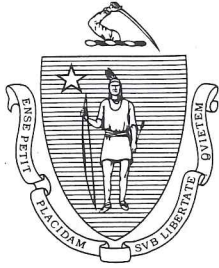


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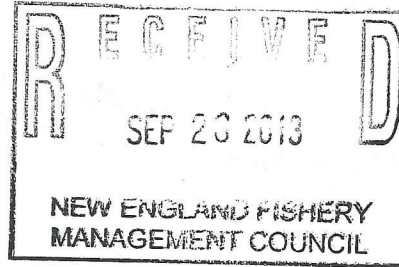
Correspondence Received Related
to Proposed Stellwagen
Dedicated Habitat Research Area



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

SENATOR ROBERT L. HEDLUND
ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER
Plymouth and Norfolk District
ROBERT.HEDLUND@MASENATE.GOV
WWW.MASENATE.GOV

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 313C
BOSTON, MA 02133-1053
TEL. (617) 722-1646
TEL. (617) 722-1028



District Office
95 BRIDGE STREET
WEYMOUTH, MA 02191
TEL. (781) 340-9866

September 19, 2013

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

Dear Council Members,

At a meeting held on September 17, 2013, my aide, Jared Valanzola, received information regarding a proposal from the Council to close a 55-square mile stretch along the southern portion of Stellwagen Bank. The proposal will shut down all bottom fishing as part of the recent Sanctuary Environmental Research Area plan. This action will be a devastating blow to recreational fishing for many in my district and I urge you to reject this proposal.

Recreational fishing plays an integral role in our local economy. People travel to participate in the recreational fishing offered by companies located in my district, and in doing so stay at area hotels and eat in area restaurants. Recreational fishing companies also purchase gear and bait, giving business to local tackle shops.

There is already a prohibition on cod fish from November 1 to March 15, adversely affecting the businesses of many charter fishing companies. The proposed closure of this section of Stellwagen Bank would be a devastating blow to charter fishing companies. The type of research being proposed would not be any different from the countless studies that have been released regarding unfished populations and the resulting fish sizes and stock structure. It is highly unlikely that this closure and subsequent research will teach us anything new.



cc: Council, AA, MB (10/3)

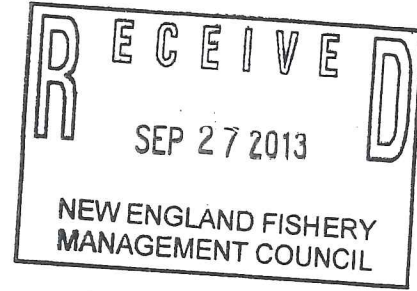
Again, I urge the Council to reject the proposed SERA plan closing a section of Stellwagen Bank. The closure would have a very adverse effect on charter boat companies as well as the food and hospitality industry.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert L. Hedlund". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Senator Robert L. Hedlund
Plymouth and Norfolk District



Mr. Tom Nies
NEFMC
50 Water Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Tom,

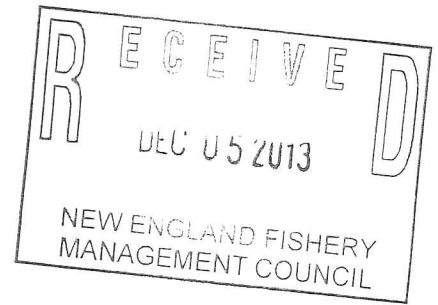
I want to voice my opposition to any closure for research projects on Stellwagon Bank. I fish out of Scituate Harbor and have been fishing the bay and offshore for nearly 30 years. I have found that the majority of research in the past has been terribly flawed, we saved the dog fish at the expense of juvenile cod; we've allowed the herring fleet back inshore which has had a huge negative impact on all fisheries, particularly on the Bluefin Tuna.

What's being done to the hook & line cod industry is criminal. Yet, science wants to again have a devastating effect on the small boat fisherman, how many more people do you want to shut down? Where do we go to fish if Stellwagon is closed, do you guys even care, or is it all about the next report that will be issued 2 years aged and full of worthless "scientific results" that will be proven wrong a few years after its published?

Respectfully,

Scott Brady
F/V Coyote
209 Courtland Street
Holliston, MA 01746

cc: Council, AA, MB (10/2)



Mr. Tom Nies
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950
Fax: 978-465-3116

RE: Proposed Stellwagen Bank Sanctuary Ecological Research Area

Dear Mr. Nies:

Regarding the proposed habitat protection measures being considered by the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC), I strongly oppose any changes to the Western Gulf of Maine closed area and strongly support *Alternative 1, No Action*.

