



**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

May 28, 2019

New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium  
22 Magruder Road  
Fort Hancock, NJ 07732

RE: Climatic impacts on essential habitats of economically and ecologically important fish and invertebrate species

Dear Selection Committee:

Please accept this letter from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) in support of Stockton University and Barnegat Bay Partnership in their proposal entitled, "Climatic impacts on essential habitats of economically and ecologically important fish and invertebrate species."

The Council is committed to the effective stewardship of its fisheries and associated habitats. It is important to understand the impact of seagrass species composition shifts such that fisheries managers can assess the impact of Essential Fish Habitat loss and the subsequent cascading impacts to fishery species, such as striped bass, weakfish, black sea bass, tautog, blue crab, and summer and winter flounder. This project would fill an important data gap and could support more effective restoration and protection planning for submerged aquatic vegetation at both the regional and state level, and the development of broader policies related to effective stewardship of these habitats.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

cc: J. Coakley, M. Luisi, W. Elliot