

RESOLUTION 89-VI

Habitat Policy

WHEREAS, it is the purpose of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) to promote the better utilization of the fisheries, marine, shell and anadromous, of the Atlantic seaboard by the development of a joint program for the promotion and protection of such fisheries, and by prevention of the physical waste of the fisheries from any cause; and

WHEREAS, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), under provisions of Section 302 (i) of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 to make recommendations concerning any activity under, or proposed to be undertaken, by any state or Federal agency, in the view of the Council, may affect the habitat of a fishery resource under its jurisdiction, has adopted a "Habitat Position Paper" to guide further action; and

WHEREAS, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Habitat Position Paper describes the intention of the Council to address its habitat responsibility through the implementation of a meaningful and effective habitat policy to be accomplished through improved cooperative effort with other government agencies or through legislative revisions and amendments necessary to meet the objectives of the Council; and

WHEREAS, in pursuit of this goal, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council intends to participate fully in the efforts of the National and Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Regional Director and the NOAA Assistant Administrator for Fisheries in a concerted effort to solicit the cooperation of the EPA, Corps of Engineers, and other appropriate state and Federal agencies to solicit increased involvement in the regulatory processes which permit degradation of the aquatic habitat of the Atlantic States,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission recognizes the need for

of a cooperative effort to address critical habitat issues effecting the health of marine resources; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission supports the efforts of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council to implement and refine an acceptable and effective model habitat policy and intends to participate in a cooperative effort to share the document with other Councils for discussion and eventual consolidation into a single, unified Council habitat document. *Adopted by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, October 2-5, 1989, Dixville Notch, NH*