



Director General

Fisheries Policy

Mike Luisi, Chair, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901, USA

Re.: Atlantic Mackerel Rebuilding 2.0 Amendment

Dear Mr. Luisi:

Canada and the United States (U.S.) have a longstanding and productive relationship in collaborative fisheries management, as exemplified by the number of bilateral mechanisms we have in place as well as a healthy ongoing dialogue on fisheries issues of mutual concern. This collaboration extends to a number of important transboundary fish stocks, including Atlantic mackerel.

I am writing to you today in regard to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Atlantic Mackerel Rebuilding 2.0 Amendment process. The offshore Atlantic mackerel fishery is an important transboundary resource that is central to the social and economic sustainability of our respective fishing communities, including harvesters, processors, license holders, and other stakeholders reliant on the fishery. We were encouraged to see that the U.S. significantly reduced the allowable commercial catch in 2022 due to conservation concerns highlighted in the recent U.S. stock assessment. Canada's stock assessments have highlighted similar concerns.

As you know, the Honourable Joyce Murray, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard, announced a closure of Canada's Atlantic mackerel commercial and bait fisheries on March 30, 2022, in order to help allow the stock to rebuild. This does not include Atlantic mackerel recreational, and Indigenous food, social, and ceremonial fisheries, which make up only a small portion of annual mackerel landings in Canada; we will continue to closely monitor these fisheries to ensure that the goal of rebuilding this stock is not undermined.

Atlantic mackerel is an important source of food for many species and plays a critical role in our ecosystem. Fisheries and Oceans Canada is committed to rebuilding this stock which is in the critical zone. We are optimistic that the Atlantic mackerel stock can rebuild, and are committed to supporting the future opening of the Atlantic mackerel commercial fishery.

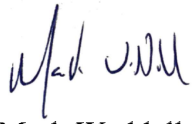
However, Canada recognizes that the U.S. mackerel fishery is an important factor to consider with respect to the future sustainability of the stock, as annual U.S. removals of Canadian-spawned mackerel can be significant. While the United States and Canada make their own decisions regarding mackerel catch levels in their respective waters, our

countries have worked together productively to share information and knowledge, so that we can manage this complex stock responsibly.

Canada has taken strong measures to support mackerel rebuilding. Going forward, we encourage you to advocate for complementary measures in your waters. Canadian harvesters have made a very significant sacrifice to help rebuild the stock and are hopeful that this will be recognized and respected.

We look forward to ongoing collaboration with the United States to help ensure that future generations may also enjoy access to the mackerel fishery.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Waddell', written in a cursive style.

Mark Waddell