



## SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Jessica McCawley, Chair | Mel Bell, Vice Chair  
Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

March 20, 2019  
LN#201905

Dr. John F. Quinn  
Chair, NEFMC  
219 Smith Neck Road  
Dartmouth, MA 02748

Mr. E.F. "Terry" Stockwell III  
Vice Chair, NEFMC  
58 Hendricks Hill Road  
Southport, ME 04576

Mr. Thomas A. Nies  
Executive Director, NEFMC  
50 Water Street, Mill 2  
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear John, Terry, and Tom:

Thank you for attending our March Council meeting and sharing your views with Council members on the topic of "How to address species expansion northwards?". The opportunity to talk with you during the meeting and outside of the meeting was very beneficial. I believe we all have a better understanding of each other's views and I am glad we identified a way forward that will allow us to work together on a solution. The following information is taken directly from the final Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management Committee report:

### **Atlantic Coast-Wide Discussions: How to address species expansion northwards?**

Council staff opened the March 2019 joint session by providing an overview of the Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) discussions to date. The Committee then discussed each group's views on coordination to address movement of species to the north. NEFMC views were expressed by Dr. John Quinn (Chair), Terry Stockwell (Vice-Chair), and Tom Nies (Executive Director); MAFMC views by Mike Luisi (Chair), Warren Elliott (Vice-Chair), and Chris Moore (ED); ASMFC views by Bob Beal (ED); and SAFMC views by Jessica McCawley (Chair). There was a general discussion about the need for research/data systems to be ready to pick up new species and the need for a governance system that preserves each group's authority.

There was agreement to move forward with the following two groups/activities:

1. Science/Data – the Northeast and Southeast Fisheries Science Centers are leading this effort and a workshop is currently being scheduled. The Councils want to be involved in the workshop/discussions, in part to ensure ongoing fishery independent data collection programs continue (e.g., SEAMAP, NEAMAP, SEFIS, and State programs). The South Atlantic Council's Citizen Science Program is also exploring a mechanism for the public to act as an early warning system to report when new species show up in an area.
2. Governance – the CCC members of the New England, Mid-Atlantic, and South Atlantic Councils and the ASMFC Executive Director will work to develop a way to manage

these species that clearly identifies each groups roles/responsibility without any group losing any authority. This group should meet more frequently as needed via conference calls, webinars, and additional in-person meetings in conjunction with other meetings of the partners (e.g., NRCC meetings). The CCC/ASMFC group will designate staff from their respective organizations to evaluate the following approaches:

- a. Options included in Attachment A5 from this meeting.
- b. Scenario Planning Exercise used by the Pacific Council.
- c. Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) approach used to consider potential military base closures.
- d. Identify roles for each group in this “obligatory partnership”.

On Friday at full Council, the SAFMC approved the following motion: “Coordinate with MAFMC, NEFMC and ASMFC to address both governance and science focus areas associated with species moving north as directed in the March 2019 SAFMC meeting.”

We look forward to continued discussions at the CCC meetings, various other meetings, and phone calls/webinars to accomplish our shared goal of collecting data on and managing these species as they occur in new areas. We look forward to our next discussion on this topic at the May CCC meeting in Charleston.

Sincerely,



Jessica McCawley, Chair  
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

cc: Council Members and Staff  
Council Executive Directors  
Sam Rauch and Alan Risenhoover  
Scientific and Statistical Committee  
John McGovern, Andy Strelcheck, and Rick DeVactor  
Monica Smit-Brunello  
Cisco Werner and LeAnn Hogan  
Clay Porch, Theo Brainerd, and Erik Williams  
Jon Hare and Nicole Cabana  
Michael Pentony and Kimberly Damon-Randall