



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930

November 7, 2022

Mike Luisi, Chair  
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
800 North State Street, Suite 201,  
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Mike:

I am pleased to inform you that today I approved the Excessive Shares Amendment (Amendment 20) to the Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fishery Management Plan (FMP) on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce. As you know, Amendment 20 establishes caps on the amount of quota share or annual cage tags an individual or entity can hold in this Individual Transferable Quota program, requires the Council to review those caps at least once every ten years, sets the maximum duration of multi-year specifications to be consistent with the Northeast Region Coordinating Council-approved stock assessment schedule, and updates the goals and objectives of the FMP

We will notify you when the final rule to implement Amendment 20 is scheduled to publish in the *Federal Register*. We appreciate the Council's ongoing efforts to responsibly manage the surfclam and ocean quahog fisheries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Pentony".

Michael Pentony  
Regional Administrator

Cc: Dr. Chris Moore

