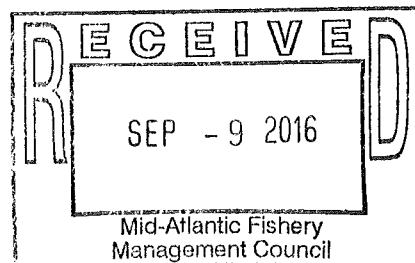




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
 Northeast Fisheries Science Center
 166 Water Street
 Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

August 30, 2016



Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.
 Executive Director
 Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
 800 North State Street, Suite 201
 Dover, DE 19901-3910

Dear Chris:

Thank you for your August 17, 2016, letter requesting updated information on river herring and shad incidental catch to support the proposed action to add river herring and/or shad to the Squid, Mackerel, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan as a Council-managed species.

The Center can provide the requested update by your proposed deadline of September 23, 2016, but we note that the personnel who will generate this information are also heavily involved in preparing for the upcoming black sea bass assessment, continuing to refine bycatch estimates for Atlantic sturgeon, and conducting assessment related research on Atlantic mackerel. To complete the requested river herring and shad incidental catch work, we will need to delay our work on Atlantic sturgeon bycatch estimates and assessment related research on Atlantic mackerel. We will communicate our priorities to the affected parties including Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Dr. Kiersten Curti will provide updates to Jason Didden regarding our progress on this request.

Sincerely,

Wendy L. Gabriel for

William A. Karp, Ph.D.
 Science and Research Director

cc: R. Beal
 T. Nies
 J. Bullard

