



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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Michael P. Luisi, Chairman | G. Warren Elliott, Vice Chairman
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

April 16, 2019

Dr. Jonathan Hare, Director
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543

Dear Dr. Hare:

On behalf of the entire Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council), I would like to thank you and your staff for providing the Council with the 2019 Mid-Atlantic State of the Ecosystem report for review and input. In particular, we would like to thank Sarah Gaichas for her efforts and willingness to work with the Council and our SSC to improve the report's overall utility.

The State of the Ecosystem report has become an integral part of the Council's continued development and implementation of its EAFM guidance document. For example, the analyses and results in the 2019 report served as the basis for updating the Council's EAFM risk assessment. Given this importance, the Council encourages the NEFSC's continued commitment, support and development of the State of the Ecosystem report for 2020 and subsequent years.

The Council is also very appreciative of the NEFSC's responsiveness to our comments and suggestions over the last couple of years. For example, the 2019 report included new information requested by the Council such as the inclusion of the Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program data and new recreational fishery and estuarine habitat ecosystem indicators. This collaborative process has led to a much more useful and informative product for the Council.

Thank you again for the hard work and commitment by the NEFSC to this report. If you would like to discuss the Council's involvement and recommendations for future reports, please contact me or Brandon Muffley of my staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Moore".

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.
Executive Director

cc: M. Luisi, W. Elliott