



## 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

July 1, 2019

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

Dear Mike:

In June 2019, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council completed a, "Review of the Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Individual Transferable Quota Program." The Council was presented with potential actions identified by the Oversight Team that the Council could consider for future work. However, these topics were not fully scoped as specific actions for inclusion in Council implementation plans. These potential actions<sup>1</sup> include considering mechanisms to align supply and demand for the fisheries, examining ways to promote the participation of independent harvesters in these fisheries, improving social and economic data collections for these fisheries, and evaluating the possibility of using electronic monitoring to assess the discards/commingling of surfclam and quahog in these fisheries.

We are seeking staff from the GARFO to serve on a Fishery Management Action Team (FMAT) to help better develop these concepts so the Council can consider them for inclusion in its 2020 Implementation Plan at the October and December 2019 Council meetings. For any items included in an implementation plan, a new FMAT would be formed, so this request is a short-term commitment of staff support for the remainder of 2019. We are seeking FMAT members with expertise in the fishery as well as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In addition, if you have someone engaged in, or familiar with, electronic monitoring, it may be beneficial to have them on the FMAT or at least be available to support discussions of the topic. Given the short timeline, please respond to this request by July 17.

Please call me or Jessica Coakley of my staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
cc: M. Luisi, W. Elliott, J. Coakley, J. Montañez

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<sup>1</sup> For more detail see: [https://SCOQ-Catch-Share-Program-Review\\_2019-06.pdf](https://SCOQ-Catch-Share-Program-Review_2019-06.pdf)