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CORRESPONDENCE



January 22, 2026

Dan Salerno, Chair
50 Water Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Dan,

I am writing to request more information on the Council's plan for the 2026 Council Priority – "International Fisheries Management (US/CA TMGC, Steering Committee, ICCAT, HMS, NAFO); revisit TMGC biomass apportionment methodology", and to inquire about the plan for a 2026 review of the Integration of Science Advice for Transboundary Stocks (ISATS). Additionally, we request the industry will have an opportunity to engage and provide input to these important processes while the US is considering any modifications.

NSC appreciates the Council's 2026 priority to further examine the biomass apportionment methodology in the coming months. We appreciate the corrections made to the Georges Bank haddock biomass apportionment methodology for the 2026 fishing year by sensibly aligning the full suite of survey strata used to inform the US assessment to apportion the biomass. While this corrective measure provided a 3x improvement to the 2026 US ABC as compared to 2025, the spatial and proportional footprint of the US catches needs to be considered when the biomass apportionment methodology is revisited. This is essential for both haddock and cod going forward.

NSC strongly requests an open and transparent process that provides the US fishing industry the opportunity to become fully informed of any proposed changes well in advance of a final decision-making process. Ideally the industry would be included from the outset of a process to revisit the apportionment methodology.

Additionally, it is our understanding that the new science process - Integration of Science Advice for Transboundary Stocks (ISATS) is up for a review in 2026. NSC would like to better understand what this review will entail and some clear understanding of how the fishing industry will be informed and included.

Thank you in advance, *Vito Giacalone*

Vito Giacalone, Policy Director