



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 23, 2019

Mr. Michael Pentony
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

Dear Mike:

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) conducted a Law Enforcement/For-Hire Workshop held on November 13-14, 2018 with attendees from the for-hire industry, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (NOAA OLE), the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO), and Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Division. This workshop addressed several topics, including: (1) Operator versus angler (client) responsibilities for fisheries violations that occur on for-hire vessels, (2) issues related to the sale of golden tilefish and tuna by recreational vessels that do not possess USCG vessel safety requirements for commercial vessels; and (3) complexity of fishing regulations impacting enforceability. As a result, recommendations were presented to the Council's HMS, Law Enforcement, and Tilefish Committees at the April 2019 Council Meeting in Avalon, New Jersey for their consideration.

In reaction to the Law Enforcement – Tilefish – HMS Committee report, the Council passed a motion requesting GARFO address the following:

- 1) The vessel trip report (VTR) and HMS reporting mechanisms should be integrated to reduce duplicate reporting burdens for dual permit holders and to draw parity between the data (e.g., species and disposition) collected under each system; and
- 2) Individuals applying for tilefish open access permits should be required to enter their USCG safety sticker number (or expiration date of Certificate of Inspection).

Please accept this letter as a formal request from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council that GARFO address these concerns as soon as possible.

Please call me or Matt Seeley 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, T. DiLernia, D. Hemilright, D. Stutt, S. Heins, J. Montañez, M. Seeley