



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

November 18, 2016

Mr. John Bullard
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear John:

Thank you for your October 21 letter on the development of fishery management plan amendments to implement the fishing restrictions associated with the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument. The Council discussed this issue during its November 15 meeting in Newport, Rhode Island, and concluded that it will not develop the required plan amendments.

Pending a formal response from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, we assume that the National Marine Fisheries Service will take the lead to develop the appropriate regulations via a secretarial amendment. We will consult with your office and others within NMFS as necessary to support your work on this issue.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Nies
Executive Director