



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

SCOTT W. LANG, MAYOR

September 23, 2009

John W. Pappalardo, Chairman
Paul Howard, Executive Director
New England Fisheries Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Mr. Pappalardo and Mr. Howard,

As Mayor of New Bedford and the nation's number one value fishing port, I write to you today to put forth important considerations as you make decisions regarding the management of New England fisheries. The economic impacts the management system impose on our fishermen and their families and on local government continue to not be fully understood and weighed fairly in the decision making process. New Bedford is a full service port with hundreds of businesses that support commercial fishing. The industry creates a \$1 billion economic impact and employs over 4,000 people. The jobs as well as the tax base the businesses provide to the City are at risk.

Specific actions by the NEFMC that I ask you consider at the September 22-24, 2009 Council Meeting include:

- (1) The allowable biological catch for red crab should be remanded back to the Science Statistical Committee (SSC) for further consideration and science should be the measure to set the catch limit, not historical landings of a single year (2007). Of equal importance, a socio-economic analysis should not only be performed, but is a requirement of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The socio-economic impacts merit comprehensive study prior to setting the allowable biological catch.
- (2) The allowable biological catch set for groundfish under sector management requires comprehensive scientific analysis and needs further consideration by the SSC; and
- (3) Amendment 15 merits further public process and scientific analysis with respect to stacking permits;

NEFMC's management plans impact our employment, our economy, our infrastructure, and our fishermen and their families. It is essential that science drive the development of management strategy. I urge you to work with fishermen, research institutions and Port communities to effect change in the system that makes environmental and economic sense.

Sincerely,

Scott W. Lang
Mayor