

FISHERIES SURVIVAL FUND

For Immediate Release
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THE FISHERIES SURVIVAL FUND APPLAUDS MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNOR'S EFFORT TO PROTECT SCALLOP FISHERMEN

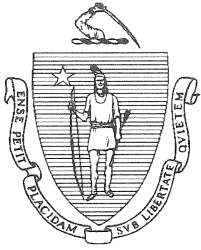
Washington, D.C. – The Fisheries Survival Fund, the largest national organization dedicated to protecting and strengthening the nation's Atlantic sea scallop fishery, today praised Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick and his administration for calling for the immediate reconsideration and reversal of the New England Fishery Management Council's recent decision to restrict fishing opportunities for the Atlantic sea scallop fishery in 2010.

On December 31st, Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles sent a letter (attached) to Council Chair John Pappalardo and the other members of the Council, expressing deep concern over the negative impact of the Council's decision on scallop fishing communities. The letter urges the Council to "reconsider and reverse its recent decision to sharply reduce fishing days at sea for sea scallopers."

"The Fisheries Survival Fund commends Governor Patrick and his administration for their leadership in calling for the reversal of the Council's ill-conceived decision to reduce scallop fishing by more than 25% for this new fishing year," said the Fisheries Survival Fund. "The Council's decision to allow only 29 'open area' fishing days and one fewer ecologically-friendly 'access area' scallop fishing trip is not required for conservation of this abundant, long since rebuilt resource. As Secretary Bowles so correctly explains in his letter, the decision imperils the economic and social health of the scallop industry and fishing communities in Massachusetts and throughout the region, and would cause unnecessary damage to local, regional and national economies during these troubled economic times."

"We deeply appreciate Governor Patrick's continued commitment to addressing this critical issue facing Atlantic sea scallop fishermen and their families," continued the Fisheries Survival Fund. "We are dedicated to working with his Administration, the City of New Bedford and leaders in the U.S. House and Senate, as well as the Council, to resolve this matter in a positive, responsible, and timely manner."

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December 31, 2009

Mr. John Pappalardo, Chairman and
Members of the New England Fisheries Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Chairman Pappalardo and Members of the New England Fisheries
Management Council:

I write to respectfully request that, at its upcoming meeting on
January 26, the New England Fisheries Management Council reconsider
and reverse its recent decision to sharply reduce fishing days for sea
scallops, from 37 to 29 days, for 2010. I believe that the Council's
decision was not based upon the best available science, and that the
proposed restrictions on scallop fishing would have dire and unnecessary
economic impacts on communities that are already severely stressed.

If the Council's decision stands, fishing communities will sustain a
devastating economic blow at the worst possible time. Reducing scallop
fishing by 22 percent, as the Council's decision would do, will result in a
\$40 million loss to scallopers and a \$200 million loss to fishing communities
and onshore businesses.



The New England Fisheries Management Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee, which is tasked with providing unbiased and science-based data on the health of the fishery, has recently reported that scallops are not overfished, and that the scallop fishery could sustainably support a fishing level similar to 2009. In light of these findings, there does not appear to be any compelling case for imposing severe restrictions that will result in such economic hardship in our fishing community. In the interest of using the best scientific information available for management decisions, I believe reconsideration and reversal of the decision to reduce scallop fishing effort in 2010 is warranted.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.A. Bowler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

cc: Massachusetts Delegation