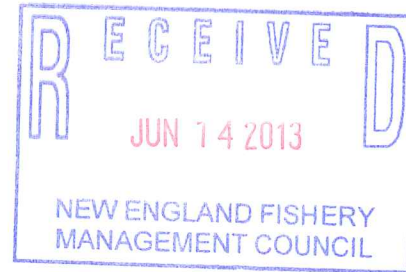


#13

June 14, 2013

Mr. Tom Nies  
New England Fisheries Management Council  
50 Water Street  
Newburyport, MA 01950



Dear Mr. Nies:

I am writing to you as a recreational fisherman who fishes Stellwagen Bank regarding the proposed habitat protection measures that have been drafted and are being considered by the New England Fisheries Management Council. I strongly oppose any changes to the Western Gulf of Maine closed area and strongly support Alternative 1, No Action.

Additional closed recreational angler will create an adverse effect on a sector that is already operating under rules with strict bag limits, minimum size limits, a hard TAC and a five and a half month closed season on GOM cod. If the SERA II is put into place boats fishing out of the South Shore of Massachusetts will be forced to transit greater distances up to 40 NM to locate cod and haddock for anglers to take home for dinner. **This well beyond the SAFE round trip distance limits for most of the recreational fleet, especially considering weather conditions that far out to sea.**

The recreational angler has little impact on the bottom using hook and line to harvest fish for personal consumption. Creating a SERA and shutting out the recreational angler will have no benefit to the protection of juvenile cod compared to the massive amount of juvenile fish eaten daily by spiny dog fish and seals in the area. Any changes other than Status Quo, Alternative 1 will hurt both recreational and commercial fisherman.

Sincerely,

Philip R Buzby  
31 Harlan Drive  
Brockton, MA 02301

*cc: Cornu, AA, MB (6/14)*