



**A RESOLUTION  
CONDEMNING THE ACTION  
OF THE NORTH CAROLINA MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION  
TO USE THE SUPPLEMENT PROCESS TO RESTRICT SOUTHERN FLOUNDER**

**WHEREAS**, during their November 2015 meeting at Jennette’s Pier, the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission (NCMFC) approved using a controversial “Supplement Process” to close down most of the state’s fishing for southern flounder; and

**WHEREAS**, the established procedure for responsible fisheries governance is through the use of a Fisheries Management Plan (FMP), which is designed to incorporate peer reviewed science, stakeholder input, and other pertinent facts to establish fisheries policies in a deliberate, open, and transparent way; and

**WHEREAS**, instead of relying on a thoroughly vetted Amendment Process to the southern flounder Fisheries Management Plan, the NCMFC chose instead to invoke the use of the Supplement Process in spite of the fact that there is no scientific evidence to support such a drastic measure that will have draconian consequences; and

**WHEREAS**, when the NCMFC adopted the Supplement Process they violated and misused the statutory authority granted them in NCGS 113-182.1 which requires that the NCMFC provide a position on the supplement based on science from the Division of Marine Fisheries or from independent experts; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission also chose to ignore the will of the people as expressed in resolutions it received prior to their November meeting from the Counties of Bertie, Camden, Carteret, Currituck, Dare, Hyde, Pasquotank, and Tyrrell opposing the use of the Supplement Process to restrict southern flounder; and

**WHEREAS**, the arbitrary and capricious action taken by NCMFC at its November 2015 meeting threatens to harm North Carolina’s commercial fishermen by depriving them of a traditional source of income that is fundamental to sustaining local economies throughout North Carolina’s coastal communities without cause; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dare County Board of Commissioners stands ready to vigorously support our Working Watermen in their efforts to prevent the implementation of the Supplement Process and asks all coastal communities to join in this endeavor; and.

**WHEREAS**, the Dare County Board of Commissioners calls on the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission to determine if any changes are in fact needed for the southern flounder Fisheries Management Plan through the established Amendment Process whereby scientific and accurate stock

assessment can properly be determined with the benefit of peer review and public input from all stakeholders including elected officials of coastal communities and commercial fishermen;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Dare County Board of Commissioners strongly urges the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission to immediately suspend the use of the Supplement Process for southern flounder and undertake a deliberate, thoughtful, and methodical review of the Fisheries Management Plan to determine what, if any, changes are needed based on peer reviewed science and stakeholder input.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Dare County Board of Commissioners calls on all coastal communities to adopt similar resolutions supporting North Carolina's working watermen who vitally depend on the southern flounder fishery to provide jobs, generate incomes, provide a freshly caught public trust resource to the tables of North Carolina families, and bolster the economy of North Carolina.

This the 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2015

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Robert Woodard, Chairman

Attest:

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Gary Gross, Clerk to the Board