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New England Fishery Management Council

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

DRAFT

Mr. Chris Oliver
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Room 14636
Silver Spring, MD 20610

Dear Mr. Oliver:

Thank-you for your letter informing us that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) notified the Secretary of Commerce that the Commonwealth of Virginia is out of compliance with Amendment 3 to the Atlantic Menhaden Interstate Fishery Management Plan. The provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 5101 et seq., require the Secretary to solicit and consider the comments of the Council when reviewing this notice.

At its December 2019 meeting, the Council reviewed the notification letter prepared by ASMFC and discussed this issue. Successful management of Atlantic menhaden, a key forage species, requires compliance with the Commission's management plan by all states. We support the determination of non-compliance that passed by a unanimous vote of ASMFC.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Quinn
Chairman