Eric C. Schwaab  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA  
1315 East West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Eric,

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the Council Coordination Committee’s (CCC) position on the National Marine Fisheries Service’s (NMFS) allocation project. At the recent CCC meeting George Lapointe presented an update on the project and indicated the purpose is to examine both commercial and recreational allocation issues across the Nation. The implication was that NMFS viewed this as an opportunity to look at, and potentially revise, the various existing Council allocations as stocks continue to rebuild. As you are aware, the subject elicited significant debate during the meeting.

After much discussion the CCC unanimously approved a motion “requesting that the Service’s allocation initiative not include any new directives to the Councils requiring or directing the Councils to revisit allocations, but that any initiatives to revisit allocations be left to the Councils”. On behalf of the CCC I am making this request.

We are concerned the Councils may be directed or required to revise existing allocations, based on some nationally derived criteria. This could create the potential for opening old wounds that were suffered when the existing allocations were developed. Currently, as fisheries evolve and allocation issues arise, the Councils address them on a case by case basis, and we believe that is as it should be.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

David Cupka  
Chairman

cc: CCC Members  
Sam Rauch  
George Lapointe