



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

February 4, 2019

Ryan P Mulvey
Cause of Action Institute
1875 Eye Street N.W., Suite 800
Washington, DC 20006

Re: FOIA Request DOC-NOAA-2019-000481

Dear Mr. Mulvey:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.

Your request was received by our office on January 31, 2019. Your request tracking number is DOC-NOAA-2019-000481. You requested:

“CoA Institute hereby requests access to the following records for the time period of September 19, 2018 to the present: 1. All records reflecting the Secretary of Commerce’s approval of the New England Industry Funded Monitoring Omnibus Amendment, including all related correspondence between the Department of Commerce (e.g., Office of the Secretary) and NOAA. 2. All records reflecting NOAA’s formal consideration and response(s) to issues raised in public comments on the agency’s September 19, 2018 notice of availability for the Omnibus Amendment. 3. All correspondence (including e-mail, text/instant messages, etc.) concerning final approval of the Omnibus Amendment, and/or the December 18, 2018 letter from Administrator Pentony, sent or received by any GARFO employee and the following individuals: Any member or employee of the New England Fishery Management Council; Any member or employee of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Any member or employee of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission; Any official or employee of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center; and, Any employee or representative of (i) A.I.S., Inc.; (ii) East West Technical Services, LLC; (iii) Fathom Research, LLC; or, (iv) MRAG Americas, Inc. 4. All correspondence (including e-mail, text/instant messages, etc.) between and amongst members and/or staff of the New England Fishery Management Council concerning the final approval of the Omnibus Amendment and/or the December 18, 2018 letter from Administrator Pentony.”

Because the release of the particular documents you have requested is likely to significantly contribute to public understanding of the operations or activities of the Government a fee waiver has been granted for your FOIA request.



15 C.F.R. 4.6(d) (2) allows an agency to extend the FOIA response deadline by ten business days for unusual circumstances. Due to: *(i) The need to search for and collect the requested records from field facilities or other establishments separate from the office processing the request;* we are choosing to invoke this 10-day extension and anticipate completing your request by March 15, 2019.

If you have questions regarding your request, please contact Amanda Patterson at Amanda.Patterson@noaa.gov or call 978-281-9210.

Sincerely,



Amanda J. Patterson, MLS
FOIA Coordinator, Greater Atlantic Region