



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

April 24, 2020

Mr. Michael Pentony
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
Greater Atlantic Region
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Mike:

Enclosed please find the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Excessive Shares Amendment, also known as Amendment 20 to the Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fishery Management Plan. Also included are the Regulatory impact Review (RIR) and the Regulatory flexibility Analysis (IRFA) for this action.

This document describes the preferred alternatives adopted by the Council on December 9, 2019. This action proposes to implement an excessive shares cap level to ensure that no individual, corporation, or other entity acquires an excessive share of the surfclam and ocean quahog individual transferrable quota (ITQ) privileges, and to revise the FMP goals and objectives for surfclam and ocean quahog. The Council also adopted multi-year management measures and periodic review of the excessive shares measures.

A copy of this document was also sent to Douglas Potts of your staff via e-mail.

Please call me or José Montañez of my staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Moore".

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.
Executive Director

cc: M. Luisi, W. Elliott, P. deFur, J. Montañez, J. Coakley, D. Potts