of DMF South Carolina will get that revenue from me, generally the couple thousand i spend during small vacation trips to the coast will go to SC. I am not the only one going this path the DMF forced on us.</p>
387	03/14/2021 - 12:37pm	Ben James	NC	Please approve 50/50 split on flounder limits. A select few should not get a larger limit for profit.
386	03/14/2021 - 12:36pm	Mike Eubanks	NC	The decisions made by this group has decimated the local fishery. The commercial fisherman are not to blame. The most of them are only doing what the decision makers are allowing them to do. If the NC flounder numbers are low it's because the giggers, netter's, and others are following your rules. Stop allowing nets in the estuaries. Let them shrimp 3+ miles out. Stop the giggers, period. Level the playing field. I've owned a house on Oak Island for over 40 years. The fish used to be abundant. Not so today.

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385	03/14/2021 - 12:36pm	chad hord	north carolina	<p>instead of constantly targetting recreational fisherman please BAN the use of trawlers INSHORE .. it is OBVIOUS that the best solution to start the restoration of our fishery is to follow the example of ALL the other states on the eastern seaboard and the Gulf they do NOT allow inshore trawling, and have much more restrictive netting regulations</p> <p>STOPPING 4-5million pounds of fish kill per 1 million pounds of shrimp trawled up by the 70-80 trawlers each year .. would go a LONG way toward restoring our fisheries.</p>
384	03/14/2021 - 12:33pm	Frederick Wise	NC	Should be 50/50 for resident and commercial fishing. Seems like resident fishing gets the bad end of the deal most of the time, and we pay for fishing license to.
383	03/14/2021 - 12:31pm	Sam F	NC	This is wrong. Trawling is obviously the bigger part of the issue as well as the people trying to pass this. Theres a certain point to where your wallets are full enough. People bring income to these small coastal towns hotels houses bait shops are all receiving revenue. Its about the communities not just the fish
382	03/14/2021 - 12:29pm	Dustin Cockman	North Carolina	<p>We own a place in the lovely town of Atlantic Beach. I am a avid outdoorsman both fishing and hunting. Since I was a boy I have loved chasing the southern fluke with my grandfather, father, and sister. I remember the days of the old triple ess marine pier but not for fishing but as something to do after we fished on a boat all day with my grandfather and wanted to enjoy a evening walk. I can only hope to serve my kids, nieces, and nephews the same memories as they are growing up. With a 50/50 split for Recreational and commercial fishing it not only provides tradition for families that keeps kids out of trouble and entertained but grows a love for our waters and gives the next generation a reason to help preserve and be a ambassador of the wildlife and lands we have. Opening more opportunity for recreational fishing will not only help the youth but also stimulates local economies along the eastern part of North Carolina as people come from far and wide to chase the ever elusive door mat and never stop short of buying all fishing gear from a local bait store. Do it not only for the fish but also for every father, mother, aunt, uncle, grandfather so that they may either relish in memories from the fishing or from the money that will be added to the economy buy recreational fishermen.</p>
381	03/14/2021 - 12:29pm	Zane long	North Carolina	<p>This resource belongs to the people of North Carolina. A 70/30 split is a complete insult to the tax payers of this state . I am all but demanding a 50/50 split in the allocation of our resource. 70/30 is heading down the road of communism. In Cuba they have the most rich population of spiny lobster in the world, although the average Cuban citizen would not know it because it is illegal for them to keep or consume spiny lobster. In Cuba Spiny lobster is allocated 100% for commercial harvest. 70/30 is not far off from that and we know it will not stop here.</p>

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380	03/14/2021 - 12:27pm	Al Daughtridge	NC	To keep neglecting the voices of the recreational fishermen only to cater to the commercial industry is costing this state so much revenue and costing this commission so much integrity that it appears truly corrupt. The drastic changes to the flounder season have not even been given a chance to change anything and once again this commission wants is ready to cut the recreational angler again. At the very least the recreational angler should get at least half the quota. After all we only make up about 95 percent of the fishing population.
379	03/14/2021 - 12:27pm	Michael O'Connor	North Carolina	A70/30 split on commercial/recreational flounder harvest is an insult! Recreational anglers put so much money in the state coffers to only allocate 30% is biting the hand that feeds you!
378	03/14/2021 - 12:25pm	Phillip Morris	NC	Recreational fishing helps the economy of the coastal communities thsn commercial fishing does. Fishing licenses boat sales, tackle shops motels, restaurants grocery stores... all of these will continue to lose business if you keep putting unfair limits on recreational fishermen. Commercial fishing in internal waters is destroying our stocks... just look at the healthy fishing stocks with restrictions on internal commercial fishing
377	03/14/2021 - 12:25pm	William Garrett	North Carolina	50/50 commercial to rec. not 70/30 as proposed. This is more than fair if you look at revenue that rec fishing provides to the state. Thank you.
376	03/14/2021 - 12:20pm	Jimmy Hardison	N C	Go 50-50
375	03/14/2021 - 12:19pm	Greg Rhodes	NC	What is fair. With a 70 30 split .I fish to feed my family too just like the commercial fishermen but if i cant catch my own. I promise you I will not buy fish from a rigged system
374	03/14/2021 - 12:18pm	Darrell Wayne Ayers	NC	The 70/30 split for flounder is completely unfair and ridiculous for recreational fishermen.
373	03/14/2021 - 12:17pm	Neil Loughran	NC	I am a 65 year old retired registered nurse and former Navy corpsman. I have lived on the North Carolina coast for over 35 years and have been an avid recreational flounder fisherman. Our household income is fixed and limited due to our retirement status. The flounder that I'm able to harvest and pack into our freezer represents a significant contribution to our annual grocery bill not to mention the high quality food that it is. I would propose that certain income limited individuals in North Carolina be permitted to fish for flounder outside of the current regulations in order to supplement their family food supply. It seems only logical that individuals should be permitted to harvest flounder for sustenance where it is necessary.
372	03/14/2021 - 12:17pm	John M Redmond	NC	Stop all trawlers in the inshore waters and 50/50 split
371	03/14/2021 - 12:16pm	Jacob	NC	50/50 share of flounder is the only FAIR answer!

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370	03/14/2021 - 12:15pm	Akira Min	NC	50/50 Commercial is a waste of the resource. 200 some million dollars vs 10? Hilarious
369	03/14/2021 - 12:15pm	Ron West	NC	The public and commercial use of popular marine resources should be divided evenly. The current flounder fisheries dispute is 'case in point.'
368	03/14/2021 - 12:14pm	Chelsea Lafferty	North Carolina	As a tax payer of North Carolina, I am suggesting a 50/50 split and allocation of recreational and commercial flounder fishing. A 70/30 split is insulting.
367	03/14/2021 - 12:14pm	Holland Long	North Carolina	As a taxpayer of North Carolina, I am suggesting a 50-50 split in the allocations of recreational and commercial flounder fishing. A 70-30 split is an insult.
366	03/14/2021 - 12:13pm	Jessey Vereen	Nc	
365	03/14/2021 - 12:07pm	Elvy Forrest	NC	Fish don't belong to the commercial or recreational sector. Fish belong to all the people of North Carolina. Whatever plan you decide make it fair and impartial or just shut the fishery down to everyone. Do not favor one group over the other.
364	03/14/2021 - 12:05pm	Charles beasley	Nc	50/50 split for flounder
363	03/14/2021 - 11:59am	Jeffrey Cronk	NC	I am a lifelong recreational fishermen here in NC and I do not believe that our flounder resource is being managed fairly. The upcoming quota should be split 50/50 between both user groups. The ocean fishery should also be open during the summer and fall months to both user groups as there are very little interaction with southern flounder on the nearshore bottoms between june and Oct.
362	03/14/2021 - 11:56am	Ronald Melker	NC	One citizen is not entitled to a greater number of fish than another. 50/50 split between recreational and commercial anglers is common sense
361	03/14/2021 - 11:44am	Rayford Padgett	North Carolina	People need to get out and enjoy their lives. Fishing is a right of the people. Rules are made for a reason. You can make rules that work for the people. instead of four fish and six weeks of fishing, make it two fish and 12 weeks of fishing or longer. People will thank you for it. That child and most adults does not care about how many fish. They do care that they can't go fishing. That is the case for the young because children are back in school during the month of September. July, August and September Flounder fishing with a Two fish limit would solve the problem. Its been a bad year on everyone. Think about it. Thank You. Retired LEO
360	03/14/2021 - 11:44am	Christopher Devone	NC	We need a 50/50 split between recreational and commercial limits on flounder.

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359	03/14/2021 - 11:40am	George Massey	North Carolina	Our recreational flounder fishing in NC is truly messed up. Almost every other state does a better job for the recreational angler. Please adjust the limits between commercial and recreational anglers.
358	03/14/2021 - 11:38am	Garrett	NC	50/50 harvest it's time for 70/30 to kiss us, goodbye recreational fisherman deserve better.
357	03/14/2021 - 11:38am	Garrett	NC	50/50 harvest it's time for 70/30 to kiss us, goodbye recreational fisherman deserve better.
356	03/14/2021 - 11:37am	Tommy mungo	Nc	Amendment 3 can not pass it needs to be 50/50 split on flounder yall are trying to put me out of business
355	03/14/2021 - 11:34am	Robert Goodman	NC	I believe the commercial and recreational fisheries should have a 50 /50 .We buy a recreational license to be able to catch fish and feed our family as well .
354	03/14/2021 - 11:33am	Raymond P. Sanford	NC	Why not start by BANNING dredging of overwinter habitat of flounder? 2nd a 1 fish per person daily limit, in addition to the already extremely short rec season means a death knell for even MORE charter n guide services. 3rd If the pressure on flounder is so great why not severely restrict commercial take and SEASON as well as METHODS commercial fishermen, who are important, use. If commercial interests are prohibited from take during the inshore and offshore migration periods the total take would be reduced dramatically
353	03/14/2021 - 11:33am	Harrison	North Carolina	Please make flounder season 50/50 for rec and commercial anglers
352	03/14/2021 - 11:32am	Andrew Eggers	NC	Please give the recreational fisherman and opportunity. The amount of money a recreational fisherman puts into the local economy is substantial. Local government will have a hard time when recreational fisherman no longer come to the beach's ms spend their money. At least a 50/50 split should be in order
351	03/14/2021 - 11:31am	Phillip Brandon Morton	North Carolina	I feel like the recreational side of fishing should not be punished or limited anymore than the commercial side of fishing , we as recreational anglers should be able to enjoy the wildlife and the pleasure in being able to catch and eat a "decent " limit of fish for our family
350	03/14/2021 - 11:30am	Anthony	NC	Recreational fishing brings in millions. There are plenty of Flounder for everyone to enjoy. Limit commercial and drop recreational to two per person and keep open ALL year! Don't destroy the recreational guides and fishermen.
349	03/14/2021 - 11:29am	Richard cobb	NC	As a recreational fisherman I completely disagree with the 70/30 split proposed. The split should be at least 50/50. In addition, why not curtail gigging vs rod and reel keeping limits. In my opinion gigging does far more harm to the flounder population. I'm in favor of cutting back on gigging completely until the flounder population is restored.

#▼	SUBMITTED	NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW.
348	03/14/2021 - 11:28am	Joseph Sanford	NC	The proposed Flounder allotment of 70% commercial and 30% recreational is absolutely ludicrous. Recreational fisherman co.tribute millions of dollars in revenue to the state every year. The only equitable option is a 50/50 split between recreational and commercial allocations.
347	03/14/2021 - 11:28am	Thomas Farmer	North Carolina	I feel a 50 to 50 split is fair to both parties
346	03/14/2021 - 11:26am	Darrell Stewart	NC	The state benefits many millions of dollars from recreational flounder fishing! Flounder are a public trust it's time for the catch allocation to be fair across the board. A 50/50 split is the only fair way to divide the catch quota. Fair is fair! Thank you, Darrell Stewart
345	03/14/2021 - 11:23am	Jeff Manley	NC	It needs to be 50/50 between comm/rec for flounder! We have friends and family, and others who are in the process of changing their fishing vacation plans to go to surrounding states because of the unfavorable limits and number of days allowed for flounder fishing. That equates to \$\$millions the state will lose, not only in license fees, but also lodging taxes, bait, clothing, restaurants, etc...what you need to do, is make the gill nutters go at least 3 miles offshore, like other southern Atlantic and gulf states. 70/30 is absurd!! Time to start keeping the majority of constituents in mind and not the special interest. North Carolina has gone to the toilet since I left here in the late 90's. I moved back here 2 1/2 years ago, specifically for the fishing, but am now thinking of moving to South Carolina. There are many others with the same mindset. Please do whats fair and equitable.
344	03/14/2021 - 11:19am	Jerry Waits	North Carolina k	Can we please have a 50/50 split on the flounder harvest between commercial and recreational. I know the commercial guys livelihood depends on fish harvest, but as a fishing guide and island rental home owner, so does mine. Tourism/recreational fishing dollars matter.
343	03/14/2021 - 11:18am	Dennis c. Turner	North Carolina	The economic impact of Recreational flounder fisherman far exceeds that of commercial fisherman to the state. Recreational fisherman should be granted a fair share of at least 50% of the harvest quota.
342	03/14/2021 - 11:17am	MAX C WEAVIL	NC	when are you going to treat the recreational fisherperson FAIRLY!!!!???? the commercial get all the advantages by net, gigging and even HOOK but there rest of us is limited, How much under the table do you guys get? That is the ONLY excuse to be given since you do NOT fish yourself otherwise you would demand fairness. All you do for the folks that come to FISH in north carolina is drive them to other states that treat everyone FAIRLY. REMEMBER SPOT RUNS? I do from decades ago but the COMMERCIAL fishermen and women killed that one, A spot run now is 10 fish, cause they NET EVERYTHING. Put a limited on that one , where is the screaming for that species? You use to be able to catch that fish, BIG ONES by the cooler fulls, NOT IN DECADES....

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341	03/14/2021 - 11:15am	Justin shortt	Nc	Fair for all, i spend money every year to fish, fishing licenses, tackle, fuel, everything i buy supports a local business somehow as i dont support chain stores. I grew fishing with my dad as i plan for my son to do. Its time fishing is fair across the board, picking the commerical guys over the recreational guys in such a way is garbage. We deserve our share. And in the inshore gill nets HAVE TO GO. The fisheries in our neighboring states that have already banned them make nc fisheries look stupid
340	03/14/2021 - 11:15am	Rich brannin	Nc	This makes no sense. How and why doors commercial fishing have such a strong hold on the fisheries in North Carolina This need to change.
339	03/14/2021 - 11:13am	Johnnie Sheppard	NC	Why would the percentage be anything less than 50/50? Why is my right to buy a fish more important than to catch one for myself. Just considering the economic impact of flounder of recreational-vs- commercial it's by far more money supporting recreational expenditures. 90 percent of commercial license holders are not supporting themselves from fishing. It's a cash business with far from accurate accounting. And how is your recreational accounting done? Wild add guess? I've been fishing for flounder for 55 years and not once has anyone asked me how many I caught. Surveys are about menhaden or crabs never about flounder. So many flounder were caught last year by commercials they got down to \$1 a pound. Conservation goes away when it's about the dollar value. This is twice I've written My feelings about the flounder issue and I feel the NCDMF has deaf ears when it comes to recreational issues. Really tired of taking the blame for poor management look at SC and Va. plenty of liberal limits for recreational but have outlawed netting and inland trawling. What can't you figure out?
338	03/14/2021 - 11:12am	Ricky Seymour	NC	Please consider the recreational fisherman's that travels to your coast, the one who comes and maybe spends a week or weekend, give them a little more to look forward to, or most of them will be like me and say what's the point, and fish the local lakes. Remember the flounder guides, and their families. Thank you
337	03/14/2021 - 11:12am	Chris hanson	Nc	I am writing to you as are thousands of other fisherman that are fed up with your good ole boy mentalities. Ya'll need to get your priorities straight before you vote yourselves out of jobs. The flounder proposal of 1 fish for recreational is popostaris, Ya'll know good and well where all those fish are going and lining your pockets while looking the other way. Now minimizing the limit to 1 flounder is fine as long as we have a spring summer and fall season. This 45 day crap is absurd. Think about it everyone is now fishing darn near every day of the season and exploiting there limits, this would not be done if we had a longer season. Ya'll are doing absolutely nothing for the future of our fisheries by letting the big guys get all the flounder. Ya'll need to wake up real soon before you have something on your plates Ya'll don't want.
336	03/14/2021 - 11:11am	Robert Griffin	NC	50/50 Commercial/recreational

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335	03/14/2021 - 11:10am	Joni Penny	NC	
334	03/14/2021 - 11:10am	Robert Connelly	NC	
333	03/14/2021 - 11:09am	Ed Martinez	Nc	I go to the coast a couple of times a year, and cannot believe that both times last year I was not able to fish for/ keep a few Flounder. I can not believe that people like me that might catch a few flounder a year could have a bad impact on the whole industry!!!
332	03/14/2021 - 11:09am	Ed Rutherford	NC	It's time to show some fairness to the recreational license holders vs the tradition of favoring commercial fishermen. I realize they're big, have people on their side to lobby for them but fisheries management to appease them hasn't worked so let's try something different.
331	03/14/2021 - 11:09am	David Marshall	NC	The share should be split 50/50. As a recreational angler who has spent thousands of dollars on our resources and equipment this is the only fair way to approach this issue
330	03/14/2021 - 11:07am	Kenneth Doyle	NC	Economic values from DMF: Recreational: \$240,000,000 Commercial: \$20,000,000
329	03/14/2021 - 11:07am	Todd Cochrane	NC	I understand the commercial side of the flounder season, but as a recreational flounder fisherman, I think it's only fair that we have a fair share of time to harvest a few flounders for our use. I know how much of an impact the recreational fishermen has on the economic effect of supporting the fishing industry. I just don't believe we should be punished for trying to catch something on a rod and reel compared to people dragging nets. I was satisfied with last years regulations so hopefully nothing changes for the worse. Thank you
328	03/14/2021 - 11:05am	Richard Pait	Nc	To whom it may concern, it is my view on flounder fishing that if the stock is low enough to limit it it should be equal limits for commercial and recreational. I have quit buying the rec license and chose to drive to South Carolina due to not being able to harvest in my own state. I am an avid outdoorsman and understand season closures but it should be the same for everyone, recreational and commercial.
327	03/14/2021 - 11:03am	Terry Nance	Nc	Please split flounder quote equally between recreational fisherman and the commercial guys. The resource belongs to all the PEOPLE NOT THE ONES MAKING A LIVING at others expense!!!
326	03/14/2021 - 10:58am	Michael D Supa	NC	Please allow the flounder share to be 50% Commercial and 50% Recreational.
325	03/14/2021 - 10:57am	Richard Smith	North Carolina	No way a 70/30 split is ok. Our flounder fishery is in trouble. But know way this is going to fix it. Take the nets out of the back waters. No inshore shrimping. Cut gigging out all together. Rec and commercial. A 1 fish limit is ridiculous. 2 fish and up the size limit would be

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				sufficient. I am and avid flounder fisherman for nearly 30 years. I own a lifetime license. This is just not fair to all involved.
324	03/14/2021 - 10:56am	Nicholas Nunnally	North Carolina	A one fish limit on flounder is absolutely absurd for the recreational angler. Thousands of dollars are spent per angler to target species and you can say goodbye to that revenue with a one fish limit. Who in there right mind would spend all that money, time, and effort to go and keep one fish, not even enough to feed a family of three.
323	03/14/2021 - 10:56am	Donald King	NC	I would like to see the season stay as it is .it would be great to have all of August and September the recreational fishing is just as important as the net Fisher is
322	03/14/2021 - 10:52am	Nina Coble	North Carolina	We fish in the Lockwood Folly and have a 2nd home here we fish with rod and reel out of boat we keep our limit and no more makes us sick to look out at night and see all the flounder giggers out on the water looks like city light and when you go out to Fish on out going tide you find netters with net blocking channels with no one around and nobody out keeping a check on netter or giggers The game wardens check us for limit and license but at night and early mornings no one checking netters or giggers the hook and line is not the problem trout flounder drum should be made game fish like other states and not harvested in nets or giggered ! I hope someone read this !also I think one flounder a day would be better than a 45 day season that brings out every boat at one time!
321	03/14/2021 - 10:48am	Steven Grantham	NC	Please allow a 50/50 split between recreational fishing and commercial fishing on flounder.
320	03/14/2021 - 10:48am	Michael High	NC	Please split the flounder fishing fairly this time. We as recreational fishermen are tired of getting shorted by the state! We have been limited enough this past year please help us a little bit this time around.
319	03/14/2021 - 10:47am	Michael huskey	Nc	Should be 50/50% ea
318	03/14/2021 - 10:46am	Jason Schilling	NC	Please give us recreational fisherman a fair shake, at least a 50/50 split. Thank you!
317	03/14/2021 - 10:46am	James Powell	NC	Stop penalizing refs for what the commercials are doing. Dollars for a few should not outweigh the rights of the many. Recs bring more money to the economy and do not rape the resource with the gill nets and the trawling of our nurseries. The resource belongs to us all! Recs always take the cut. Cut the damaging gear and you will recover the resource!
316	03/14/2021 - 10:46am	Mark waller	Nc	I have lived in North Carolina my entire 60 years. Grew up going to the coast fishing. Went this year to duck with family. Caught one slot red drum and a few flounder. One flounder was over 15 inches but had to release it. Later that day, went to seafood store to get some more shrimp. The lady there was cleaning a stack of approximately 12 small flounder. She said they were caught that morning. I am assuming by a shrimp troller or some other net.