Any additional closed areas for the charter/party and recreational anglers will create an adverse effect on a sector that is already operating under rules with strict bag limits, minimum size limits, a hard TAC and a five-and-a-half month closed season on GOM cod.

The type of research that the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary wishes to conduct in the proposed 55-square-mile "reference area" is unnecessary. There has been plenty of research conducted all over the world on unfished populations and the resulting fish sizes and stock structure, so it is unlikely we will learn anything new by closing this area to recreational bottom fishing. Furthermore, this proposed closure clearly does not justify the future adverse socioeconomic impact on the recreational fishing sector.

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I would also point out that since catch share management was implemented, a concentration of large draggers fishing 24/7 on the bank in the winter and spring has forced the charter/party and recreational anglers to fish east of Stellwagen Bank in order to locate cod and haddock. A simple analysis of the past two years of vessel trip reporting data would clearly indicate this change in fishing location, much of which is now taking place in the proposed "reference area."

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Respectfully signed,

(sign name)

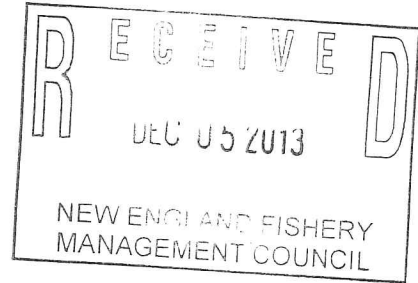
(print name)

Bradford D. White
149 Old Main Street
PO Box 489

(address, city, state)

Marshfield Hills, MA 02051





Mr. Tom Nies
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950
Fax: 978-465-3116

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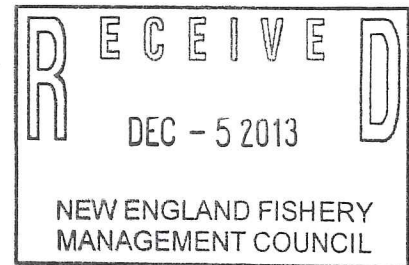
(sign name) Ralph Pratt

(print name) Ralph Pratt

(address, city, state) 5 Springdale Terrace

Canton MA. 02021

NO REASON TO HAVE A SANCTUARY, A BILL COULD
MANAGE THE SAME AS THE REASONS FOR THE ORIGINAL
CREATION OF THIS ONE. Save the money - get rid of
call 781 585-0815 Ralph



From: Rodger Ballou [<mailto:rmballou@aol.com>]

Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2013 1:35 PM

To: Tom Nies

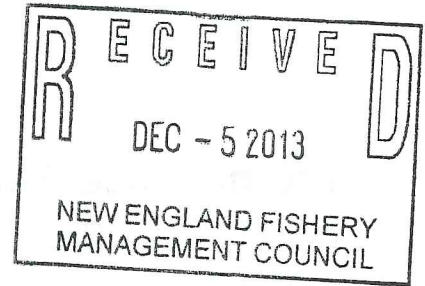
Subject: Strongly Opposed to Sera II

Dear Mr. Nies,

I am a charter boat owner operator out of Green Harbor, MA (F/V Breaker). I have familiarized myself with the Sera11 proposal and attended your feedback session in Taunton, MA earlier this year. I am very much opposed to NEFMC adopting the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Sera II proposal. I believe that their ultimate goal is to end all fishing within the Sanctuary which is completely at odds with their charter. I support "no action".

Regards,

Capt. Rodger Ballou
rmballou@aol.com



Mr. Tom Nies
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950
Fax: 978-465-3116

RE: **Proposed Stellwagen Bank Sanctuary Ecological Research Area**

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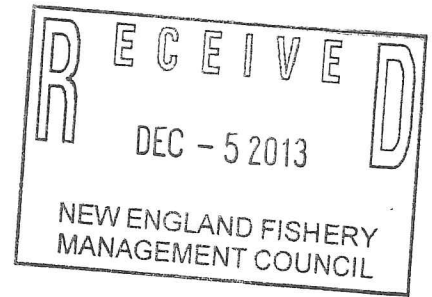
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Respectfully signed,

(sign name) Chet Braun

(print name) Chet Braun

(address, city, state) 551 Mount Blue, Norwell MA. 02061



Mr. Tom Nies
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950
Fax: 978-465-3116

