## MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Chairman

Ronal W. Smith

ROOM 2115 FEDERAL BUILDING 300 South New Street Drver. Delaware 15904-6790 Tel 302-674-2331 Toli Free 877-446-2362 Fax 302-674-5399 Daniel T. Furlong Executive Director

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D. Deputy Director

October 2, 2002

Dr. Fred Serchuk, Chairman Northeast Trawl Warp Workshop Northeast Fisheries Science Center National Marine Fisheries Service 166 Water Street Woods Hole, MA 02543

Dear Dr. Serchuk: Free

At its meeting today in Wilmington, DE, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council passed the following motion:

"Move that the Council strongly recommend that NMFS' response to the trawl warp issue include that NMFS require the NEFSC to begin flume tank and tow tank testing of the standard 36 net to determine effects of the misaligned tow cables within 60 days. Upon completion of tank testing, analyze data and determine if research protocols have been affected." (Ruhle/Augustine - carried, 19 yes w/RA abstaining)

During discussions on this motion, it was recommended that this Council action be immediately brought to your attention so that you could inform your workshop participants of our position on this matter. It is hoped by us that a similar request for such flume tank and tow tests will be one of the outcomes/recommendations from your workshop.

Your positive consideration of this action will be appreciated.

Sincerely, Daniel T. Furlong Executive Director

DTF/j