



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere
Washington, D.C. 20230

JUN -3 2009

The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kennedy:

Thank you for your concerns regarding the claims made by the commercial fishing industry about the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) enforcement practices in the Northeast.

In the interest of assuring there is an objective review of this matter, I have asked the Department of Commerce's Office of Inspector General (IG) to conduct a formal review of our enforcement operations. I have requested an evaluation of the overall approach to enforcement in both our Office of Law Enforcement and the Office of the General Counsel for Enforcement and Litigation in New England and nationwide.

If you have further questions, please contact Brook Davis, Acting Director of NOAA's Office of Legislative Affairs, at (202) 482-4981.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane Lubchenco", written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Jane Lubchenco, Ph.D.
Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere



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THE ADMINISTRATOR

