



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

27 September 2017

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
800 North State Street, Suite 201
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Chris:

I appreciate your letter of August 31, 2017 requesting some additional data for use by the SSC in its May 2018 review of the 2019 surfclam ABC. We will be happy to supply the survey data, swept-area biomass estimates, catch data and information about the spatial distribution of the fishery as in previous years. In addition, we will present and be prepared to discuss short- and long-term plans for reducing uncertainty related to catchability and other factors in the surfclam stock assessment. Thank you for providing advanced notice relative to information needs for the review.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Hare".

Jon Hare, Ph.D.
Science and Research Director

Cc J. Bullard
T. Nies
R. Beal

