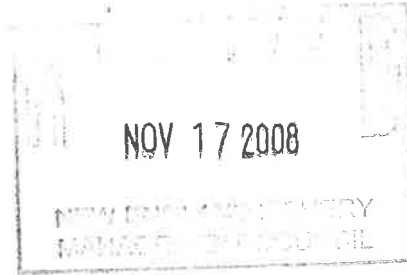


#6H

PAUL WECKESSER
1 CAPE ST
NEW BEDFORD MA 02740
TELEPHONE: 508-993-9505

New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street
Mill 2
Newburyport MA 01950

11/14/08



RE: Scallop capacity reduction

Dear Mr. John Pappalardo:

Recently the Scallop Committee has begun studying the possibility of capacity reduction in the scallop fishery. The capacity reduction proposal for Amendment 15 has become a hotly debated issue with many of the permit owners.

Proponents of the capacity reduction proposal have banded together and engaged a spokesman to represent their views during the council and committee meetings, however, many of the individual permit owners have not attended the meetings and were unaware of the recent proposal. In an effort to determine the industry's opinion regarding capacity reduction I have sent a letter and survey to each permit owner asking if they were for, against or undecided about the issue. I have included a copy of the letter I sent along with a copy of each survey that was sent back to me.

As of this date I have received a total of 153 returned surveys. Of the returned surveys 105 permit owners were against capacity reduction, 39 were for capacity reduction, 7 were undecided about the issue and 2 were from vessels I could not identify as having a scallop permit although they were for capacity reduction.

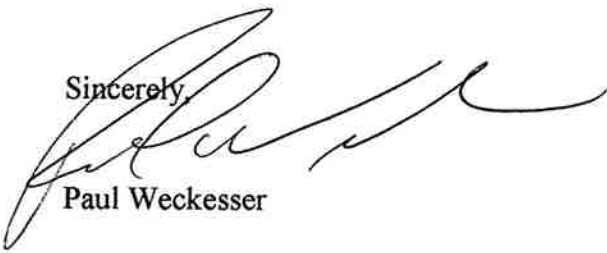
Of the 39 surveys that are in favor of capacity reduction one individual represents 15 vessels and another individual represents 13 vessels including the 2 unknown vessels. In other words two individuals represent 28 of the 39 known scallop vessels in favor of capacity reduction.

I have also received a total of 105 surveys that are opposed to capacity reduction representing owners from Maine to Florida. Most of the owners that are opposed to capacity reduction are individual owners or owners of a few scallop permits.

The scallop fishery is a sustainable fishery and is the envy of most of the other fisheries and there is no requirement under the Magnuson-Stevens Act to require the scallop industry to adopt the capacity reduction proposal. In fact the capacity reduction proposal goes against the intent of the Magnuson-Stevens Act by consolidating the industry into the hands of a few mega rich individuals at the expense of the many who will be forced out of the fishery.

With this in mind I would like the council to review my surveys and findings, make a motion and second it and remove the issue of capacity reduction from the council's and the committee's agenda.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Weckesser', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the right of the word 'Sincerely,'.

Paul Weckesser

SAMPLE

10/29/08

I am writing you this letter asking for your opinion regarding the recent proposal by the Scallop Oversight Committee regarding the issue of capacity reduction. During open public meetings with the Scallop Oversight Committee, members of the scallop fishery industry have proposed the idea of capacity reduction throughout the scallop fishing fleet. Capacity reduction is also known as consolidation, rationalization or more commonly as permit stacking.

Despite the fact that the scallop industry has become a sustainable fishery, the proponents of capacity reduction believe there are too many boats fishing for scallops and believe fewer boats with multiple licenses would be more economical. Opponents of capacity reduction fear that most of the permits will end up being owned by a select few and the individual permit owner or the owner of a few permits will be forced out of the industry.

Most permit holders do not attend the Scallop Oversight Committee meetings so their voices are not being heard by the committee. Proponents of the capacity reduction have gotten together and ensured a spokesman is at the meetings expressing their views. Some opponents of capacity reduction speak at these meetings but they speak as individuals so their opinions do not carry the same weight as a spokesman representing a hundred permits.

Please take a moment to express your opinion for or against capacity reduction, sign it and return it to me in the self addressed stamped envelope. I will submit all the returned results during the next committee meeting. In this way I hope each member of the scallop industry has an opportunity to make sure his voice is heard.

Sincerely,

Paul Weckesser

I, _____, am the owner of
(printed name)

F/V _____ and I am
(name of boat)

_____ in favor of capacity reduction

_____ opposed to capacity reduction

_____ undecided about the issue of capacity reduction.

(signature)

(date)