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				She could tell I was unhappy as I told her about releasing my large flounder. If restricting recreational catches were working, why is it, every year, the restrictions on recreational fishing are more and more?
315	03/14/2021 - 10:45am	Keegan Postema	North Carolina	The fisheries are being destroyed by the commercial side and something needs to change. North Carolina could be one of the best fisheries on the coast and it's the worst. I personally know commercial/netters that tell me the numbers they bring in and it is absolutely insane what they keep. I look forward to teaching my kids to love fishing and the way it's been going for the last several years it's not looking good for the future at all
314	03/14/2021 - 10:45am	Steve Stroud	NC	Please do not restrict the recreational fishing more than you already have. You will destroy the recreational industry and the revenue it produces. If you think anymore restrictions need to be applied please restrict the commercial harvest of our inland waters to protect the nursery and estuary areas.
313	03/14/2021 - 10:44am	William Bass	NC	Dear Members of the Commission, As a citizen and tax payer of North Carolina I do not want to see more and more taken from anglers of our state. Split flounder harvest 50/50 between Rec's and Commercials. Thanks you William Bass
312	03/14/2021 - 10:44am	John	NC	I would like to see a 50/50 split for flounder in amendment 3 for commercial and recreational fisherman. It's bad enough that two flounder are off the table due to one flounder population's decline - caused by the bycatch of netters in our precious waters. Imagine if we made fishing great again in NC. More would chose to stop here rather than FL on their destination to fish. Now I've already got my SC lifetime license. I'd like to see some changes in NC that favor the recreational fisherman so I can do the same with NC.
311	03/14/2021 - 10:42am	Jason martin	NC	Please do not allow the commercial catch to exceed the 50% mark. I have lived in NC all my life and flounder is the number one species that i target at the coast when i am able to come down from Charlotte (grew up on the inner banks). I fear that cutting the recreational quota will significantly negatively affect NC coastal communities as many fishermen will push to other states where they can actually keep a fish or two.
310	03/14/2021 - 10:41am	Michael	North Carolina	We the recreational fisherman demand 50/50 share of quota for flounder fishing.
309	03/14/2021 - 10:36am	Jason Fitzgerald	Nc	Recreational fisherman spend a lot of money in coastal Nc to be able to fish our great fishery. But with these constant restrictions it's making people look to other states to fish. Which is causing businesses to lose money. We should have as much right to keep fish as the commercial fishermen. A 50/50 split would be the only fair option in my opinion. There needs to be a middle ground. No favoritism to any 1 side. Im all for increasing fish numbers. But to continue to allow shrimpers to trawl in fish nursery areas, killing thousands of fish and then coming after the recreational fisherman is mind boggling. It's really not that hard to

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				figure out one of the main causes of the reduced fish numbers. There needs to be equal rights on catch limits on the commercial and recreational fishermen.
308	03/14/2021 - 10:36am	Billy Igoe	NC	NC inshore fisheries has always favored the commercial sector. I would like to see it be more fairer to recreational fisherman we spend lots money in licenses tax money from boating gear etc. all the recreational guys would like to do is take a few fish home for his efforts. If you can't keep anything people we not go therefore the state will loose the revenue from boat sales tackle gas etc. The state of NC has the potential to be the same if not better than Louisiana if we manage the estuary better. Please the reduce the commercial quota for flounder. On a side note I fish the western Pamlico sound I have never been checked by marine fisheries about my catch makes me wonder if the commercial guys are checked.
307	03/14/2021 - 10:36am	Jeff Dawson	NC	Please don't betray the public in the "public trust" by disproportionately allotting 70% of the catch allocation to commercial fisherman. At a minimum, the recreational anglers should be allotted 50% of the catch.
306	03/14/2021 - 10:33am	Jesse Coleman	North Carolina	As a born and raised NC resident, a lifetime license holder, and an avid hunter and fisher we need an equal split for flounder between recreational and commercial. Recreational anglers bring the money to the economy. How is SC 10 fish per person yet you guys want to take it all away from us? There's no wall at the border, these fish flow back and forth like the tide. Quit playing politics with my God given rights. You don't own the flounder. We're pretty much all responsible fishermen and women and you guys are going to push us to break the law. People will keep them regardless, may as well give us our full season with 4 fish and a slot (say 15-20 inches cause the big ones are the females) all year long instead of trying to limit us with your asinine rules and regulations.
305	03/14/2021 - 10:30am	Alan Davis	NC	I think the percentage should be 50/50 between commercial and recreational.
304	03/14/2021 - 10:30am	Eric Sexton	NC	We as recreational anglers, should be allowed our 50% share of the flounder harvest. We spend our hard earned money every year on licenses. We are NOT okay with a 70/30 split! Who wants to drive 3+ hours to the NC Coast to catch 1 flounder a day ? And that 1 flounder has a 6 week season, while the commercial guys pretty much do as they please. Myself as well as a ton of my friends will no longer continue to support this nonsense if things don't change. It's not much further to Va or SC from the Triad. I'm sure they would appreciate our money much more than these commercial loving money hungry politicians in NC. Eric Sexton [REDACTED]
303	03/14/2021 - 10:28am	Philip Eames	NC	As a local fishermen for many years in North Carolina I only fish inshore by boat. I am sadden by how many unattended gill nets I see with dead flounder, drum, trout, and other type of marine life. These gill nets are choking our small creeks where these fish are going to find protection from other species. To me I believe this is a bigger problem that not being

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				addressed. Please allow us a 50/50 split and addressed the gill net issue by banning them in our coastal creeks.
302	03/14/2021 - 10:28am	chris ferguson	NC	The amount should be split 50/50 between commercial and recreational. People like me spend thousands of dollars in small communities yearly that wouldn't see it if we continue to not make it worth it. Lot rent for my camper year around. Thousands dollars in fuel, thousands dollars at small mom and pop restrauents and not to mention the small tackle shops. It is ridiculous that yall are trying to take from the thousands that support local to fill a select handfult pockets!
301	03/14/2021 - 10:27am	Ken Doyle	NC	Without a complete commercial & recreational shutdown this issue will still be over harvested & depleted next year & every year until some common sense is applied! Marine resources of NC are a public Trust FIRST & foremost not a commercial harvest 70/30 split!! Check out the TRUE values economically to NC & actually VOTING fisherman numbers!!! 80% seafood coming in is Not NC harvest as that harvested mostly shipped out of state!!
300	03/14/2021 - 10:27am	Brenda Morse	NC	Please be reasonable for recreational fishermen. NC Huge recreational fishing meca. Been fishing ALL MY 59 years. We deserve our fair share of flounder. I'm not against conservation but I want my fair shake in flounder and I'd like to stay in NC to fish. Thank you.
299	03/14/2021 - 10:23am	Bobby Schultz	North y	How is a 70/30 split remotely fair as much money as fishing bring into the state? Do the right thing for a change
298	03/14/2021 - 10:21am	Kieran Schwartz	NC	We DEMAND a 50/50 split of recreational and commercial flounder fishing. Corrupt politicians are ruining recreational fishing!!!!
297	03/14/2021 - 10:20am	Michael Southerland	NC	Please allow recreational flounder fishing. 50-50%
296	03/14/2021 - 10:20am	Anthony osborne	NC	
295	03/14/2021 - 9:41am	Ronnie Faircloth	NC	Again you have proven that the flounder population is not what you are about. Why do I say this, you gave the commercial the migration time of the year for flounder. The best time to get flounder and a lot of other species. If you were concerned about the flounder population you would give them a tougher time to get flounder and not the anglers, that actually try to put food on their own tables, the worst time to go, other than late winter, its a wonder you don't give us that for the season, but that would show the real reason of your votes. The anglers put a lot in the economy of the fisheries and should be allowed a better season and a limit of a least 4 flounder a day, even if they go to 16 inch limit. We feed iut families also, but you are trying to push us to depend on commercial fishery. That kind of control is a type of communism and socialism. But I dont really think you have a heart for real people just your bank account. After all, thats why most of you are in politics.

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294	03/14/2021 - 7:44am	STEVEN HALL	NC	Sport fishermen are not the problem. It's the commercial guys who are stripping the fish population. 1 fish per person daily is unreasonable for someone who only fishes occasionally. And if you are among those who fish for food, 1 a day is not enough either.
293	03/13/2021 - 9:57pm	Jacob R Frick	North Carolina	<p>I wholly support management of all species. Flounder is particularly difficult. I understand the commercial value but the commercial sector is doing the damage. Trawling and Gill netting in inland waters needs to be banned or severally restricted. Harvest by gig and pound nets have proven to be effective and efficient without the bycatch. Until you eliminate trawling and gill netting you are only pissing in the wind.</p> <p>You have got to quit managing for maximum commercial harvest and screwing the recreational fishing sector. People have stopped coming to North Carolina. The fishing industry as a whole is in decline. When you shut one species down others get targeted even harder. Drum are getting more scarce than flounder were last year. We have been kicking this can down the road year after year. Either make it 50/50 or shut it down completely for both sectors. The only way a population of fish can rebound is give them a rest. Period! Just be fair about it. One flounder is not worth the effort. Recreational fishermen should not be forced to buy commercially harvested flounder. You are privatizing a public resource. The people of this great nation own these fish. Give the resource back to the people. Not the greedy profiting commercial sector. They will catch the last damn one and then blame you for allowing them to do it.</p>
292	03/13/2021 - 9:38pm	Jason Cole	North Carolina	<p>I am writing this to the commission to let them know my dissatisfaction of the possibility of once again cutting the recreational flounder limits once again. Just like other species all we see on the recreational side is take, take, take. Not once after taking have you ever given back to the recreational side. I would rather see a change in flounder by individual species versus a blanket approach that is absolutely rediculous.</p> <p>This possible change will also will eventually lead to out of state anglers going to other states. Who wants to pay thousands of dollars for a vacation to not even be able to keep what you are catching?</p>
291	03/13/2021 - 9:22pm	David Knowles	NC	<p>The burden of not exceeding the southern flounder quota falls excessively upon the recreational angler sector. The quota should be more equally applied to both recreational and commercial sectors. Further, both sectors need to greatly reduce inadvertant mortality of all species; reducing commercial bycatch and increasing survival rates of released fish caught recreationally.</p> <p>The four fish creel limit could be reduced to three or possibly two but one fish per day is unreasonable. Also, I suggest allowing one fish in the creel to be any size thus allowing for some undersized gill or gut hooked fish not to be wasted.</p>

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290	03/13/2021 - 8:23pm	Dyyeun Walker	North Carolina	How can commercial have 70 %. They catch more flounder in a day than all the Rec fishing does in a month. The problem is not recreational fisherman it's commercial. Why have a constitutional amendment to hunt and fish if a bunch of unelected bureaucrats are going to find other ways to screw us. Rec fishing is responsible for thousands of job access the state. Thousands more jobs than commercial fishermen. You need a boat, boat mechanics, bait men, fuel, truck, i can go on and on about all the jobs that are created just because of recreational fishing. Including wildlife officers
289	03/13/2021 - 8:18pm	George Cooper	North Carolina	<p>I believe we should split the harvest limit 50/50 between Recreational and the commercial fishery. Enact what ever method is most feasible/efficient for recreational fishery to report their catch. Be it internet or mail-in reporting.</p> <p>That will allow the collection of data that is not currently available. In addition the Giggling of Flounder is what is really killing the species in my opinion. Let's limit the giggling season, and require catch reporting for them also.</p> <p>In a matter of one maybe two seasons we will have accurate data to review and make more informed decisions about which type of fishing is placing the pressure on the Flounder species.</p> <p>NC tackle business for rec anglers also needs the support of valid catch numbers and appropriate regulations.</p>
288	03/13/2021 - 4:29pm	Mitchell Lassard	NC	I don't support your effort. We need to work together. Everyone has to feed their family. Quit being HOGS.
287	03/13/2021 - 4:12pm	Hank Jacobs	NC	Follow the great fisheries of Florida, Louisiana. Recreational doesn't hurt the fishery's. It's commercial. Y'all just keep hurting the ethical fisherman. Get the netters. Not the ethical guys
286	03/13/2021 - 1:49pm	FRED JELINEK	NC	Instead of restricting the number of fish caught, work on increasing the stocks and protecting the habitat of juvenile fish. The failing "management efforts" of the board are a major embarrassment given the fact you have known of the issue for years, but it has only become worse. When stuck in the mud, spinning the wheels faster IS doing something.....but will not get you out.
285	03/13/2021 - 1:40pm	FRED JELINEK	NC	DUPLICATE
284	03/13/2021 - 1:00pm	Gary Garber	NC	I would like you to not increase the commercial quota. Please consider the large economic benefit that recreational revenues provide for NC vs commercial. If you did it would be easy to see why, If you go to 70/30 and quota requirements force reduction to 1 flounder you are on your way to killing the golden goose.

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283	03/13/2021 - 12:29pm	A W Jeffreys	NC	If you want to re-build any and all inshore fisheries, Please get the nets out of the inshore waters. The use of nets inshore is nothing less than a RAPE of our public resource by a select few. This really isn't that hard to figure out if you get out on the waters.
282	03/13/2021 - 11:55am	Davis L Barnes	NC	Please note another recreational fisherman asking you to be fair in your decisions. I would really like my grandchildren to be able to catch fish and hope you will try to keep that in mind.
281	03/13/2021 - 11:37am	Bonnie Reaves	NC	I think that it is unconstitutional to continue to cut out the recreational fisher. Unless you have been out on the water and know what you are talking about. It did seem that the flounder population was declining but last year flounder were abundant and larger than I've seen in the last 15 years. You continue to allow Gil nets with no consequences when they're left for days killing and endangering all species of fish and wildlife in the sound. I pay taxes and am licensed to fish but to no avail. There's nothing left to encourage or draw me to the North Carolina Coast. As I have heard many recreational fisherman say, I guess we'll just spend our money in another state.
280	03/13/2021 11:37am	Ryan Simmons	NC	Why hasn't NC removed trawls from the sounds and estuaries? Why are we the only state that still does this? These boats should be moved 3 miles off shore. I grew up fishing here and you can't tell me that this doesn't harm our resources. I'm tired of hearing restrictions hurt the commercial fisherman and their livelihood. I guess they won't have a livelihood once everything is finally fished out. The state doesn't mind regulations on a regular fisherman. I now have to catch one of these two of them and three of those just to have enough for a meal. NC needs to take a hard look at itself and look at examples of other states that turned their fisheries around.
279	03/13/2021 - 11:28am	Ryan Simmons	NC	Why hasn't NC removed trawls from the sounds and estuaries? Why are we the only state that still does this? These boats should be moved 3 miles off shore. I grew up fishing here and you can't tell me that this doesn't harm our resources. I'm tired of hearing restrictions hurt the commercial fisherman and their livelihood. I guess they won't have a livelihood once everything is finally fished out. The state doesn't mind regulations on a regular fisherman. I now have to catch one of these two of them and three of those just to have enough for a meal. NC needs to take a hard look at itself and look at examples of other states that turned their fishery's around.
278	03/13/2021 - 7:37am	Gary	NC	If you really think the recreational fishing is harming the flounder count, then you are stupid. Somebody's putting money in your pocket.
277	03/13/2021 - 7:28am	Charles Mabe	NC	For equity's sake concerning the flounder fishery let's have a recreational 2 fish daily limit @ 15" all year long. Set recreational and commercial limitations without the bias we have had in the past. The fishery needs help for sure but fishermen still should be able to harvest supper. The situation last year was a chaotic mess for six weeks. Thanks for your attention in this matter.

#▼ SUBMITTED NAME: STATE: PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW.

276

03/13/2021 -
7:18am

Hudson Best

NC

1. The 70/30 split made at the last MFC, a motion was made and voted on before talks about allocation could even take place. How is this even legal?
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5. Pound nets. Where do I start with that? The fishery is in such dire shape, that NCDMF senior staff seeks to further restrict the public's access. Meanwhile, new pound net permits ARE STILL BEING APPROVED. That's right. NCDMF senior staff is approving more commercial industry access while looking for ways to further restrict recreational access. Now, pound nets are a better and somewhat cleaner way to harvest southern flounder at times. They also kill a lot of unintended species like Sea turtles and the State of NC does not have an Incidental Take Permit for this fishery. The state does have a "ITP" for the Large Mesh Gill net fishery. These pound nets to date have also been operating without any kind of quota for many years. Shouldn't we put a quota on this fishery and stop approving new permits before we restrict the public's access? This is also a fishery that exists nowhere else in the entire United States for Southern flounder.
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9. With the current 2021 allocation for gill nets at 195,105 pounds, each of the average 800 commercial participants can expect to make \$638 a year based on current prices. Again pennies on the dollar. Who is surviving on \$638 a year? Isn't it time we mange like we should and ban this destructive gear?

275

03/13/2021 -
7:18am

Kimmy Best

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274

03/13/2021 -
7:18am

Jake Best

NC

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273

03/13/2021 -
7:08am

Tim Horton

Nc

It is an embarrassment and shame that commercial interests continue to destroy our fish stocks. Stop catering to a minority of business owners in order to allow them kill our fish populations. It makes no sense. Stop robbing recreational fishermen to pay commercial

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				fisherman. At a minimum the total allowable catches must be equally split. If you had any moral courage you would stop in shore-trawling. You all realize every other state on our coast ended it long ago. Florida's fish stocks bounced back significantly after then ended it. By continuing to allow it you are not preserving heritage or protecting small businesses, you are destroying a finite resource to line the pockets of a few. Please make responsible and bold decisions to preserve our fish stocks. Recreational fishing in NC will soon be dead if you don't make good decisions. I pray you will do the right thing - for my children and their children's sake.
272	03/13/2021 - 3:27am	Tim Mooney	North Carolina	Please maximize flounder recovery. Recent moratoriums are working and efforts need to continue.
271	03/13/2021 - 3:08am	Linda Johnson	NC	Get rid of the nets all netting in the inshore waters and the trawling.
270	03/12/2021 - 10:13pm	Russell Wiggins	N. C.	Were you people appointed by pelose? I'm a rec.Fisherman. You people sell commercial licenses to people that only uses them on the weekends to supplement their income! They don't do it for their bread and butter! So if you all are going to punish the hook and line fisherman for this kind of bad policy! May I suggest that you just outlaw all hook and line fishing! Maybe open up an office in the Halls of congress!
269	03/12/2021 - 9:59pm	Darla Ancheta	NC	I want to be able to fish in NC, do not take my rights away!
268	03/12/2021 - 9:18pm	David Montague	NC	This should be a shared venture with both commercial and recreational. This situation did not happen over night. I support the proposed rule for 4 fish and a 45 day season. Do not pass the amendment 3.
267	03/12/2021 - 8:30pm	Stuart Creighton	NC	<p>It is well known that the southern flounder stock is severely depleted and that difficult choices must be made in order to preserve and rebuild the fishery. None of the comments that follow will argue the science that has been presented to demonstrate the scope of the problem and how critical the situation is. However, the preferred management options that are being considered, as well as the allocation that was chosen at the last MFC meeting, do leave much to be desired.</p> <p>As a quick recap, the proceedings at the February MFC meeting reeked of political gamesmanship. After the presentation on allocation options from DMF staff, Chairman Bizzell opened the floor for discussion BEFORE ANY COULD TAKE PLACE, Commissioner Cross with a second from Commissioner Romano, motioned to set the allocation at 70/30 for the commercial sector. Commissioner Roller immediately protested and tried to stop the motion, reminding all of the MFC members that hundreds of public comments had been offered on the issue favoring an equitable 50/50 split. After a few minutes of banter, where the topic switched primarily to ocean access, the vote was held and passed 5-4 with the two at-large commissioners, Posey and Hendrickson, voting in favor with the commercial</p>

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commissioners. While this may have been procedurally correct, the process was clearly rushed, and public comment ignored. What was also ignored is that the recreational access has been cut and cut and cut again, to the point that we are now staring at a one fish per day creel limit. With the decision on allocation, you are ignoring economic data that shows, from Division analysis, the recreational sector adds \$240 million per year, while the commercial sector adds only \$20 million. With such a large difference in economic value, why would you disproportionately cripple that contribution from the recreational sector?

I also think it would be worth a reminder that the southern flounder stock is in such dire shape because of decades of willful overfishing by the commercial industry. The data has shown that flounder have been constantly overfished since 1989. For that amount of time, the commercial industry has forestalled every attempt to mitigate the problem. Delay tactics, decisions from previous MFC members, even a lawsuit during this time has kept the commercial industry fishing without a quota. The latest decision to reward them the lion's share of the pending quota was, quite frankly, insulting.

It is also important to remember that shrimp trawling has had a deleterious effect on the population of southern flounder. While division data may be highly variable, juvenile southern flounder have been shown to make up as much as 33% of trawler bycatch during certain tows. Removing trawlers from Pamlico Sound, or at least significantly reducing effort, is also an important component to flounder management. There is much more trawling effort for white shrimp in the nearshore ocean just outside the inlets that flounder use as a migration corridor. How carefully is bycatch from those trawlers being monitored for southern flounder interactions? Waiting to address bycatch issues in the shrimp FMP risks no action being taken in dealing with another source of loss of southern flounder.

Now, if amendment 3 is passed with the current divisional recommendations, you are offering a token spring season where the ocean will be opened for 45 days, beginning March 1, for a single ocellated flounder per person per day. Realistically, this is bogus as weather conditions and the location of the fish will prevent anglers from accessing them. Then, recreational anglers will be allowed one flounder, regardless of species, during the 45 day fall season. Of course, that is IF we get a full season, without paybacks from the proposed spring access. Why can't the ocean be opened during such a time so anglers can actually have access to the fish when the weather is more permissible? Why limit ocellated flounder to only one fish? The population is healthy, so keep the limit at 4 fish. If the DMF is concerned about misidentification of flounder species, then why not educate the angling public properly? If the DMF is concerned about southern flounder incidental harvest in the spring, then monitor recreational anglers carefully and ticket those that illegally take a southern flounder.

