



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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Michael P. Luisi, Chairman | P. Weston Townsend, Vice Chairman
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

April 26, 2021

Tunde Adebola, Ph.D.
Assistant Research Professor
Hampton University, School of Marine and Environmental Science
3 Shore Road
Hampton, VA 23866

Dear Dr. Adebola,

Please accept this letter of support from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) regarding your project entitled “Reducing Bycatch Discards in Chesapeake Bay Summer Flounder Fisheries; using ecosystem perspectives.” The project’s research objectives and goals align with and should complement the Council’s Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) summer flounder management strategy evaluation (MSE) project that will evaluate different management strategies designed to minimize discards in the recreational summer flounder fishery. The Council’s MSE project will focus on the biological and economic trade-offs across the entire summer flounder management unit of Massachusetts through North Carolina; while your proposed research will evaluate these effects at a finer spatial scale within the Chesapeake Bay estuary. Evaluating the potential differences and implications associated with ecosystem drivers within the recreational summer flounder fishery at different spatial scales could provide valuable management advice. In addition, the proposed modeling efforts using Ecopath with Ecosim to more fully consider other ecosystem factors such as interactions with other recreational fisheries and protected species could be very informative.

If funded, please keep us apprised of the project’s development and feel free to reach out to Brandon Muffley or Kiley Dancy of my staff should you need any input or information.

Sincerely,

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

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.
Executive Director

cc: M. Luisi, P. Townsend, K. Dancy, B. Muffley