



Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association, Inc. (VSSA)

P.O. Box 28898, Henrico, VA 23228

<http://www.ifishva.org>

A Non-Profit 501-C3 Organization

Representing All Virginia Recreational Saltwater Anglers

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Dr. Christopher Moore  
Executive Director, MAFMC  
(Blueline Tilefish Comments – Jason Didden)  
800 North State St., Suite 201  
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Sir,

March 30, 2016

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Blueline Tilefish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association (VSSA) is a growing organization of recreational fisherman in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Our mission includes representing the interests of Virginia's recreational saltwater anglers, ensuring the long-term sustainability of Virginia's fisheries, while protecting Virginia's marine, boat, and tackle industry jobs.

**Virginia recreational anglers support this FMP to help ensure the long term sustainability of Blueline Tilefish in the Mid-Atlantic waters. VSSA offers the following recommendations:**

**Management Unit:** 2b -- Cape Hatteras.

**For Hire Permit:** 5a -- Combine with Golden Tilefish permit.

**For Hire Reporting:** 5c -- Status Quo use GARFO VTR reporting.

**Private Permit:** 6b -- Combine with existing HMS permit.

**Private Reporting:** 6c -- Report like other HMS reporting. Do not support pre-landing reporting. Do not support dual reporting to both state and federal agencies.

**Rec Limits:** 12a -- 7 fish per person.

Regarding Accountability Measures (AM). We do not support AMs with automatic triggers. We are learning hard lessons now with cobia that automatic triggers, while intentions may be good, can have severe negative consequences. MRIP reporting will be of zero usefulness with Bluelines as actual intercepts are highly unlikely given the low number of anglers that target bluelines. Therefore, with mandatory reporting, the landings should be near-real time so AMs should be done in-season to prevent automatic triggers like shut-downs.

Request the SSC look hard at the allocations. The numbers briefed at the public hearing seemed low which could result in exceeding any ACL in the first year after the FMP is implemented.

If you have any questions or comments, the best way to contact us is through our website or email, [ifishva@gmail.com](mailto:ifishva@gmail.com), or my phone: 757-329-5137

Sincerely,

*Mike Avery*

Mike Avery, President

CF: VMRC