



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

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DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

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January 27, 2010

John Pappalardo
Chairman
New England Fishery Management Council
10 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Chairman Pappalardo:

Thanks again to you and the Members of the Council for your willingness to reconsider your recent decision relative to days at sea for the scallop fishery for 2010. I know reconsideration is unusual, but your decision to do so reflects understanding of the uncertainties in the science and your appreciation of both the importance of the industry to the Commonwealth's economy, and the significance of your prior decision to the fishing families.

My understanding is that there is more than one "right" decision recommended to you by Council staff. On behalf of a vital but already struggling industry, I ask you to choose the recommendation that has a less drastic impact on their livelihoods.

Once we are through this chapter, I look forward to working with you and NOAA more closely on our shared goal of further improvement to the science and methodology for fishing regulation, as we have discussed.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval Patrick", written in a cursive style.