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(sign name) _____

(print name) _____

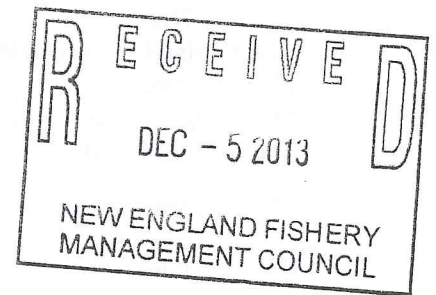
William J. Leuci

(address, city, state) 25 Richardson Ave, Wakefield, MA 01880



December 5, 2013

Mr. Tom Nies
New England Fishery Management Council
50 West Street
Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950



Re: Proposed Stellwagen Bank Sanctuary Ecological Research Area- SERA II

Dear Mr. Nies,

My name is Scott West. I own and operate two charter fishing boats out of Duxbury, MA. and am a RAP member of the NEFMC.

I strongly oppose any changes to the Western Gulf of Maine closed area and strongly support *Alternative No.1, No Action* to the proposed habitat protection measures being considered by the NEFMC.

Any additional closed areas for the charter/ party and recreational anglers will have a devastating detrimental economic impact on these anglers and impede their ability to catch a reasonable amount of cod, haddock, pollack and other targeted groundfish. We are already operating under rules with strict bag limits, minimum size limits, a hard TAC and a 5 ½ month closed season on GOM cod.

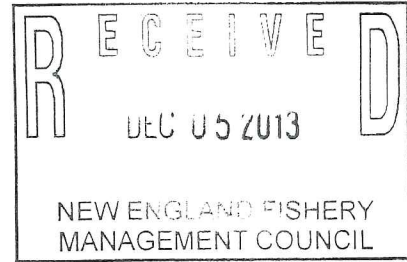
The proposed 55 square mile "reference area" is specifically *where we fish*. This area is where we go to target cod, haddock, pollack, redfish, and cusk. Before Sector Management we fished with great success along the western edge of Stellwagen Bank and the nearby shoals about 15-21 nautical miles each way. Now, we have been forced to fish in the WGOM closed area much farther east because Sector Management has allowed Large Draggers to come to Stellwagen Bank and clean out all stocks of cod, haddock, pollack etc. on the Western edge and all Non-WGOM closed area grounds. This happened when NEFMC and NMFS discontinued the 800 lb. trip limit in the Gulf of Maine and allowed Large Sector Draggers to operate without a daily limit. We have been forced to go way out farther- 30 to 35 miles each way and fish in 200' to 400' of water instead of the 15-21 miles each way before in 100' to 150' of water. That change in the rules has already cost us to double our fuel cost and double our transit time to the fishing grounds, giving us less fishing time and more dissatisfied customers.

If this SERA II proposal is approved we will have to transit the entire "reference area" to get north of it to get to any potentially fishable waters 40 to 45 miles offshore which will also be loaded now with gill nets and tub-trawl gear. This is unfair to the Recreational Community.

This proposal will have a *devastating detrimental economic impact* to all for-hire operators and recreational fishermen as well as other supporting businesses such as tackle shops, restaurants, lodging facilities and marinas. My expenses have already doubled because of catch shares/ sectors and I have lost half my customers from poor catches due to less fishing time and deeper fishing waters with fewer and smaller fish. This SERA II proposal will put the for-hire community from Boston to Provincetown out of business. Cod is the desired species to charters in New England.

The type of Research that the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary wishes to conduct in the proposed 55 square mile "reference area" is unnecessary. There are plenty of studies already performed in other "sanctuaries" all over the country and the world. They can do their research just don't stop us from fishing.

When Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary was first proposed in 1991, the sanctuary administrators "*promised*" all fishermen that the Sanctuary would never attempt to regulate fishing. They lied. I was there in a public hearing hall in Duxbury, MA., packed with angry fishermen when they "*promised*" us we had nothing to



Mr. Tom Nies
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950
Fax: 978-465-3116

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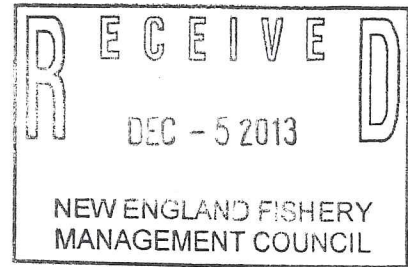
(sign name)

(print name)

JOHN NOONE

(address, city, state)