Again, these comments are not about arguing the genuine need to reduce harvest of southern flounder to rebuild the stock. Severe reductions must occur, and they must happen

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				<p>now. Recreational anglers are happy to do their fair share. However, these management measures fall short of that equity and they should be revised before they are enacted. Specifically, the recently approved 70/30 split should be re-examined, with genuine discussion this time, and an equitable 50/50 split should be approved. A one fish daily creel limit for southern flounder would be more palatable if the ocean were opened up in an extended summer/fall season for ocellated flounder with a 2-4 fish per day creel limit. The removal of RCGL gill nets is entirely appropriate, as is the requirement that all commercial gear targeting flounder be removed or inoperable outside of the commercial season. Complete removal of large mesh gill nets should be seriously considered, especially with the fact that commercial red drum harvest has already been closed less than three months into the year. Bycatch of that species will be excessive during the proposed flounder season, wasting more of our resource.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Stuart Creighton CCA NC Fisheries Chairman</p>
266	03/12/2021 - 8:25pm	Eric knudsen	Nc	<p>I would love to see a plan to make it profitable for commercial fishing of southern flounder and rebuild the numbers of flounder in our fishery. I really would be mad if we continue to over fish this precious resource!!</p>
265	03/12/2021 - 8:20pm	Dr. Steve Reynolds	NC	<p>All fishing stocks on the NC coast have been devastated by overfishing. I have fished those waters since the 1970's in areas where commercial fishermen operate. I have seen the overpopulation of monofilament nets and modern commercial gear that has basically emptied the waters. Returning the stocks to a healthy status is a necessity and will cause hardship among commercial fishermen just like the piedmont textile workers lost their jobs to adverse business conditions. Commercial fisherman must face the facts that we all own the marine waters and not just them. The commercial and recreational allotments on fish should be an equal 50%. Shrimp trawling must stop in the Pamlico if serious restoration of fish stocks is going to succeed. Face the facts: recreational fishermen produce more money for everyone down east.</p>
264	03/12/2021 - 8:19pm	John Lenzmeier	NC	<p>To: MFC</p> <p>A common risk management technique is called the 5 why's. The concept is straightforward. You take the negative event and ask why did that happen repeatedly until you get to the root cause.</p> <p>In this case the negative event is that the southern flounder stock is decimated.</p> <p>So let's start.</p>

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Why is the stock decimated? Because its over fished.

Why is it over fished? Because for decades the NCDMF had allowed the over fishing.

Why did the NCDMF (who say on their website that they are the stewards of the states coastal resources) abdicate their responsibilities of stewardship and allow the over fishing? The MFC, through the political appointments of the at large commissioners who are sympathetic to the commercial sector, have consistently placed the commercial interests ahead of the recreational interests and the greater stewardship of the resource. (This slant to commercial sector happens even though the recreational fishing industry has a larger economic impact than the commercial industry).

Why do several of the at large commissioners consistently vote with the commercial interests? That's a good question that should be asked. They are present at this meeting - so ask them. I'd like to hear the answer. Until we get this answer, you won't get to the root cause.

But the root cause maybe "Regulatory Capture". "Regulatory Capture" happens when a specific sector with a political or economic interest co-opts public policy for their benefit. This is almost always simultaneously detrimental to other competing interests (think the decimated fishery). Could this commission be in "Regulatory "Capture"? Funny you should ask - a judge in Raleigh is reviewing this very topic.

While the topic of "Regulatory Capture" is being sorted out in the courts - I urge this commission take a small step forward and split the southern flounder allocation 50/50. What's left of the decimated resource is supposed to be shared - so share it equally.

John Lenzmeier
Raleigh, NC

263

03/12/2021 -
8:12pm

Josh Norris

NC

First off, THANK YOU for accepting comments for the following issue. It shows that you want to know the feeling of state residents for a state resource. That is important to recognize.

As far as my humble opinion, I have many concerns with how our state has managed our fisheries, but on a particular interest in flounder, Id love to see a stronger response on commercial fishing. I will leave it to experts to argue the facts on the huge discrepancy in commercial sales of flounder for our state as compared to surrounding states in the region, but I assume you know by now that its a huge difference. Id personally prefer a stronger limit on the small amount of commercial fishermen as opposed to recreational fishermen and give the people of this state a stronger claim to a state resource. I could go into my thoughts

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				commercial fisherman out of business the recreational fisherman would be glad to cover the cost. We are tired of getting the same ole shaft over and over! In Bidens words "come on man".
258	03/12/2021 - 7:10pm	Michael Koszulinski	NC	<p>It is a shame that the recreational fishermen have to be punished by reducing the fish allotment to them. We bring in the money to the state. The problem is the commercial fishing and nets in the waters. It not hard to figure out the problem when all the surrounding states have stopped or reduced the netting. They have better fish populations and creel limits. It appears that the commercial fishing has more power than the recreational fishing. When the state looses all the revenue to other states it won't be so funny then.</p> <p>Please take a look at the surrounding states and use their netting and trawling policies as a example. This would make our fisheries great again.</p>
257	03/12/2021 - 6:20pm	Mike Van Scoy	NC	<p>I have been fishing over 50 years. I have experienced fishing on trawlers and recreational fishing. There is no way a recreational fishing can touch what these trawlers and neters do to the fishing population.</p> <p>Make your decisions on what's right and by influencing from others. In the end we all have to answer for our decisions.</p>
256	03/12/2021 - 5:46pm	Andrew MacNair	NC	<p>The continued disregard for the public opinion in this matter has become laughable. The politics are going to absolutely ruin a supposedly PUBLIC resource to the point that the few commercial fisherman that profit off of this debacle with also be left with nothing but an empty fishbox. Look at Stripped Bass, Redfish, Trout, not to mention the smaller finfish species, this supposed management system has absolutely decimated every one of them. The entire history of NC fishery management is terrible and the entire program should be replaced and reinvented from the bottom up. The total disregard of the health of the actual fish stocks and continued stone age fishing practices/techniques that are still allowed in NC and no other states is absolutely ridiculous. This is not sustainable and the blame will be on squarely on the shoulders of the people that continue to disregard science and current downward trends. If something doesn't happen soon you will soon see the economic impact of recreational fisherman turning their wallets in another direction.</p> <p>Do the right thing and restrict the gillnets and commercial sector in favor of the majority of the "PUBLIC everyday Fisherman" that are being driven away.</p>
255	03/12/2021 - 5:35pm	CHRISTOPHER R DOERNER	NC	Any plan you come up with should include some measure that allows recreational fishermen to keep some flounder; particularly if you are going to allow the commercial folks to decimate populations and raid estuaries.
254	03/12/2021 - 4:38pm	Thomas Hollinshed	NC	Residing in NC but traveling the waterway from Virginia to Kew West I have been impressed with the creel limits and fishing opportunities outside of NC. Returning to NC to be informed I can harvest only one flounder per day and may loose even that, I can not help but ask why?

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				<p>Growing up fishing in Brunswick Co and on the Pamlico Sound times were much different. Reaching 60 years old why do I now face having to leave my home state just to fish. Surely our elected officials are in a position to correct the current situation. Looks like a case of the fox guarding the hen house to me. When science and common sense are sidelined to protect the commercial interest over the public's and the resource continues to decline those in charge need to manage for results or be replaced. Damned the politics save the resource!!</p>
253	03/12/2021 - 4:34pm	Dan Wood	North Carolina	<p>As a lifelong born and raised North Carolinina I feel it is my right to express my opinion about our rules and restrictions. If our flounder stocks are over fished to the point where rec. fishermen can only keep 4 flounder a day for a very short season in the late summer season, then I feel it is only right that commercial fishermen should have the same season restrictions and based on your catch and keep percent, the commercial folks only only be allowed to keep 16 flounder each day of the season. The commercial folks only bring a very small amount of dollars into our eastern part of the state while rec fishermen contribute much more by way of spending when they visit our coast (which many thousands have stopped doing since your silly restrictions have been in place). If the's overfishing is that bad why not stop all flounder fishing until our stocks have rebounded. Period! Also, please stop trawling in our sounds and rivers. That is killing our stocks of more than just flounder.</p>
252	03/12/2021 - 4:23pm	Floyd Dilsaver	NC	<p>The MFC needs to revisit everything about southern flounder management. Their refusal to slow the commercial catch of these fish has put the population in dire straits. The allocation between recreational and commercial fishermen, which was called to a vote at the last MFC meeting without proper discussion, is badly skewed. 70 percent of this catch is being given to commercial fishermen, where it is worth approximately \$14.7 million. The recreational fishery was last rated at \$243 million and it is being strangled with 30 percent. Why are a handful of commercial fishermen and fish house owners being given more than the general population where the resource is worth more than 15 times more when used by the recreational fishermen. More allocation would mean the season could be longer and the limit more than a single fish as proposed in Amendment 3. It's bad that anyone's income has to suffer, but the income of tackle shop owners, motel owners, restaurant owners, charter operators and other businesses that service or supply recreational fishermen is affected by the lack of recreational fishing opportunities and without a flounder season, they will be hurting. This hurt would be spread better if the southern flounder allocation was equal between commercial and recreational fishermen.</p> <p>Recreational fishermen also should be allowed to catch southern and gulf flounder in the ocean any time it is open for trawling. Do not use identification as a lame excuse. The NC Wildlife Resources Commission and US Fish and Wildlife Service require duck hunters to be able to identify ducks flying 40 miles an hour in marginal light. If this is possible, certainly fishermen can identify a flounder they are holding in their hand. If not, they should release it</p>

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				<p>or be fined.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
251	03/12/2021 - 4:15pm	Ty Rutherford	North Carolina	We need this flounder season back for at least some more months all I catch these days are flounder.
250	03/12/2021 - 4:13pm	John Harrington	North Carolina	I urge you all to please take into consideration the recreational fisherman as you pass rules dealing with the southern flounder fishery and amendment 3. We all want a healthy and flourishing fishery and are open to options. However, I ask that the commercial and recreational regulations be equitable. The recreational fishermen/fisherwomen spend a lot of money on licenses, boats, fuel, equipment bait, etc. only to maybe catch a couple of keeper fish daily. Our contribution to the state of North Carolina's economy is substantial, as you all are aware. I am just asking for the common men and women of this state. Thank you!
249	03/12/2021 - 3:57pm	Joel Herring	Nc	<p>Based on the recent responses by the wild life fish management not sure how much good saying anything would do. It's shameful that money is driving the decisions made but it is however obvious. The fishery has been on the decline for years. Instead of limiting recreational fishing how about shutting down the season for 2 years. Every one would contribute to a sacrifice and at the end a reward.</p> <p>Everything else has been tried short of banning inshore netting and nearshore dragging.</p>
248	03/12/2021 - 3:52pm	thomas ludwick	NC	I go flounder fishing ever year and watch the fishing boats catch most of the fish. I am a resident of NC just like the boats but I do not have any rights according to the Marine Fisheries Commission by the way fishing is being regulated. If you cut the flounder catch down even more to just one per day then it will no longer be worth it for me to drive 200 miles, rent a hotel room and spend my money shopping and eating out. Most recreational fishermen feel the same way and you can say good by to the economic welfare that rec fishermen bring to all of the communities and businesses that make money off of the rec fishermen and that is a lot more money than the commercial fishing boats bring in to the economy. I should have just as mush right to fish as the commercial fishing boats.
247	03/12/2021 - 3:37pm	Daniel	NC	Flounder, another species that North Carolina has poorly mismanaged. A species that has the opportunity to thrive in North Carolina. We are already known for big flounder in our state. Imagine what it would be like if we didn't have gill nets and trawlers in our estuaries. Of all Fin fish species it is an astonishing amount of juvenile and adult flounder that are killed in trawler nets every year. Not to mention the state wants to limit recreational fisherman while still allowing commercial fisherman a shorter legal limit and unrestricted fishing privileges. Meanwhile recreational anglers are required to abide by different regulations and a very short flounder season. The idea that commercial fisherman are allowed a longer fishing season, different creel limits, and shorter size limit is giving commercial fisherman special privileges when compared to the recreational angler is unjust. Commercial operations should be held at a higher standard since they are for profit

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				companies taking assets from a public resource that is owned and managed by public tax dollars. Commercial fisherman are the reason we are in this predicament in the first place. As recreational fisherman we demand fair fishery regulations and management practices.
246	03/12/2021 - 2:54pm	Josh Spangler	NC	I support a rebuilding plan for Southern flounder that maximizes recovery of the fishery and is equitable for both Commercial fishermen and recreational anglers. We must rebuild the stock.
245	03/12/2021 - 2:49pm	Robert Newman	NC	I support the plan to rebuild the Southern Flounder population. However, the reality is the dire situation has been caused by excessive commercial fishing, not recreational. You may allocate whatever you decide, but the reality is if commercial fishing for flounder is not cut in half or more, there will be no more Flounder. Fishery management must not be beholden to commercial fishing special interests. Once the fishery is ruined and word gets out that fishing on OBX is not what it once was, the loss in related tourism will far outweigh the economic benefit of the commercial fishing. This must be considered in striking a reasonable balance.
244	03/12/2021 - 2:13pm	Linda Kanoy	North Carolina	Please do the recreational angler a favor and leave the 4 per person per day as many don't get to go that often and one per day is a very expensive in time and money. Also, please don't shorten the season. This will give many who work, and can only go occasionally, an opportunity to go hopefully a few times:) Thank you for your consideration!!!
243	03/12/2021 - 1:20pm	David Holloman	North Carolina	As I write this I wonder why waste my time. With an impact on the economy many times that of commercial fishing I do not understand why MFC continues to give commercial fishing interest more of the quota of flounder each year. As a resident of this state it is my right to have access to good numbers of fish to catch if that is my desire, yet MFC continues to allow commercial destruction of our fisheries with the same gear and allotments. Recreational anglers were allowed a meager 45 days of fishing last year while the commercial industry was allowed multiple seasons inshore and ocean side. And again at the start of 2021 with two months of ocean harvest. If you don't reconsider rebalancing the quota the recreation angler will most likely end up with a complete moratorium in 2022.
242	03/12/2021 - 12:32pm	Kim Tavasso	NC	Please make any reductions to the southern flounder allowable catch equitable for both sectors, recreational and commercial. To make any reductions that aren't equitable for all concerned would further demonstrate a bias by the NCDMF and the MFC that favors the commercial sector. If reducing the recreational creel limit to one flounder per person per day is the only option, I would rather see the southern flounder fishery closed all together, both commercially and recreationally, to allow the fishery to recover at a faster rate. As additional information, your recreational mortality rate for the southern flounder is flawed. I have data that shows the recreational mortality rate for the southern flounder is less than 10% of the total catch by recreational fishermen. Thank for your time, Kim Tavasso

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241	03/12/2021 - 12:15pm	Bert Owens	North Carolina	Southern Flounder are overfished due to excessive use of commercial gear for years, even after the stock was listed as overfished. Measures to help restore the stock were ended by a law suit by commercial fishermen in 2015. This resulted in additional years of continued decline. There is no question that cuts are needed, unfortunately later rather than sooner. The commercial side should absolutely bear the brunt of the cuts as they are the cause of the problem. Anglers were cut in size and creel limits over the years and commercials had no limit. In addition the fish are far more valuable on the recreational side than on the commercial side. Anglers should receive no less than 50% of the allowed catch. I any fishermen pull the old you're putting me out of business line, the fact is they have been allowed to fish themselves to this point by the state. Pay me now or pay me later. They always push for later.
240	03/12/2021 - 11:50am	Bennie Spencer	NC	My grand kids are not going to stand in the sand, OR go out in my boat to catch NOTHING keepable. And I'm not going to keep paying \$30 a year to keep boat registration. SO do you really want to ELIMINATE recreational fishing all together. The fishing that brings in a great deal more money to the state than ANY of the commercial fishing? Yes we need commercial fishing, BUT NOT at the expense of total LOSS recreational fishing. That is where it is going. Just look at the records for the last ten years. I know the commercial lobby puts a lot of money in Raleigh but you NEED to think about the people especially the youth. I have a State Senator friend, just retired, who's was proud of the fishn' trips the commercial guys took him on. And all the fish and shrimp they gave him. Please, Get your head out of the sand.
239	03/12/2021 - 11:48am	scott willis	NC	Based on the last commission meeting I really do not feel my opinion or the recreation opinion matters to you. I feel you are just asking for opinion to placate the majority. I feel cutting the majority (recreation) quotas more and more is ridiculous and self serving.
238	03/12/2021 - 11:17am	Ron Jones	North Carolina	Apply logic and common sense and shut down the use of all nets inshore. Being the only coastal State on the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico to allow netting in the intercoastal we attract non-citizens to come to our State and obtain commercial licenses. There needs to be an impartial investigation into the bribes the members of the Marine Fisheries Commission are obviously taking from the commercial fisheries.
237	03/12/2021 - 10:58am	Will Anders	North Carolina	I think that the current flounder management plans continue to favor a very small number of commercial interests and to disfavor the much larger body of recreational interests, and this is especially frustrating knowing that commercial interests have been the main driver the overfishing that has occurred over a number of years and has created the challenges the resource now has had for a number of years (yet MFC has failed to adequately address). The MFC has a duty to manage the stocks fairly for both recreational and commercial interests and in my opinion it is disfavoring recreational at the expense of commercial, while

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				also ignoring the common sense facts about the numbers of recreational vs. commercial anglers as well as overall economic impact of recreational vs commercial fishing.
236	03/12/2021 - 10:50am	Staff Gordon	NC	<p>The fact that recreation fishermen have a much smaller impact on our natural resources ,it's shameful for the department to side with the fishing industry. There should be no commercial fishing inside 2 miles. They are destroying habitat. They drag the bottoms smooth leaving nothing undisturbed. The ocean floor near shore a1-2 miles is graded to smooth sand by there actions. It's time for a responsible action by the department. Show the public you care.</p> <p>Staff Gordon</p>
235	03/12/2021 - 10:43am	Jimmy Mendillo	NC	<p>Hey I enjoy fishing recreationally with my family and friends. Please allow to keep atleast 1 flounder a day. Also how can we curb gill netting? I know some individuals make a living fishing commercially, but to be honest what is the percentage of those who gill net for a living and those that abuse it? Thanks JM</p>
234	03/12/2021 - 10:43am	Tony Pendergrass	NC	<p>There was no shortage in flounder at any restaurant I went too, why would you limit rec fishermen that can only fish a handful times a year and even less in six week season and not limited nets more. I can not take as many as one net, they kill and throw away in one net set than a rec fishermen do in a life time. You will kill NC fishing and money to local business because it's not worth the time to drive 3 hours for 1 fish. We are ok with 6 weeks at least let us keep 4 fish. Thank you</p>
233	03/12/2021 - 10:34am	David myers	Nc	<p>I used to commercial fish out of sneads ferry. What y'all are do to the flounder for recs is a joke. Pound nets need to be stopped a handful of people are raping the resources. It's in unfair for the recreational angler who spends his hard earn money on fishing license that let you operate.to close flounder on them. Enough is enough!</p>
232	03/12/2021 - 10:31am	Johnny McConnell	N.C.	<p>Flounder fishing closures are very effective ways to restore the fishery . But I personally like to see a 1 fish keeper limit like puppy drum . At 18. To 27 inches .</p>
231	03/12/2021 - 10:31am	Joseph J Howell	NC	<p>One flounder a day during a lame 6 week season. Give it more thought The arguments have already been made, no need to repeat. Your plan is wrong. Address the real problem, which is inshore and offshore netting</p>
230	03/12/2021 - 10:18am	Lenny Smathers	North Carolina	<p>Commercial vs Recreational quotas on Flounder should be allocated 50-50. Total landings should be managed to insure recovery of the stock. Recreational limit should be set at 4 fish and season should be July-October.</p>
229	03/12/2021 - 9:44am	Jack Haubach	SC	<p>I visit 3 to 4 times per year and love the flounder fishing in the sound and ocean. Curtailing the creel limit will probably keep me from visiting as often, having to spend more time on SC fishing areas. I have fished the Outer Banks since 1972 and love that coastline. At my age,</p>

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				making the trip for one fish seems unlikely. I will miss hanging out at the Red Drum and renting at North Tower Circle with my friends.
228	03/12/2021 - 9:43am	Brian Hughes	North Carolina	<p>I have rec fished for 50+ years on the coast of North Carolina. Without question I have seen first hand the results of political management on our coastal fisheries. It has not worked well. We cannot keep just doing more of the same. Take the money and political influence out of the equation. Easier said than done for sure. Our flounder fish stocks simply are not what they were along with many other species. Make an impactful change. I choose to keep no flounder. Close the season to commercial and rec fishing for five years. Yes...very painful to many. Stop the by-catch netting kills in nursery and sound areas. Again not popular for sure. Meaningful change unfortunately isn't always fun, popular or financially beneficial. Meaningful change often is painful. If the goal is sustainable responsibly managed fishery with healthy stocks of all species...we should all be all in. Whatever the pain associated. Thank You and Good Luck Brian Hughes</p>
227	03/12/2021 - 9:42am	Charles Anderson	North Carolina	<p>The only comment I have is: I think someone is missing the root cause of the flounder issue The trawling in the Pamlico sound is obviously decimating the juvenile fish of many species not just the flounder Spot,croakers, grey trout The mismanagement of this has created many issues. Not just the flounder Cut it out (trawling) you fix many issues If the flounder are so endangered Shut down the fisheries to ALL Your proposed bandaids will not stop the hemorrhage</p>
226	03/12/2021 - 9:35am	Paul M. Graham	NC	<p>I understand that the committee are meeting to review and vote on sending the draft Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan Amendment 3. After the announcement by the Division late last week that the 2021 recreational flounder season will open Aug. 16 and close Sept. 30, the minimum size limit remains 15 inches total length, and the creel limit remains at four fish per person per day during the open recreational season. Please note that I support a rebuilding plan for Southern flounder that maximizes recovery of the fishery and is equitable for both Commercial fishermen and recreational anglers. However, I am concerned that it is proposed to decrease the creel limit to 1 fish per person per day and possibly decreasing the length of flounder season. This proposal would have a bad impact on the Outer Banks economy as many recreational fishermen will not go fishing for flounder which would decrease the lodging, marina sales, restaurant sales, grocery sales, merchandise sales, etc.</p> <p>I have been going to the Outer Banks for over 30 years fishing mainly for flounder as we drift</p>

