



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

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May 28, 2010

The Honorable Gary Locke, Secretary  
Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Locke:

I understand that the draft working paper for the pollock assessment was posted today and one of its conclusions is that “the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring.” (p. iv) While I know that the working paper is not a formal determination and review of the assessment will begin next week, it seems likely that there will be scientific justification for immediately increasing the pollock annual catch level. Such an action will prevent low pollock limits from causing early closures of groundfish sectors and significant socioeconomic impacts on the Commonwealth’s groundfish fishing industry.

I respectfully request that proceedings begin immediately to raise the allowable catch limit to a level as high as possible while avoiding overfishing, as dictated by the new science. I recommend this action be taken either through your executive authority or through action by the New England Fishery Management Council, whichever can provide the quickest remedy.

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Thank you for considering this request. As always, I look forward to working with you and your agencies in advancing our collective goals of ensuring economic viability of our fishing communities and sustainability of the resource.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

cc: Senator John Kerry  
Senator Scott Brown  
Representative Michael Capuano  
Representative Barney Frank  
Representative James McGovern  
Representative John Tierney  
Senate President Therese Murray  
Speaker Robert DeLeo  
Senator Mark Montigny  
Senator Bruce Tarr  
Representative Antonio F.D. Cabral  
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Mayor Carolyn Kirk  
Mayor Scott Lang  
Undersecretary Jane Lubchenco  
Assistant Administrator Eric Schwaab  
Regional Administrator , Patricia Kurkul  
John Pappalardo, Chair, New England Fishery Management Council