



## New England Fishery Management Council

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John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

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September 28, 2018

Dr. Chris Moore  
Executive Director  
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
800 North State Street, Suite 201  
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Chris:

At its September 2018 meeting, the New England Council discussed the spiny dogfish specifications package, currently under development. This was a preliminary discussion that provided the Council with a summary of the recent Committee meeting motions. In anticipation of the October 2018 Mid-Atlantic Council meeting, the New England Council considered spiny dogfish trip limits and passed the following two motions:

**Motion:**

*that the Council would recommend to the MAFMC in their 2018 Dogfish specifications package to increase the trip limit up to 8,000 lb.  
The motion **carried** on a show of hands (11/2/3).*

**Motion:**

*that an action be considered regarding trip limits that includes removing the federal dogfish trip limit.  
The motion **carried** on a show of hands (15/2/0).*

The New England Council supports increased flexibility in trip limits that allows vessels to more efficiently harvest dogfish. The Council also appreciates the limitations of what can be adjusted within a specifications package and proposed the dual approach of increasing trip limits for fishing year 2019 while considering larger changes to how trip limits are utilized within a framework action.

We would appreciate the Mid-Atlantic Council considering these recommendations as final action is taken next week and look forward to a full briefing by Mid-Atlantic Council staff at our December Council meeting.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Nies  
Executive Director