



For a thriving New England

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January 14, 2011

Mayor Scott Lang
City of New Bedford
New Bedford City Hall
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

RE: Mayor's Fishing Council Meeting January 13, 2011

Dear Mayor Lang:

I received an update on your fishery meeting yesterday. While I realize there are many issues we don't seem to agree on, I was very pleased to hear that Dr. Cadrin reported that he will be bringing the work that his group has been doing on improving the groundfish science to the SSC and the formal groundfish peer review process for further review and analysis. We share your interest in bringing the best science to bear on the quota-setting process and CLF has routinely supported the recommendations of the SSC and the Council's earlier scientific analyses. This is the proper venue for Dr. Cadrin's work and will ensure that his work gets the review it is entitled to. We are also investigating some work being done at Northeastern that reportedly might allow better and more accurate biomass measuring, almost in real time.

I am also encouraged to hear that you are urging fishermen and others to participate in the Council process later this month. There is a groundfish committee meeting next week and the important topic of consolidation and distribution of the groundfish ACL's are on the Council's agenda for January 27th. We share your concern that the benefits of the rebuilding stocks and the higher groundfish prices should be shared fairly and equitably throughout the fleet and have not had the benefit of the specific information you may have access to that would allow that topic to be addressed by the Council. As we have said before to the Council, the Council needs to tackle the consolidation and ACL distribution issues that have been happening over the past decade directly. We hope that we can count on a motion to that effect coming from one of the Council members, perhaps Dr. Pierce. We are also genuinely interested in understanding better what some of the increased costs are associated with the sector system that may be offsetting the increased gross revenues that many fishing ports are recording this year. Having that detail would allow all of us to have a clearer picture of the real economics of the new sectors.

I look forward to seeing you in Portsmouth.

Sincerely,


Peter Shelley
Senior Counsel

cc: David Cash, EOEAA
Paul Diodati, MA DMF