

# CORRESPONDENCE



## New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116

John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

June 28, 2021

Mr. Charles Dodge  
2236 Main Street  
Chatham, MA 02659

Dear Charlie:

This letter is to acknowledge receipt of your email correspondence to our office and accept your resignation from the Skate Advisory Panel. On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank you for your service to the management process as an advisory panel member since 2017 and wish you the best in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Thomas A. Nies". The script is cursive and fluid.

Thomas A. Nies  
Executive Director



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June 28, 2021

Mr. Michael Pentony  
Regional Administrator  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Mike:

On June 24, the Council approved a request of the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office to rescind the control dates for the skate wing and bait fisheries.

By way of background, NOAA Fisheries earlier had published a control date for the skate bait fishery on July 30, 2009, at the Council's request. At that time, the Council was concerned about the possibility of increased effort by new entrants into the skate bait fishery and therefore was considering developing a limited access program specifically for this part of the fishery. Then on March 31, 2014, NOAA Fisheries also published a control date for the skate wing fishery, i.e., for skates primarily not used for bait, again at the Council's request as a step towards developing limited access for the wider skate fishery.

More recently, in the past few years, the Council has been developing Amendment 5 to the Northeast Skate Complex Fishery Management Plan (FMP), which had included consideration of limited access; however, in April, the Council decided to discontinue limited access alternatives as part of this amendment. As a result, the Council also decided in June to request rescission of the existing control dates, because it now believes they are too out of date should the Council reconsider limited access for the Skate FMP in the future. If the Council chooses to pursue limited entry in the future, it will consider whether new control dates should be identified.

Please contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Nies  
Executive Director



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John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

June 28, 2021

Mr. Greg Connors  
PO Box 402  
Chatham, MA 02633

Dear Greg:

This letter is to acknowledge receipt of your email correspondence to our office and accept your resignation from the Skate Advisory Panel. On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank you for your service to the management process as an advisory panel member since 2017 and wish you the best in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Thomas A. Nies". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas A. Nies  
Executive Director



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930

August 30, 2021

Eric Reid, Acting Chairman  
New England Fishery Management Council  
50 Water Street, Mill 2  
Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950

Dear Eric:

We have approved the notice to rescind the control dates for the skate wing and bait fisheries, as requested. Upon publication of this notice, July 30, 2009, and March 31, 2014, are no longer considered dates for entry into the bait and skate wing fisheries, respectively. Should the Council decide to pursue limited access in the future, you may want to consider new control dates for these fisheries.

This notice filed this morning on August 30, 2021, and is scheduled to publish tomorrow on August 31, 2021. If you have questions about this action, please contact Cynthia Ferrio in our Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9180.

Sincerely,

Michael Pentony  
Regional Administrator

cc: Tom Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council

