

THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

January 25, 2007

Governor Deval L. Patrick  
State House  
Room 360  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Patrick,

We first want to thank you for meeting with the members of the fishing industry before the election. At that time, we were excited about the opportunity of reopening a dialogue with the governor's office so that we could work together to develop a shared vision for the conservation and optimal management of the fishery resources that are found off of our coast.

We hope that the time is right to continue the dialogue and look forward to arranging an appointment with you in the near future.

As you know, the port of New Bedford is economically number one in the nation. The port of Gloucester is number ten and ports on the Cape also make significant contributions. The fishing industry in the Commonwealth represents revenues of one billion dollars per year and thousands of jobs in local communities. The industry supports thousands of jobs. In as much as the industry is concentrated in coastal cities and towns its local impact is substantial. Any downturn in the industry is felt not only through direct economic effects but in substantial increases in welfare costs.

Even though some sectors of the industry are doing well, others are on the road to economic collapse. There is no mistake, however, that all sectors are in the precarious position threatened by regulations that do not balance conservation with the economic and social needs of the community.

We need an action plan to move forward. The action plan needs to be based on a shared strategic goal of balancing the conservation of our living marine resources with the economic and social needs of our community. We invite all parties with an interest in the commercial, recreational, and conservation communities to the table to share in a dialogue.

Some of the issues that concern us involve the policy and organizational structure of your secretariat and others involve ongoing issues of substance.

With regard to organization, please consider:

- Delineation of Secretary Bowles policies with regard to maintaining the conservation/economic needs balance

- The appointment of the next fish and wildlife commissioner and the programs and strategies that would be instituted in his or her commission to support the principal of conservation/economic needs balance
- Strengthening and focusing the technical resources of the division of marine fisheries so that it has a critical mass to address regulatory issues, particularly in light of the new amendments to the Magnuson Act that increases to a substantial degree the input of the Division and the university on management decisions
- To strengthen the recognition of the Massachusetts Fishery Institute a joint venture between the Division of Marine Fisheries and the University of Massachusetts to provide technical analyses on fishery regulation and to train scientists to participate in technical input for the fishery management council.

With regard to substance, examples of ongoing issues that concern us are:

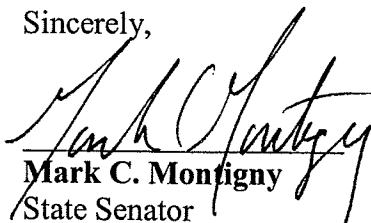
- Maintenance of the Commonwealth's litigation against the Secretary of Commerce on Framework 42
- Development of a new and more rational system for allocating ground fish stocks
- Ensuring that the New England Fishery Management Council and the Secretary of Commerce appropriately calibrates the stock structure and regulations on yellowtail flounder as the status of this species and that this species alone drives the management actions on ground fish and scallops
- Rationalizing our interactions with Canada on fisheries regulations on a substantial part of George's bank


We recognize that the above examples are complex enough to make anyone's eyes roll. However, the sampling is worth the effort because it demonstrates the complexities that must be addressed to protect the welfare of our industry.

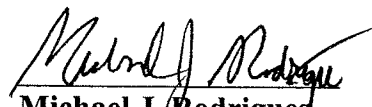
Thus our concerns relate to policies, organizational structure and substantial technical and implementation issues. It would make sense to us to discuss the policy issues and then, on a longer term basis, to develop an implementation plan to deal with the "details," examples of which are articulated above.

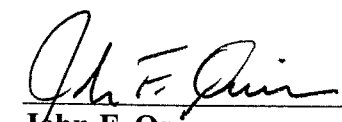
We congratulate you on your success and look forward to meeting with you.


Sincerely,


  
**Mark C. Montigny**  
 State Senator  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Bristol & Plymouth

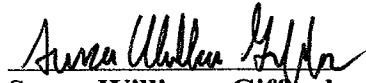
  
**Bruce E. Tarr**  
 State Senator  
 1<sup>st</sup> Essex & Middlesex

  
**Michael J. Rodrigues**  
 State Representative  
 8<sup>th</sup> Bristol District

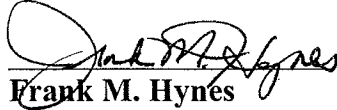
  
**John F. Quinn**  
 State Representative  
 9<sup>th</sup> Bristol District

  
**William M. Straus**  
 State Representative  
 10<sup>th</sup> Bristol District

  
**Stephen R. Canessa**  
 State Representative  
 12<sup>th</sup> Bristol District



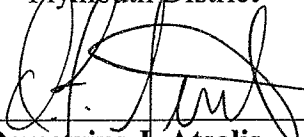
**Susan Williams Gifford**  
State Representative  
2<sup>nd</sup> Plymouth District



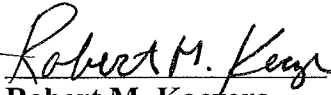
**Frank M. Hynes**  
State Representative  
4<sup>th</sup> Plymouth District



**Matthew C. Patrick**  
State Representative  
3<sup>rd</sup> Barnstable District



**Demetrius J. Atsalis**  
State Representative  
2<sup>nd</sup> Barnstable District



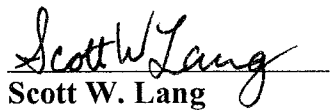
**Robert M. Koczera**  
State Representative  
11<sup>th</sup> Bristol District



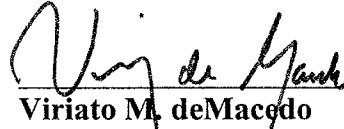
**John Bell**  
Mayor  
City of Gloucester



**Bradford Hill**  
State Representative  
4<sup>th</sup> Essex District



**Scott W. Lang**  
Mayor  
City of New Bedford



**Viriato M. deMacedo**  
State Representative  
1<sup>st</sup> Plymouth District