18 MAPLECROFT RD. CANTON, MA 02021



Mr. Tom Nies
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950
Fax: 978-465-3116

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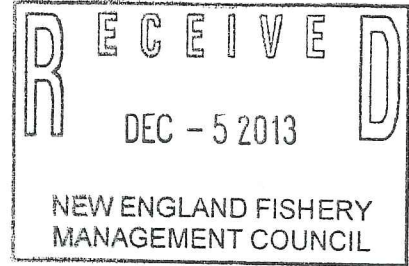
Respectfully signed,

(sign name)

(print name)

(address, city, state)


Michael Chase
18 Brooks Place, West Bridgewater, MA 02379



Mr. Tom Nies
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950
Fax: 978-465-3116

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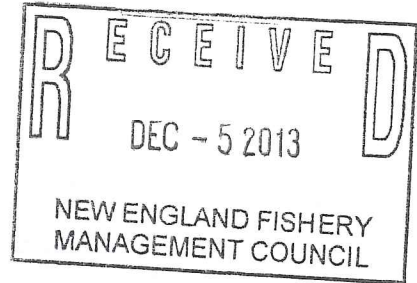
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Respectfully signed,

(sign name) _____

(print name) Matthew Ticino Sr.

(address, city, state) 59 Donnybrook Rd. Bridgewater MA



Mr. Tom Nies
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950
Fax: 978-465-3116

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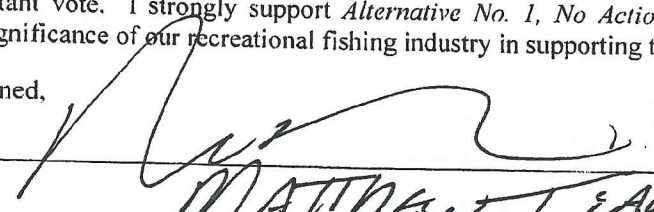
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(sign name) _____

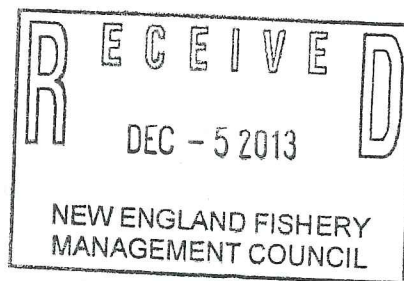
(print name) _____

(address, city, state) _____


MATTHEW J. AWA
5 Pond Circle Bedford MA



Mr. Tom Nies
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950
Fax: 978-465-3116



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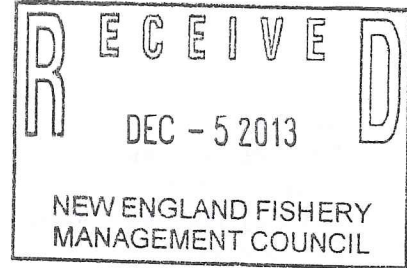
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Respectfully signed,

(sign name) _____

(print name) John S Chase

(address, city, state) 18 Brooks Place W. Bridge Water MA 02379



Mr. Tom Nies
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950
Fax: 978-465-3116

RE: Proposed Stellwagen Bank Sanctuary Ecological Research Area

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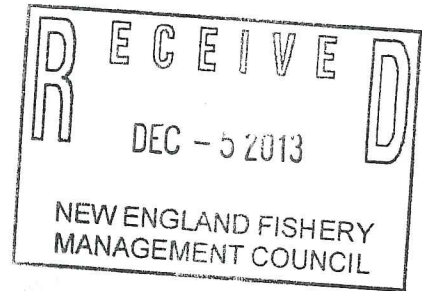
(sign name) _____

(print name) _____

(address, city, state) _____

Joseph Tiano

5 Pond Cir Bedford, MA 01730



Mr. Tom Nies
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950
Fax: 978-465-3116

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(sign name)

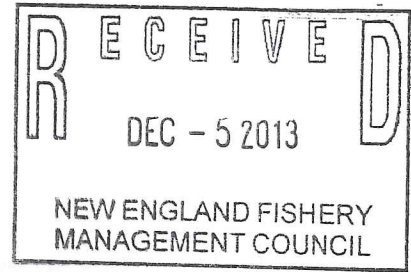
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luke Borden".

