



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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P. Weston Townsend, Chairman | Michael P. Luisi, Vice Chairman

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

October 10, 2023

Mr. Geoff White and Ms. Julie DeFilippi Simpson
Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP)
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. White and Ms. DeFilippi Simpson,

As you know, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) submitted an FY24 ACCSP project proposal titled *Improving Catch and Effort Data Collection from Recreational Tilefish Anglers* which was discussed and ranked by the ACCSP Operations and Advisory Committees at their joint meeting on September 19-20, 2023. The Committees agreed that both the MAFMC Tilefish proposal and another new proposal, *The Economic Impact of Rhode Island's Fishing Industry* submitted by Rhode Island Division of Marine Fisheries (RI DMF), would be valuable and recommended both be considered for funding.

Recognizing that there are limited funds available, and after speaking with the principal investigators of the RI DMF proposal, we are writing to express our flexibility in our requested project funding amount as a means to provide for partial funding for both important proposals. If partial funding were made available to the MAFMC, we would propose to scale back our scope of work and focus on the core components of the proposal – the Tilefish permit holder outreach and improvements to the metadata collection capabilities within the current eFIN app. While the other aspects of our proposal are important, we feel that the outreach and improved metadata component are immediate needs, and the other aspects of our proposal could be considered for future work. We believe this approach would address the recommendations of the ACCSP Operations and Advisory Committees and provide guidance for the ACCSP Coordinating Council as they consider and approve projects for funding in FY24.

Please reach out with any questions or if additional information is needed. Feel free to share this letter with the ACCSP Coordinating Council and we look forward to their review and feedback at their meeting on October 17, 2023.

Sincerely,

Hannah Hart

Jose Montanez

Hannah Hart and José Montañez