



Division of Marine Fisheries
3441 Arendell Street
Morehead City, NC 28557

April 1, 2019

Director Murphey,

The North Carolina Watermen United (NCWU) is opposed to any action being taken by the Commission on the Draft "Amendment 2" that was presented to the Southern Flounder Advisory Committee.

Although NCWU recognizes and understands the importance of regulation to keep the Southern Flounder Fishery sustainable, we also recognize and understand the importance of a long-term plan that will protect both the fish and the men and women that make a living harvesting the Southern Flounder.

"Amendment 2" is a fast track plan to rebuild a stock that is not in imminent danger, at the expense of the people who rely on this fishery to survive. Trying to pass this for the 2019 fishing season is irresponsible and unjustified. The timing of "Amendment 2" does not allow enough preparation for anyone recreational or commercial to prepare for the loss of income that will occur with the proposed shortened seasons for each fishery (gill-net, pound-net, giggering, etc.) and possible closure options.

In addition, it is the position of NCWU that by quickly passing the interim measures under "Amendment 2," it would then meet the statutory definition of a Supplement Management Plan and in doing so, would be a direct violation of the settlement agreement that was signed by the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries Commission and North Carolina Fisheries Association which states that no Supplements can be imposed on this fishery until the Southern Flounder Advisory Committee presents its plan to the Commission for review.

In conclusion, NCWU is in favor of reaching a sustainable Southern Flounder Fishery in a way that is well thought out, based on facts, and shows a responsible level of consideration to those that make their living on the water.

Yours truly,

Perry Wood Beasley

Perry Wood Beasley
President, NCWU
252-706-0184

PWB: mm

cc: Secretary Regan, DEQ
MFC
NCGA

Board of Directors

Andrew Berry	Billy Maxwell
Capt Sonny Davis	Greg Mayer
Ernie Doshier	Jamie Reibel
Ernie Foster	Britt Shackelford
Tom Harper	Duke Spencer
Glen Hopkins	Rom Whitaker

NCWU
PO Box 536, Hatteras, NC 27943
www.NCWU.net