(print name)

Luke Borden

(address, city, state)

979 Main St, Hingham, MA



Mr. Tom Nies
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950
Fax: 978-465-3116

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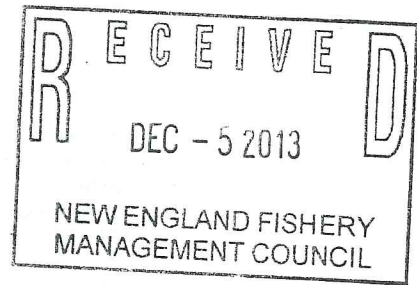
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Respectfully signed,

(sign name) Thomas K. Dukas
(print name) Thomas K. Dukas
(address, city, state) 55 Vine St. Reading, MA 01867



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New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950
Fax: 978-465-3116

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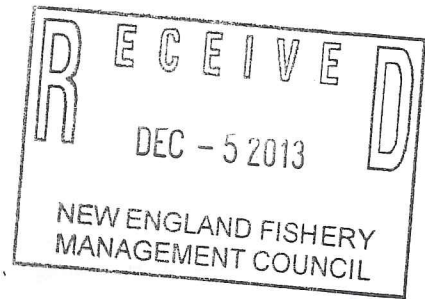
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Respectfully signed,

(sign name) William R. Hoffman "FINS UP" 33' Express Sportfish
(print name) William R Hoffman
(address, city, state) 109 Chior Justice Hwy
Scituate, MA 02066



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New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950
Fax: 978-465-3116

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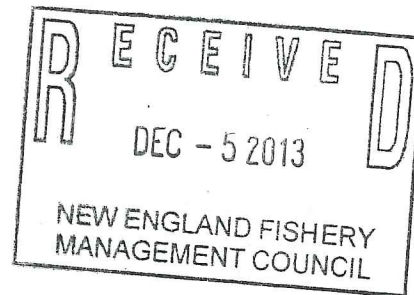
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(sign name) *[Signature]*

(print name) PERU DUSSEAU

(address, city, state) 12 WOODCREST DR, MELROSE, MA



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50 Water Street
Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950
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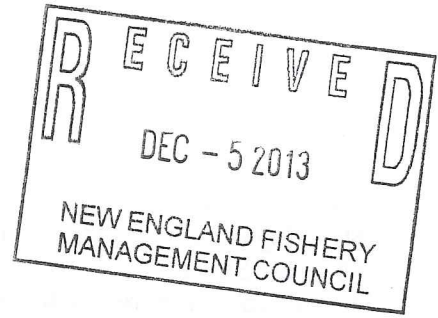
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(sign name) William J. Leuci

(print name) William J. Leuci

(address, city, state) 25 Richardson Ave, Wakefield, MA 01880



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50 Water Street
Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950
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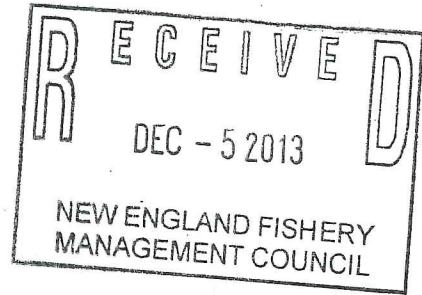
(print name) _____

DAVID S CARLSON

(address, city, state) _____

7 CANTRON BUNY ST WORCESTER MA

01610



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New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950
Fax: 978-465-3116

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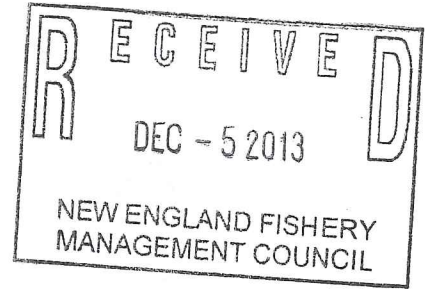
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(sign name) *SE James*

(print name) Steven E. James

(address, city, state) 57 Calypso Lane, Marshfield, MA 02050



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New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950
Fax: 978-465-3116

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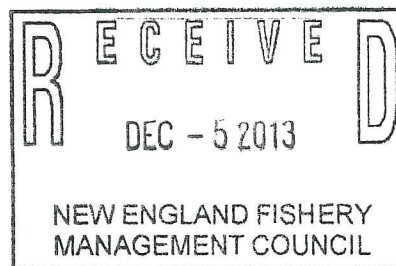
(sign name) _____

(print name) _____

Joe McCabe Jr

(address, city, state) _____

PO BOX 141 N Scituate MA 02540



Mr. Tom Nies
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950
Fax: 978-465-3116

