



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901
Phone: 302-674-2331 | FAX: 302-674-5399 | www.mafmc.org
Michael P. Luisi, Chairman | G. Warren Elliott, Vice Chairman
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

March 2, 2018

Gregg Waugh
Executive Director
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201
North Charleston, SC 29405

Dear Gregg,

I am writing to request that the South Atlantic Council consider the possibility of managing frigate mackerel (*Auxis thazard*) and bullet mackerel (*Auxis rochei*) as ecosystem components in the Dolphin/Wahoo Fishery Management Plan.

The Mid-Atlantic Council sought to manage these species as ecosystem components with a commercial possession limit through the Unmanaged Forage Omnibus Amendment in recognition of their role in the ecosystem as prey for a variety of predators. However, NMFS disapproved inclusion of these two species in the amendment, citing an insufficient connection to the Mid-Atlantic Council's FMPs.

Frigate and bullet mackerel are important prey for blue marlin, yellowfin tuna, blackfin tuna, and wahoo. Commercial harvest of these species in the northeast has been low, averaging 1,502 pounds annually during 2012-2017.

Please contact me or Julia Beaty of my staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "C. Moore", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Christopher M. Moore, PhD.
Executive Director, MAFMC

CC: Luisi, Elliott, DiLernia, Hemilright, O'Reilly, Beaty



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston SC 29405
Call: (843) 571-4366 | Toll-Free: (866) SAFMC-10 | Fax: (843) 769-4520 | Connect: www.safmc.net

Jessica McCawley, Chair | Mel Bell, Vice Chair
Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

October 23, 2018
LN#201861

Chris Moore
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
800 North State Street, Suite 201
Dove, Delaware 19901

Dear Chris:

Thanks for your letter dated March 2, 2018 requesting the South Atlantic Council consider managing frigate mackerel (*Ausis thazard*) and bullet mackerel (*Ausis rochei*) as ecosystem components in the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan. Tony Dilernia presented this letter during his liaison report at our March 2018 Council meeting. During the discussion we indicated we did talk with the Mid-Atlantic members at the CCC meeting and Ken Hinman with WildOceans who provided data on these two species. We also have existing work ongoing that Roger Pugliese is involved in doing food web mapping in our council area. We have asked that the data be provided to Roger, so they could do something that might be directly useful to us. In addition, Jeff Buckel from North Carolina State University, who is also on our SSC, and Steve Poland, from North Carolina DMF, have done worked on the HMS diets of these species, and we could get them to come to our December 2018 meeting and give us presentations. The Council agreed with our suggestion:

1. Have Roger work with that group and see what we can map of these species importance for dolphin and wahoo.
2. Schedule presentations for December.
3. Bring some background on what the Mid-Atlantic and other Councils have done.
4. Then the Council could discuss and give us direction in December as to how to proceed.

We have scheduled this discussion during our upcoming Dolphin Wahoo Committee that begins at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at the Hilton Garden Inn/Outer Banks in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. My apologies for not responding to your letter sooner.

Best regards,

Gregg T. Waugh
Executive Director

cc: Jessica McCawley, Mel Bell, Anna Beckwith, Roger Pugliese, John Hadley, Christina Wiegand, and Mike Collins