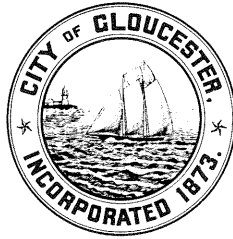


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CITY OF GLOUCESTER  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

March 26, 2010

Dr. Jane Lubchenco  
The Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and  
Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Lubchenco,

On behalf of the city of Gloucester, I want to thank you again for taking the time to listen and learn from some of our commercial fishermen. It was my pleasure to work with your senior staff members, Margaret Spring and Andrew Winer, in planning for the meeting. I appreciate the opportunity to facilitate the discussion with you.

During the course of our planning, we had wide-ranging discussions about future ways to work together, and I will follow up under separate cover with both Margaret and Andrew. Know that I was very impressed that the junior staff members who joined us at breakfast while I was in Washington, DC had taken the initiative to learn about the economic development plan we are in the midst of creating for the city of Gloucester.

We've intently listened over the past few weeks to the discussions including:

- The Gloucester listening meeting between yourself and Gloucester fishermen whose businesses, mortgages, and livelihoods are in jeopardy;
- The Congressional Hearing in Gloucester (I applaud your calling for the IG's investigation);
- The recent Summit in New Bedford where many of the same themes and concerns were echoed;
- The concerns raised at the meeting hosted this past week by Senator Kerry including the economic impact of the May 1<sup>st</sup> implementation of catch shares.

In the spirit of working collaboratively with NOAA in finding solutions to the many issues raised, may I be so bold as to make the following requests:

1. **Participation in the creation of the long-term vision for a sustainable groundfish fishery:** It is increasingly apparent to many of us in Gloucester that NOAA lacks a solid vision for the groundfish fishery. There are uniquenesses to the multi-species complex that need to be considered on their own, and not as a spin-off from the single-species models. Without a vision, the cuts have no clear context and generate economic fear and mistrust.

We stand ready to assist NOAA in the articulation of a long-term vision for the groundfish fishery. The vision for the groundfish fishery will reside in the context of the overall vision for fisheries throughout the nation, and work may be needed on that end, too. Not only is this important to our city, it is vital work for the economic vitality of the nation's coastal communities.

- 2. Emergency measures for Pollock and George's Bank Cod:** Gloucester fishermen need immediate relief on the so-called "choke species" of Pollock and George's Bank Cod (for the offshore fleet). If there is no movement on the May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, the only other hedge against severe economic impacts is to provide relief on the choke species.

As I said at the meeting hosted by Senator Kerry, and as you heard directly from Gloucester fishermen, the mortgage payments start being missed in July, with defaults, foreclosures, and bankruptcies right behind should the current path be continued. I am wholly unconvinced that these social and economic impacts are necessary and they are most certainly not wise.

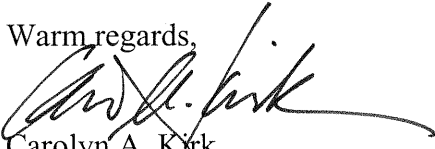
- 3. Economic Tools:** The economic development plan for the city makes a commitment to pursue future jobs and investments for Gloucester in three areas: the fishing industry; the maritime economy; and, the visitor-based economy. Having lost over 70% of the fishing fleet in the last 15 years or so, holding on to all of those who have made the choice to remain in the industry, incurring debt along the way, is critically important to the economic stability of our community.

With regard to the maritime economy, the area of collaborative research is one that we will be pursuing aggressively. We would like to partner with NOAA and have Gloucester serve as the homeport for collaborative research efforts.

With a strong vision for the nation's fishery including the uniquenesses of the multi-species complex, and the cache of Gloucester – America's first and oldest fishing community – we could strike a path towards a fishery that is both available now and to future generations.

As I said to you when you were in Gloucester, you and NOAA will always have a warm welcome in the Mayor's office and beyond in our beautiful city. It is my hope that you consider these requests and act on them favorably. Next time you come to visit Gloucester, we will be proud to show you a confident and healthy fishing community!

Warm regards,

  
Carolyn A. Kirk  
Mayor

Cc: Andrew Winer, Director of External Affairs  
Margaret Spring, Chief of Staff  
Senator John Kerry  
Senator Scott Brown  
Congressman John Tierney  
State Senator Bruce Tarr  
State Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante