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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*

October 15, 2008

Rebecca Lent, Ph.D.
Director, Office of International Affairs
NOAA Fisheries (F/IA)
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Dr. *Lent: Rebecca*

At its October 7, 2008 meeting, the New England Fishery Management Council adopted several motions in support of the National Marine Fisheries Service's efforts to improve the management of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna under the ICCAT:

- That science be followed in setting ICCAT member quotas in 2009.
- That ICCAT remove the carryover of under-harvest of Atlantic bluefin tuna and require an immediate (next season) payback of overages.
- That the Eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna fishery be suspended until mandatory compliance measures are instituted by ICCAT nations.

Thank you in advance for considering these recommendations. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Howard
Executive Director

- cc. Patricia Kurkul, NMFS Northeast Regional Office
Dan Furlong, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Miguel A. Rolón, Caribbean Fishery Management Council
Robert Mahood, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Rick Lear, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
John Graves, ICAAT Advisory Panel