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CORRESPONDENCE



The Cold Spring Fish and Supply Company

Wholesale Fish and Scallop Dealers

Cape May Harbor
Cape May, New Jersey

609-884-3405

September 25, 2017

SEP 25 2017

NEW JERSEY SCALLOP
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Dear Tom Nies,

On August 15th the East Coast Scallop Harvest Association submitted to the NEFMC a request that the NEFMC vote to prioritize the initiation of a Sea Scallop Plan Amendment in 2018.

I support the proposal submitted by the East Coast Scallop Harvest Association to allow for the formation of voluntary associations, which would fish under output quota controls rather than DAS input controls. We recognize other ideas may also be proposed during the scoping meetings.

Please add the following vessels to the list of vessels requesting the NEFMC approve as a high priority the initiation of a sea scallop plan amendment in 2018.

Sincerely,

Keith Laudeman

Vessels & Permits Numbers

Kim & Jr II - permit No. 320333
Cameron Scott - permit No. 330845
Captain Jeff - permit No. 330626
Jonathan Ryan - permit No. 320662
Alexandra L - permit No. 250968
Vaud J - permit No. 410608
Sea Quest - permit No. 330783
Pursuit - permit No. 330912
Wesley L - permit No. 311002
Victoray - permit No. 330882

October 9, 2017

Dr. John F. Quinn, Chairman
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA. 01950

Re: 2018 Scallop Work Priorities

Dear Chairman Quinn and The New England Council:

I am writing to ask the New England Fishery Management Council to remove the proposal by the newly formed East Coast Scallop Harvest Association from the 2018 Scallop Work Priorities List. The Council will be making recommendations for the 2018 work priorities in December. This proposal is not a priority for the Scallop Fishery.

In August the Chairman and Council recieved a letter from the East Coast Scallop Harvest Association concerning a proposal to form "associations" which would be allocated quotas from the Scallop Management Plan. Associations would then be able to "stack" thier quotas on Association vessels. They propose to do away with regulations such as crew size limits, regulations that limit vessel size, horsepower, and tonnage, and proibitions on such things as shucking machines and sorting machines. They claim they could do a better job managing the fishery by self regulation. All these things would completely change the way that the Scallop Fishery is managed and harvested. The East Coast Scallop

Harvest Association also requests that this proposal be prioritized and put on the 2018 Scallop Work Priorities List and to Immediately start an Amendment to work through the details and implimentation of this proposal. This proposal is very controversial and has already had many permit holders and thier employee's taking sides, writing letters and hiring lawyers.

The Scallop Fishery is the most successful fishery in the United States. Seafood Dealers, Permit holders, Owner Operators, hired Captains and crews are all making a good living from this fishery. Permit and Vessel values have never been higher. In the past 10 years many new vessels have been built to replace older platforms.

I would determine that this proposal by the East Coast Scallop Harvest Association is "not" a priority for the Sea Scallop Fishery. It is not needed to set the Fishery Specifications. It is not needed to protect the resource, and in fact will have adverse affects on the resource if Days at Sea are done away with and time on the grounds increases. It is not needed to manage the very successful Scallop Fishery. This is someones business plan on how they would like to manage the Scallop Fishery and put more money in thier pocket. It will concentrate more wealth at the top instead of spreading it throughout the fishery participants as it does now. It will also favor some permit holders over others, and it will not benifit any of the fisherman that are actually working the decks and running the boats for these permit holders.

Therefore this proposal put forth by the East Coast Scallop Harvest Association should not be given priority status in 2018. The PDT and GARFO staff have a full workload already in 2018 with a Benchmark Assesment, NGOM management, and measures that are actually needed to manage the Sea Scallop Fishery going forward. Thank You for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Thomas Coley
Captain F/V SETTLER

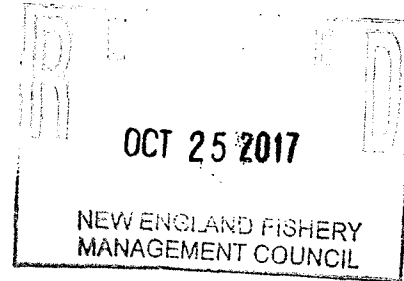


Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901
Phone: 302-674-2331 | FAX: 302-674-5399 | www.mafmc.org
Michael P. Luisi, Chairman | G. Warren Elliott, Vice Chairman
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

October 23, 2017

Thomas Nies
Executive Director
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950



Dear Tom:

At our recent meeting, the Council voted to, "send a letter to the [New England Fishery Management Council] requesting that the Surfclam/Ocean Quahog Access Program Framework action remain a 2018 priority."

We greatly appreciate the action already taken by the New England Council under its Omnibus Habitat Amendment to provide the surfclam and ocean quahog fisheries access to the Georges Bank and Nantucket Shoals habitat management areas for one year and we look forward to working with your Council as it considers possible clam access areas in a future framework action.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Christopher M. Moore
Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

cc: J. Coakley, P. deFur, W. Elliott, M. Luisi, J. Quinn

----- Original message-----

From: David Borden

Date: Sun, Nov 5, 2017 8:24 AM

To: John Quinn;Tom Nies;Eric Reid;Michael Pentony;

Cc: J. Grant Moore;

Subject:skate wing landing level

You have heard me on this issue before, so I will make this brief. Eric also raised similar concerns at the Council meeting.

Just looked at the web site and according to NOAA we are at 73% of the wing quota as of Oct 25-17. At the current catch rate or something close to it, we are going to end up with no directed fishing for skates for approximately 4- 5 months. There are a lot of negative implications of this situation, not the least of which is a lack of bait, when we already have bait shortages. The bodies all end up as bait when the plants in NB process the wings.

When NOAA eventually triggers the trip limit reduction , there will be also be direct impacts on the directed SNE monkfish fishery , since it is not viable to fish inshore on monks and discard 90% of the skates. Some fishermen will no doubt do so, which will only increase the discard estimates and then reduce next years directed skate fishery. A five month closure or something less, will also increase the discards by the trawl fishery as they can't avoid the by- catch.

I am unaware of any mechanism /flexibility for NOAA to address this directly.

If I have this all s correct, it will take another Council action.

I offer two thoughts:

- A simple amendment (no such thing) that provides NOAA (RA) with the regulatory authority to lower the trip limit based on catch estimates.
- A more complicated approach where the Council examines the skate fishery/directed inshore monk fishery needs , effort in the fishery, then segments the quota into regional, gear specific, or seasonal shares. That will be far more complex since it will involve the summer fishery, where groundfish sector vessels can purchase a DAS for lunch money, and then direct on skates. In essence, there are no effort caps on the skate fishery which is part of the problem.

I am sure there are other approaches and ideas, but in any event, I think something needs to be done to avoid this repeating itself again next year.

Happy to discuss by phone and keep up the good work!