



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

April 14, 2015

Brian J. Rothschild, Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer
Center for Sustainable Fisheries
115 Orchard Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Brian:

Many thanks for your recent letter regarding trawl surveys and related data collection activities. I'm pleased to see that you and the Center for Sustainable Fisheries (CSF) are continuing to work on these issues. This will complement the action taken by both the New England Fishery Management Council and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council to reconstitute the Trawl Survey Advisory Panel. As I described in a letter I sent to you earlier this year, and more recently, when we met in New Bedford, this Advisory Panel will be asked to address many of the questions and ideas articulated in the prospectus included with the letter you sent me last week.

I am fully committed to working with the Councils and, through them, the broader community through this process. The process itself, and the outcomes, would be greatly strengthened by the active participation of CSF, so I hope you will endorse this process and engage fully. I also hope that you will understand that, even though I support the work that CSF is about to initiate, I believe it will be more effective and inclusive for the Center to engage with and directly support the Advisory Panel itself because this is a fully transparent process which is accessible to interested individuals from throughout the Northeast Region and fully recognizes the importance of our partnerships with both Councils.

Sincerely,

William A. Karp, Ph.D.
Science and Research Director

cc: J. Bullard
D. Cuddy (CSF)
C. Moore
T. Nies
R. Robins
T. Stockwell





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

April 9, 2015

Mr. Richard B. Robins, Jr.
Chairman
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
5103 Mariners Cove
Suffolk, VA 23435

Mr. E. F. Stockwell, III
Chairman
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street; Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Rick and Terry:

The purpose of this letter is to communicate our enthusiastic endorsement of the Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils' recent decisions to reestablish the Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel (NTAP). We believe that this Panel will serve an excellent means of bringing together commercial fishing, fishery survey, and fishery management professionals to identify concerns about regional research survey performance, to identify ways to address those concerns, and to promote mutual understanding of the results of this work.

We would like to encourage the Councils to move forward with the planning for the Panel's work. In an effort to help initiate the discussion, we propose the following three primary focus areas for the Panel: (1) understanding the performance of the current NOAA/NEFSC research survey trawl; (2) evaluating the potential for supplementing or complementing current surveys using alternative vessels and/or other gear configurations, through cooperative research (this work would also support the need for developing protocols to maintain survey data continuity when survey vessels are replaced); and (3) improving understanding and acceptance of NOAA/NEFSC survey data quality and use of survey data. We believe that these are areas in which the contributions of the Panel's diverse membership can be very constructive and effective. We appreciate the opportunity to share our initial thinking on these topics for the Panel's deliberation, and we look forward to working together with the Councils on an integrated plan at the June Council meetings.

Sincerely,

William A. Karp, Ph.D.
Science and Research Director

cc: J. Bullard
C. Moore
T. Nies