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				<p>fish by boat with 4 anglers on the boat. I had the pleasure to go fishing for flounder for 2 weekends of the last year 6 week fishing season and never caught our 4 fish per day creel limit. It is difficult to understand how the recreational fisherman are depleting the stock when we cannot even catch a daily bag limit. Please vote to not decrease the recreational fisherman creel limit of 4 fish per day when most of the flounder is clearly being harvested by the commercial fisherman.</p> <p>It has been stated that historically that the commercial industry was responsible for 80% of the harvest which means that the recreational fisherman is responsible for 20%. It is my opinion that the flounder is being overfished is due to the Commercial Industry and the Shrimp Trawlers. It is a known fact that the pound nets capture thousands of pounds of flounder in each net each week with some mortality bycatch of smaller flounder. Also the gill nets are a source of fishing mortality-bycatch which greatly impede or prevent recovery. Shrimp trawlers with their mortality bycatch for juvenile species, including spot, croaker, weakfish, southern and summer flounder are also preventing the recovery of flounder. If the shrimp trawlers were not allowed to work the sound area during the summer (May – October), the flounder stock and other species would probably recover at a quicker pace.</p> <p>Please consider all of these factors when your committee are deciding on this Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan Amendment 3. Please vote to keep the 2021 recreational flounder season will open Aug. 16 and close Sept. 30, the minimum size limit remains 15 inches total length, and the creel limit remains at four fish per person per day during the open recreational season.</p> <p>You are welcome to contact me to discuss this matter.</p>
225	03/12/2021 - 9:25am	David Morgan	NC	<p>Commercial netting as you know is killing way to many young fish. Short term, not so noticable, long-term devistating. Please be wise. Thank you.</p>
224	03/12/2021 - 9:00am	Jeff Garris	NC	<p>I support a rebuilding plan plan for Southern flounder that is equal (50/50) for both commercial and recreational anglers. The commercial fishing industry has fought any conservation effort to end overfishing since the stock status was first determined in 2005.</p>
223	03/12/2021 - 8:58am	Christopher C Conway	NC	<p>I support a rebuilding plan for Southern flounder that maximizes recovery of the fishery and is equitable for both Commercial fishermen and recreational anglers. I support reduced bag limits of 2 fish per day and a more equitable balance of allocation. Please consider the economic data and the important impact the recreational fishing has on our economy. Please do not ignored the fact that over the last ten years the harvest by sector has averaged 65% commercial and 35% recreational as the pool of fish available to the public continues to shrink. Please do not ignore the data that shows the economic impact from</p>

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				recreational Southern flounder fishing has average over \$243 million per year versus the \$14.7 million economic impact from the commercial harvest of Southern flounder.
222	03/12/2021 - 8:55am	John DeBellis	NC	I support a revised southern flounder plan that maximizes the chance for this fishery to recover that is based on science and best practices. Do not let fishermen decide what is best for a resource that belongs to everyone.
221	03/12/2021 - 8:49am	Jon Faussett	North Carolina	<p>Bag limit of one flounder if it should happen will probably put more charter boats out of business, affecting our local economies. Netters & giggers should take a little bit more of a hit. And if by chance you should close the harvest of flounder, it should include everyone not just recreational fisherman.</p> <p>Thank You</p> <p>Jon Faussett</p>
220	03/12/2021 - 8:44am	jason brilliant	NC	It is absolutely essential that DMF take some real steps in protecting the flounder population in NC. For starters, inshore trawling needs to stop immediately. Vast numbers of juvenile flounder are being killed, not to mention the decimation of the spot, croaker, and other valuable inshore species. In addition to stopping inshore trawlers, I suggest DMF immediately seek funding to support a flounder hatchery program, such as is being done right now in Alabama and other southern states. My understanding is that with a minimal investment, Alabama and Texas are having success in this. Of course, no stocking program will be successful if you continue to allow trawling boats to net up everything in our sounds and estuaries. Begin making the change today by stopping trawling in our sounds and estuaries!
219	03/12/2021 - 8:42am	Jeff Weisner	NC	I don't support a Southern flounder stock management plan that does not substantially reduce commercial harvest as well as recreational harvest. The failure of past efforts to manage the Southern flounder stock is plainly evident in the numbers. I do, however, support a rebuilding plan for Southern flounder that maximizes recovery of the fishery and is equitable for both Commercial fishermen and recreational anglers alike.
218	03/12/2021 - 8:42am	Brian Gereb	NC	<p>The currently proposed amendments for 2021 to reduce recreational limits will force me to make a choice of whether to fish outside of the state of NC or not. I may take my annual spend for fishing to VA or SC as the costs for me are the same or only slightly higher. I am not alone and expect that the \$243m economic impact of the prior year will be reduced killing coastal businesses already impacted hard by COVID. I do not make this choice lightly but I do not know how else to get the message across except through reduced revenue to the state of NC.</p> <p>I would like to see a more scientific approach that shows the actual vs forecasted impact of</p>

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				<p>commercial fishing on the recruitment, natural mortality, and mortality by method, by species. This draconian biased approach to appease a failing industry with a short term benefit is not going to yield results. The NC recreational fishing community who hold more votes than the commercial industry, want to see their elected officials investing in NC for the long haul with a well presented and well founded roadmap for success. If that takes investment in resources to do that I think you will find support in our community.</p> <p>Let's come together with a plan that keeps jobs and attracts people to the great state of NC</p> <p>Stay healthy and safe</p>
217	03/12/2021 - 8:35am	Tom W Peabody	Virginia	<p>I own a second home in Southern Shores, NC that I built with my family in 1984- and we have been NC taxpayers ever since. I have purchased an out of state NC CRFL license every year since they were required for fishing off the beach. I enjoy surf fishing in NC and especially fishing for flounder. I was very disappointed last year when the recreational flounder season was severely limited- I was down at my house for part of the summer when keeping legal-size flounder was prohibited- and I threw back some nice keepers as well as plenty of shorts- often catching fish on successive casts. My own anecdotal experience is that that flounder are plentiful- with many juvenile fish that would be legal size this season- at least in the ocean.</p> <p>I am not in agreement with current policy which restricts the recreational catch in favor of commercial interests. I spend a lot of money on licenses and in local tackle shops (TW's especially) for lures/bait, etc. Restricting my opportunity to fish when stocks are plentiful- in the ocean anyway- and potentially limiting creel limit to 1 fish/day (when season is open) is an unfair restriction.</p>
216	03/12/2021 - 8:28am	Dwight Koeberl	NC	I support a rebuilding plan for Southern flounder that maximizes recovery of the fishery and is equitable for both Commercial fishermen and recreational anglers.
215	03/12/2021 - 8:27am	Nelson Powell	North Carolina	
214	03/12/2021 - 8:27am	Nelson Powell	North Carolina	
213	03/12/2021 - 8:27am	Nelson Powell	North Carolina	
212	03/12/2021 - 8:27am	Nelson Powell	North Carolina	
211	03/12/2021 - 8:27am	Nelson Powell	North Carolina	

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210	03/12/2021 - 8:27am	Richard T. Beebe Sr	NC	I am for anything that improves and maximizes growth of the flounder industry in NC. I would like to see a longer season to fish for flounder too.
209	03/12/2021 - 8:22am	Tom Peabody	Virginia	DUPLICATE
208	03/12/2021 - 8:17am	Dearl Roughton	North Carolina	<p>As a recreational fisherman I am embarrassed by the actions of this commission. You have taken a sport that is considered "traditional" and made it into one of the sorriest recreational fisheries on the East Coast of the United States. Why do you think it is fair to give a 70/30 split to the commercial netters?? Why is it so important to give them a vast majority of the stock? Recreational fisherman spend more in this state to local businesses than any commercial netter would even think about spending. We will not stand by and let you take away our right to fish these waters and take our share of the fish. We will be heard. You are playing politics with NC resources that belong to every citizen in NC and not just commercial netters. You need to reconsider this allotment of 70/30 and change it to 50/50 so ALL can enjoy the flounder fishery in NC. The fishery has been mis managed long enough by politicians with deep pockets and commercial netters and should be given back to the citizens of NC for management.</p> <p>Dearl Roughton</p>
207	03/12/2021 - 8:16am	Karl Heinz Kraft	NC	<p>There should be no commercial flounder fishing anymore, for several years. They overfish, have bycatch, destroy the ocean floor. The damage goes well beyond overfishing. Recreational fishermen support the local, coastal economies and do no damage to our NC waters.</p> <p>We bought a place here in Bath because we like recreational fishing, but consider selling. Did not catch any keeper flounder within flounder season in 3 years.</p>
206	03/12/2021 - 8:13am	Julie Howard	North Carolina	I honestly believe MFC is more political than truly interested in the recovery of any fish species. The MFC consistently votes to favor the commercial industry rather than what is best for fish recovery. Until the netting is stopped there will not be any fish recovery. The herring moratorium has lasted more than ten years and no one seems to have any idea when it will cease. What is it going to take for the MFC to actually do what is best for our state?
205	03/12/2021 - 8:09am	Terrence Ginn	NC	Why does the Marine Fisheries council favor commercial over recreational? If Flounder are being overfished to the point you have to unfairly allocate to one group over the other, then the fishery should be shutdown until recovery and sustainability of the fishery can be achieved. It makes no sense to allow commercial fishing to continue at disproportionate level to recreational, considering that the economic value of a commercially caught flounder is significantly less then the money generated recreationally to catch the same fish. Please stop placing a disproportionate burden of fishery management on one group, if it is a truly stressed fishery then shut it down. The continuation of halfhearted management efforts will

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				ultimately lead to collapse of the fishery which will benefit no one and may result in a scenario where the fishery may not be able to recover. Thank you for your consideration.
204	03/12/2021 - 8:08am	Joe Bell	NC	I believe that the ratio between commercial and recreational should be more on the 50/50 ratio. Seeing the difference in monetary appreciation and since I serve as a commissioner at Topsail Beach I can see how it helps us in our funding for our budget. I know the commercial business is important but recreational fishing impacts many more people in our state. Please allow a more equable ratio than the proposed 70/30 Joe Bell Commissioner at Topsail Beach
203	03/12/2021 - 8:05am	Clifton Mobley	NC	It is hard to imagine how a public trust resource keeps getting destroyed by the commercial fishing industry and little is done to change it! Truly a sign of "follow the money"! I spend more money fishing in other states now than in NC. What a shame! And those responsible for letting this happen should be ashamed!
202	03/12/2021 - 8:02am	John Harlow	NC	I am now understanding, that like anything else, politics and lobbying play a heavy influence in governing even our marine resources. How can anyone deny the fact that the mortality rate of juvenile and adult bycatch from Gill nets and Shrimp Trawlers is the main culprit in the depletion of our fish stocks. Prime example, have an acquaintance who possessed a full cooler of flounder in late February that came from a Shrimp Trawler bycatch. That's right, a cooler full. I can understand that measures need to be taken to return our fish stocks to sustainable levels. But you can't keep ignoring the millions of pounds of bycatch that is lost every year and expect that limiting anglers is the road to recovery. Another thought, i reside in NC but frequently fish the SC Little River Inlet. Why can't the two states get together and adopt the same regulations. It is ridiculous that if I catch a nice flounder at the Jetties or in the SC ocean, I can't bring it back home in Ocean Isle Beach, yet bycatch mortality continues.
201	03/12/2021 - 7:55am	Robert Caddell	NC	Totally in support of the Amendment.
200	03/12/2021 - 7:52am	R. Albee	NC	Over the last ten years the harvest has averaged 65% commercial and 35% recreational as the pool of fish available to the public continues to shrink. The MFC ignored data that shows the Southern flounder harvest has an economic impact from recreational Southern flounder fishing that averages over \$243 million per year versus the \$14.7 million economic impact from the commercial harvest of Southern flounder. Let's be fair to the recreational fisherman. Perhaps the MFC can reduce the bag limit to 2 per day rather than shut down the entire season except for this 6 week period.

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199	03/12/2021 - 7:52am	Kenneth A Redman	North Carolina	I support a rebuilding plan for Southern flounder that maximizes recovery of the fishery and is equitable for both Commercial fishermen and recreational anglers. I also support legislation that keeps the shrimp trawlers out of our sounds and estuaries to help our fin fish stocks that are being lost as bi-catch destruction
198	03/12/2021 - 7:52am	Gerald P Hrabica	North Carolina	fix it
197	03/12/2021 - 7:51am	Ron Isyk	NC	There is a need to have oversight on the taking of flounder. Stop the gigging, stop the Gill netting and start having Game Wardens effectively position to review catches. I live in Wrightsville Beach - never see any Wardens - but I do see a lot (mores so than a couple of years ago due To the tremendous population growth) many folks taking small flounder and taking everything they can catch.
196	03/12/2021 - 7:32am	Michael Higgs, Sr.	NC	I'm sure this won't mean much since you're bought and paid for by the commercial ops, but the commercials should be regulated more not rec's. They kill far far more than rec's ever will, all while you stand by and pad your pockets.
195	03/12/2021 - 7:31am	George Brandon	NC	Recreational Rod and reel fisherman are not impacting the flounder population and you know it. The recreational fisherman doesn't have a lobbyist advocating for their position, so I'm glad you have at least given this opportunity for comment.
194	03/12/2021 - 7:16am	Judy Thompson	NC	If the restrictions for recreational fishing are decreased you will continue to see more individuals who will exceed this new restriction. As your older population on fixed incomes becomes codependent on having the opportunity to fish for supplement to their much reduced income. This new restriction will also advance more opportunity for violations if the recreational fishing community due to the above reason. I am sure if this new restriction is voted on you will not see statistically a change in the population as recreational fishing is not who is creating the low counts. It's commercial. Do we really want another species to go extinct? Or maybe more than one species?
193	03/12/2021 - 7:15am	AV Woods	NC	For two years in a row, we will plan our vacation elsewhere because of these regulations. North Carolina Regulators have no idea how angry the average citizen is over these regulations. Wake up!
192	03/12/2021 - 7:12am	Stuart Taylor	Nc	I support a rebuilding plan for Southern flounder that maximizes recovery of the fishery and is equitable for both Commercial fishermen and recreational anglers
191	03/12/2021 - 7:11am	DAVID C PARISI	NC	I support a rebuilding plan for Southern flounder that maximizes recovery of the fishery and is equitable for both Commercial fishermen and recreational anglers. Additionally, gill netting should be eliminated in the Pamlico River east of the Bayview Ferry and the North Creek and all of its back creek tributaries. This is the only body of water in the central management area that allows commercial fishing with gill nets. Over the last 10 years the fish populations

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				of all species have been drastically reduced. Placing the burden on the recreational fisherman for low or depleted fish species is ridiculous when we have commercial gill netters dumping hundreds of dead by catch daily. Enforcement is usually present and do issue summonses for violations that continually occur however, the violators do not seem to be deterred. Excessive length unmarked nets, placement of nets that go off perpendicular to the shoreline, strike nets that are not attended as required are just some of the violations that go on. Many of these commercial netters are not local fisherman and travel here because they cannot set nets in areas where they live and fishing is not their main lively hood. This is wrong and the time has come to ban gill nets before all the fish species are gone from this excessive waste of young fish.
190	03/12/2021 - 7:10am	Mark Brown	North Carolina	I support a comprehensive flounder rebuilding plan that is equitable to all parties interests and not so heavily weighted towards the commercial fishing industry. All studies have shown that there is much greater overall economic benefit derived from recreational fishing than commercial fishing, yet the the allocations are overwhelmingly in the favor of commercial fishing. These stocks will never get rebuilt when when 65% or more of the flounder are allowed to be netted.
189	03/12/2021 - 7:09am	David Allore	NC	I support a rebuilding plan for Southern flounder that maximizes recovery of the fishery and is equitable for both Commercial fishermen and recreational anglers. I am also a NC voter and watch how our elected officials react to the needs of its citizens.
188	03/12/2021 - 7:06am	Brad	Nc	Wow!!! Wow!! So awesome the flounder season will one day open again. Really pathetic that the decline has been going on for decades and now the law gods simply shut everyone down-way late-after all the fish are dead. Now with this beyond short season y'all are going to cut the limit to one fucking fish. Good to know y'all corrupt fucks will never have accurate numbers on the recreation side but yet penalize us the worst. Just like all the lying democrats
187	03/12/2021 - 6:57am	R.W. Collett	NC	Gentlemen, please give the recreational fisherman a little better shake than in the past. Just looking at the economics of dollars provided to the state economy by recreational vs. commercial fisherman should be plenty of incentive to do so. Thank you.
186	03/12/2021 - 6:51am	Rupert Langston	NC	Good Morning. I am 60 years old and have fished inland and in the ocean for all species of fish for at least 55 of those 60 years up and down the NC coast line. I have fished from Engelhard to to Oak Island, flounder and trout fished in that same territory. I remember when you could catch 20" gray trout, and catch 20" flounder on a hook and line EVERY TIME you wet your hook. I remember when I could gig a 24" flounder EVERYTIME if cut my lights on with my dad and a few times with my two boys and daughter. Today, we walk the

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surf in search of a small school of drum to limit our catch and then prepare the fish over wood back at our home. In August, we will play bumper cars in the sounds, looking for a few flounder above 20" to fry up this fall when you can't catch one.

You know what else I remember, the fish and shrimp boats making a living, or binge fishing, catching whatever was in the nets... INLAND and OFF SHORE. I remember the trawler's nets in four foot of water scraping the bottom for everything, in the ICW, rocking my boat while I bottom fished for a spot, a sea mullet, a black bass, or a gray trout.

Man, Human nature, and history reflects our lack of understanding of GOD given resources. Please try to preserve them in as many ways as possible.

Before I die I will take my grand children flounder fishing, trout fishing, flounder gigging, clam digging, even shrimp casting, I love our commercial fisherman, equally as I do my kids, and every family that frequents the waters of the NC Coast. If you enjoy and love these small (simple) things you should work to preserve them. If you do not enjoy these simple (small) things in life, try it you might become a better person, a better father/mother, a mentor to a small child or adult who has no idea how wonderful our coast line truly is for all walks of life-even our commercial fisherman. there is a balance, understand what that need truly is and work to preserve it.

Rupert Langston Jr. [REDACTED]

185	03/12/2021 - 6:32am	Matthew Harris	NC	I would like to see the catch limits for flounder more restrictive for BOTH recreational and commercial fishermen.
184	03/12/2021 - 6:27am	Max Carrigan	NC - North Carolina	I support a rebuilding plan for Southern flounder that maximizes recovery of the fishery and is equitable for both Commercial fishermen and recreational anglers. My favorite thing to do at the beach is to fish for flounder and my family loves when I can bring one or two home for dinner. I also want to buy them from the commercial fishermen when my day isn't as good as I'd like it to be.
183	03/12/2021 - 6:24am	clifton Pulliamim	NC	I'm 68 years old and have been fishing coastal NC waters for many years. I use almost exclusively artificial baits and have seen absolutely no decrease in my flounder harvest. In fact, it's just the opposite. Last year after the flounder season was over and I began fishing for trout and drum, I accidentally and consistently caught many flounder in excess of 15 inches every day. In that I'm a retired fisheries and wildlife biologist and fish at least 4-6 days every week from July-December, I feel that my hook and line type survey should be of some value to formulating creel and season limits for the recreational fishing season. I feel like the few flounder taken by recreational fisherman has little to no impact on the overall flounder populations in comparison to the massive amounts taken by commercial netters. To penalize hook and line recreational fisherpersons is totally unfair and totally a political move to make the Fish and Game Commission appear as though they are actively regulating a

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				fishery that's being devastated by commercial fishing and placing the blame on the few flounder taken by recreational fishing.
182	03/12/2021 - 5:37am	David McFadyen	North carolina	<p>I am against the 1 fish per day for flounder recommendation from the board. With only a 45 day season a person not living on a coastal county may only get to fish one weekend in that time frame. How is only one fish a day fair for that person?</p> <p>David</p>
181	03/12/2021 - 12:22am	Eric Sato	NC	<p>The state really needs to stop the gill nets used by the commercial fisherman. It's also not fair that the split of fish from commercial to recreational fisherman that is being proposed. I fully support trying to preserve our waterways but it's not the recreational fisherman that is doing all the damage but it's the commercial fisherman and their gill nets. This needs to stop!</p>
180	03/11/2021 - 10:59pm	John Long	North Carolina	<p>The coastal marine ecosystem of North Carolina has taken millions of years to develop the way nature intended. The North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission has largely destroyed that ecosystem in a few short decades, all in the name of a dollar and for the benefit of the commercial fishing sector. This is a slap in the face to the coastal recreational anglers, guides who make their living off the resource, and the citizens of North Carolina. Instead of choosing what's best for the resource and acting as ethical representatives of all North Carolinians, the MFC chose to throw gasoline on a fire. These commercial fishing practices and quotas are not sustainable. Not to mention the fact that recreational fishing brings far more income to the states economy than the commercial fishing sector. I strongly advise the MFC to reconsider their decisions regarding the management of flounder. The proposed quotas for recreational fishermen are flat out bullshit. As a recreational angler, I will likely not comply with the proposed bag limits and I'll take my chances with law enforcement. Rumor has it, wildlife enforcement is siding with the recreational angler on this issue anyway, and many will not enforce the limits should they become law. At the end of the day the true victim is not the recreational fishermen, it's the fish. You should be ashamed of yourselves. Have some self-respect, get it together, and do what's right for the fish and for the people.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>John Long</p>
179	03/11/2021 - 10:54pm	James Hammond	North Carolina	<p>I don't not support allocating 70% of southern flounder quota to commercial fishing and leaving 30 % to recreational fisherman. Recreational fishing provides a far greater economic stimulus to the economy of costal North Carolina than commercial fishing and has taken more southern flounder harvest reductions in the last 20 years, than the commercial sector. I support actions to ensure future generations are able to enjoy a sustainable southern flounder fishery in our great state, however the reductions should be split evenly between</p>

