



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405
TEL 843/571-4366 FAX 843/769-4520
Toll Free 866-723-6210

Email: safmc@safmc.net

Web site: www.safmc.net

Duane Harris, Chairman
David Cupka, Vice Chairman

Robert K. Mahood, Executive Director
Gregg T. Waugh, Deputy Executive Director

March 30, 2010

Dr. Roy Crabtree, Regional Administrator
NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Region
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Dear Roy:

Enclosed you will find a CD containing South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Snapper Grouper Amendment 17B and the Proposed Rule; including the Final Environmental Impact Statement, Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, Final Regulatory Impact Review, and Final Social Impact Assessment/Fishery Impact Statement. At our December 2009 meeting the Council, by a vote of 8 to 5, approved the amendment for submission to NMFS for formal Secretarial review. As authorized by Council at the meeting, I have deemed the regulatory text in the proposed rule as necessary and appropriate for implementing the Amendment.

On March 23, 2010, the Council received a minority report from the five Council members that voted against Amendment 17B. The minority report is included in this submission as specified in our SOPPs.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank you and your staff for the close cooperation and hard work which went into preparing Snapper Grouper Amendment 17B. If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Bob or me.

Sincerely,

Duane Harris
Chairman

Enclosures

cc: SAFMC Members and Staff
Council Executive Directors
Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel Members
Scientific and Statistical Committee Members
Monica Smit-Brunello
Phil Steele, Jack McGovern, Kate Michie and Jennifer Lee
Bonnie Ponwith, Theo Brainerd and Tom Jamir