

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

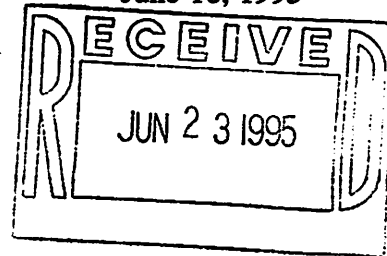


ONE SOUTHPARK CIRCLE, SUITE 306
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29407-4699
TEL 803/571-4366 FAX 803/769-4520

John D. Brownlee, Chairman
David M. Cupka, Vice-Chairman

Robert K. Mahood, Executive Director

June 16, 1995



Mr. Terry D. Garcia, General Counsel
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 5814
14th and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Garcia:

Since our council recommended including "NOAA GC Priorities for Enforcement" as an agenda item for the upcoming council chairmen's meeting, Clarence Pautzke asked me to contact you and provide more detail about our interest in this issue. It was brought to the South Atlantic Council's attention at our April 1995 council meeting that NOAA GC and NMFS Law Enforcement had held meetings to establish priorities relative to which regulation violations would be enforced and which would receive only warnings. The council members were concerned about these decisions being made without their knowledge and input. They felt that since their actions led to the development of the regulations, they should have input in deciding which regulations were most important to achieving their management goals and thus should receive higher enforcement priority. Also, they felt if certain types of regulations had low enforcement priority they should be informed so they would not pursue these types of regulations in the future.

I have since talked with Jay Johnson and now have a better understanding of what NOAA GC is trying to accomplish. However, I believe this issue is still very important and should be discussed at the council chairmen's meeting. Also, it would be very beneficial to the councils if you could explain to us at the meeting how President Clinton's edict on regulatory reform and associated reporting requirements is going to affect the Magnuson Act process.

If you have any questions, please call. I look forward to meeting you in Homer.

Sincerely,

Robert K. Mahood
Executive Director

cc: John Brownlee
David Cupka
Maggie Frailey Hayes
Council Executive Directors