

CHARLES E. SCHUMER
NEW YORK

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

COMMITTEES:
JOINT ECONOMIC
JUDICIARY
FINANCE
BANKING
RULES

October 29, 2010

Secretary Gary Locke
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Locke,

Thank you for your recent commitments to improving stock science and exercising your authority to ease overly burdensome catch restrictions on New York and America's fishermen. Fishing is a multi-billion dollar industry in my state and our fishermen are weathering one of the most challenging economic crises in generations.

I have recently spoken with you and Dr. Lubchenco about alleged enforcement abuses at NOAA that have led to a severely fractured relationship between the fishing industry and federal regulators. At this time, it is of the utmost importance that Department of Commerce and NOAA work to restore the faith and trust of our nation's fishermen.

That is why today I am joining my colleagues from Massachusetts in urging you to open a 45-day window for individuals who did not submit their cases for review by the Inspector General due to fear of reprisal. I have been approached by a number of New York fishermen who would like their cases to be reviewed by the newly appointed Special Magistrate.

Again, I believe it is imperative that federal regulators work to help strengthen our fishing sectors throughout the country, particularly in these challenging economic times. Allowing for a 45-day window to non-reviewed enforcement abuse cases is an important starting point in that process.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator