



October 3, 2016

Mr. Michael Luisi, Chairman
Dr. Christopher Moore, Executive Director
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
800 North State Street
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Chairman Luisi and Dr. Moore:

The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP), a national hunting and angling conservation organization dedicated to ensuring all Americans a quality place to hunt and fish, urges the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council to formally include both river herring and shad in the mackerel, squid, and butterfish fishery management plan (FMP).

Any effort to restore the stocks of these critical anadromous species must take into account the entire scope of their range, from the upstream nursery grounds of state waters to the offshore waters managed by the United States. To this point, nearly all of the restoration efforts have been targeted at the state level, where millions of dollars have been spent to improve habitat and fish passage. However, despite these efforts on the state side, shad and river herring populations have not made a satisfactory rebound.

By ensuring the management of these keystone species formally includes federal waters, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council can help to ensure state-based efforts are more successful, and that these critical stocks continue to recover.

TRCP strongly supports the formal inclusion of shad and river herring in the mackerel, squid, and butterfish FMP, and urges the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Council to expeditiously take such steps. We appreciate the opportunity to share our position, and look forward to working with you to make shad and river herring conservation more successful.

With regards,

Steven K. Kline
Director of Government Relations
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

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Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

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His Vision
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Our Mission