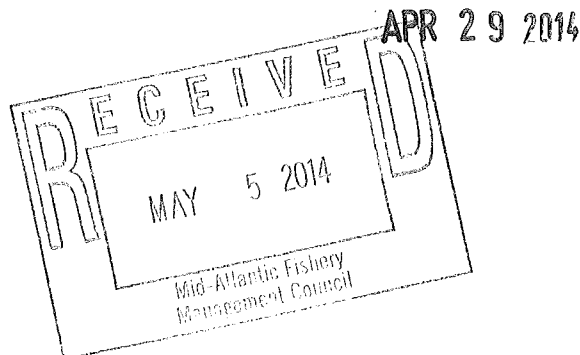




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
THE DIRECTOR



Mr. Richard B. Robins, Jr.
Chairman, Regional Fishery Management
Council Coordination Committee
800 North State Street, Suite 201
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Mr. Robins:

Thank you for your letter regarding the issues you would like to see included in the revisions to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will continue to coordinate with you and the Council Coordination Committee (CCC) as reauthorization of the Act moves forward.

I understand your concerns regarding funding levels for 2014 and beyond. NMFS depends on the work of the Councils to manage our nation's fisheries, and I understand the importance of the work you do. As a federal agency we have some budget accounting requirements we must meet, such as equitable application of management fees across all budget lines. Hopefully the budget discussion with Paul Doremus at the February CCC meeting and teleconference on March 8 clarified our management fees requirement. As we finalize the 2014 budget, we will do what we can to support the Councils and the important work that you do.

If you have any questions, please contact Alan Risenhoover at (301) 427-8504. I look forward to seeing you and the other Council representatives and discussing issues of common interest at the upcoming May CCC meeting.

Sincerely,

Eileen Sobeck

