

MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Richard B. Robins, Jr.
Chairman

Lee G. Anderson
Vice Chairman

800 North State Street, Suite 201
Dover, Delaware 19901-3910
Tel: 302-674-2331
Toll Free: 877-446-2362
FAX: 302-674-5399
www.mafmc.org

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.
Executive Director

August 31, 2011



Paul Howard, Executive Director
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Paul:

The Mid-Atlantic Council received a briefing from Howard King at our last meeting detailing progress on Amendment 6 to the Monkfish FMP. After the presentation and subsequent discussion, the Council adopted a motion to request that the New England Fishery Management Council add two additional seats for Mid- Atlantic members to the Monkfish Oversight Committee. Given the importance of monkfish to fishermen in the Mid-Atlantic, and the possible impacts of Amendment 6 on their fishery, I am requesting that these seats be added as soon as possible.

In addition, the Council voted to re-establish the Mid-Atlantic Monkfish Committee on an ad hoc basis that would serve to develop specific management solutions for the issues and concerns that are unique to the Mid-Atlantic monkfish fishery. These alternative management options for Amendment 6 would be submitted to the Oversight Committee for consideration and evaluation. I plan to appoint that Committee in the coming weeks and I expect that they will meet soon thereafter.

The Mid-Atlantic Council looks forward to working with the New England Council on the development and implementation of Amendment 6 and supports your leadership. We recognize that this may impact the timeline of Amendment 6 development; however, we also recognize the mounting concerns of monkfish fishermen in our region and believe that these actions will enable us to address these concerns directly and constructively in support of the development of Amendment 6. I appreciate the opportunity to work closely with the New England Fishery Management Council on this important issue and look forward to your positive response to our request.

Please call me or Dr. Chris Moore if you have any questions regarding these actions or this request.

Sincerely,

Richard B. Robins, Jr.

cc: J. Armstrong, E. Berg, R. Cunningham, P. Himchak, H. King, R. Robins, T. Stockwell

cc: Council, Pch, EXD (9/7)