

# Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association, Inc (VSSA)

PO Box 28898

Henrico, VA 23228

www.ifishva.org



Mike Avery  
President

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Kirby Rootes - Murdy, Senior FMP Coordinator  
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200A - N  
Arlington, VA 22201

Curtis Tomlin  
Vice President

Kevin Smith  
Treasurer

Dear Kirby Rootes - Murdy,

January 16, 2017

Brent Bosher  
Secretary

The Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association (VSSA), with over 600 members, requests the following be included as a public comment for the Summer Flounder Recreational Management in 2017 Draft Addendum XXVIII.

**VSSA supports option 1, Fish Sharing.** It is clear by looking at the numbers, Virginia has not overfished flounder. We believe strongly that only the states that overfished should take the cuts. Given the recent harvest of flounder in Virginia it is not likely we will overfish our quota in 2017 and beyond so cutting us now would not result in any significant savings in the coastwide harvest. **Admin note:** The verbiage for Option 1 is poorly written and hard to understand. Please rewrite for clarity. Additionally, the term "Fish Sharing" may not be the best way to describe this option as all options share fish.

It is evident that the main flounder migration stocks has shifted north. While we may still experience a good flounder fishing day here and there in Virginia, most days we struggle to catch keeper flounder. We acknowledge that when we overfish we must make cuts to protect the stocks but we do not support cuts when we are not overfishing.

Please keep the regulations in Virginia the same, 4 per person at 16 inches open all year.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

*Mike Avery*

Mike Avery, President

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