#▼	SUBMITTED	NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW.
				<p>the commercial and recreational sectors.</p> <p>The major problem in our states fisheries management is that gill netting and inshore trawling is still permitted. NCDMF must address these antiquated methods of commercial take to protect our fisheries. Additionally, water quality must be addressed as well. Far to much pollution is allowed to flow downstream into our costal waterways.</p> <p>This issue will play a large factor in my voting decisions at the state level.</p>
178	03/11/2021 - 10:25pm	Robert Dermer	NC	<p>This is a ludicrous amendment allowing one recreational flounder per person in the short season. As a taxpayer and a fisherman that buys a license to fish every year, I am out outraged.</p> <p>Why was the commercial fishery given a 70 to 30 allocation percentage over the recreational sector? Why was the total allotment reduced when scientific evidence has shown no impact on southern flounder?</p> <p>This will eliminate many coastal charter fisherman’s livelihoods I am sure, as I could never see myself paying for a charter again only keeping one flounder.</p> <p>I have a boat and I will be traveling to neighboring states and buying their fishing licenses, and giving their coastal economy my money to fish if this goes through.</p> <p>Thank you for considering not changing to the allocation of four fish per day to one fish per person.</p> <p>Robert Dermer</p>
177	03/11/2021 - 9:56pm	Howard Coupland	NC	<p>You must allow us to catch summer and gulf flounder and quit classifying those species as southern flounder. The fact you classify all flounder as southern flounder is idiocy. You know it is wrong and you know the summer and gulf flounder population is absolutely fine and thriving. Anglers are smart enough to tell the difference so stop being so arrogant and condescending.</p>
176	03/11/2021 - 9:45pm	Glenn Sanderson	North Carolina	<p>Do take into account the \$200,000,000.00 + dollars recreational fishing brings to the states economy vs around \$15,000,000 through commercial fishing. Take the netting into account and keep netters away from inlets, spawning areas and estuaries. Large mesh gill nets are disasters for more than just the flounder population...they destroy bottoms, especially the hard bottom areas - put on a mask and dive, see for yourself...Oh, and don't forget the bycatch that dies, the protected species that die including sea turtles. It is becoming blatantly obvious all considerations HUGELY favor the least productive and most damaging of the Flounder fishing segment. A very LARGE portion of the population is taking notice of</p>

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				the favoritism being shown to commercial netting. You are in the light and being exposed in a big way these days, so make an effort to do the right thing for a change.
175	03/11/2021 - 9:43pm	Drew Arndt	NC	I know this comment won't matter I've given up on our fishery. I spend way more time and money in other states as I've seen where our fishery has headed the last 20 years. Destructive gear, poor management, terrible water quality, too much development, more fishing pressure etc etc. You have continued to cut recs to the point of 1 fish if you are lucky enough to be in season while nets continue to soak and trawls continue to kill. The short season is absolutely idiotic for both sectors. Commercials flooded the market when flounder season opened last year and prices tanked. Recs could not keep a fish all summer. It was absolutely backwards. You need to spread out the season and allow more fish to escape in the fall. Why not a 50/50 split and get the nets out of the water. Commercial harvest by gig or hook and line with a longer season and smaller minimum size and/or a slot limit with 1 trophy fish. Having it over 15" you are taking a majority of females which makes no sense. There is so much that needs to happen but keeping tradition isn't getting us anywhere.
174	03/11/2021 - 9:35pm	Austin Riewestahl	Nc	Stop cutting out the little man the rec fishermen try something out side the box that just might work if you try it like banning gill nets and pound nets in nc stop the shrimp trolling in inland waters other states have done it and it's working give it a shot and see what happens from what I read the comm man is only gonna make 638 dollars a season on flounder so who is it really hurting he's not gonna waste his time to do that I wouldn't all I'm saying try something different what you're doing is not working stop penalizing the rec fishermen for someone else's destruction over the past years give the comm guys one fish per day see how they like that
173	03/11/2021 - 9:33pm	Tom P	Nc	One fish is absolutely ridiculous! Keep gulf and southern flounder season open for all 4 fish per person. Ridiculous!! The population is highly abundant! Terrible fisheries management decisions, you guys should be ashamed of your work!
172	03/11/2021 - 9:30pm	Ray Carter	NC	Open the season all year with a 4 day limit.
171	03/11/2021 - 9:30pm	Ray Carter	NC	Open the season all year with a 4 day limit.
170	03/11/2021 - 9:10pm	Clinton Peele	NC	I have two small children. I bought both of them lifetime sportsman licenses, even after the price was raised for my 2nd child. They were expensive but because it allowed us to provide for ourselves I did not think twice. But based on a 70/30 flounder allocation, it seems you would rather us go to the store then to use the license you charged so much for. If you are going to reduce the use of what we paid good money for, either send me some of that money back or let's allocate this years catch correctly at a 50/50 split. Let's also look into why the stock is declining due to by-catch from those who refuse to use hook and line. We are the laughing stock of the east coast.

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169	03/11/2021 - 9:10pm	Clinton Peele	NC	I have two small children. I bought both of them lifetime sportsman licenses, even after the price was raised for my 2nd child. They were expensive but because it allowed us to provide for ourselves I did not think twice. But based on a 70/30 flounder allocation, it seems you would rather us go to the store then to use the license you charged so much for. If you are going to reduce the use of what we paid good money for, either send me some of that money back or let's allocate this years catch correctly at a 50/50 split. Let's also look into why the stock is declining due to by-catch from those who refuse to use hook and line. We are the laughing stock of the east coast.
168	03/11/2021 - 9:09pm	Jason Hart	Nc	There is no way recreational fishermen are the root cause of the flounder shortages. There had to be a compromise between states to fix this if you go down the intercostal from calabash and get in South Carolina you can keep 10 at 14" those fish migrate into NC and fish from NC migrate to SC. The commercial fisherman have more of a kill ratio than recreational do. STOP THE GIG fishing to many shorts being giggered those fish don't stand a chance of survival. Further more the recreational fishing license puts more money into your salaries and into to fisheries than the commercial fishing does they don't have to renew each year like most of the recreational do.
167	03/11/2021 - 9:00pm	Anthony Jackson	NC	Stop managing this fishery for the commercial sector and stop ignoring public comment. I'm well aware that I'm wasting my time even writing you right now because you're going to ignore me anyways, but the only way to fix this fishery is to get rid of gill nets and inshore shrimp trawling. I also suggest changing allocations of flounder from 70/30 commercial/rec to a 50/50 split. Make the commercial fishery a pound net and gig fishery only. Look at your own data and you'll see where the problem lies.
166	03/11/2021 - 8:57pm	Michael McDaniel	NC	One flounder per person for recreational fisherman is unacceptable. I am a lifetime sportsman license holder and I want this proposed rule changed to increase the limit to more than one.
165	03/11/2021 - 8:46pm	John Dickerson	NC	Before we cut the recreational fisherman down to 1 flounder,how about we stop gill nets,pound nets , an trawling in our estuaries. The amount of bycatch is unreal. If you want to see for yourself we will be happy to show you the destruction we come across . Turtles,alligators, an undersized fish unreported. Every state sees the problem but North Carolina. Its all about the commercial guys lining pockets. Sad a man or woman can't go an catch dinner for his family but can buy the same fish from the same waters at the local fish market cause commercial fisherman get to rape the waters. I moved my family here 6 years ago because of the fishery an what I could teach my kids . But now we are looking at moving to VA or SC. Please make Recreational Fishing Great Again here in North Carolina.
164	03/11/2021 - 8:46pm	Read Samples	NC	Once again I am bewildered as to the management of NC fisheries. How is the conservation of the flounder resource being masked as a priority when we still allow outdated and non-sustainable fishing practices. A minimized limit for recreational anglers to one fish from four cannot provide a substantial minimization of harvest when compared to that of the oversized

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				commercial harvest. This action would only result in lost revenue in coastal towns that fill rental homes, boat gas tanks, and charter captains schedules. I am again surprised that NCDMF will back a damaging sector of commercial fishing and not that of the recreational fisherman. I am embarrassed by our state management plans every time when discussed with fellow sportsman from other states.
163	03/11/2021 - 8:38pm	Ryan Dolph	NC	Get the nets out of inshore waters and the problem will be solved it's a shame that we're the only state that allows this bs
162	03/11/2021 - 8:31pm	Bobby Schultz	North Carolina	I am making a comment in support of recreational fishermen, it bring more money in the state and is easier to police. Why not starry a flounder program to grow our own like Texas does seems to me it would solve both issues .
161	03/11/2021 - 7:58pm	Greg Kokoski	NC	Please stop the favoritism and share the public resources amongst the entire public. Also, follow the actions of the entire Eastern seaboard and ban gill nets. Our NC fishery has suffered long enough due to mismanagement.
160	03/11/2021 - 6:37pm	James Williamson	NC	I can't believe that you are giving the most flounder to the commercial fisherman. We the recreational fisherman spend all the monies on licenses and hotel rooms and food . Not to even talk about gear and charters.. I have people that come hundreds of miles a couple times a year just to fish for flounder and trout and drum. Then they charter to fish off shore. Every year they bring someone who has never fished our waters. Now I have to tell them that they might as well stay home and maybe save their money and I will go with them to New England and fish and spend my money there.
159	03/11/2021 - 5:17pm	David Sneed	NC	<p>Like many in the fishing public, I was disappointed in the Commission's decision to award 70% of the total allowable harvest of Southern flounder to the commercial industry, particularly after the conservation and recreational communities have advocated for a reduction in harvest for decades to end overfishing of this important recreational and commercial fishery. You have awarded the largest allocation of this decimated resource to the industry that has fought all conservation efforts for at least two decades (and truthfully much longer) to prevent the situation we know find ourselves in. The vote by the MFC also ignored the fact that over the last ten years the harvest by sector has averaged 65% commercial and 35% recreational as more of the public has sought access to this resource, thus rewarding recreational fishermen with a reduced allocation instead of the addition of 3% as promoted by at least one commissioner. The Commission is also ignoring data that shows the economic impact from recreational Southern flounder fishing has average over \$243 million per year versus the \$14.7 million economic impact from the commercial harvest of Southern flounder.</p> <p>The final indignity of this decision is the DMF data that indicates the recreational sector will likely see a one-fish bag limit as a result of the reduced allocation, and will be in danger of exceeding their allocation, even with a one-fish bag limit, resulting in further reductions,</p>

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				including a possible total closure, the following year. DMF staff presented all of this information to the Commission, yet they chose to ignore it and still punish the fishing public. I am calling on commissioners to please reconsider this allocation decision and approve a plan that puts the health of this fishery first and is equitable to all of fishermen.
158	03/11/2021 - 4:56pm	Jeffrey Kidwell	NC	I am truly amazed that NC has not recognized the value of recreational fishing on a number of levels. There have been numerous accounts of conflict of interest within the department of marine fisheries that have resulted in poor management of the fishery. We as a state cannot continue to have decisions made by those that can potentially have a biased perspective. It is time to bring on new management so that we can improve our fishery for all to enjoy in the future. North Carolina maintains policies that were banned by all surrounding states decades ago. We need change.
157	03/11/2021 - 4:50pm	Brandon Ashton	NC	<p>I'm very disappointed in the proposed 70/30 sector allocation proposed by the flounder FMP amendment. I'm even more disappointed in the elected and appointed officials involved in the MFC that have turned our fisheries management into the most commercial-biased program in the southeast US. A true 50/50 commercial/recreational sector split is both fair and supported vastly by public input. I truly wish North Carolina fisheries management would take a lesson from other greater fisheries such as FL, SC, GA, TX, etc. (this applies to a lot more than just the flounder FMP amendment in question). Please consider upholding what is best for both the resource and all user groups, versus the status quo of pandering to the well-funded commercial lobby.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
156	03/11/2021 - 4:21pm	Daniel	North Carolina	I will be very unhappy if the recreational flounder fishing season is changed or reduced any way while the commercial season stays the same. The commercial people are doing the damage. Not the recreational.
155	03/11/2021 - 3:21pm	Eric Blaz	North Carolina	Definitely support the flounder closure for recreational anglers but it is ludicrous that a commercial season is on the table. There is no way populations can recover unless ALL seasons are closed. Stop being shortsighted on this topic and protect the entire fishery.

[SUBMITTED](#) [NAME:](#) [STATE:](#) [PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW.](#)

[154](#)

03/11/2021 -
2:46pm

Hayden
Chrestman

North
Carolina

To the Marine Fisheries Commission,

The State of North Carolina and all associated government divisions that maintain a foothold in the conservation laws, rules and regulations have indeed failed to promote, within their assigned capabilities, the healthy conservation of marine fisheries in our state. The primitive methods, that are currently in use while officials look the other way are decimating our marine fisheries.

The State, which should receive far more annual revenue from the millions of recreational sportsmen whom are made to pay to take part in statewide, heavily restricted, recreational fishing and hunting practices, Obviously have some vested interest in allowing these "few" licensed commercial fishermen, to continue these primitive impetuous methods (estuarial trawling, unattended gill netting).

I do everything I can to assist the conservation effort while outing but there are situations where haphazard commercial practices and associated waste are beyond my capabilities to correct. I have personally witnessed, on numerous occasions while CPR (Catch, Photo, Release) kayak fishing in Onslow County inshore waters, the flagrant neglect and abuse of our estuaries, and all living resources therein pertaining. For example: watching helplessly as countless juvenile species are slaughtered indiscriminately at the hands of commercial fishermen, who are practicing their current legal rights; marsh grasses growing on sets of abandoned commercial crab traps negligibly left behind, on one such occasion, I rescued a sea turtle, that was on the brink of death, in one of these commercial crab traps; no less that 100 yards from a public boat launch in the town of Emerald Isle. On that same trip a Conservation Law Enforcement Agent, that I know stops there numerous times a week, stopped me to ask for my state purchased licensing within viewing of this litter in our waterways..

I am not asking for the destruction of the lives of our commercial fishermen but rather a conformity to the current modern methods of taking fish ethically and holding all violators accountable. Taking this small step will contribute in large part to the conservation effort that myself and so many like myself take so seriously on every outing. We do our part to contribute to the conservation effort, it's come time for our officials to look in the mirror and ask if they are doing the same. God bless and thank you for your candid service to this great state. You are appreciated more than you know.

[153](#)

03/11/2021 -
1:27pm

Edward
Plank

North
Carolina

Regarding commercial shrimp trawlers and by catch. Relatively new to the area and I'm amazed while fishing around Beaufort Inlet the amount of by catch that is dumped overboard from shrimp trawlers. i went behind a number of vessels just to see what was being dumped overboard. Noticed many dead croakers, small trout, flounders, pinfish, small weakfish, butterfish and small bluefish. it's no wonder the overall fish population is dwindling. I also realize we're talking about livelihoods and financial impacts regarding shrimp harvesting. Its

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				time to come up with a strategic long term solutions or else both commercial and recreational fishing will be at an end.
152	03/11/2021 - 1:20pm	Philip M Barber	NC	Please allow recreational fishermen more fish to keep. Limit the use of nets for catching fish for commercial fisherman, let the market decide what to pay for fresh fish. Stop allowing commercial fisherman to over fish our waters. Recreational fisherman are not overfishing.
151	03/11/2021 - 12:53pm	Michael Webber	NC	I don't understand why i can go to the seafood market in Wilmington NC and buy a flounder but i can't go fishing and eat my own catch. Is this because the government needs to make sales tax? Doesn't seem right that commercial fisherman can make money off of a species that you say you are trying to save, but Commercial fisherman take over 100x the amount an average fisherman can catch.
150	03/11/2021 - 12:47pm	John lawson	North Carolina	As a recreation flounder fisherman for the past 15 years I can not believe how unfair the state has made it for a guy with a fishing pole to catch a flounder ! Forty five days for two years in a row with a threat of none next year. Until last year I would spend at least three weeks and many day trips to Carolina beach and Fort Fisher. Not last year and not this year! I love that area and would spend my money there if I could flounder fish. When I left last year I stopped at the local fish market and paid \$25 for two flounder to take home. Who was allowed to catch and sell those fish ? Commercial fishermen ? Think about when all the flounder are gone due commercial over fishing those people will go out and get another job so why not cut them back now so they can get a head start on a new career ! I now travel to the Chesapeake bay to flounder fish and spend my money as well as others I meet there. How much silent money does the state lose from regular residents like me that just want to flounder fish? Also not wipe out the fish population. Seems a shame to give so much to one group and forget the small person ! I guess money talks. I understand my comments will most likely fall on deaf ears but one day it may be you people do not listen to you. Have a great day.
149	03/11/2021 - 12:40pm	Kenneth Craig	NC	<p>Marine wildlife is a public asset of the people of North Carolina. Flounder stocks have been continually decreasing. There has been a great increase in pressure on this resource. The pressure is coming from 2 sources.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An increase in technology for commercial fisherman that allows them to strip this asset in breeding grounds. The commercial fisherman should basically be banned from fishing inshore waters and breeding grounds. They have continually gotten away with this for years. Gone are the days of a few people feeding their families. Today it is big business that will rape the environment. 2. The increase in the number of non commercial fisherman have also put a lot of inshore pressure on stocks. There are thousands of more boats to fish for flounder.

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				<p>The solutions are quite simple and will make all people mad. But bold decisions need to be made.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. permanent ban of use of gill nets by anyone 2. permanent ban of all commercial fishing of any type with in the inshore waters of North Carolina including commercial shrimping. 3. 2 year ban of any harvest of flounder within the inshore waters of North Carolina <p>If changes are not made, the people of NC lose an important part of nature.</p>
148	03/11/2021 - 12:35pm	Steven Borrelli	NC	<p>I'm working on OIB ocean front for the last few weeks. I can't understand why as many as 7 scrimp boats are trolling back and forth within a couple of hundred yards from the beach, day and night. And all I see is restrictions on us sport fisherman. Sometimes I wonder how they don't get stuck in such shallow water.</p> <p>Wake up people ! People who have been coming to brunswick county for years to fish have stopped coming and end going north of here and are seeing the same thing.</p> <p>Would some of our elected officials please stand up and serve the people who pay them to look after us and our fisheries.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Steve Borrelli</p>
147	03/11/2021 - 11:04am	Mitchell Collette	NC	<p>i retired to kdh to enjoy my last years to catch a few flounder stripers redfish.looks like to me the commercial guys gonna get it all because of negligence on the part of commercial overfishing.i dont think that the rulemakers are taking into the impact this has on the rec.fishing.not everybody is going to drive 2 -5 hours to catch 1 flounder.no motel gas lures bait food resturants ect.good example went to west marine had a basket full of flounder stuff at counter half price.i asked why they said gonna cut flounder this stuff wont sell.then the domino effect happens people who do fish regardless rec or commercial will target another species.guess what theres another shortage.you will turn alot of people into outlaws.seems like you want to bring people together not further apart.</p>
146	03/11/2021 - 10:33am	Tom Riggins	NC	<p>I am ok with the possible "one flounder per person"--but , I think the nets should be outlawed(gill and trawler) --they kill too many sea creatures and the trawlers destroy the bottom environment. Think 2 flounder per person would be a better quota ...</p>
145	03/11/2021 - 10:30am	Benjamin Manfredi	North Carolina	<p>How did we let our flounder population get to this point? Why is flounder gigging still legal? These are questions I'm asking myself regularly. It's obvious the populations are declining and the measures currently in place are not working. I believe that gigging should be deemed illegal. What's stopping people from bagging their limit, dropping it off on the dock, and going</p>

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				out for more? Traditionally, gigging for flounder is much easier than fishing for them and this practice, in my opinion, is the leading cause for decline in flounder population. Let's fix this!
144	03/11/2021 - 10:02am	Gerald Nash	NC	If Commercial fishing is not sustainable, it will be overfished. Either we show some restraint now or the fishery and the industry will both collapse within 10 years. Commercial fishing should not be prioritized over our ecosystems.
143	03/11/2021 - 9:54am	Fields woodard	North Carolina	
142	03/11/2021 - 9:25am	Jimmy Camp	NC	I don't have a boat so all my fishing is done from our sea wall or the docks. I personally am ok with limiting our catch to one a day. What I catch I eat. The issue I have is enforcement. Most people will not adhere to a 1 catch limit. I catch 1 and would normally keep fishing until I get my limit of 4 or grow tired. Now I will stop at 1 and and my neighbor has already caught 1 and cleaned it but he comes back and catches a Citation size flounder right where I was fishing and now I am pissed. The fine for catching over the limit should be increased to really be a deterrent along with loss of license. If it's really about conservation let's make it hurt the offenders. With very little enforcement cutting the limit to 1 will leave more flounder for the so called bad guy to catch. Thanks for your efforts on conservation.

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<u>SUBMITTED</u>	<u>NAME:</u>	<u>STATE:</u>	<u>PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW.</u>
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trouble, maybe we should completely shut BOTH down for a year.

It's hard for me to believe that other states aren't having the same issue to this extent.

Tons of inshore trawling may be having effects but people don't ever want to hear that. I've seen the amount of bycatch and it's sad.

Gigging is pretty selective and from what I understand so are pound nets. Would love to see more enforcement on current regulations.

