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**Email received to Council office**

From: "JC Flooring" <[jcflooring@hotmail.com](mailto:jcflooring@hotmail.com)>  
Sent: June 14, 2013 10:19 AM  
To: [joleary@nefmc.org](mailto:joleary@nefmc.org)  
Subject: Habitat Protection Proposal Comments

To Mr. Tom Nies  
C/O New England Fisheries Management Council  
50 Water Street  
Newburyport  
MA 01950



Dear Mr. Nies,

I am writing to you as a recreational fisherman who fishes Stellwagen Bank regarding the proposed habitat protection measures that have been drafted and are being considered by the New England Fisheries Management Council. I strongly oppose any changes to the Western Gulf of Maine closed area and strongly support Alternative 1, No Action. Additional closed recreational angler 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. If the SERA II is put into place boats fishing out of the South Shore of Massachusetts will be forced to transit greater distances up to 40 NM to locate cod and haddock for anglers to take home for dinner. The recreational angler has little impact on the bottom using hook and line to harvest fish for personal consumption. Creating a SERA and shutting out the recreational angler will have no benefit to the protection of juvenile cod compared to the massive amount of juvenile fish eaten daily by spiny dog fish and seals in the area. Any changes other than Status Quo, Alternative 1 will hurt both recreational and commercial fisherman.

P.S. this information is public knowledge and not a guesstimate please listen to the people.

Sincerely

Justin Cockx  
JC Flooring  
Upper hudson river and mohawk vally fishing community

cc: Council, AA, MB (6/14)