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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

MAR 20 2009

Mr. Paul Howard
Executive Director
New England Fishery Management Council
50 water street
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your February 25 letter regarding a comparison of the George Bank cod landings as reported by the two existing sectors in their annual reports and as documented by the dealer data. The comparison will be done by June 1, 2009 as requested. I have asked Fishery Statistic Office to initiate a study to compare the landings as reported by the sectors and through dealer reports.

Please contact Dr. John Witzig at 978-281-9232 if you have any questions on the matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "PAT".

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator



3



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
John Pappalardo, *Chairman* | Paul J. Howard, *Executive Director*

February 25, 2009

Ms. Patricia Kurkul
Regional Administrator
NOAA/NMFS
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Pat:

As you know Amendment 16 includes additional requirements for monitoring the catch of sectors. These proposals include a requirement for dockside monitoring of landings. There are differing opinions on the need for dockside monitoring - indeed, you wrote the Council a letter last year suggesting it may not be necessary if an adequate observer program is adopted.

It will help the Council make a decision on the need for these requirements if it has a better understanding of the ability of sectors to accurately monitor their landings. The experiences of the current sectors may prove informative. For this reason, I ask that you provide the Council a comparison of the GB cod landings as reported by the two existing sectors in their annual reports and as documented by the dealer data. Please provide this information for each sector and for each fishing year that the sector operated. I ask that this information be provided by June 1, 2009 so it can be distributed and considered by Council members prior to the final vote on Amendment 16. This information will also help characterize the management uncertainty in the monitoring of sector catches, an important element in the setting of Annual Catch Limits (ACLs).

Please contact me if you have any questions. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Howard
Executive Director