

From: Padi Anderson [<mailto:padi.anderson@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, January 17, 2014 10:19 AM
To: Deirdre Boelke
Cc: Peter Kendall; David Goethel; Doug Grout
Subject: NGOM scallop change

January 17, 2014

Deirdre Boelke, Sea Scallop Plan Coordinator
Dboelke@nefmc.org
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

Hello Deirdre:

We are writing to you to request that the next regulatory change to NGOM scallop management be a correction of the very dangerous loophole that enables significant overfishing of the resource.

Our boat, F/V Rimrack, fishes out of Rye NH. We are currently using NGOM permit to harvest scallops in the federal waters of the NGOM. We would like to continue doing so. This is critical to our survival after a loss of shrimp fishing and groundfish cut.

It is outrageous that LA DAS vessels are able to fish in the NGOM without abiding by the dredge size restriction and possession limit that restrict our efforts in the NGOM. It simply does not make sense to limit the effort of a boat like ours but allow larger boats unfettered access to the resource we are now dependent on.

We understand you are debating lowering the NGOM TAC from 70,000 pounds to 58,000 pounds. If the purpose of the change is to protect the NGOM resource, your efforts would be much better spent correcting the loophole. It is frankly absurd to bicker over 12,000 pounds while this loophole remains in place!!!

We are seeing more scallops in the NGOM now than we have seen in a long time. It is irresponsible and thoughtless to assume that Limited Access DAS boats will stay out of the area because they haven't been here recently. Fisheries change. This is why managers are supposed to enact **precautionary measures** to protect resources from overfishing and fisheries from collapse, follow due diligence and do the right thing for the right reason. I respectfully request that you do that by closing this loophole as soon as possible.

Padi and Mike Anderson
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