The Mayor's Ocean and Fisheries Council
Overview
March 2011

Established in 2006, the Mayor's Ocean and Fisheries Council is chaired by Brian Rothschild, a professor at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, School for Marine Science and Technology. Rothschild was appointed by Mayor Scott Lang, City of New Bedford, Massachusetts. New Bedford is the nation's top-ranked fishing port.

Mission
The mission of the Mayor's Ocean and Fisheries Council is to (1) provide an open forum for discussion of fisheries issues; (2) to develop solutions to fisheries issues collaboratively; and (3) to facilitate the sharing of information between stakeholders, scientists and managers.

General Information
The Mayor's Ocean and Fisheries Council meets on a monthly basis to address topical fisheries issues.

Members of the fishing industry, elected officials, scientists, and other stakeholders come together to discuss issues related to fisheries science and management. Participants come from coastal states ranging from Maine to North Carolina. Home meetings are usually attended by approximately 100.

The meeting organization varies based on the information being discussed, but all meetings involve an open forum for audience members to ask questions, provide testimony, and discuss timely issues. In addition, informational presentations are often made by scientists and industry leaders on topical issues.

Recently discussed topics:
- Scientific and economic information to support increases in annual catch limits
- Sector management in the New England multispecies fishery
- Haddock caps in the herring fishery
- Skate management and assessment
- Scallop mortality targets
- Amendment 16 lawsuit

The DC meeting on Tuesday, April 5 from 4:00PM-6:00PM in Room SC-6 of the Capitol will include:
- Input from members of Congress
- Discussion of the need to raise catch limits, and economic assessment of fishery management
- Industry perspectives on 1) a way forward for fishery management, and 2) for NOAA operations into the future