



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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MEMORANDUM



TO: South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board
FROM: Michael Schmidtke, FMP Coordinator
DATE: 12/12/2017
SUBJECT: Cobia Fishery Management Plan Implementation Plan Template

At their October meeting, the South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board (Board) took final action on the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Cobia. Per the agreement of the Board, implementation plans are due January 1, 2018. Jurisdictions must implement the FMP regulations by April 1, 2018.

Below is a template that jurisdictions can use when crafting FMP implementation plans. The implementation plans should include proposed, or already implemented, regulatory language which fulfills each of the requirements below. As several jurisdictions have already established regulations that fulfill the requirements of the FMP, jurisdictions can attached current regulatory language to this template and note in the spaces below that the regulation is already in place.

1. Recreational Fishery Management Measures

A. Non-De Minimis States

- I. A minimum size limit of 36 inches fork length or 40 inches total length (converted using combined sex length-length conversion function from SEDAR 28).
- II. A bag limit of 1 fish per person.
- III. A daily vessel limit no greater than 6 fish per vessel.
- IV. A fishing season that, in conjunction with previously defined measures, will achieve a harvest that is at or below a state's allocated recreational harvest target. State recreational harvest targets are shown in the following table. Note: Recreational management measures will be developed by the state, reviewed by the Technical Committee, and approved by the Management Board.

State	GA	SC	NC	VA
Harvest Target (pounds)	58,311	74,885	236,313	244,292

B. De minimis States

- I. Justification of *de minimis* status, shown by recreational harvests, in weight, that are less than 1% of the coastwide recreational landings for 2 of 3 years from 2014-2016.
- II. Management measures that satisfy the *de minimis* management requirements of the FMP. Please include language that satisfies one of the following management methods:
 - a. A *de minimis* state may match the recreational regulations of an adjacent (or the nearest) non-*de minimis* state. Please list the state non-*de minimis* state being matched as well as regulatory language that matches that of the non-*de minimis* state.
 - b. A 1 fish per vessel per trip limit and a minimum size limit of 29 inches fork length or 32 inches total length.

2. Commercial Fishery Management Measures

- A. A minimum size limit of 33 inches fork length or 37 inches total length.
- B. A possession limit no greater than 2 fish per person and no greater than 6 fish per vessel.