



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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

January 6, 2022

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

Dear Mike:

On December 13, 2021, the Council passed the following two motions by consent:

The Council requests NMFS to evaluate to what extent the process it recently announced with BOEM to address fisheries mitigation from offshore wind energy aligns with existing policies and best practices, including but not limited to the MSA National Standards and NOAA/NMFS policies related to environmental justice, social and economic impacts assessment, mitigation for trust resources, and scientific integrity.

The Council recommends NMFS evaluate alternative or supplemental strategies that it could implement to improve fisheries analysis for mitigation efforts that would fully involve fisheries experts and stakeholders. If resources do not support such strategies in the near term, the agencies should prioritize items in the Request for Information (RFI) on "Guidance for Mitigating Impacts to Commercial and Recreational Fisheries from Offshore Wind Energy Development" that can be appropriately addressed within the project timeline while effective, science-based approaches to the larger suite of topics can be developed.

The Council will provide more detailed comments to BOEM on the RFI referenced above. We look forward to working with NMFS and BOEM on further development of guidance on these important topics. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Moore".

Dr. Christopher M. Moore
Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

CC: J. Beaty, M. Luisi, W. Townsend