



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of Inspector General
Office of Audit and Evaluation
Washington, DC 20230

December 19, 2025

Robert E. Beal
Executive Director
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

SUBJECT: Audit of NOAA's Cooperative Awards to ASMFC (Project No. 2026-530)

Dear Mr. Beal:

We are initiating an audit of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) cooperative awards to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Our objective is to determine whether the Commission complied with the terms and conditions of selected NOAA cooperative agreement awards, including whether claimed costs were allowable, allocable, and reasonable.

We plan to begin this work immediately. We will contact you to schedule an entrance conference, at which time we will discuss the specific nature of our audit with you, including our objective and scope, timeframes, and any potential requests for data. If you have any questions about this audit, please contact me at (202) 793-3344 or Audit Director Patricia McBarnette at (202) 793-3316. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RB", followed by a long horizontal line.

Richard Bachman
Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit & Evaluation

cc: Rafael Rivera, Acting Director, Grants Management Division, NOAA

