March 28, 2018

Dr. Christopher M. Moore, Executive Director
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
800 North State St., Suite 201
Dover, DE  19901

Dear Dr. Moore:

I am writing on behalf of the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission regarding the amendment to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan that primarily addresses the commercial summer flounder fishery. The summer flounder fishery has been a very important component of the state’s commercial fishing industry for the last several decades. In 2016, North Carolina’s commercial flounder landed 2,071,089 pounds of summer flounder with a dockside value of $8,238,703. The summer flounder trawl fishery accounts for nearly all of the commercial summer flounder landings in North Carolina, and a total of 266 flounder trawl trips from 97 vessels landed summer flounder in our state in 2016.

The commercial allocations issue in this amendment is of utmost concern to the commission. North Carolina has the largest allocation of the commercial summer flounder quota based on its historic landings, and shore-based infrastructure and businesses were developed to support the state’s commercial summer flounder fishery. We understand that the amendment is still under development, so we ask that proposed management measures concerning allocation include a broad range of options that considers the historic fisheries of the affected states.

Thank you for keeping this request in mind as the amendment to this plan is being developed and please know how much we appreciate the work you do on behalf of our Atlantic Coast fisheries.

Sincerely,

Sammy Corbett, Chairman
N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

cc:  Steve Murphey, Director, N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries
     N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission