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**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
NORTHEAST REGION  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

JUN 20 2011

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

Dear John:

I am forwarding a letter from Senator John Kerry, Representative Barney Frank, and Representative William Keating that was sent to the Secretary of Commerce on April 5, 2011, requesting a review of the 10-percent quota rollover provision contained in the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. It's our position that any changes made to this percentage should be done through the Council process to ensure that all biological, economic, and legal issues are fully considered. This position is reflected in the Secretary's June 1, 2011, letter responding to their request, which I am also forwarding for your reference. Please consider the request of Senator Kerry, and Representatives Frank and Keating at your next available opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia A. Kurkul".

Patricia A. Kurkul  
Regional Administrator



Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

April 5, 2011

The Honorable Gary Locke  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

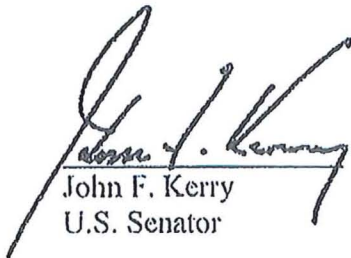
Dear Secretary Locke:

We thank you again for demonstrating a thorough understanding of the economic difficulties facing fishermen throughout the state of Massachusetts. Your decision to deploy Economic Development and Assessment Teams to New England fishing communities will undoubtedly reveal the urgent need to provide our fishermen with tangible economic recovery solutions. We eagerly await your response to our March 17<sup>th</sup> letter requesting high-level interagency coordination to assess and evaluate all options to provide assistance to our struggling fishing communities.


The groundfish fishery in Massachusetts has struggled to adapt to strict regulations, and it was only until recently that many of our sectors developed an organized system to trade fishing stocks. As the end of the fishing season draws to a close, it is evident that several individual fishing stocks quotas remain to be filled. For example, only 67% of the total allocation of George's Bank Cod has been caught and only 16.5% of the George's Bank Haddock. Under Amendment 16, sectors are allowed to carry over up to 10 percent of unused quota for each stock into the next fishing year, with the exception of Georges Bank yellowtail flounder. In order to maximize the economic development of our local fisheries, we respectfully request that you consider increasing the percentage of unmet quota that can be rolled-over into the 2011-2012 fishing year. Adding unmet allocations of fishing stocks to the assigned quota for the coming year will allow the Massachusetts fleet to fish within the current fishing year allocations, and set reasonable limits for next year to provide the fleet with an opportunity to profit.

Again, we thank you for your attention to this matter and look forward to your prompt response.

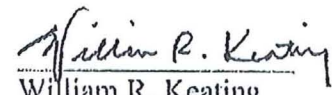
Sincerely,



John F. Kerry  
U.S. Senator



Barney Frank  
Member of Congress



William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**The Secretary of Commerce**  
Washington, D.C. 20230

June 1, 2011

The Honorable John F. Kerry  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kerry:

Thank you for your letter, dated April 5, 2011, regarding the economic challenges facing Massachusetts and New England groundfish fishermen.

On March 17, 2011, the Economic Development Administration's Deputy Assistant Secretary, Brian McGowen, convened a high-level interagency coordination meeting at the White House. The deployment of the Economic Development and Assessment Teams to the Northeast resulted from this meeting. These teams met with local community and business leaders to assess current and emerging economic issues. I sincerely hope this initiative will help these communities, and others, achieve their economic goals.


Your letter requested that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service consider rolling over unmet quota into the 2011 fishing year. As you indicated, under current regulations, up to 10 percent of any unused quota from the 2010 fishing year can be rolled over into the 2011 fishing year. We put this provision in place to address industry safety concerns. It removes the incentive to fish in bad weather at the end of the fishing year by allowing fishermen to retain some unused quota for the next fishing year. This type of rollover also exists in the Atlantic sea scallop fishery and in other fisheries around the country, for generally the same reasons.

We share your desire to allow the maximum amount of fish to be caught under established limits and are reviewing the possibility of increasing the percentage of permitted rollover. It is important that we collaborate with the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) to consider the interrelated biological, economic, and legal issues that arise with this proposal. Using the best available science and public input, we will work with the Council and its Scientific and Statistical Committee to ensure equitable treatment of any uncaught quota and minimize risk of overfishing of some stocks as a result of increased rollover. I am committed to working closely with the Council on appropriate action that maximizes fishing opportunity.

The Honorable John F. Kerry  
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If you have any questions, please contact April Boyd, Assistant Secretary for  
Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely,



Gary Lobke