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**Subject:** Flounder supplement comments

I am a resident of Pamlico County and submit these comments for the upcoming MFC meeting in Raleigh. These are **MY** comments and are not part of a chain letter as if that makes any difference. Anything to denigrate the participation of recreational interests in the process. In any event, I support the MFC intentions of continuing with the supplement process despite the protestations of those who would once again deny and delay any action that would benefit the flounder.

I basically support the positions in Option One, including a universal 15 inch size limit even though I believe the scientists say only 50 percent of the flounder reproduce at 16 inches. I would support an even larger size limit, but only if anchored, large mesh gill nets are abolished as legal gear for the harvest of flounder. The reason is by catch sizes would also increase, especially drum. Increasing mesh sizes would suddenly bring the old drum (also the breeders) into the equation.

I believe a TAC is the only way to truly bring the flounder to recovery. The scientists can determine what TAC is necessary to achieve a **MINIMUM** 40 percent reduction in flounder harvest, a figure Dr. Daniel himself is quoted as saying is needed for flounder recovery. A TAC, in my opinion, is the cornerstone of any management program designed to bring flounder back to sustainable levels.

Keep pound nets and gigging as commercial harvest methods. It will probably be necessary to place a moratorium on all new pound nets. Abolish anchored, large mesh gill nets as legal gear for flounder harvest and the harvest of any other specie as well. Ban the damn things and clean up the fishery. The turtle problem would largely go away as well as the by catch that causes so much concern.

I don't think this process will address the issue of Recreational Commercial fishermen. An oxymoron, we all know this license allows recreational anglers, largely giggers in the case of flounder, to escape the recreational bag limits. If it can be addressed, make it illegal for any RCFL angler to exceed recreational bag limits.

Keep the recreational six fish limit, however, I personally would support a further reduction in the rec limits. I understand this would only be a "public relations" gambit because any reduction in rec limits would do little to solve the flounder issues.

I urge the Commissioners to keep their eye on the goal of this supplement process and that is to develop meaningful management methods that will allow more flounder to reproduce. Without achieving this objective, everything you do will in the end prove another exercise in futility. We all know there has been a lot of that over the years, simply because previous regimes refused to face the facts and do what was needed in regards to flounder, as well as many of our other inshore species.