



May 19, 2025

Mr. Sammy Corbett
Chairman, North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission
P.O. Box 769
Morehead City, NC 28557

Re: Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan Amendment 4

Position: Support

Dear Chairman Corbett and Members of the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission,

On behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF), we thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Amendment 4 to the Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan. CSF strongly supports the expedited allocation shift proposed in Amendment 4 to bring parity to the southern flounder fishery between the recreational and commercial sectors.

According to a 2020 report by the American Sportfishing Association, recreational saltwater fishing in North Carolina has an economic impact of around \$1.7 billion. Southern flounder is one of the most popular species targeted in North Carolina marine waters, and the lack of recreational access to this fishery in 2024 has undoubtedly had a negative impact on North Carolina's coastal economies. Furthermore, sector allocations should not be static but rather adjusted over time to reflect changes in the fishery and where the greatest value lies from economic, social, and conservation perspectives.

While we applaud the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission for moving towards a more equitable distribution of southern flounder allocation as planned in Amendment 3, the recent loss of a full year of southern flounder recreational fishing opportunity warrants the scheduled reallocation be expedited by one year. We respectfully urge your support of Amendment 4.

Sincerely,

Your Inside Connection to Outdoor Legislation

Conner Barker

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