Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901
Phone: 302-674-2331 | FAX: 302-674-5399 | www.mafmc.org
P. Weston Townsend, Chairman | Michael P. Luisi, Vice Chairman
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

September 14, 2023

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Ocean Acidification Program
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: Atlantic surfclam (*Spisula solidissima*) in a changing climate

Dear Selection Committee:

Please accept this letter from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) in support of the proposal submitted to the NOAA Ocean Acidification Program entitled, "Atlantic surfclam (*Spisula solidissima*) in a changing climate: integrating carbonate chemistry and phytoplankton dynamics into a spatially-explicit growth model."

The Council is committed to the effective stewardship of its managed fisheries and their habitats. While Atlantic surfclam has been shown to be highly sensitive to ocean acidification because of ocean warming, little information is available on the specifics of those acidification impacts on surfclams. This research would evaluate regional differences in the sensitivity of surfclam growth to ocean warming and acidification and identify areas where favorable surfclam conditions are likely to persist and areas where they will be likely to deteriorate. This project would provide important information to the Council to enable better management of this fishery under changing ocean conditions.

These researchers and their institutions have a history of doing high quality research that supported important management decisions. Jessica Coakley (Council staff) will participate in this project as a collaborator and can provide advice and expertise to ensure this research is conducted in a manner that will support management of this important resource.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.
Executive Director

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