



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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Joseph Cimino, Chair | Skip Feller, Vice Chair
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

February 2, 2026

Mr. John Carmichael
Executive Director
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201
North Charleston, SC 29405

Dear John,

As you know, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) agreed to establish a joint Council subcommittee to help determine the allocation of the blueline tilefish acceptable biological catch (ABC) north of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. Given the importance and complexity of this issue, the Mid-Atlantic Council would like to convene this subcommittee as soon as practicable.

Purpose

The purpose of the joint subcommittee is to provide a forum for Council members and Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) representatives from both Councils to evaluate allocation considerations for the blueline tilefish stock north of Cape Hatteras. The subcommittee would develop a coordinated recommendation for consideration by both Councils.

Subcommittee Composition

We propose that the joint subcommittee be composed of the following:

- 3 Council members from the MAFMC
- 1 SSC member from the MAFMC
- 3 Council members from the SAFMC
- 1 SSC member from the SAFMC

This composition is intended to ensure balanced Council representation while incorporating relevant scientific expertise to support the allocation discussion.

Meeting Format and Timing

The Councils previously discussed holding the initial joint subcommittee meeting virtually; however, given the technical and policy complexity of allocation discussions, an in-person meeting may be more effective. An in-person format would allow for more robust discussion and may increase the likelihood of formalizing a shared recommendation within a single meeting.

The MAFMC proposes that the first joint subcommittee meeting be scheduled for **spring 2026**, ideally in **late March or early April**.

Next Steps

Once we agree on subcommittee composition, meeting format, and timing, staff from both Councils will coordinate subcommittee participation and logistics to develop a focused agenda that supports a productive discussion and recommendation at the meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.
Executive Director