



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
C.M. "Rip" Cunningham, Jr., *Chairman* | Paul J. Howard, *Executive Director*

Draft Amendment 19
to the
Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan

Written Comments

Comments received after April 13, 2012

Blue Water Fisheries Inc.
P O Box 2242
Montauk, N.Y. 11954

4/25/12

Mr. C.M. Cunningham, Jr.
Chairman NEFMC
50 Water Street, Mill #2
Newburyport, MA. 01950

Dear Mr. Cunningham,

I am writing this letter in regard to the Small-mesh multispecies fishery, other wise known as the whiting fishery. Blue Water Fisheries owns and operates a 95' stern trawler that targets silver hake year round in both the southern and northern management areas.

As you are aware the Council is about to vote on approving Amendment 19 to the Small- mesh multispecies fishery on 4/26/12 in Mystic CT. The preferred alternatives call for an annual TAL for silver hake in the southern area of 27,255 mt or four times what recent annual landings have been. The same goes for the northern area with an annual TAL of 8,973 mt, which is four to seven times what recent landings have been. The current 30,000 lb. possession limit will continue to keep landings at recent levels.

I respectfully ask the Council to immediately consider increasing the possession limit to 40,000 lbs to allow access to the new TAL in both areas. Waiting to incorporate such an increase into the next Amendment that is scheduled to address Limited Access would take several years as we all know. The current 30,000 lb limit was developed as part of a rebuilding strategy for silver hake back in 2000 and disadvantaged only the larger vessels in the fleet at the time, as they were the only vessels that could hold more then 30,000 lbs. These vessels continue to be adversely affected by this limit and have no way to increase their annual catch without increasing the possession limit.

There are less then 10 larger vessels in the whiting fleet and an increase to 40,000 lbs would not have a dramatic effect on landings but would help offset the rising cost of fuel. Additionally, the increase in landings could help us regain our market share in the Hunts Point market that is now being filled by Canadian imports at certain times of the year.

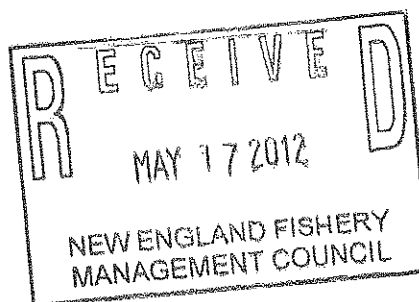
I would like to thank you and the Council for considering my request at this time.

Sincerely,



Dan Farnham, VP
Blue Water Fisheries, Inc.

rec'd 4/26/12



From: Thomas Testaverde

Date: 5/14/2012 4:13:38 PM

To: comment@nefmc.org

Subject: Souther whiting possession limit

I would like to go on record against any whiting possession limits

1- the 30,000 limit has been working since we put it in LEAVE IT ALONE IT'S WORKING.

2 -I belive using a raised footrope in all areas.

3-let the fish come back more heavy so you just go out and make a few tows then go home with your 30,000 limit SAVING FUEL ,TIME ,MONEY.

4 -if this should pass it should be at munsons ONLY, you can't go in any other areas because you can say you caught them at munsons??

5-if this should pass it should be only in the winters months Jan -June so it does not bother any of the inshore fleets with markets because its like adding boats every 3 is like another boat

6-we know the big thing about saving fuel but less fish means higher prices

7-we don't want to go back to throwing whiting overboard or into bait or NOT FISHING AT ALL because all these boats come in with 40,000 pounds its bad enough now when a lot of boats come in with 30,000 pounds we get no money and work for NOTHING

8-with all the problems with GEORGE'S yellow tails and winter flounders I am a big believer in making the cultivator a RAISE FOOT ROPE AREA ONLY

9- Again MAINTAIN (STATUS QUO

10- it's not in the best interest of the fisheries for a few to benefit at the cost of others.

Capt TOM TESTAVERDE
F/V MIDNIGHT SUN
GLOUCESTER MA.

cc) AA, CBK, Council (5/21)

5/14/2012

MAY 16, 2012

DENIS LOVGREN
306 SUDBURY RD.
PT. PLEASANT, N.J.
08742

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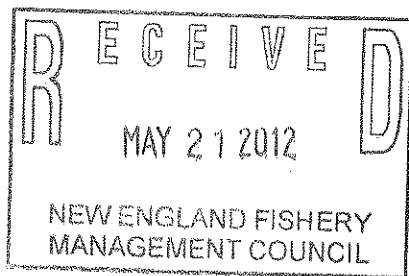
TO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEMBERS,

I WOULD JUST LIKE TO MAKE A FEW COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED INCREASE IN THE WHITING POSSESSION LIMIT.

I CURRENTLY OWN AND OPERATE A 78 FT DRAGGER OUT OF PT. PLEASANT N.J. I HAVE WHITING FISHED FOR OVER 40 YEARS.

I AM OPPOSED TO ANY INCREASE IN THE WHITING POSSESSION LIMIT. IT IS A WELL KNOWN FACT THAT THERE IS A LIMITED MARKET FOR WHITING. RAISING THE LIMIT WILL ONLY RESULT IN CHEAPER PRICES AND ADDED PRESSURE ON A STOCK THAT DOES NOT NEED IT.

THANK YOU,
Denis Lovgren



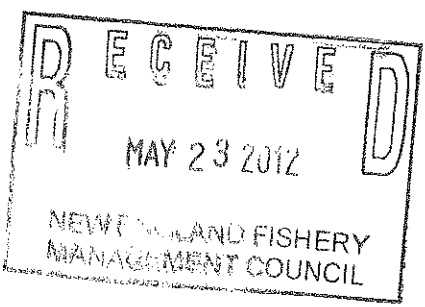
cc: Council, AA, CBK (5/24)

To the N.E.F.M.C.

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I started Whiting Fishing in 1972. I've seen good years and also the bad. The regulations in place are working very well. So please don't change anything. The Whiting market is very limited, putting an extra 10,000 pound per boat would flood the market. If you want to turn the Whiting Fisheries into a bait Fisheries then this increase is what you want to do. The market will not handle this extra fish. If you think you need to do this then make sure every boat uses a raised footrope trawl and also make the increase only from Jan 1 to July 1. There's enough boats catching bait. You don't need to turn the Whiting Fisheries into a bait Fisheries. This will only benefit a few big boats and it will hurt the numerous small boat fleet.

Respectfully yours
Capt. Ignazio Santilippo
Capt Ignazio "NAZ" Santilippo
F/V Cat Eyes



24 PINE ST
GLOUCESTER MA
01930

cc: Council, AA, CBR (5/24)