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Subject: mid water trawlers

April 2nd, 2009

John W. Pappalardo, Chairman
New England Fishery Management Council
210 E-Orleans Road
No. Chatham, MA 02650

Dear Chairman Pappalardo,

I am writing today to ask that you and the Council rescind access to Clo0sed Groundfish Areas by midwater trawl vessels. Recent analysis of observer data show that 1% threshold outlined in Framework 18 has been met and therefore these boats should not be allowed into those areas.

In order to regain access, these boats should have to do what anyone else would want to do, that is, apply for an EFP with 100% observer coverage. If they can show under the EFP that they deserver access, only then should they be allowed back in. This is the process that groundfishermen must follow and we believe out of fairness, so should the midwater boats.

These boats should never have been allowed into tehse areas in the first place and the it is time the Council do the right thing and get them out until they can prove that they should be fishing in those areas.

Thanks for your time,

Capt. Rory Carter
