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CITY OF GLOUCESTER  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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September 15, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as Mayor of the City of Gloucester in opposition to the proposal to designate Cashes Ledge, three deep sea canyons and four seamounts as National Monuments.

Gloucester is this nation's oldest fishing port and continues to be a major supplier of healthy domestic seafood. We are also a community with a strong commitment to sustainability and protection of our natural resources.

We have learned over the years to take a balanced perspective on issues, to make sure to have researched all the facts, and to include the public in our decisions.

It is from this perspective that I write in opposition to the Conservation Law Foundation-organized proposal for a National Monument. Our community has participated for a number of years in the National Marine Fisheries Service studies of Cashes Ledge and we support the recent Habitat Amendment decisions to protect large areas of Cashes Ledge. NMFS is also just beginning to work on studies and regulatory action for the deep sea canyons and seamounts.

As a public official, I see the necessity of vetting decisions via public meetings where the best available science and analytical tools are scrutinized in a transparent manner. This CLF request undermines the democratic process established for fisheries management and replaces science with pure politics.

I urge you to support your own agency scientists and regulators and to trust the lengthy public engagement in the protection of Cashes Ledge. And, to support the beginning process to develop science-based protections for the deep sea canyons and sea mounts.

Thank you for your attention to our community's concerns.

Sincerely,

Sefatia Romeo Theken  
Mayor