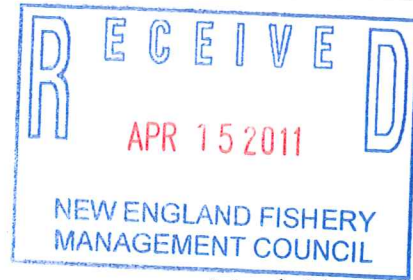


Executive Director Paul Howard
New England Fisheries Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport MA 01950



#5

March 31, 2011

Dear Mr. Howard,

We're active commercial monkfish fishermen and we share most of the concerns the Monkfish Advisory Panel talked about. Monkfish aren't overfished and overfishing isn't happening, so obviously we're in better shape than some other fisheries, but that doesn't mean we don't have real problems to fix. There's a tremendous amount of needless waste and discarding (lost profit) in this fishery and a growing threat from latent permits possibly becoming active quickly.

At this point, some of us support sticking with days-at-sea and some of us support an allocation. But we all agree with Tom Dempsey, Ted Platz and the majority of the AP that the best way to move forward is for the Monkfish Committee and the Council to draft detailed proposals for a range of options. Otherwise, no one can understand how any new plan would impact their business or have any idea what they're actually supporting or opposing in this amendment. Not looking at the pros and cons of all options isn't going to help our fishing businesses or the fishery in the long run.

Hopefully, all the active monkfish fishermen will participate in shaping amendment 6 and will work together to fix the problems everyone agrees exist. There will be a time to decide which approach we think will work best and for the Council to vote. But first we all have to figure out what these proposed changes would look like, so we know what we're actually talking about.

We look forward to continuing our work with the Council to develop the best possible management program for our fishery.

Sincerely,

John Orr
John Orr F/V Miss Fitz
Chatham, MA

John Mitchell F/V Lori B
James V. Nash F/V Ann Marie
Van Margeson F/V Decisive
Mark Hill F/V Great Pumpkin
F/V Sea Dancer

Ken Tolley
Ken Tolley F/V Hunter
Chatham MA.
Bob Serricane F/V RUCKRATS
Stuart Tolley
Stuart Tolley F/V DAWN T
David Murdoch F/V Sack Tar