

MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Richard B. Robins, Jr.
Chairman

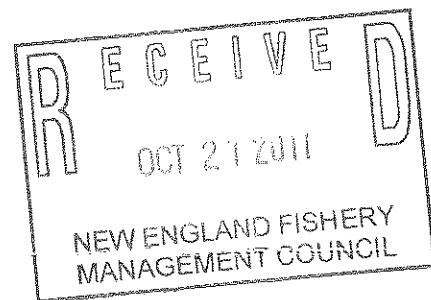
Lee G. Anderson
Vice Chairman

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Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.
Executive Director

October 17, 2011

Rip Cunningham
Chairman
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950



Dear Rip:

At our October 2011 meeting, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council voted to include river herring and shad incidental catch caps in Amendment 14 to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan. We also added several options that are similar to alternatives in Amendment 5 to the Atlantic Herring Plan to increase alignment between these plans.

In order to facilitate public comment on alternatives that would allow alignment between these important amendments, and since both plans in part manage the same fleet, we request that the New England Fishery Management Council include alternatives for these incidental catch caps in Amendment 5. The Mid-Atlantic Council is aware of the challenges posed by setting a catch cap on species without accepted reference points but concluded that including direct controls on river herring and/or shad mortality would be warranted at this point in amendment development. The Mid-Atlantic Council also added port-side sampling options for consideration given the associated potential efficiency gains (more thorough sampling, lower costs).

If necessary, Mid-Atlantic staff can supply background materials on these alternatives to facilitate discussion of this topic at your next meeting. Please call me or Jason Didden of our staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "C. Robins" with a stylized flourish.

Richard B. Robins, Jr.
Chairman, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

cc: L. Anderson, E. Berg, J. Didden, P. Howard, C. Moore, L. Steel

cc: CS, CBK (10/25)