

Subject: Mid Water Trawl Boats

April 2nd, 2009

John W. Pappalardo, Chairman
New England Fishery Management Council
210 E-Orleans Road
No. Chatham, MA 02650

RE: Midwater Trawlers in Groundfish Closed Areas

Dear Chairman Pappalardo,

I am writing today to ask that you and the Council rescind access to Closed Groundfish Areas by midwater trawl vessels. Recent analysis of observer data show that 1% threshold outlined in Framework 18 has been met and therefore these boats should not be allowed into those areas.

In order to regain access, these boats should have to do what anyone else would want to do, that is, apply for an EFP with 100% observer coverage. If they can show under the EFP that they deserve access, only then should they be allowed back in. This is the process that groundfishermen must follow and we believe out of fairness, so should the midwater boats.

These boats should never have been allowed into these areas in the first place and now it is time the Council do the right thing and get them out until they can prove that they should be fishing in those areas. In case the council or any other body governing our oceans have witnessed, since these midwaters have come into our parts of the ocean our fisheries have not been the same. It is due to the massive amounts of both baitfish and predator fish along with all the marine mammals that are being destroyed by these trawlers. Never has there been such massive destruction to our oceans as is going on now. Where does it stop, I thought that was the job of our councils working with NOAA and having our government to use as enforcement, so far it has been less than impressive. Outside of Striped Bass, what fishery can science and enforcement hang their hat on and claim to have made better. There is one! The almighty dogfish. I do not think that's what we're all after. It is time to step up to the plate and do the right thing.

Thanks for your time,

Mauro M. DiBacco
Kelly Ann Fishing Charters
92 Trowbridge Circle
Rowley, Ma. 01969

4/3/2009

