



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. James Landon
Director, NOAA OLE
1315 East West Highway
Suite 3301
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Mr. Robert Beal
Executive Director, ASMFC
1050 N. Highland Street
Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Jim and Bob:

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, 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 NOAA OLE and the ASMFC Law Enforcement Committee address the following:

Recommend the NOAA OLE and ASMFC Law Enforcement Committee explore the development of consistent regulations in both state and federal waters regarding sharing of fish on a recreational fishing trip (co-mingling) while at sea.

Please accept this letter as a formal request from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council that the NOAA OLE and the ASMFC address this concern 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, appearing to read "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