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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*

November 28, 2011

Mr. Patrick Keliher  
ASMFC Commissioner  
Department of Marine Resources  
21 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0021

Dear State Director:

The Council recently approved Framework 47 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and is preparing it for submission to the National Marine Fisheries Service. During the development of the framework and in particular the setting of annual catch limits (ACLs) for groundfish stocks, concerns were raised on the subject of how catches of these stocks in state-water fisheries impact the federal fishery. The Council would like to formally request your cooperation on coordinating management of fisheries that are managed by the Council that also operate in state waters.

With the implementation of sector management and ACLs that were approved in Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan and went into effect in May 2010, low catch limits for some stocks are putting economic strain on participants in the federal groundfish fishery. Many largely non-target stocks that have low catch allocations are particularly worrisome to sector participants, as members must have sufficient allocations of all stocks in a given management area in order to fish in that area. In light of this reality, it is especially important that the Council, the states, and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission work collaboratively in order to foster the success of participants in all of our historic fisheries.

Thank you for considering the Council's request on this issue. Please contact the Council office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cunningham Jr". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a horizontal line.

C.M. 'Rip' Cunningham, Jr.  
Chairman



Letters also sent to:

Mr. Douglas Grout  
ASMFC Commissioner  
New Hampshire Fish and Game  
225 Main Street  
Durham, NH 03824

Mr. David Saveikis  
ASMFC Commissioner  
Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife  
89 Kings Highway  
Dover, DE 19901

Mr. Paul Diodati  
ASMFC Commissioner  
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries  
251 Causeway Street, #400  
Boston, MA 02114

Mr. Thomas O'Connell  
ASMFC Commissioner  
Maryland Dept of Natural Resources  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Mr. Robert Ballou  
ASMFC Commissioner  
RI Fish and Wildlife Division  
3 Fort Wetherill Road  
Jamestown, RI 02835

Mr. Steven Bowman  
ASMFC Commissioner  
Virginia Marine Resources Commission  
2600 Washington Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Newport News, VA 23607

Mr. David Simpson  
ASMFC Commissioner  
CT Dept of Energy and Environmental  
Protection, Marine Fisheries  
333 Ferry Road, PO Box 719  
Old Lyme, CT 06371

Mr. Louis Daniel, Ph.D.  
ASMFC Commissioner  
North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries  
3441 Arendell Street  
PO Box 769  
Morehead City, NC 28557

Mr. James Gilmore, Jr.  
ASMFC Commissioner  
NYSDEC, Marine Resources  
205 North Belle Mead Road  
East Setauket, NY 11733

Mr. David Chanda  
ASMFC Commissioner  
New Jersey Fish and Wildlife  
Mail Code 501-03  
PO Box 420  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Mr. John Arway  
ASMFC Commissioner  
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission  
1601 Elmerton Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

