

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

October 26, 2010

The Honorable Gary Locke
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Locke:

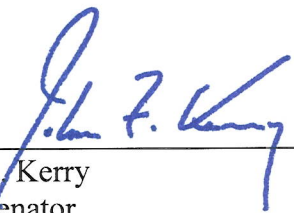
Thank you for your recent visit to Massachusetts and for leading a discussion with our fishermen from throughout the state.

We are very grateful for your announcement of both the creation of the email hotline for fishermen to report overly aggressive enforcement and the reopening of cases identified by the Inspector General. The alleged enforcement excesses have led to a fractured relationship between the fishing industry and NOAA. The establishment of the hotline and the reopening of enforcement cases are important steps in the process of rebuilding the trust that our fishermen have lost in the system.

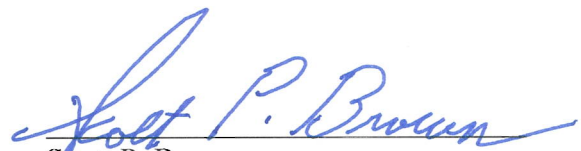
There remain a number of individuals who did not submit their cases to the Inspector General due to fear of reprisal. Your recent actions have restored faith in the legal process and assured the fishing community that review of its cases will not be met with retaliatory action by NOAA prosecutors. In light of this, we strongly urge you to open a 45 day window for these parties to come forward and have their cases reviewed by the Special Magistrate.

Again, thank you for your visit and your commitment to rapidly implementing reforms to strengthen the relationship between NOAA and fishing communities. We look forward to working together to establish a fisheries management plan that balances sensible conservation practices with the vitality of the fishing industry.

Sincerely,

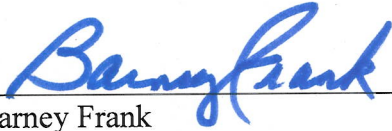


John F. Kerry
U.S. Senator



Scott P. Brown
U.S. Senator

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Barney Frank
U.S. Congressman



John F. Tierney
U.S. Congressman



William Delahunt
U.S. Congressman