



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

April 23, 2019

LCDR Brandon Fisher
Harry S Truman Building, Suite 2843
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear LCDR Fisher:

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) conducted a Law Enforcement/For-Hire Workshop held on November 13-14, 2018 with attendees from the for-hire industry, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (NOAA OLE), the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, and Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Division. This workshop addressed several topics, including: (1) Operator versus angler (client) responsibilities for fisheries violations that occur on for-hire vessels, (2) issues related to the sale of golden tilefish and tuna by recreational vessels that do not possess USCG vessel safety requirements for commercial vessels; and (3) complexity of fishing regulations impacting enforceability. As a result, recommendations were presented to the Council's HMS, Law Enforcement, and Tilefish Committees at the April 2019 Council Meeting in Avalon, New Jersey for their consideration.

In reaction to the Law Enforcement – Tilefish – HMS Committee report, the Council passed a motion requesting the USCG address the following:

Recommend to the USCG that the HMS and GARFO permitting database and USCG safety inspection database should be integrated to allow stronger verification procedures for vessel operators applying for a commercial sale endorsement.

Please accept this letter as a formal request from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council that the USCG address this concern as soon as possible.

Please do not hesitate to call me or Matt Seeley of my staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.
Executive Director

cc: M. Luisi, W. Elliott, T. DiLernia, D. Hemilright, D. Stutt, S. Heins, J. Montañez, M. Seeley