

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

January 6, 2011

The Honorable Charles B. Swartwood, III
Special Master
One Beacon Street, Suite 2300
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Special Master Swartwood,

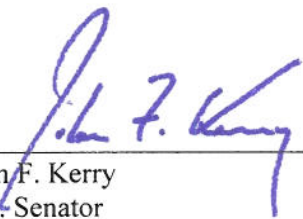
We write to you today to express our full support for your ongoing efforts to review and rectify some of the most egregious and problematic enforcement cases against our Massachusetts fishermen. We have grown concerned, however, that you may not have been provided the tools and resources you need to complete your work within a reasonable time frame.

The Department of Commerce Inspector General's series of audit reports brought to light the high-level misuse of funds, inappropriate document shredding during an active investigation, and the deliberate targeting and fining of New England Fishermen. It is important that these cases are reviewed thoroughly, but expeditiously. Our fishermen deserve the prompt review of their cases from their government. We respectfully request you provide us with a detailed list of the current resources and personnel available to you for your investigation as well as any additional resources or personnel that you think may be needed to complete the review within the reasonable 4 month time frame from the day of your appointment.


While we appreciate Secretary Locke's efforts to reform enforcement operations and improve the relationship between the administration and the fishing industry, it is crucially important that your efforts as Special Master result in the closure with fair compensation of many of the cases cited by the Inspector General as well as the additional cases we submitted for your review.

Thank you again for your service on this issue. We stand ready to advocate for whatever additional resources you may need to complete your review.


Sincerely,



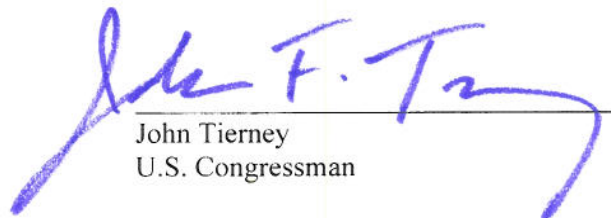
John F. Kerry
U.S. Senator



Scott P. Brown
U.S. Senator



Barney Frank
U.S. Congressman



John Tierney
U.S. Congressman

Cc: Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke; Dr. Jane Lubchenco, NOAA Administrator