



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116  
C.M. "Rip" Cunningham, Jr., *Chairman* | Paul J. Howard, *Executive Director*

February 23, 2012

Mr. Logan Gregory  
NMFS/NOAA OLE  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

Dear Logan:

The following issue and questions were referred to the VMS/Enforcement Committee for their consideration and recommendations during the February 2, 2012 Council meeting in Portsmouth, NH. After almost two fishing years with groundfish ACLs and sector ACEs in place with there being no landing requirements for sector vessels, do state and federal law enforcement officers believe the hail requirement is a sufficient deterrent for false reporting of actual landings (including the area from which landings were taken)? Are trip-end hails being checked with vessel offloads? If so, how often does that verification occur and what have been the results of that monitoring? What is the penalty for a vessel offloading more than its hail and how much of a difference in hail and offload must there be before there is a violation?

It would be ideal if your office could provide information regarding sector catches and landings, particularly from the different resource areas, that are corroborated by enforcement agents. Please do not feel limited to dockside monitoring, as at-sea observations and VMS records may be useful in corroborating sector data as well.

We look forward to your report at the March 22, 2012 Enforcement meeting in Portland, ME. If a formal report is not possible by that time, please be prepared to discuss these issues and make any recommendations that you feel are needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Paul J. Howard  
Executive Director