

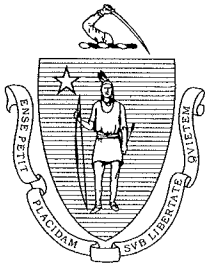


#10

New England Fishery Management Council

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John Pappalardo, *Chairman* | Paul J. Howard, *Executive Director*

Late Comments received for Amendment 16



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

SARAH K. PEAKE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
4TH BARNSTABLE DISTRICT

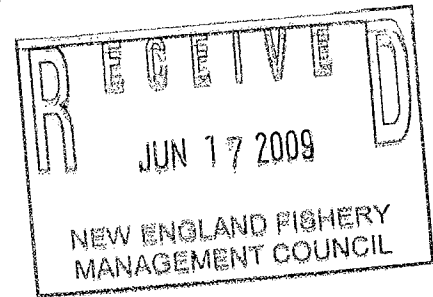
ROOM 473F, STATE HOUSE
TEL: (617) 722-2210

Committees:
Vice-Chair
Tourism, Arts & Cultural Development

Post Audit & Oversight
Bonding, Capital Expenditures & State Assets

June 15, 2009

John Pappalardo
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950



RE: Approval of Sector Proposals in Amendment 16

Dear Mr. Pappalardo:

As the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) votes on final groundfish management measures in Amendment 16 at the June meeting, we urge the NEFMC approve the proposal to create 19 "sectors". The already anemic groundfish fishery is a classic example of how the inefficient days-at-sea management system has failed to rebuild fish stocks and sustain our fishing communities from Cape Ann to Cape Cod. By approving these groundfish sectors, the NEFMC has the opportunity to implement a solution that will save the nation's most historic fishery and the communities that depend on it.

As you well know, sectors offer the opportunity to end overfishing while increasing the profitability and safety of the fishery by limiting catch to scientifically determined catch limits and removing regulations that lead to wasteful discards and unsafe fishing practices that often puts the safety of the fisherman at great risk. Sectors give fishermen the flexibility to improve their efficiency because they are free to determine how they can most profitably fish within the predetermined sector catch limits. Furthermore, the sector's share increases as the health of the resource improves, rewarding fishermen for fishing in ways that ensure the recovery and long-term health of the resource.

The two sectors underway in New England are already showing signs of success. Over 40 fishermen on Cape Cod are operating under one of the first in the nation sectors. This sector, which only a few years ago was a small test case of a new and innovative idea, is now a case study in successful groundfish management. These fishermen are able to keep over 200,000 pounds of Georges Bank codfish while not overfishing of Georges Bank codfish. Much of this catch would likely have been tossed overboard as dead by-catch were they not operating under sector management.

Example of 40 received

Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2009 6:32 PM

To: Pat Kurkul

Cc: Senator Shaheen; Rep Paul Hodes; Paul Diodati; Paul Howard; Rip Cunningham; Barry Gibson; John Pappalardo; Bill & Bill Balam; Bill Carney; Eastman's; Mark Letendre; John Foster; Bill Koury; Bob Morrison; Glenn Normandeau; Doug Grout; Harry(H) Ntapolis; Doug Surpitski; Dennis Abbott

Subject: Please Don't Punish Recreational Fisherman & Ruin Our Fine Responsible Charter Captains

Dear Ms. Kurkul,

Recreational groundfishing needs a break. I am writing to voice my concerns on the **DEIS for Amendment 16 of the Northeast Multispecies FMP**. In regard to the proposals, foremost consideration should be placed on the years that should be used on which to base your decision for species size and bag limits. I support the use of the years 2001 – 2006, as this is best representation of the real impact that recreational fishing has had on the overall stocks of groundfish populations within the Gulf Of Maine (GOM).

Using the allocation years 2001 through 2006, there is absolutely no need to change the current size, bag limits or seasons for fishing Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod. Additionally, utilizing the years 2001–2006 would also allow the minimum size for GOM haddock to be reduced to 18 inches. Using data that includes the years 1996–2001 is antiquated in its concept, as decisions today should and can easily be based on real-time information that current research technologies allow and provide.

Should the New England Fisheries Management Council decide to use the allocation years 1996–2006, and a reduction is decided in GOM cod and haddock bag limits, possession limits and seasons, then I strongly endorse Option Number Three for cod (which is a closed season Nov 1 to April 15 – no size/possession changes) and Option Number One for haddock (increases GOM haddock size limit to 21" - no season or bag limit).

As the latest available data from 2001–2006 clearly demonstrate a sustainable level of fish stocks, then the economic impact that the different options have on charter boats and local businesses (hotels, motels, restaurants, gas stations, bait & tackle suppliers, etc.) must be evaluated. The other options that restrict bag limits or increase size limits would have a significant negative impact on our local economy as less people would invest the capital to fish these stocks. These local economies are already experiencing a negative impact due to the national and global economic situation, and further strain is unjustified and unwarranted.

Finally, please hear my voice – use the 2001–2006 allocation data and make no changes to the current size, bag limits or seasons for fishing Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod; additionally, please reduce the minimum size for GOM haddock to 18 inches. However, should the allocation years 1996–2006 be considered, please vote for Option Number Three for cod and Option Number One for haddock.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Donald J. McGinley
373 Lyndeboro Road
New Boston, NH 03070
(603) 487-5075