

**MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

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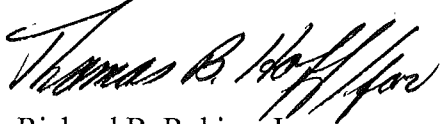
July 9, 2010

Re: Public comment

Yesterday, it was brought to my attention that some members of the public who submitted similar comments on Amendment 14 to the Council's Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan received a reply from the former Executive Director that resulted in confusion and concern over the Council's practice of considering public comments. On behalf of the Council I would like to take this opportunity to dispel any notion that public comments, whether submitted as form letters or as unique submittals, are not given full consideration by the Council. All comments submitted to the Council within the public comment period are incorporated into the public record, are transmitted to the Council by Council staff, and are carefully considered by the Council. The Council has the privilege and responsibility of managing public marine resources, and public comment--including written comment--is an essential and informative aspect of the Council's decision-making process.

I appreciate the opportunity to clarify and reaffirm the importance of public comment to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's management process and look forward to the Council's consideration of public comments on Amendment 14 at the Council's August meeting.

Sincerely,



Richard B. Robins, Jr.  
Chairman