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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3303

December 5, 2014

Mr. Russell F. Smith  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for  
International Fisheries, NOAA  
HCHB, 14<sup>th</sup> & Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20230 - 0001

Mrs. Eileen Sobeck  
Assistant Administrator  
NOAA Fisheries  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Smith and Administrator Sobeck:

In late October I wrote to you on behalf of bluefin tuna fishermen in Eastern North Carolina and across the Atlantic seaboard urging you to follow the recent management recommendation of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) scientists and to fight at the November ICCAT meeting for an increase in the western Atlantic bluefin tuna quota from 1,750 to 2,200 metrics tons.

I am very pleased to learn that ICCAT decided to increase the quota to 2,000 metric tons for each of the next two years. While not as high as preferred, the quota increase was certainly justified given the ICCAT scientists' findings that the western bluefin stock has improved dramatically and is now more than twice the size suggested in previous assessments.

I would like to thank you for helping secure this important action. The increase is welcome news to U.S. fishermen who have sacrificed dearly for decades in order to rebuild the stock. I would also like to encourage you to continue to follow the science and work to secure additional quota increases, as appropriate, at future meetings.

Sincerely,



Walter B. Jones  
Member of Congress