

ASSOCIATED FISHERIES OF MAINE

PO Box 287, South Berwick, ME 03908

207-384-4854

January 7, 2010

Mr. John Pappalardo, Chair
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear John:

Associated Fisheries of Maine (AFM) joins the chorus of voices asking the New England Fishery Management Council to reconsider its November vote on scallop FW21.

AFM members are vested in both the limited access scallop fishery and the limited access general category IFQ fishery. Like all the others you've heard from on this issue, we are concerned about the economic impacts of the Council's decision.

We would like to take this opportunity to emphasize the impact of FW21 on the general category IFQ fleet. It is our understanding that the difference, in terms of total landings, between the fishing mortality of .20 selected by the council and the alternative fishing mortality rate of .24 is approximately 6 million pounds to the combined limited access and general category fleets. Therefore the fishing mortality rate of .20 represents a loss in landings to the general category fleet of approximately 300,000 lbs. This significant loss in potential IFQ allocation would mark a bad start to the first true "catch share" program in New England.

As always, we appreciate your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

M. Raymond

Maggie Raymond