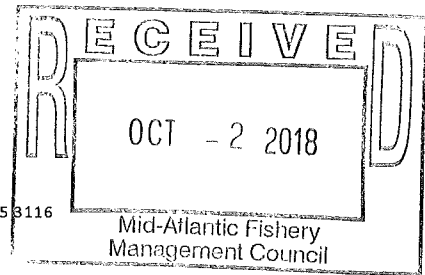




New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
 John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*



#7

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



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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James J. Gilmore, Jr. (NY), Chair Patrick C. Keliher (ME), Vice-Chair Robert E. Beal, Executive Director

Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

November 9, 2018

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

Chris
Dear Dr. Moore,

I am writing on behalf of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Spiny Dogfish Management Board (Board) to request the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) consider modifying the spiny dogfish commercial trip limit as a priority for 2019.

During its recent October meeting, the Board raised concerns regarding impacts of the federal trip limit on state quota management and regulatory discards in recent years. Specifically, a lower federal trip limit has the potential to prevent states from fully utilizing their state quotas. The Board requests the Council examine alternative federal trip limits, including removing them entirely, to allow states to fully utilize quotas. If the Council prioritizes trip limits, the Commission is ready to participate in the discussions and aid in the development of alternatives given the role of state waters management in the commercial fishery.

Thank you for the Council's consideration of this request and we look forward to working together on this effort. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Beal", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert E. Beal

cc: Spiny Dogfish Management Board
Tom Nies, Executive Director, NEFMC

L18-106