#▼	SUBMITTED	NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW.
141	03/11/2021 - 8:33am	david benton	nc	Shut it down for everybody for 2 years , then come back with a minimum size of 20 inches for all . This is the only way back to normal , you have to shut it down .
140	03/11/2021 - 8:11am	Adam Norris	North Carolina	We need to have an open flounder season period for recreational anglers. We should reduce commercial fishing to only offshore. My own family and friends make numerous trips to the NC coast, spending tens of thousands per year with local businesses. With the decline in fishing opportunities and increase in commercial pressure, we've started to make more trips to SC but would prefer we stay in NC.
139	03/11/2021 - 8:05am	Tyler Culbreth	NC	What a joke of a commission
138	03/11/2021 - 7:55am	Logan washle	NC	Afraid of losing the opportunity to target my favorite fish (flounder) on NC coast.
137	03/11/2021 - 7:43am	Ben Parrott	NC	Please reconsider your vote on souther flounder. These fish are in great peril from over netting and wasteful commercial fishing practices. Please consider the recreational fisherman! They spend way more money and please consider banning nets in our sounds! Protect these fish for futur generations like every other southern state EXCEPT NORTH CAROLINA!
136	03/11/2021 - 7:41am	Charles Mabe	NC	Please stop penalizing recreational flounder fishermen with commercial fishing bias! Recreational fishermen should have equal access to flounder harvesting. We can also distinguish the difference between various species of flounder fish so please give the opportunity to harvest flounder that are not considered critically over fished. Thanks for your attention in this matter.
135	03/11/2021 - 7:12am	Kyle van Althuis	NC	Do not limit recreational anglers to 1 flounder. There are other management options available. It is obscene how hard DMF has made it to be able to catch and keep a few fish for dinner. 1 flounder per day in a 60 day season, 1 red drum in a slot, no striper... it is ridiculous. People will continue to give up fishing because of it.
134	03/11/2021 - 7:10am	Daniel Mcrainey	North Carolina	I have been fishing my home waters of North Carolina since I could walk and I can honestly say the flounder population is as healthy now as I have ever seen. Your estimates that show the population is down are flat out wrong. If they are truly down then you need to show us evidence and show how data was collected and what the population was years ago compared to now and also what is the marine fisheries target of a healthy population (assuming you have one), What kind of headway towards that target did we make with the season last year? Was it a complete failure of an attempt? These questions need to be answered and made available to the public because I fail to believe the marine fisheries has an accurate way of estimating the flounder population. But for the sake of argument let's say your estimates of the population

#▼	SUBMITTED	NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW.
				being low have some merit. The flounder catch from the recreational community is such a small amount compared to the massive hauls of commercial fishermen and the economic impact of the implementation of the flounder season is huge as many people that vacation here just to flounder fish do not come at their typical times of at all. Furthermore you are hurting charitable tournaments such as the shallotte point flounder tournament put on by the Shriners that donates to the children's hospital. This tournament was a great event that did not take place last year thanks to you all at the marine fisheries. I know there are other fish to catch but they do not draw the crowd that flounder do. Their are many hard core flounder fisherman that only target flounder and with this season and possibilities of even more regulation some have them have sold their boats and gave up. The season is already too much regulation there is absolutely no need for an amendment 3 and the season needs to be done away with. If you want to help the population you need to use your resources to create more habitats such as nearshore reefs and it could also help to do some stocking in the NC waters as I have heard being done in South Carolina.
133	03/11/2021 - 7:10am	Ryan Young	Nc	Please reduce remove trawling as a way to catch flounder as well as remove gill nets from interior waters. Ocean gill nets should be minded by the owner at all times. Recreational fishermen spend huge amounts of money in Theo state. Open flounder for recreational fisherman year round.
132	03/11/2021 - 12:16am	Glenn wilson	North Carolina	The commercial flounder fishery in North Carolina is the most devastating thing I have seen in my life. If you shut down flounder fishing for the people of North Carolina, just to benefit the few, in the commercial destruction of our waters. You are doing the people of this state a disservice and should resign from your jobs. Please look at the science and the real economics of this issue. Please protect the waters of North Carolina for the future generations. Sincerely Glenn Wilson and his children.
131	03/10/2021 - 11:26pm	Elias Vaisberg	NC	Flounder have more monetary value being available to catch rod and reel then pillaged in nets for a fish house.
130	03/10/2021 - 11:25pm	Elias Vaisberg	NC	Flounder have more monetary value being available to catch rod and reel then pillaged in nets for a fish house.
129	03/10/2021 - 11:07pm	Will Lathan	NC	If a population is overfished, why allow one group a limit and not another? Seems that the prudent thing to do would be to restrict limits for all. Gill nets should not be in NC waters.
128	03/10/2021 - 10:45pm	Tristan Nelson	North Carolina	Taking away recreational fisherman's rights to catch and keep flounder while Allowing commercial harvest of flounder species is not going to fix the issues NC is facing. The commercial fishermen harvest way more fish than the recreational fisherman. There need to

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				be more regulations for the people going out and gigging 50 fish per night, they're the ones causing the issue, it's not so much the people catching 1 or 2 fish to keep. Everyone needs to be on the same page because we all want the same thing, for the flounder and all other fish species to be abundant, eliminating just the recreational season is not going to get us there!
127	03/10/2021 - 10:44pm	Brett Beane	North Carolina	Stripping recreational fisherman of a flounder season due to a population decrease is not a sustainable effort to maintain flounder population in the state of NC. Other methods that other states have adopted such as taking away gills nets from commercial fisherman have proved effective for states that house southern flounder as a species. I condemn the efforts that our state has put forward and personally view their efforts as ineffective for a sustainable flounder population.
126	03/10/2021 - 10:44pm	Rich Winslow	NC	The commercial fisherman are killing the NC recreation flounder population. The numbers speak for themselves. The harvesting with nets all across our NC saltwater is literally wiping flounders out. More balance is needed.
125	03/10/2021 - 10:33pm	Jacob Stocks	North Carolina	
124	03/10/2021 - 10:28pm	Cole Argay	North Carolina	I truly believe this is unfair and and unwise idea to shut down the fisheries of southern flounder. The past few years i believe us inshore fishermen have seen a huge increase in the amount of flounder caught and the quality of them has been superb. Would hate to see this fishery be shut down, far to many people travel to our coasts just to target this fish for a few days as their dream trip, and most don't even keep this fish to eat. To add, the regulations are fair and i believe all fishermen follow the fish per person rules.
123	03/10/2021 - 10:27pm	Chasen Blackburn	NC	The fact that the fishery is trying to shut down recreational flounder fishing but give the commercial guys free reign is ridiculous. Please leave flounder season like it used to be. Where you can fish for them year round. Our flounder fishery is not hurt at all. I can go fishing and catch 50 flounder in a mornings time. There's no need to have a season on them. But a commercial guy can go and set a net and catch 1000 pounds and that's okay it seems like? Ridiculous. It's the commercial guys you need to regulate. Not recreational. Leave it open
122	03/10/2021 - 10:20pm	Matthew farmer	Nc	Inshore netting should be banned and choking our fish meanwhile the shrimp boats in Holden beach are practically dredging the bottom throwing away dead byproduct that is our fishery. I have faith in our elected officials and leaders to make our fishery living for years to come.
121	03/10/2021 - 10:19pm	Mark Hurst	NC	Please reduce the commercial flounder allocation and increase the recreational flounder allocation. Thank you.

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120	03/10/2021 - 9:51pm	Clinton Vaughan	North Carolina	Flounder quota is very unfair to the recreational fisher. For all the money the recreational spend we should get at least 70% of the quota. Tired of seeing a few big companies who donate to the right people end up with the large share of quota. I vote and advise my wife and two adult children how to vote. Please move at least 60% of the quota where it belongs to the recreational fisherman. Thanks, CC Vaughan
119	03/10/2021 - 9:36pm	Layne Koehn	North Carolina	I'm fed up with this
118	03/10/2021 - 9:28pm	Jonathan Lanier	NC	I support a slot limit for recreational and commercial anglers. I do not support a reduction in bag limit for recreational anglers. I support separating southern flounder management from other species if anglers are willing to learn proper identification of species. I support restrictions on use of commercial gear by recreational anglers. I support heavy restrictions on gigging, both recreational and commercial.
117	03/10/2021 - 9:23pm	Owen kilcommons	North Carolina	Please keep the season lots of people love to eat flounder and they are plentiful
116	03/10/2021 - 8:54pm	Scott Maisto	NC	Please consider the damage caused by gill nets and near shore trawling before you try to restrict the hook and line recreational flounder fishery. Recreational fishing brings more to our states bottom line than commercial fishing.
115	03/10/2021 - 8:53pm	Stephen	Nc	Please please please set a maximum size limit for speckled trout
114	03/10/2021 - 8:52pm	Sutton Schilawski	North Carolina	Absolutely no commercial flounder season without a recreational season. Shut down the commercial season, inshore netting, and gigging. Recreational angling has little impact on fish populations. Inshore netting has to go!
113	03/10/2021 - 8:52pm	Sutton Schilawski	North Carolina	Absolutely no commercial flounder season without a recreational season. Shut down the commercial season, inshore netting, and gigging. Recreational angling has little impact on fish populations. Inshore netting has to go!
112	03/10/2021 - 8:49pm	Eddie Free	North Carolina	Southern flounder fishing was the first type of fishing I've ever done. I have many great memories catching them in Pawleys island, SC. I DO NOT think it's fair that commercial fishermen can continue to fish and keep flounder. Commercial fishing harvests more flounder than recreational fishermen so it seems like the recreational fishermen are getting punished. Recreational fishing has always been a great conservation tool and ostracizing recreational fishermen seems very counter intuitive. However, since the large flounder are reproducing

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				<p>females, I think a slot limit would make more sense than not allowing harvest all together. I understand that flounder are an important indicator species for how the greater coastal wetland ecosystem is doing and I think it is very important to keep that in mind. Maybe there are greater problems such as overfishing of menhaden by commercial fishermen.</p> <p>If there is no other option but to have a flounder season and a moratorium for the rest of the year, I think commercial fishermen shouldn't be allowed to target flounder if the population is not doing well.</p>
111	03/10/2021 - 8:36pm	Mark Ryan	North Carolina	<p>Please allow a longer flounder season this year. One fish per angler per day sounds reasonable provided the season is expanded. I am a recreational angler and only occasionally keep a fish to eat. Commercial fishing has a much greater impact on the fishery. Also, please ban gill netting which does great harm to the ecosystem. Thanks for listening.</p>
110	03/10/2021 - 8:14pm	Silas leonard	North carolina	<p>Flounder season is a necessity</p>
109	03/10/2021 - 8:13pm	Gary Holmes	North Carolina	<p>To whom it concerns</p> <p>So many things to cover from how have NCDMF gotten away with all this unorthodox way of managing our fisheries, they have done nothing but catered the commercial guys mostly for personal gain. If tgey had been doing there job we wouldn't be in this situation. How can you keep taking from the recreational anglers and keep giving to tge ones doing all tge damage to our fisheries rather with gill or pound nets, or shrimp trawl, its time to fix the root of the problem instead of bandaiding it blaming recreational anglers. How can a 45 day season with one fish feed a man and his family knowing most recreational anglers only fish the weekend. So if weather providing he maybe able to fish a few Saturdays, since they did make the season during middle of hurricane weather. But yet the commercial guys who fish daily get a pass, just like the loop whole by catch, All this outdated gear needs to be outlawed. It's not used in any other state except NC, when are we going realize, that's the problem with all of our fisheries not just flounder. But everyone has turned a blind eye for too long. It's time to listen to the almost two million recreational anglers for a change that has a bigger impact on our economy from motels , gas, food, ect. When most the commercial guys floundering do it part time. Not to mention the guides your hurting. But NC needs to move in a direction to protect our fisheries, not cutting out the recreational anglers . If you would move the nets and trawls off shore where they belong, our fisheries would rebound and flourish again. If you can't see it your part of the problem, just look at other states the haven't closed no flounder season down. So must be NC.</p>

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108	03/10/2021 - 7:58pm	Eric Bregman	NC	Anything less then a 50/50 flounder allocation between commercial and recreational and any reduction in creel limit for recreational fisherman is unacceptable.
107	03/10/2021 - 7:56pm	Blake Nichols	NC	I'm disappointed with the way the fishery is managed and how depleted our fish stocks are.
106	03/10/2021 - 7:46pm	Billy Strickland	NC	I am a recreational flounder fisherman. We bring over \$200 million to the economy flounder gigging while commercial fishing less than 14 million. It seems we should support the one with the significant impact economically. However I believe that commercial shrimping in our estuary should be pushed off the coast like every other state. You cannot continue to kill all of the offspring and blame it on the actual harvesting for the lower numbers. If Flanders season is reduced to one per day I would not continue to fish or gig for flounders. Please consider leaving the season and limit in its current status until the recovery is complete but reduce commercial fishing in eliminate shrimping in estuaries Thanks for your time and consideration
105	03/10/2021 - 7:41pm	Sean Stokes	NC	It's unfair that commercial fishing are allowed to keep flounders but Rec guys aren't. It's clear the commercial gill nets are what's driving the numbers down
104	03/10/2021 - 7:38pm	Abram Koehn	NC	Do you seriously think it makes sense to close Flounder fishing down for recreational anglers in NC while VA north of us and SC south of us you can keep them year round? Very unhappy with preference always given to Commercial fishermen here.
103	03/10/2021 - 7:22pm	Anthony	NC	It is very beneficial being able to harvest flounder non commercially. They taste great and put food on the table.
102	03/10/2021 - 7:20pm	Kam Sitton	North Carolina	Stop voting in favor of commercial fisherman and punishing recreational anglers. Everyone that buys a fishing license in the state is tired of the piss poor management of our states fisheries, especially that of the southern flounder.
101	03/10/2021 - 7:16pm	Jacob Zemanek	Tx	Our fishery was hit extremely hard during the February freeze. We lost thousands of trout in our matagorda bay complex, I personally seen the damage and would like to see major changes going forward for the guides and recreational guys like myself as well. East matagorda which was hit the hardest should be catch and release for the next 2-3 years and then have reassessment of the bay and make changes. West matagorda should be trout limit of 3 fish an just 1 over 25 incase one is non revivable.
100	03/10/2021 - 7:15pm	JACK STALEY	NC	Since there are 10 times more recreational fishermen than commercial fishermen, it should be 90 percent of catch should go to recreational fishermen. Change it to 1 fish per day April 1 thru September 30.

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99	03/10/2021 - 7:11pm	Jared	Tx	Wish there would be a limited number of guides allowed in east bay in Matagorda' it's a small bay that got hit hard by the freeze and I saw in the last week or so 3 more new guides pop up unreal how many are in Matagorda' and it's just getting worse
98	03/10/2021 - 7:06pm	John Gully	Texas	<p>Fishing was on decline prior to freeze, my concern is since last major freeze the nbr of fishermen has increased by 3x,5x,8x plus technology increase. The bays, particularly has too much fishing pressure. There are multiple guides that take more than 1 trip per day up to 2-3 trips per day-that is an abuse of the fishery. So the avg fishermen harvest 2 trips per month with friend say 40 trout per month, some guides take 40 trout per dayx5 days a week so 200+trout per week, and that is just 1 guide. I heard there are up to 300 guides in Matagorda bay complex, there are too many guides. I dont know what solution is: limit nbr guides per bay, drop the 25 in max to 20, only 1 guide trip per day, with max 20 trips per month, not allow guides to fish on their trips-i have heard they sometimes catch majority of the fish on there trips, no guided croaker trips in severely affected bays, family of 3-4 takes 1 less limit, drop limit 5-3 for next couple years.</p> <p>Thank you for everything you do and taking my ideas into consideration</p>
97	03/10/2021 - 7:05pm	Philip Wicked	NC	Our inshore fisheries are being grossly mishandled and neglected. Enough is enough. The data and science is very clear, we are headed for a real problem. A change MUST happen. Trolling, pound and gill netting has to go in our fisheries or our future of inshore fishing will fall into major jeopardy.
96	03/10/2021 - 7:05pm	Kennetb russek	NC	Commercial floundering kills. It's detrimental to recreational fishing. Less people will fish, less guides in the area, less people vacationing locally to fish = less money for NC.
95	03/10/2021 - 7:04pm	Will Newman	NC	Do not shut down the recreational flounder season at the expense of keeping the commercial season.
94	03/10/2021 - 6:59pm	Lawrence Bachmann	NC	If you are to close recreational, you are to close commercial. This is absolute tyranny, and contradictory to the freedoms that we have as Americans. If you shut it down for one party, you shut it down for all. If you partially regulate one party, you partially regulate the other. Stop being greedy bastards, make fair decisions.
93	03/10/2021 - 6:56pm	Nick Perricone	North Carolina	There is no reason that the commercial fisherman should be able to harvest Flounder in the state of North Carolina while the recreational fisherman can not. You either close the season for both or it remains open for both. The fishery can not sustain the commercial pressure it gets any longer. The DMF doesn't understand the amount of over harvest happening in all commercial fisheries in NC due to the lack of enforcement. They cant even enforce the laws

#▼	SUBMITTED	NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW.
				that are currently in place. This is the most urgent matter in our fisheries in NC today. It's just not sustainable. We must ACT now, Or say good bye to the industry all together!
92	03/10/2021 - 6:44pm	Judson Brock	North Carolina	It is extremely disappointing to see our fishery managed so poorly! I have fished up and down the east coast as well as the gulf coast and guiding anglers and well as fishing tournaments and every other state with redfish trout and flounder blows our fishery out of the water. I have grown up on the North Carolina coast and have personally witnessed declines in our redfish , speckled trout, flounder and gray trout populations. I beg you please manage this fishery with the resource first! I pray that I don't have to explain to my kids one day how these were the "good ole days"! Our fishery could be world class and instead it's garbage. I know lots of guys that drive south to fish for redfish in South Carolina for the weekend because of how much better it is just south of the border! Please change something!
91	03/10/2021 - 6:44pm	Marc Gilson	NC	For all citizens of North Carolina share the quote 50/50 between rec and commercial. Understand the difference in revenue drivers between the 2. Commercial fisherman live at poverty level. It's criminal all the way around. Lastly, ban the nets, especially inside. The netters have destroyed this fishery. Follow what Florida and Texas have done. The road map is there. The decisions you have historically made are not meeting the citizens needs. Do better.
90	03/10/2021 - 6:43pm	Zakkary Kirby	NC	How many times do we have to appeal to you? The fisheries wouldn't need so much regulation if you got rid of gill nets. Every year more and more restrictions are put in place and you know what hasn't changed? Gill nets. Gill nets. Gill nets. Get with the times.
89	03/10/2021 - 6:30pm	Brad Schendt	NC	This is another poor attempt to manage fisheries with bad science. You most likely have already made up your minds, which makes these comments a dog and pony show for the rest of us. If you have to do something to justify your positions , why don't you do something that allows the anglers to enjoy the sport of fishing more, rather than limit our ability to enjoy the resources that we fund and support annually with our purchases of licenses and equipment.

SUBMITTED NAME: STATE: PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW.

88

03/10/2021 -
6:19pm

Chad Denny

North
Carolina

I'm writing as a VERY frustrated wildlife life time license holder rec. fishermen. After the vote at the DMFC meeting in Feb. of the 70/30 reduction in favor of the commercial fishing harvest on the southern flounder. I have to ask how is this in any way fair to the rec. fishermen? The rec. fishermen has a 45 day window as of now to fish for flounder So for the average rec. fishermen who like myself that works a Mon-Fri. Job. That's six weekends we got and I promise you, you'll be luck to get all 6 weekends that the weather or wind is not bad. So I have to ask with the limit a person possibly going to one flounder. Is it really worth the money and time, knowing the commercial side can keep way more amounts of fish in the same water while the rec. fishermen is taking such a harsh regulation. With the data and charts you have and shown it's obvious where the problem is. There was a documentary done on this issue five years ago on WRAL . And here we are still dealing with the problem and MFC will not act to eliminate or change the way commercial fishing is done the way other states have. I have a few points and questions that I hope are considered.

1: since N.C. is the ONLY state on the east coast the allows inshore commercial netting, trawlers, etc. And us rec. fishermen have the harshest regulations of any other state when it comes to flounder and other species of fish. Wouldn't make sense to follow suit with the other states?

2: Before the DMFC meeting of Feb. 25-26 there was a time period for public comment. I know there was over 700, could have been more public comments submitted. Why was these comments not even considered before this vote was made? If this many people have an interest in this, it's pretty much a slap in the face when there opinions were not even brought to the table. Hope this time is different.

