




Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Coastal Pelagics Management Board, Cobia Technical Committee, South Atlantic Advisory Panel, South Atlantic Interested Parties

FROM: Toni Kerns, Policy Director 

DATE: November 16, 2022

SUBJECT: Atlantic Cobia Commercial Fishery Closure from December 16, 2022 through December 31, 2022

Per Addendum I to Amendment 1 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia, a commercial trigger is used to determine when to close the commercial fishery in order to fully utilize but not exceed the commercial quota. The trigger level is calculated to provide states with 30 days' notice to close the fishery, and in-season landings reported by non-*de minimis* states are monitored throughout the season against the trigger level.

As of November 16, 2022, the total reported commercial landings of Atlantic cobia in 2022 from non-*de minimis* states (Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina) meets the commercial trigger level.

As a result, the Atlantic cobia commercial fishery in all state waters in the management unit (north of the Georgia-Florida state border) will be closed starting at 12:01 a.m. on December 16, 2022 through 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2022.

The closure applies to all states in the management unit, including *de minimis* states.

The Commission has requested that NOAA Fisheries implement a similar closure in federal waters to ensure complementary management measures.

Please contact Emilie Franke, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at 703.842.0716 or efranke@asmfc.org for more information.

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