



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
THE DIRECTOR

SEP 29 2005

Dr. Louis Daniel, III
Chairman
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
1 Southpark Circle
Charleston, South Carolina 29407

Dear Dr. ~~Daniel~~ *Louis*:

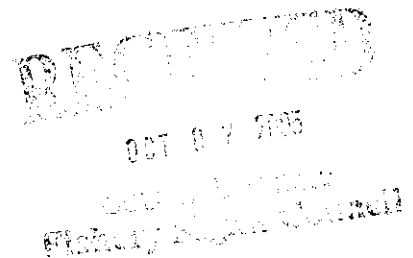
Thank you for your letter regarding the protection of Sargassum outside the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. An ecosystem approach to fisheries management continues to be an important focus of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, both domestically and internationally. We will persist in our efforts to take this message forward to our foreign partners.

With regard to the protection of Sargassum in areas beyond our national jurisdiction, a proposal was made this spring for the United States to pursue a measure of this nature at the 2005 meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), to be held in November in Seville, Spain. My fellow ICCAT Commissioners and I will meet with the ICCAT Advisory Committee this fall to discuss this and many other issues as we begin developing U.S. positions for the ICCAT meeting. We will ensure the Advisory Committee is aware of the South Atlantic Council's position on this matter. A report of the deliberations will be circulated to the Council through your representative on the Advisory Committee to keep the Council informed of the progress of deliberations.

Sincerely,

Bell

William T. Hogarth, Ph.D.



THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR
FOR FISHERIES

