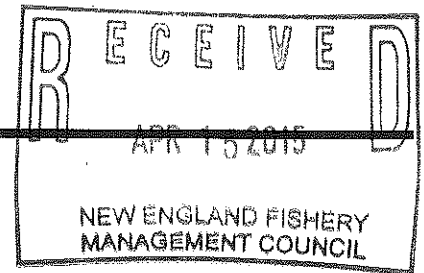


#11

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

Joan O'Leary



From: Tony Gross <144tony@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2015 6:09 AM
To: Marc Stettner
Cc: comments; Tom Nies; Terry Stockwell; Doug Grout; Chris Kellogg; David Pierce; John Bullard; Kelly Denit; Joan O'Leary; Pat Fiorelli; Jamie M. Cournane; Aj; dee@landergren.net; Doug Amorello; Edward Snell; Hilary; paul hoffman; timothy rider; Tracy937@verizon.net
Subject: Re: NEHFA comments for April Council Meeting A18 Groundfish Discussions

Mark,

Thank you for your continued hard work to in addressing the handgear issues for us. The handgear method of catching fish is the most sustainable and environmentally sound of all the fishing gear types.

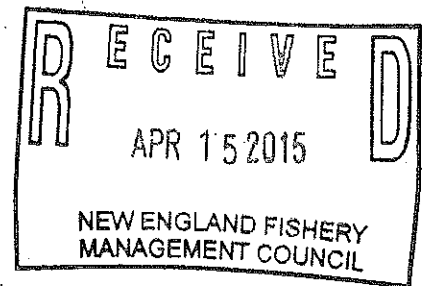
Tony Gross

On Apr 15, 2015, at 10:46 PM, Marc <ijigcod@mindspring.com> wrote:

> <NEHFA to NEFMC A18 4_15_15001.pdf>

4/15/15

Dear Chairman Terry Stockwell and Executive Director Tom Nies,



I am writing in opposition of the current New England's Catch Share policy in the groundfish fishery as proposed, which continues to support consolidating the access to fish into the hands of a few large companies or entities. This policy is undermining our efforts to negotiate manageable pricing that supports a larger dollar to those from our historic fishing communities.

I am the Food Service Director for MaineGeneral Medical Center. We serve 1950 meals per day and have a food budget of \$ 1,900,000.00. As a health care facility serving patients, employees, and the broader community, it is important for my institution to have access to wild-caught fish from New England waters because we recognize that this is the best way to protect our marine resources and support the resilience of our local fishing communities. Imports of similar species are not a substitute.

Seafood is an important source of lean protein for our facility, and over the past few years we have actively shifted our purchasing policies to prefer seasonally available, underutilized wild species from community-based boats in New England, especially the small and medium scale fishing operations. Local seafood aggregators have made this possible and we support the strengthening of this infrastructure so that we may continue to support a diverse market. During this time, we have seen an increase in consumption of seafood at our facilities and we have received great feedback about the choices we have made - we don't want to lose this momentum.

Fleet consolidation and concentration of the rights to fish will undermine these efforts we've undertaken to support local fishing communities. The A18 policy will be a failure if it does not include safeguards for community-based fishermen to access fishing rights and protections for inshore fish stocks, which currently it does not. We recommend that the Council immediately prioritize solutions that support local economies, a diverse and regional market and a healthier ecosystem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Olin", written over the word "Sincerely,".

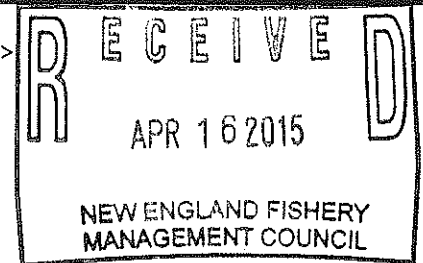
Conrad R. Olin
Food Service Director
MaineGeneral Medical Center

(207) 626-1104

rf - 4/16/15

Joan O'Leary

From: Ron Borjeson <ron.whofishesmatters@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2015 11:46 AM
To: comments
Subject: Groundfish policy failure



Dear Terry Stockwell and Tom Nies,

I'm a second generation commercial fisherman and I've fished for 42 years. During the late 90's and 2000's, together with my fellow fishermen, we took drastic conservation measures to bring back the fish. The rapid shift to Catch Share policy in 2010 then allowed a pressure of fishing on our inshore fishing areas that reversed all of our conservation efforts. Now we're left with nothing to catch.