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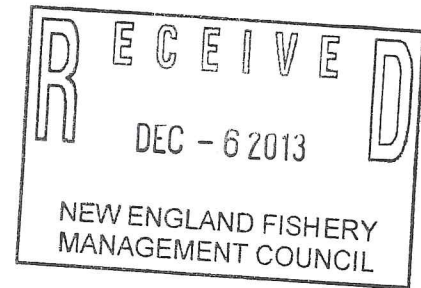
Michael J. Behan

(print name)

Michael J. Behan

(address, city, state)

1350 Green End Ave, Middletown RI.



Mr. Tom Nies
 New England Fishery Management Council
 50 Water Street
 Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950
 Fax: 978-465-3116

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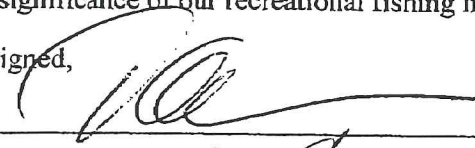
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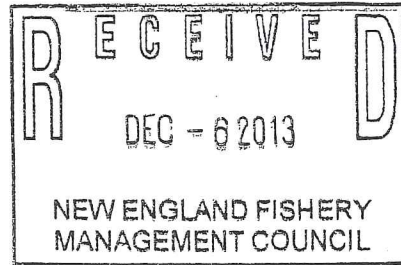
Our recreational sector always seems to be left out of focus when it comes to spotlighting NEFMC issues and initiatives; in reality, the socioeconomic importance of recreational fishing cannot be ignored in this critically important vote. I strongly support *Alternative No. 1, No Action*, and ask that the NEFMC recognize the significance of our recreational fishing industry in supporting this winnable solution.

Respectfully signed,

(sign name) 

(print name) TOM CIULLA

(address, city, state) 7 BRACKETT AVE
STONEHAM, MA 02180



Mr. Tom Nies
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950
Fax: 978-465-3116

RE: Proposed Stellwagen Bank Sanctuary Ecological Research Area

Dear Mr. Nies:

Regarding the proposed habitat protection measures being considered by the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC), I strongly oppose any changes to the Western Gulf of Maine closed area and strongly support *Alternative 1, No Action*.

Any additional closed areas for the charter/party and recreational anglers will create an adverse effect on a sector that is already operating under rules with strict bag limits, minimum size limits, a hard TAC and a five-and-a-half month closed season on GOM cod.

The type of research that the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary wishes to conduct in the proposed 55-square-mile "reference area" is unnecessary. There has been plenty of research conducted all over the world on unfished populations and the resulting fish sizes and stock structure, so it is unlikely we will learn anything new by closing this area to recreational bottom fishing. Furthermore, this proposed closure clearly does not justify the future adverse socioeconomic impact on the recreational fishing sector.

As a saltwater angler, I do not personally fish for profit, though my fishing participation supports many local businesses, from tackle shops and for-hire captains to owners of restaurants and lodging facilities. If the SERA II and the "reference area" initiative is put into place, anglers will be forced to transit greater distances up to 40 NM to find a few cod and haddock for the dinner table. We are already fishing over 28 NM from port, which has severely restricted our angling opportunities...this latest proposal will have a devastating impact on our recreational fishing community.

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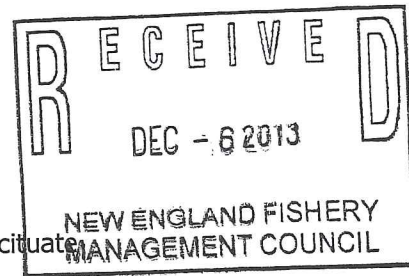
Respectfully signed,

(sign name) 

(print name) MICHAEL WILSON

(address, city, state) 58 JUNIPER RD ANDOVER MA 01810

From: david qualter [mailto:dvd_qualter@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2013 4:04 PM
To: Tom Nies
Subject: Proposed recreational bottom fishing closure east of Scituate



Dear Mr. Nies:

Regarding the proposed habitat protection measures being considered by the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC), I strongly oppose any changes to the Western Gulf of Maine closed area and strongly support Alternative 1, No Action.

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Our recreational sector always seems to be left out of focus when it comes to spotlighting NEFMC issues and initiatives; in reality, the socioeconomic importance of recreational fishing cannot be ignored in this critically important vote. I strongly support Alternative No. 1, No Action, and ask that the NEFMC recognize the significance of our recreational fishing industry in supporting this winnable solution.

Respectfully signed,

David Qualter
1 Oakleaf Dr
Marshfield, MA 02050

