



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

October 23, 2019

Dr. Janet Nye, Associate Professor
107 Dana Hall
School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences
Stony Brook University
Stony Brook, NY 11794-5000

RE: NOAA COCA proposal

Dear Dr. Nye:

Please accept this letter from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) in support of the project proposal entitled “What surprises are coming around the bend? Assessing vulnerability of fishing communities along the Atlantic coast in response to shifting species.” The identified objectives and anticipated results from this proposal will have a direct application to the Council and its stakeholders as the Council continues to address the scientific and management implications of species distribution changes as a result of climate change.

The increased occurrence and frequency of South Atlantic species within the Mid-Atlantic have already been widely observed and documented by fishermen, managers, and scientists. However, much of the focus and research to date, particularly on the U.S. Atlantic coast, has evaluated the biological and socioeconomic impacts of distribution changes within the Northeast Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) and the implications for Mid-Atlantic and New England managed fisheries. This proposal provides a unique opportunity to provide a focused evaluation of the biological, social, economic, and management implications of climate-related changes to Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic fisheries and the communities that rely on these resources. This proposal, when combined with the research already conducted or ongoing in the Northeast LME, would allow for a comprehensive picture of climate change implications and the management and governance challenges for the entire U.S. Atlantic coast.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the first name being a large, stylized 'C'.

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.
Executive Director

cc: M. Luisi, W. Elliot