



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
Michael P. Luisi, Chairman | G. Warren Elliott, Vice Chairman
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

April 23, 2019

Dr. Roy Crabtree
Regional Administrator
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Mr. Gregg Waugh
Executive Director
4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201
North Charleston, SC 29405

Dear Roy and Gregg:

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 December 2018 and April 2019 Council Meetings for their consideration.

During the South Atlantic Liaison Report at the December 2018 Council meeting, the Council passed a motion requesting the following:

Request that the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and Southeast Regional Office provide exemption for the regulation prohibiting filleting of dolphinfish (mahi mahi) in the waters north of Cape Hatteras.

This topic was revisited at the April Council meeting via the Law Enforcement – Tilefish – HMS Committee report, which detailed recommended regulations when filleting dolphinfish at sea, as follows:

1. A 1" x 1" piece of skin must remain on each filet.
2. Crew must retain the racks (frames) of the fish.
3. Crew must be able to present two fillets which are equivalent to one fish.

Please accept this letter as a formal request from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council that the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Southeast Regional Office address this recommendation as soon as possible.

Please do not hesitate to 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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a stylized "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