3: So right now I would say the average inshore rec. fishermen targets Trout,drum,flounder. That means
4 spec. Trout
1 drum
1 gray Trout
Possibly 1 flounder
I have to ask when you read that how can you honestly say the regulations on the rec. fishermen is fair? Not a lot there for the rec. fishermen and we take cut after cut

4: I guess for me and I know plenty of others who feel the same way. It's just hard to accept these actions when the average rec fishermen has six weekends of flounder season. With that said, I would like to point out if Two rec. fishermen go once a weekend and if they limit out

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				<p>each trip in the 6 weekend period that's 48 flounder with limit at 4 person. I seen pictures of commercial giggers and netters that catch that many flounder in one trip. So again I have to ask how is it fair for another cut to the rec. fishermen?</p> <p>5: If you have the data showing a declining fishery and also have the data showing what is causing the most damage (commercial side). What sense does it make to give the commercial fishing side the biggest percentage of the harvest?</p> <p>I have been a fishermen all my life and hope to pass this tradition and love for fishing to my son. But very year it's more cuts to the rec. fishermen side which is really taking the fun and interest in going fishing out.</p> <p>I hope my thoughts as well as the MANY other concerned and frustrated fishermen is taking in to consideration because this change will have a huge affect on many rec. fishermen.</p> <p>Thanks for your time</p>
87	03/10/2021 - 5:58pm	Gina Lemons	NC	I support southern flounder protections including limits on commercial harvesting.
86	03/10/2021 - 5:53pm	Will	Nc	
85	03/10/2021 - 5:28pm	Capt Cane Faircloth	NC	As a guide and recreational angler I would like to see the southern flounder separated and managed separately from the Gulf and summer flounders. By doing so the ocean fishery could remain open allowing anglers the harvest opportunity and not crippling our states For-Hire and recreational industries.
84	03/10/2021 - 5:14pm	Michael Gencel	NC	<p>There needs to be more fair way to replenish the flounder stock. Stop giggering and netters. There is way too much bycatch by netters of baby fish,crabs etc. The mentality of some people does not do justice for the good of the fishery.</p> <p>I believe spawning grounds should be closed. Netting and giggering should be stopped completely. There are too many outside influences on the board. Public officials should not be able to put their heads in on meetings and threaten the board.</p> <p>Thank You Very Much Mick Gencel</p>

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83	03/10/2021 - 4:34pm	Cameron Haughton	North Carolina	Why are you regulating for industries and not the individuals? I want to provide for my family through responsible harvesting. The measures infringe my rights to the natural resources of our state. You do not have the right to sell my freedoms.
82	03/10/2021 - 4:21pm	William Wester	NC	Why is it the rec.fishman get so little and we bring more money to the state .We should get the same as commerical. Should be 50/50 .If the flounder are in that bad of shape closes it for every one.
81	03/10/2021 - 4:04pm	marshall shipp	nc	once again science is disregarded. as always commercial fishing interests are considered ahead of recreational fishing it is the harvesting of flounder in their breeding areas that must be limited. as far as the economic impact to our state LOOK AT THE NUMBERS!
80	03/10/2021 - 4:01pm	Wyatt	TX	<p>It is disappointing to see a board of officials that are tasked with managing a resource responsibly blatantly disregard data, testimonies, and suggestions from scientists.</p> <p>As an angler who experiences many different estuaries in different states, it pains me to say that NC's is in the worst shape, despite having the greatest potential to be the best! The gamefish stocks are abused and overfished, and it all begins with how much of the stock is allocated to commercial harvest, and the methods employed.</p> <p>Data has shown that recreational anglers have a much smaller impact on the stock of the fishery, especially because most of the catch is released. The data DOES show us that fish stocks in NC are directly affected by the commercial limits, and the data on the methods used show that these limits are not even being culled in an effective or sustainable way. The data shows that Gill nets kill without discretion, resulting in dead juveniles, exceeded limits, and unhealthy fisheries.</p> <p>Despite all of this data, it's sad to see that the resource was NOT put first and the data was NOT considered.</p> <p>It is your JOB to make decisions that benefit both recreational and commercial fisherman, but that starts with having a sustainable resource. Not only are you failing at providing for the recreational angler in any capacity, you're failing the resource as well.</p> <p>You will cease to have a fishery to manage soon if that does not change.</p> <p>I am the recreational angler, and I am asking you to fix this, or I am asking you to step down.</p>

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79	03/10/2021 - 3:56pm	Brandon D Lutz	NC	The gillnets inshore are getting out of hand. We are one of the last states to ban them. The by catch is unbelievable.
78	03/10/2021 - 3:34pm	Mark Narron	NC	<p>Please do not punish NC residences such as myself for over harvesting of flounder by commercial fishermen. I feel I should be able to keep and eat at least one flounder a trip. This not only keeps me from enjoying a fresh flounder meal every once and awhile it discourages me from even trying to catch flounder for sport. Many times flounder are deep hooked and will not survive if released. Why not just lower the limit to one or two fish per trip. The natural resources of our state belong to all of us not just commercial fishermen.</p> <p>Mark Narron</p>
77	03/10/2021 - 2:49pm	Mark Kollman	North Carolina	<p>It is time for the NC Marine Fisheries Commission to start making the fish resources of NC a priority instead of commercial fishing. With the current fisheries management plan for flounder a complete failure, the allocation of 70% of flounder in NC to commercial fishermen and a 30% allocation of flounder to recreational fishermen, this is an insult to the people of North Carolina. The fact that MFC had to CLOSE the NC flounder season for most of 2021 shows complete failure of MFC to effectively manage the resources they are charged with managing. The entire MFC and its process and procedures should be scrapped, and all existing MFC members be stripped of their seats. The seats should be designated 100% to scientist and let them manage the fisheries of North Carolina.</p> <p>If the MFC continues to allocate a majority of finfish resources to the very group which is decimating the resources, this proves the MFC has no business continuing to manage NC fisheries.</p> <p>Please give sincere consideration to reallocation of the flounder stocks to a 50/50 split. There are ZERO factual numbers for recreational fish landings. Add to that that more than 50% of NC commercial license holders filed ZERO trip tickets in 2020 as required by law, there is no way the MFC can have any fact based reason for 1. - closing the flounder season, and 2. - giving the commercial sector 70% of the flounder allocation. This is an affront to all NC citizens.</p> <p>The current fisheries management plan for flounder is a failure, and should immediately be scrapped in favor of a 50/50 split for recs and commercial fishermen.</p>
76	03/10/2021 - 2:16pm	Christina Erexson	North carolina	<p>As a wife and mother of a son who love nothing more than to go fishing... for myself it's not the fight.. not the sport... but the ability to enjoy the day with my family on the water and bring A fish home for dinner. Just 1, regulation size, just 1, Taking that away makes me not want to go, no challenge, no reason. When I don't want to go they don't want to go. It's a lot of work</p>

#▼	SUBMITTED	NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW.
				and it's expensive. We spend a lot of money on the coast boat, gas, hotels, restaurants etc. on our trips. 1 flounder is not going to impact that much. We have jobs I am a teacher and can't always schedule a trip around the "fishing window". 1 fish per boat per day all year is fair and environmentally friendly and we might not even get one but at least we have the chance and desire to go out.
75	03/10/2021 - 2:05pm	Steve	NC	Why are our flounder fisheries managed so poorly? Why is 70% allocated to commercial fishing? Why not 50/50 rec & com. Gill nets?! We are an embarrassment to our neighboring southern states! Their fisheries are in far better shape than ours!
74	03/10/2021 - 2:04pm	James A. Blanton	NC	Please stop the rape and pillage of our resources done by the mass catch commercial fishing industry and allocate more for the recreational anglers. It's simply not fair. They are not any agency's resources, they belong to all the people. Shutting out the recreation catch will anger more people than you can please with the commercial side.
73	03/10/2021 - 2:02pm	Thomas Coley	NC	
72	03/10/2021 - 2:01pm	Ralph Haddock	N.C.	<p>I strongly advocate for a fair and equitable allotment of southern flounder to recreational fishermen rather than the proposed 73/27 commercial/recreation percentage. Also, I want to voice that large mesh gill nets should be eliminated as a method of harvesting flounder and gill nets of any mesh or length must be eliminated in N.C. waters if we are to have a sustainable fishery.</p> <p>Shrimp trawls kill thousands of juvenile flounder and the sounds should be declared off limits for their harvest if for that reason only.</p> <p>Consider a slot for recreational flounder with 4 allowed from 13-20 inches. Research has shown that the majority of flounder under 15 inches are males and almost all over 20 inches are females.</p>
71	03/10/2021 - 1:41pm	Linwood Grant	NC	Please consider allowing recreation fishermen the same opportunities to catch flounder as commercial fishermen (50-50). Marine Fisheries and commercial fishermen do not own the waters. It is also very obvious that commercial fishing destroys more flounder in by catch than all the recreation fishing combined. than
70	03/10/2021 - 1:40pm	C Jason Blowers	Al	My money and I travel to NC for two reasons: to visit family and salt water fish. Consider recreational fishing activities impact on the NC economy.

#▼	SUBMITTED	NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW.
69	03/10/2021 - 12:58pm	Jeff Schmucker	NC	The Flounder quota should be 70% Recreational and 30% Commercial. I'm a recreational fisherman and I spend a lot more taxable dollars on fishing equipment than my neighbor who is a commercial. It's long past time recreational activities are recognized for the financial contribution we make to the state and local economy.
68	03/10/2021 - 12:51pm	Robert Callaway	NC	By limiting the recreational fisherman's flounder season to only a few weeks is detrimental to the tourism economy of our coastal towns.
67	03/10/2021 - 12:17pm	Will Brown	NC	Hello, as a recreational fisherman and the father of three future recreational fisherpeople, I am very concerned with the health of our fish populations, especially flounder in North Carolina. I am bewildered at the weight the commercial fishing sector is given at the allocation of the set quota. Allocation should be based on the number of users/harvesters, and the amount of money contributed to the economy of North Carolina. If you set the sector quotas based on these statistics, we would probably be looking at 90% recreational and 10% commercial. However, as a lifelong angler and consumer of seafood in North Carolina I think a 50/50 split would only be fair. Any amount skewed heavy toward the commercial side of the fishery is un-called for, un-justified, and does not make economic sense to the sate. Please make our quota system equal for all parties. Thank you for your consideration. -Will
66	03/10/2021 - 12:11pm	Chad Whitley	NC	I dont understand why NC continues to give favorable quota to the commercial sector while ignoring the recreational sector. Recreational anglers bring in more money to the state, however since the regulations I personally didnt make a trip down this past fall to the coast to fish. Its a waste when you can only keep one flounder, one grey trout and one red drum. It would be great if we had elected officials who cared about recreational anglers. Commercial anglers always get the better quota, longer seasons and are allowed to keep fish outside of limits and dont turn in trip tickets. Something needs to be done about all the licenses that arent used as we know they are fishing illegally and not reporting it.
65	03/10/2021 - 11:39am	Gene C Stephenson Jr	NC	I support actions that are needed to maintain a viable stock of Southern Flounder, provided those actions are fair/equitable to all parties. (i.e. recreational anglers and commercial fisherman) I also support a year round season for Gulf and Summer Flounder caught from ocean waters by recreational anglers.
64	03/10/2021 - 11:37am	Alan Fehr	PA 17551	As a rental property owner in Hatteras, NC, the revenue which my efforts and investment produces benefits that area of the Outer Banks. I feel very strongly that the Marine Fisheries Commission, in their attempt to limit the annual harvest of flounder (and many other fish), should place any increased restrictions upon the commercial sector in an attempt to protect this valuable asset which attracts many vacationers to this very special area. As the permitted harvest of flounder by commercial fisheries has increased over the years, I increasingly hear

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				<p>discouraged vacationers saying that this has negatively impacted an important component of their own recreational activities which have always drawn them to this area. As these people choose to vacation in other areas it reduces their positive impact upon the many businesses on the Outer Banks. It is not the recreational angler that has had the greatest negative impact upon the number of flounder in these waters. It is primarily due to the disproportionately large impact from the commercial sector. Any penalty to be paid for this worsening situation should be placed, proportionately, upon the shoulders of the commercial sector,</p> <p>Alan Fehr</p>
63	03/10/2021 - 11:04am	Mark Schweikert	NC	<p>To whom it may concern;</p> <p>I recently moved to NC from Florida. I am 6th generation Floridian(an endangered species), and some of my family members who used to commercially fish. Some of my relative still do charter fishing. So, I understand the desire for many people to make a living off of the water. I also enjoy a fresh fish sandwich from a local restaurant.</p> <p>That said, I also understand that the economic impact of recreational fisherman usually outweighs the financial gain by the commercial industry.</p> <p>If we use economics alone; we can understand the supply/demand curve of any product. Commercial fisherman will still make their income, even if their allotment is reduced. At some point consumers will not pay for the price of fresh fish, but many people visiting the coastline for vacation will still pay a few dollars more for a fresh flounder sandwich.</p> <p>Being that the fish of our waters belong to ALL people; I do not see how any group could be allotted a larger percentage than another group. Logically, a 50/50 split of allotment is the only fair way.</p> <p>The laws of economics will still allow the commercial group to make a living, and the recreational/charter captains will still be able to enjoy their catch.</p> <p>Thanks for your time,</p> <p>Mark Schweikert</p>
62	03/10/2021 - 11:01am	ERIC CURRIE	NORTH CAROLINA	<p>MORE RESTRICTIONS ON COMMERCIAL FISHING AND TRAWLING AND LESS RESTRICTIONS ON YEAR ROUND TAX PAYERS!!</p>

#▼	SUBMITTED	NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW.
61	03/10/2021 - 11:00am	WILLIAM DAVID CURRIE	NORTH CAROLINA	OPEN UP FLOUNDER FISHING AND LET ME EAT!! IT'S THE ONLY KIND OF FISH I LIKE!!
60	03/10/2021 - 10:58am	JESSE F CURRIE	North Carolina	IT MAKES ME SO MAD WHEN I GO TO A RESTAURANT AND ON THEIR MENU IS "WHOLE BABY FLOUNDER!" SERIOUSLY? I RECOMMEND MAKING STRONGER COMMERCIAL FISHING RESTRICTIONS FOR STARTERS AND LET RECREATIONAL FISHERPEOPLE CATCH WHAT THEY CAN. I DARE SAY, I CAN'T CATCH THOUSANDS OF POUNDS OF FISH IN A DAY OR EVEN A YEAR!
59	03/10/2021 - 10:50am	SANDRA CURRIE	North Carolina	IT IS RIDICULOUS THAT NC IS THE ONLY STATE ON THE EASTERN COAST THAT ALLOWS INSHORE TRAWLING. STOP IT!! JUST THINK, IT'S A SIMPLE SOLUTION. LEAVE OUR ESTUARIES ALONE AND MAYBE THERE WON'T BE A SHORTAGE!! LET NORTH CAROLINIANS ENJOY RECREATIONAL FISHING, INCLUDING CATCHING FLOUNDER AND ANYTHING ELSE WE MIGHT BE LUCKY ENOUGH TO CATCH
58	03/10/2021 - 10:46am	Marc Boettger	NC	Allowing 70% of the flounder quota to the commercial sector is ridiculous. It does not make sense economically or from a fisheries standpoint. Mismanagement by the MFC is what has brought us to this point. Quit repeating the same mistakes and grow a spine.
57	03/10/2021 - 10:46am	Tim Hergenrader	NC	<p>The proposed flounder harvest regulations are an insult. There is no doubt southern flounder need sustainable management, but IMO the proposed harvest regulations will not accomplish the intended goal of eliminating overfishing with overfishing continuing that has existed for more than 20 years.</p> <p>Allocating 70 percent of the flounder to commercial fishing and 30 percent to recreational fishing is an egregious slap in the face of sensible fisheries management. The reason flounder are in difficult straights is overfishing by commercial netting. That has been the case for more than 20 years. Rewarding them is a travesty.</p> <p>Denying recreational anglers the opportunity to fish offshore because they can't identify the differences between southern, summers and gulf flounder is an ignorant supposition. Duck hunters are able to differentiate different waterfowl flying overhead, fishermen can certainly identify a fish in their hands. If they can't, it then becomes a law enforcement issue; place marine officers at the ramps and enforce the laws!</p> <p>While enforcing this issue, more aggressive law enforcement of netters and the antiquated trip ticket program will certainly reduce the violations associated with "off the books," and help control the overfishing of flounder.</p>

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56	03/10/2021 - 10:28am	Pembroke Nash	North Carolina	<p>With the decline in the flounders stock well documented, the allocation of the flounder quota is shortsighted. Flounder are a huge part of the NC recreational fisheries, and a 70/30 allocation seems to unfairly favor the commercial sector. Further, the science shows that flounder stocks are being decimated. I feel that the vast number of recreational saltwater anglers deserve a larger stake in the flounder harvest than a the roughly two thousand commercial anglers. If the stock can't handle the recreational pressure then further reduce the quota so future anglers can enjoy and catch flounder. While commercial interests are well organized and represented, recreational anglers deserve an equitable share of the flounder stock.</p>
55	03/10/2021 - 10:14am	Samuel Grimes	NC	<p>I want commissioners to know that I support a rebuilding plan for Southern flounder that penalizes the most impactful sector first and is fair to recreational anglers. It is a well established fact that the recreational sector provides far greater economic benefit the our economy than the commercial sector does. Please take that and other relevant information into account when you are considering future rules, allocations, quotas and size limits. I don't want to have to tell my grandchildren about the fish we used to catch before they were mismanaged into extirpation.</p>
54	03/10/2021 - 10:01am	Matthew Farrelly	NC	<p>I support a plan for Southern flounder that puts more limits on commercial fishing, that has a much greater impact on a sustainable population, than recreational fishing. In addition, there is much more economic benefit to supporting recreational fishermen--we spend a lot more money in the community per fish harvested, especially me, since I'm a terrible fisherman!</p>
53	03/10/2021 - 9:54am	Brian Hungerford	NC	<p>Recreational fishing is very important to my community as it is to many others in the state of North Carolina.</p> <p>Harming recreational angling at the expense of the commercial industry is bad policy. When will someone in Raleigh tune in to the impacts recreational anglers have on our economy? The South Carolina border isn't that far away. Why do we push tourists there to appease commercial fishing?</p> <p>Please reconsider your stance on this measure.</p>
52	03/10/2021 - 9:46am	Dave Timpy	NC	<p>This comment regards the management options under consideration by the commission for the Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Amendment 3. The DMF data since 1989 clearly show that the allocation of this fishery has been heavily biased towards the commercial sector, resulting in an average actual harvest of about 80% of all flounder by the commercial sector. This is not equitable.</p>

SUBMITTED NAME: STATE: PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW.

Overwhelming public comments over the last decade on this issue have voiced objections to the DMF's management of OUR southern flounder. THE PEOPLE OF NC OWN ALL THE FISH RESOURCES IN STATE AND FEDERAL WATERS. Our laws do not allow this resource to be given to one sector of our population. The commercial fishermen do not own our fish.

The commission has previously seen over 5,000 or so comments regarding its mis-management of OUR southern flounder. Unfortunately, the public records clearly show that these comments have been totally ignored by the state of NC. This cannot be allowed to continue. Please listen to our comments.

Allocation of southern flounder must be equitable. A 70/30 allocation, where the recreational section are allowed 70% to 30% commercial is what needs to be implemented in order to equalize the unfairness of decades of mis-management of our fishery resources by NCDMF.

I fully support the a 70/30 allocation that includes 70% recreational harvest. At a minimum, I support a 50/50 allocation of Southern Flounder.

Please do the right thing this time around.

Thanks.

Dave Timpy
[REDACTED]

51

03/10/2021 - 9:43am

Michael D Pruett

North Carolina

The greedy misallocation of flounder limits in favor of the commercial fishermen (who caused the scarcity in the first place) is leading weekend anglers and coastal homeowners to consider vacations and relocation to South Carolina and Virginia.

50

03/10/2021 - 9:26am

Dennis Gan

NC

Good morning. My concern is the current amendment 3 being considered for 2021 flounder regulations.

Current suggestions are based on historical data with science being ignored in favor of the commercial sector. Logical questions submitted are being sent to the NC Fisheries Association for explanation. This alone is completely unfair to recreational fisherman as they are a lobbying group strictly representing the commercial sector!

Simply using historical data is what led to the current shortage problems.

Netting, bycatch, seasons, and allocations have ALL been the problem! Where is the fairness when a rec fisherman can't keep a fish, but can go to a fish market and buy a flounder he's not

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				<p>allowed to keep? Fairness and equal treatment is long overdue! Nets don't know what a "Southern Flounder" is, while a rec angler CAN distinguish the difference! Political donations have also been a major problem. Its time for a change!</p>
49	03/10/2021 - 9:18am	W. Jack Bostrom	NC	<p>Kill Southern Flounder recreational harvesting access, and you ultimately devastate all coastal North Carolina beach-related revenue streams. No fish, no activity!</p>
48	03/10/2021 - 8:56am	Jeffrey Reinert	North Carolina	<p>I just started flounder fishing last year and from what I have seen the recreational fisherman is not the problem with the with any decrease in the flounder population if that is your real concern because I have not witnessed any recreational fishermen with the limit on flounder and yet we see people postings that commercial guys are gigging 80 to 100 flounder in one night then rubbing it in the face of the recreational fishermen. I know it's all about the money with things like this but time to stop screwing over the recreational guys and try be a little more fair about length of the season and limits for the average guy just trying to have fun fishing and putting some food in the freezer.</p>
47	03/10/2021 - 8:53am	Tom Roper	NC	<p>Please reconsider the potential closing of flounder season. As a mainly inshore fisherman, this severely limits the options my family has to enjoy this great amazing resource. I am fine with raising the size limited like other states have. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE get rid of the inshore gill nets and inshore trawlers. The destruction they are having on our resource had been devastating!! I have seen a huge decline in the last twenty years for multiple inshore species. Thanks for your consideration.</p>
46	03/10/2021 - 8:50am	Richard Fell	VA	<p>I am writing with respect to the Southern Flounder Fisheries Management Plan as a recreational angler who travels each year to coastal North Carolina in the fall for several weeks to fish. It seems to me from what I read that the NC Marine Fisheries Commission is more concerned about protecting a small commercial fishery than it is about protecting the southern flounder population. I also see little concern for the recreational angler. If the southern flounder population is in danger, why not reduce the major pressure which results from the commercial fishing industry? Reduce the size of the commercial harvest and limit fishing during the spawning season. At the same time why not reduce the recreational limit to 2 or 3 fish a day and introduce a slot size for keeping fish? I understand the difficulties of setting policy that will make those on both sides of the issue happy but it appears as if the current plan is to put a larger part of the harvest burden on the recreational angler.</p>
45	03/10/2021 - 8:44am	Morris Littlefield	NC	<p>I support a rebuilding plan for Southern Flounder that penalizes the most impactful sector first and is fair to the recreational anglers. Year after year the current policies have dramatically</p>

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				penalized the recreational angler and has done nothing to curb the destruction the commercial fishing has had on the Southern Flounder population.
44	03/10/2021 - 8:36am	John M. Peebles	North Carolina	I am opposed to any decision regarding the flounder quota that prioritizes commercial catch over recreational. If the recreational limit is lowered to 1 per day, the resultant increased pressure on other species will be detrimental and we'll end up in yet another vicious cycle of decreasing stocks and limited quotas.
43	03/10/2021 - 8:33am	John M. Peebles	North Carolina	
42	03/10/2021 - 8:20am	Chuck Gordon	NC	It is time to stop punishing recreational fishermen. The current shutdowns on flounder fishing is ridiculous. If you feel there needs to be and allocation for recreational and commercial fisheries then it should at least be equal. Recreational fishermen bring more money to our state than the commercial industry ever will. Stop the stupidity and open our flounder season for recreational fishermen. Stop being bought by the commercial sector. Enough is enough.!!!
41	03/10/2021 - 8:13am	Steven Braatz	NC	The revenue created by recreational flounder fishing needs to be taken into account. Last year I probably spent at least \$2000 less in the Outer Banks due to the fact recreational flounder fishing was closed.
40	03/10/2021 - 8:10am	John Dimier	NC	What the NC Marine Fisheries is doing to the recreational fisherman for flounder is disgusting. This Board should be ashamed of itself for not properly representing recreational fisherman and our interests. 70/30 split? Really? 45 day window? Really? It's not fair at all. Commercial Fisherman should not be trawling with gill nets on the sound side. Bottom line. It just sickens me NC can't get it together and do what's right for ALL the people this state.
39	03/10/2021 - 8:09am	Reid Huntley	NC	Recreational fishermen need a larger allocation of flounder and other recreational fish. The economic impact from recreational fishing far outweighs the impact from commercial fishing; likewise the ecological harms and impacts caused by commercial fishing are far larger than the harms from recreational fishing. I support a rebuilding plan for Southern flounder, and other fishing species, that penalizes the most impactful sector first and is fair to recreational anglers.
38	03/10/2021 - 7:49am	John M Redmond	NC	Shut it all down! Your regs have not fixed anything yet on any fish: Gray Trout, Drum all have a one fish per person and it has not changed it or helped them at all. But you keep doing the same thing even though it does not work. The only way you are going fix all of it is to stop the trawlers within one mile of the beach. Pay them off if their boat is too small to operate out that far. The state has more income produced by the recreational fishermen that the commercial and you still cater to the commercial guys. Also where did the money from the recreational license go? Where are the hatcheries that were suppose to be built with the money?