Over the past five years we brought these problems to the Council and the Council promised to fix them with Amendment 18. Additional problems we highlighted were excessive consolidation, issues with the allocation and quota market, and lack of transparency.

We brought solutions to the Council such as flexible trip limits that avoid discards and we were ignored. Now as it stands, the options within Amendment 18 do little to fix any of these problems.

If Amendment 18 doesn't not dramatically change course our New England Catch Share policy will be a complete failure.

sincerely,

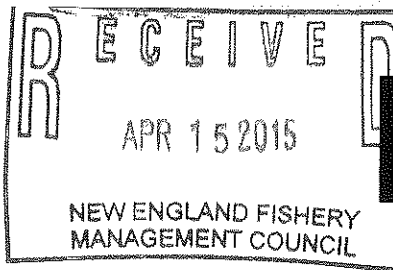
Ron Borjeson
F/V Angenette

91 FAIRVIEW AVE
PORSTMOUTH NH 03801

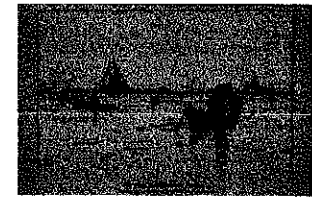
April 15, 2015

New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*



**NORTHEAST HOOK
FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION**



Dear Chairman Terry Stockwell & Executive Director Tom Nies:

We represent a small group of Commercial Fishermen with the Limited Access Handgear HA Permits, employing the use rod and reel, handlines or tub trawls to catch some species of groundfish. Historically and currently our fishermen account for a small percentage of the groundfish landed in New England. However, the monetary gains obtained by the participants in this fishery are very important to us.

We are urging the NEFMC to save the handgear fishery from becoming nonexistent. A18 is critical to securing the fishery for the future as well as fulfilling the desire for fleet diversity. No action alternatives do not protect this fishery.

Please heavily weigh the preferred options for our fishery that we list below. These preferred options are coming from the active fishermen in the fishery. The active fishermen know the best path forward to securing this fishery. If nothing is done eventually all the handgear quota will be absorbed by fishermen not using handgear and this very old and historic fishery will be lost forever. Again this is about the future of the handgear fishery and not the quantity of fish currently allocated today. We trust that fishery managers will do the right thing and restore the groundfish we catch and in doing so this fishery will flourish. This is a critical moment in history and we are desperately in need to our own historically based quota that we can fish sustainable on with controls specific to our fishery. For way to long we have been subject to regulations better aligned with other fishing methods that do not fit our fishery. **Preferred Options Requested:**

Section 4.2.1 – Establish a Fishery for Handgear A Permits

Alternative 2

Discards: Option B – Assume discards to be de minimis and not account for them under the sub-ACL.

In-season AMs: Option A – Close the HA fishery for a stock when 100% of sub-ACL is reached.

Reactive AMs: Option B - Triggered if HA sub-ACL and total ACL are exceeded.

Carryover Provisions: PDT recommended carryover provision to be consistent to that which the Council recommended for sectors in Framework 53

Section 4.2.2 – Removal of the March 1-20 HA Closure

Alternative 2 Removal of the March 1-20 HA closure.

Section 4.2.3 – Removal of Standard Fish Tote Requirement

Alternative 2 Removal of the standard fish tote requirement.

If you are a holder of a groundfish HA permit and wish to join the NEHFA, please contact the NEHFA at the address above.

Sc/jp ~ 4/16/15

Section 4.2.4 – Sector Exemption from VMS Requirements

Alternative 2 Sector exemption (annual) from Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) requirements.

The NEFMC and the NMFS should be committed to doing what is necessary to maintain this fishery as they have done for other substance or small scale fisheries around the country. A18, with the correct options, will secure this fishery for future generations. Please keep this fishery a valid one in New England and not just a paper fishery with no active fishermen.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc Stettner", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Marc Stettner

NEHFA MEMBERS: Marc Stettner, Timothy Rider, AJ Orlando, Hilary Dombrowski, Paul Hoffman, Christopher DiPilato, Ed Snell, Scott Rice, Roger Bryson, Brian McDevitt, Anthony Gross, Doug Amorello