



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 | P. Weston Townsend, Vice Chairman
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

July 29, 2022

Mr. Michael Pentony
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), GARFO
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Mike:

Please accept this letter as a comment in response to the announcement of the availability of Amendment 22 to the Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan, also referred to as the *Illex* Permit Action.

The Council would like to reiterate its desire for full implementation of this action. The proposed action addresses concerns that excessive participation in the fishery by previously inactive permits will exacerbate the race to fish observed in the fishery since 2017 and the negative impacts to participants caused by early fishery closures. The Council's recommended measures were carefully considered to strike a balance of ensuring that sufficient capacity remains to harvest optimum yield while mitigating negative impacts. We look forward to continuing to work with NMFS to implement this Amendment.

Please call me or Jason Didden of my staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.
Executive Director

cc: M. Luisi, W. Townsend, J. Didden, C. Bari