



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

March 11, 2025

Stacey Jensen, Director
Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds
Office of Water
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. Jensen,

We have reviewed your EFH response letter, dated March 6, 2025, regarding a tentative Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act research permit for Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's Locking Ocean Carbon in the Northeast Shelf and Slope (LOC-NESS) Wilkinson Basin Study. While we appreciate the technical corrections provided, we assure you we used the most up to date project information (dated January 16, 2025) to generate our Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Recommendations, and apologize for inaccurately referencing previously provided materials. We appreciate your response and do not have additional comments to provide. We look forward to working with you in the future on projects such as this. Should you have any questions about this matter, please contact Kaitlyn Shaw at (978-282-8457), or kaitlyn.shaw@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

Louis A. Chiarella
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Habitat and Ecosystem Services

cc: Betsy Valente, Sena McCrory, Kaycie Lanpher

