

F/V Illusion  
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July 17, 2012

Daniel S. Morris  
Acting Regional Director  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Northeast Region  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Mr. Morris:

Thank you for the apology but it rings hollow and actions speak louder than words. The following is the list of events that created, to quote your correspondence, the "confusion, inconvenience and in some cases, unnecessary expenses."

- 1) Port agents received it at 3:47 Friday July 6 but had already gone home for a long weekend.
- 2) The notice was post marked July 6<sup>th</sup> and delivered July 9<sup>th</sup> @ 3:30pm to my business. Other people had theirs postmarked July 9<sup>th</sup> and received it on the 12<sup>th</sup>
- 3) The first notice on VHF channel 16 was @ 8:50pm July 9<sup>th</sup>
- 4) July 6,7,8 it was not on NOAA weather radio
- 5) The NOAA email went out July 10 @ 8:44 AM after it had closed
- 6) NOAA knows every boat that is squid fishing because we have to give notice 72 hours in advance by VMS, webpage or phone. Then NOAA notifies us by VMS that we will be notified 48 hours before we leave whether we have an observer or not, this is also done by VMS.

From what I can see the only thing NOAA did right was not enforce the letter because other than the boats that came in to unload and go out for another trip, every boat was in violation because of the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph:

(Federally permitted dealers may not purchase more than 2,500 lb of longfin squid from federally permitted longfin squid vessels per trip or per day, beginning at 0001 hours, July 10, 2012, until the start of Trimester 3 on September 1, 2012.)

Sadly NOAA expects the fishermen to be held to a different standard than NOAA's own employees and prosecutes them for infractions because they can, but will not hold any of its employees accountable for making mistakes. While I believe this was just callous disregard toward fishermen so that people could have an early weekend, it goes to the general attitude of NOAA toward fishermen.

Sincerely,

Mark S Phillips

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