



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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Michael P. Luisi, Chairman | G. Warren Elliott, Vice Chairman
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

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March 24, 2017

Mr. Tom Nies
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Tom:

In June of last year, the New England Fishery Management Council adopted a motion, and sent a letter to the GARFO Regional Administrator, requesting joint management of summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass by the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils. In response to the letter, the Mid-Atlantic Council proposed an alternative that was later rejected by the New England Council. Since then, we have had several conversations at the NRCC and respective Council meetings on the topic.

At our recent February Council meeting, the Council discussed the issue again and agreed by consensus that two additional New England Council members should be added to our Demersal Committee in lieu of joint management. They based their decision on the following:

- The Mid has 2 seats and represent 15% of the membership on the New England Groundfish Committee (2/13)
- The Mid has 2 seats and represent 18% of the membership on New England Scallop Committee (2/11)
- However, New England has 1 seat and represents 6% of the membership of the Demersal Committee's voting members (1/17).
- As such, adding 2 voting members (for a total of 3) from New England to our Demersal Committee increases their representation to 16% of the membership of the Demersal Committee's voting members which is in line with our participation on the groundfish and scallop committees.

Please discuss this with your Council at your earliest convenience to determine if they agree with this approach. We expect to convene the Demersal Committee more frequently over the coming year as we continue development of our Summer Flounder amendment and would like to have the full committee formed as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Moore".

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.
Executive Director

cc: M. Luisi, W. Elliott, J. Bullard, K. Dancy