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37	03/10/2021 - 7:46am	Michael	North Carolina	I don't think it is right, nor sustainable that commercial fishermen should get such a high percentage of a fisheries quota, like flounder. I request a reduced percentage for commercial and an increase for recreational fisherman. Thank You
36	03/10/2021 - 7:40am	Bob Dillard	NC	Until NC has enough money to effectively enforce commercial and recreational flounder catch season and bag limits, continued flounder restrictions will not fix the basic problem which is restoration of the flounder stock. Illegal catch on both the commercial and recreational sides will continue if not increase. I propose an overall moratorium for three (?) years followed by two (?) years of open season cycled until the stock stabilizes. Our marine biologists can define the cycles based on flounder maturity. Another suggestion is to ban all flounder commercial netting and recreational fishing in flounder nursery areas in bays, rivers and their tributaries.
35	03/10/2021 - 7:27am	Willard Dean	North Carolina	Please take the time and attention to better protect the recreational Southern flounder fishermen. The recent and now proposed seasons and limits are very unfair to the recreational while catering to the commercial fishermen, In addition to fairness, also consider the economic impact of the recreational fishermen that is much greater as well. Thank you for your concern. Willard Dean
34	03/10/2021 - 7:03am	Lane Tucker	NC	The proposed 70-30 split for flounder is ridiculous. I encourage you to reconsider
33	03/10/2021 - 7:02am	Marty	NC	It always doesn't come down to politics! Tighten it up and look at the numbers and allocate the flounder them accordingly. If your a voted in office you will lose your job from lack of voter support and if your not look at the numbers and even it out.
32	03/10/2021 - 6:52am	James Pearce	NC	I support a rebuilding plan for Southern flounder that penalizes the most impactful sector first and is fair to recreational anglers.
31	03/10/2021 - 6:44am	Jim Ahrens	North Carolina	I recently retired here to enjoy the fishing and warm weather of North Carolina. I now see the State is providing a 30 % catch ratio to recreational flounder fisherman and 70 % to commercial. This is wrong!! I support the local businesses and pay taxes for my boat and slip which provides important tax revenue. The State should give equal % too recreational and commercial. I am sure all the fisherman support the State through our spending and taxes opposed to the commercial lobby who support the candidates that are making this decision. Do the right thing and make it equal for all
30	03/10/2021 - 6:41am	Adam Nowiski	North Carolina	Please stop netting and commercial flounder harvest in our inland waterways. I am a recreational fisherman that travels 127 miles to gig at topsail beach for flounder. A one fish per person limit will stop a sport I have loved for years. I average 8-10 trips a year and probably

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				spend \$1500.00 with local businesses. I am one of many that will be affected by this fisheries demise. I am selective in my harvest. No bi-catch! Thank you
29	03/10/2021 - 6:33am	Dennis Bost	North Carolina	Hello. Thanks for allowing me to comment. I am a lifetime sportsman license holder. My son also. My 3 grand daughters also. For as long as I can remember we have had family get together and fry fish. It is a tradition. It is part of my family heritage. With current proposals leaning toward the commercial interests it appears those Fry's may be a thing of the past unless I go buy the fish. Please consider a more equitable split like 50/50. Thanks for allowing input. Thank you!
28	03/10/2021 - 6:29am	Will Breeden	NC	<p>Today is March 10, 2021. Last weekend I was in Pawleys Island, SC at a restaurant. The special on the menu, as they stated it, was North Carolina flounder.</p> <p>It is ridiculous that MFC allow commercial fishermen and betters to take our shared resources and ship them out of state for their own benefit, but I am not allowed to catch and keep a single fish except for a 6-week window.</p> <p>There are a litany of arguments and additional points to be made, but you can't even go there until you get past one class of people being allowed to exploit a resource while the other class is totally denied.</p>
27	03/09/2021 - 11:42pm	Greg Vassar	NC	The flounder quotas for recs and commercials is out of line. Rec fisherman spend more money and generate more revenue than commercial fisherman in state. We're also better stewards of the fishery. Change the course and reduce commercial landings.
26	03/09/2021 - 11:38pm	Greg Vassar	NC	DUPLICATE
25	03/09/2021 - 10:51pm	Ronnie Faircloth	N.C.	So you say that the southern flounder is population is in trouble. You say that you need to slow the take. You restrict a person that feeds their family and give them a bad time to even keep a flounder. But!!! You give commercial the migration time for their season. So you really want us to believe that you are really trying to help the population?
24	03/09/2021 - 10:29pm	Dan George	NC	<p>to whom it may concern,</p> <p>My name is Dan George and I am extremely concerned about the recent turn of events about the Southern Flounder FMP. My concerns are that the proposed 70/30 split in favor of the destructive commercial industry will once again be kicking the can up the road and ignoring the real problem that our state just refuses to face. The ignoring of public comments at the last meeting only verifies that the science has been ignored and that the decisions have seemingly already been made. Emails to our state legislators have even been forwarded to the</p>

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				<p>commercial fishing lobby to review and reply to. That is insanity, if not criminal. My hopes are that you find yourselves a way back to a path that will actually benefit the diminished stocks of Southern flounder in our state waters. That is the point of all this is a more abundant fishery right? It can't be about money because the recreational fishing industry is worth ten times that of the commercial sector to our state and coastal counties. Please consider above all else, recreational or commercial, the actual health of our fish species for the benefit of those to come that there may be a fish to catch for future generations. We are at the breaking point right now for the southern flounder.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
23	03/09/2021 - 10:24pm	Gary	Nc	Please open flounder for commercial we need more fresh local seafood in the Wilmington area.
22	03/09/2021 - 10:17pm	Sam McKinnon	NC	<p>It is a complete shame that the commercial fishing industry here in NC have decimated the fish stocks the way they have. They hide behind the words of making a decent living while their over harvest drive down the cost per pound of the fish they take. Our inshore waters are pillaged by not only targetting the legal fish (gigging) but by trawling up every fingerling with their shrimp trawls. Please look at the realistic numbers being hauled in by recreational fishermen and you'll see that ~80% of the licences sold to NC fishermen don't even catch a flounder of keeping size much less claim a limit in their entire season. The fortunate few that have figured out how to find a decent stock of fish have vigorously protected the stock they stumbled upon. Our natural resources belong to us all and not just the greedy commercial industry. The recreational anglers have no voice in our current commission and it's board members who make the laws to decide the fate of the fishery. Continued protection of our stock can only be made in a joint effort with protected spawning habitat, banning the inshore trawling/netting and a regulated harvest of mature fish in a sustainable manner. Please take a stance to equal the representation on the board for sensible legislation that protects the flounder as well as our rights as recreational fishermen. Get rid of the greed and corruption in the decision-making process through equality and real facts instead of basing our recreational harvest numbers by licenses sold. We do more to protect our dove in seasonal surveys but have only taken the word of a commercial fisherman in making decisions about our local fish stocks.</p>
21	03/09/2021 - 9:00pm	William Harris	NC	<p>It is finally time for this particular item to be reversed. It has gone on way to long and time to try it differently. 1 net boat brings in more fish in one trip than all fishermen and giggers do all year. Don't understand why no one can realize that. Think I'm wrong go watch one boat unload and see for yourself.</p>

#▼	SUBMITTED	NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW.
20	03/09/2021 - 8:33pm	Brent Gurganious	NC	<p>This 70/30 allocation the the commercial sector is unfair to the recreational fishery. I am for conservation of the southern flounder and feel there are other options that should be considered. I am fully aware that the commercial fishermen need to make a living, just not at the public's expense. I truly believe that the gill nets in the water are a serious issue that our management officials refuse to address. With bycatch and undersized fish being caught in large numbers, it seems to be a real issue that seems to go on without much consideration. Also, the trawling in our estuaries and inland waterways is also an issue that seems to get slid under the rug. We all know of all the large number of juvenile spots, croakers, red drum and flounder bycatch that is caught and killed on a daily basis, but yet they want to limit the recreational fishery to 1 flounder per day for only 45 days. It's hardly worth buying a salt water license. I'm ok with the season of 4 flounder per person per day, like what we had last year as it lets us, the recreational fisherman, catch and enjoy flounder while conserving at the same time.</p>
19	03/09/2021 - 8:22pm	Walton Joyner Jr	NC	<p>Advise more even split of flounder catch between comm/rec's. Suggest longer season with reduction of daily limit to 3 Most importantly, Separate limit/season for summer/gulf flounder, i.e. ocean caught flounder, from southern flounder, i.e. sounds and rivers!</p>
18	03/09/2021 - 7:39pm	Andy Riewestahl	NC	<p>The rec fishermen are the ones taking all the hit of flounder fishing I have been to meetings and expressed concerns but no one seems to listen the forty five day season is crazy you can't even get your boat in the water for the 20 thousand other boats at the ramp to go gigging or fishing I proposed at one meeting to give the rec guys 45 days but open it on weekends and close it during the week to give us a fair chance as it stands most rec fishermen have jobs and pay a lot of taxes to get to fish maybe 10 days if the weather permits during the season to get to keep 1 fish like y'all are proposing that's uncalled for I own my own business and pay a lot of taxes in nc to get crapped on like this give us a fair chance at being able to harvest some fish to feed our family's with that's 22 weekends 44 days to go open the season at sunset on Friday and close it at sunset on Sunday that gives hook and line and giggers 2 days a weekend to keep fish it's not that hard when u give comm fishermen 45 days they can go 45 days and get fish and a whole lot more of them or open the season back year round an cut the creel limit to 2 fish a person this will ease the pressure of the 45 day season when people put a lot of pressure on the fish and be more selective on what they stab or keep I probably just wasted 20 minutes of my life typing this because I already know what the outcome is gonna be so prove me wrong and make the right changes this time that will ease the pressure of the boat traffic so everybody can enjoy their fishing trip when they get to go it will help the fish the economy and the guides that depend on this for their living so get your heads out of your asses and make this right decision were the only state on the east coast that I've researched that has this kind of season and creel limits on flounder on rec fishermen other states don't let comm fishing</p>

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				operations go on in rivers and sounds like n c does and they don't take it out on rec fishermen that ought to tell u something there
17	03/09/2021 - 6:50pm	Christopher Medwin Mitchell	North Carolina	It is sick the way the rules cater to the commercial fisherman. Give the recreational fisherman and the commercial fisherman a 50/50 split. Commercial fisherman have been buying a larger quota for years and it is time for it to stop.
16	03/09/2021 - 6:22pm	Michael Eubanks	North Carolina	It seems to me that the Commercial Fisherman have friends in high places. I have been fishing the Cape Fear and Lockwood Folly rivers since 1976. The biggest change has been the lack of fish available to catch. The nets in the estuaries are a huge problem, as is the flounder giggers. They pay for a commercial license and then go fill up their freezers. All that the decision makers need do is look at the history of all the states around us that eliminated the nets. It seems these decision makers have blinders on....or are on the payroll. North Carolina apparently doesn't care about the millions of dollars spent by the hook and line crowd. It just doesn't make sense.
15	03/09/2021 - 6:06pm	Keith Davis	NC	As a taxpayer and someone who purchases fishing license every year, I feel that as a recreational fisherman we have the same right to the resources as any commercial fisherman, Commercial fisherman getting 70% or the quota is ridiculous. And a 45 day season is also ridiculous. The problem with our fisheries in NC is netting. Ban nets and trawling on the beach
14	03/09/2021 - 6:01pm	William Kirk Burton	North Carolina	There needs to be a fair balance between the commerical and rec. The flounder rules as they are right now is not fair to the rec. One of the biggest problems is the data the rules are made by is useless. Oh nevermind that is manipulated buy the dollar just like the politicians.
13	03/09/2021 - 5:41pm	Ed Pupa	NC	I strongly disagree with a 70% Comm to 30% Rec allocation for flounder. Not only is the state doing a total disservice to recreational fishermen who supply the bulk of the monies for coastal restaurants, hotels, and bait and tackle shops, the number of fish allowed per trip by commercial fishermen is absurd. The recreational fishermen also have to have fishing permit and those funds are used by the state supposedly to provide for the fish, the habitat and for the betterment of the resource. As a native North Carolinian I am extremely tired of the allocations to the commercial lobby over and over again. This must be at a minimum an equally shared resource. The state has no way to account in any way for the number of fish caught. I have been saltwater fishing for over 30 years and no one has ever called to see what I caught, no one has ever checked my catch, so how does the state in their great wisdom figure out what has been caught by recreational fishermen? Ed Pupa

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12	03/09/2021 - 4:07pm	James Gibson	NC	<p>As a recreational flounder fisherman, I understand the need for proper management. I would not, however, like to see reducing the limit down to one fish, I do believe it would cause a tremendous loss in participation which in turn will have a real financial impact to our retailers, etc. that are so dependent on them, especially the ones located around our sounds, rivers and back bays where most flounder are being caught. I would think that by raising the legal size limit to 16" or even 17 with maybe a 2-3 fish creel limit would be a better option. You'd still retain the recreational fisherman effort (and revenue), yet cut back on the TAC (total allowable catch). Cut it too drastically and you'll lose a lot of fisherman. Thank you.</p>
11	03/09/2021 - 3:54pm	William Meadows	NC	<p>I am very much opposed to the proposed quotas. Commercial Fishermen no longer exist. The majority are now Corporate commercial fisherman. The majority of the fish are now caught by a very small number of large businesses. Business are important but so is the number of tax payers.</p> <p>Do the right thing.</p>

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10	03/09/2021 - 3:37pm	Leonard Gary mayberry	North carolina	Needs to be to 50 and longer season for recreational fishing. Also up the number caught
9	03/09/2021 - 3:14pm	Bruce Lee	North Carolina	The NC MFC needs to stop dancing around the edges of the problems it faces with these piecemeal edicts that accomplish absolutely nothing. Allowing these years of ongoing decline is evidence the NC DMF and NC MFC are wholly and completely ineffective entities. The decline in our fish populations is evidence of this. If NCDMF can't manage the three separate species of flounder in a separate manner then just close flounder completely until the population is properly recovered. After that, and with any allocation, the allocations need to be 50% / 50% for commercial and recreational takes. It is ludicrous to keep favoring the commercial sector when recreational dollars generated in this state are multiples of what commercial fishing provides. Do what is best for the state, not what is best for commercial fishing entities! Also immediately terminate any commercial or recreational license that has not filed a trip ticket the previous year. The size of the black market and illegal harvest in NC is disgusting and enforcement pretty much non-existent. But above all of that, if you would do one single thing that would provide a giant benefit to numerous fish species, including flounder, BAN INSHORE SHRIMP TRAWLING AND GILL NETTING!!!
8	03/09/2021 - 3:13pm	Hain Ficken	NC	Giving a group 70% percent of the take for flounder when they represent 5% of the citizens of NC.. And giving the crumbs to the other 95% is wrong. It is time for the people of NC to put a stop to this madness and elect some pro resources officials. Having fished for over 50 years in our coastal waters I am ashamed of where we are. Please man-up and do what right.
7	03/09/2021 - 2:59pm	Carlton Pittman	NC	<p>It is time for the NC Marine Fisheries Commission to get a grip on fisheries management in NC and STOP the depletion of coastal finfishes caused by continued inshore netting in NC waters. NC is the ONLY remaining southern or gulf state to continue allowing any significant inshore netting - both trawling and gill netting. Inshore trawling kills millions of juvenile finfish every year that never have a chance to spawn. Gill nets, while more selective, also indiscriminately kill tens of thousands of non-target species, many times before the fish have had a chance to spawn even once.</p> <p>MFC shutting down flounder fishing in NC shows a COMPLETE lack of ability to manage the species for the last 20+ years. NC will be lucky if our neighboring states of SC and Va don't sue NC for failure to manage coastal migratory stocks of flounder, trout, and drum.</p> <p>Recreational fishing in NC contributes FAR more to local economies than does commercial fishing. If</p>

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NC does not get a handle on fisheries management asap, we will have a total collapse as they had in New England, and all NC residents lose then.

I sincerely hope the pending lawsuits against MFC and NC succeed in forcing a complete overhaul of fisheries management in NC, and that every existing MFC member loses their position. Fisheries management should be guided by science, and not fear and threats from the commercial sector.

Giving the commercial sector - the sector most responsible for the alarming decline in finfish stocks and catches - 70% ! of the flounder harvest while limiting recreational fishermen to only 30% - every MFC member should be fired for permitting this to occur.

How long do you think people are going to pay \$400 for half day inshore trip when all they can keep are 4 trout and one red drum? Maybe you throw in a few sheepshead or a black drum. At \$60, 80, or \$100 per fish, it just doesn't add up. How many fathers are going to pay that? I get that fishing isn't always about CATCHING. It's about the experience, being on the water. But, most people fishing want to take something back for the table to eat, or maybe for the freezer.

Every other east coast and gulf coast state has either ended, or drastically limited inshore netting. And those states have vastly better inshore fishing. They also still have viable commercial fisheries, but their inshore recreational fisheries are far better than North Carolina's. NC has the greatest estuary system of all the southern states, and the worst inshore fishing. Why - nets. Plain and simple. BAN THE NETS before our fisheries collapse like the New England fisheries did.

It is the nets. Inshore nets to be clear. Gill netting in nursery areas is killing our fisheries in NC. Trawling in any inshore waters should be prohibited. PERIOD.

The commercial fishermen always point to increased coastal populations and development, along with water quality. All other east coast and gulf coast state have AT LEAST as dense coastal development as NC, if not more dense development. I'll agree that water quality is an issue. It's a terrible idea to put a golf course next to a river, particularly a coastal river or estuary. In the end, it is the commercial netting in inshore waters that is devastating our North Carolina inshore fisheries. Are YOU going to be able to pass on to your kids the enjoyment of coastal fishing. Name another east coast or gulf coast state that allows gillnetting in inside waters that even fractionally approaches the gross level NC allows.

Virginia does allow limited gillnetting. Georgia allows very limited gillnetting in an very limited shad

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				<p>season. I believe Mississippi allows gillnetting as long as the gillnet is made of cotton multi-strand twine, no mono- and that fishery is extremely limited.</p> <p>No state allows what NC allows- period.</p>
6	03/09/2021 - 2:54pm	L Ray Brown	NC	<p>Considering the absolute need to rebuild the stocks, and the controversy of sector allocation I would advise putting the needs of the resource ahead of everything and close harvest completely to everyone for the calendar year 2021 and use the time to craft a plan for stock stability while sampling the general populous of NC for future use of the resource to make sure use is consistent with the wishes of the majority of the public. These fish are after all, assets of the public and not the state government.</p>
5	03/09/2021 - 2:47pm	William Cuthbertson	North Carolina	<p>North Carolina is allowing the commercial fishing industry to decimate our natural resources. It is beyond believable that anyone has the gall to propose the commercial industry should receive 70% of the flounder quota and give recreational anglers 30% with a one fish limit. Continued use of gill nets in our waters will ultimately lead to the total collapse of our fisheries. It is infuriating that North Carolina is the only Southeastern state that continues to allow a gill net fishery.</p>
4	03/09/2021 - 2:40pm	Brian Page	North Carolina	<p>The resource should be divided up between the commercial and recreational not for maximum yield to commercial. The answer is simple, supply and demand work smart not hard commercial catches less makes more money and the revenue from recreational still get licenses and tourist money</p>
3	03/09/2021 - 2:40pm	Brian Page	North Carolina	<p>The resource should be divided up between the commercial and recreational not for maximum yield to commercial. The answer is simple, supply and demand work smart not hard commercial catches less makes more money and the revenue from recreational still get licenses and tourist money</p>
2	03/09/2021 - 2:33pm	Mark Pursell	VA	<p>While not a North Carolinian I am a fisherman who visits your beautiful state usually twice per year. I do spend a good deal of money on lodging, food and beverage and general supplies. Being able to keep one flounder is a big deal to those of us who don't get to fish as often as we like. The short season makes this unlikely to happen. Please reconsider the commercial versus recreational split. I know most of us visiting sportsmen put into North Carolina much more than we take out.</p> <p>Thank you for your service,</p> <p>Mark Pursell Fairfax, VA</p>
1	03/09/2021 - 12:17pm	John Thompson	NC	<p>If flounder are in so much trouble that rec limits need to be reduced AGAIN and the season is only 6 weeks long, then commercial limits should be absolutely slashed as well. If they are in this much</p>

DUPLICATE