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CORRESPONDENCE

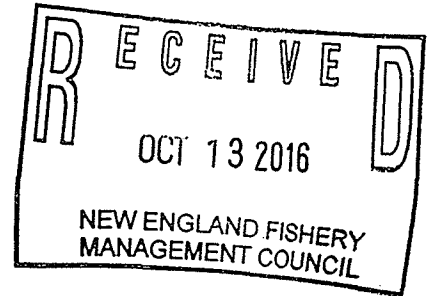
#6

Sherie Goutier

From: Dan <lobster.13@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 10:18 AM
To: comments
Subject: Fwd: Comment for 10/19/06 skate meeting

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:



From: Dan <lobster.13@verizon.net>
Date: October 13, 2016 at 10:12:52 AM EDT
To: fhogan@nefmc.org
Subject: Comment for 10/19/06 skate meeting

October 13, 2016

To: Council Chairman Dr. John Quinn and skate committee members,

The bait skate fishery and its participants would be open to support limited access to the skate bait fishery. Only if there are no changes in the current Northeast skate complex FMP and the way that it is structured at this present time.

If there is intent to change the Northeast complex FMP from the way it is structured now, to a species specific type structure or two catch shares. Then the bait skate fisheries participants would strongly be against limited access permitting.

Catch shares or species specific changes to the current structure of the north east skate complex FMP would have a detrimental effect toward fisheries in the Northeast such as the scallop industry and the groundfish fishery who need discard of skate to fish and not have skate become a choke species for these fisheries....

Thank you very much for consideration of my comments on the October 19, 2016 meeting

Dan Nordstrom advisor to the skate committee council

Sent from my iPhone

#6a.

Woneta Cloutier

Subject: FW: Skate comments for 10/19/16

From: Dan <lobster.13@verizon.net>

Date: October 13, 2016 at 11:09:05 AM EDT

To: Ireland · <lobster.13@verizon.net>

Subject: Save 10/19 skate thoughts

As the skate complex FMP is structured at this present time, there has never been a stoppage to the scallop Or ground Fish fisheries fleets because of a discard shortage.. we have maintained a steady flow year-round bait skate to the needs of the lobster and crab fisheries. Gillnetters have been able to catch the wings that is needed at the times they need it.... The current structure for the skate complex FMP is working. Let's not change it, species specific or catch shares will make it more complicated and create many unforeseen problems for all the New England fisheries that rely on the New England skate complex FMP as it is now... I thought the reason for limited access to the skate fisheries wing and bait was to safe guard from too many new participants entering this unrestricted fishery, ultimately protecting against excessive effort towards the bait and wing fisheries TAL and preventing any premature closure ... I know this this upcoming meeting is to address limited access permitting for the skate fishery but I find the structure of the FMP very very important to the question about the limited access fishery and should be brought up at the meeting...

Thanks Dan Nordstrom skate advisor

Sent from my iPhone

To whom it may concern,

I deeply apologize for not being able to attend the monkfish meeting on October 12th, 2016.

After reviewing the reading material for our meeting, I have a few comments and concerns. First, I believe that Framework 8 has brought stability to the fishery. I've been a monkfish fisherman for the last twenty years and have been through a lot of changes and adjustments with trip limits and days at sea. These changes and fluctuations have impacted my business plan from year to year. With Framework 8, prices have stayed steady, market demand has been strong, and fish stocks have been healthy.

My concern with the Framework 10 alternatives, is how this will dramatically change a conservative plan that is working. By changing days at sea and trip limits I fear more pressure will be forced onto the fishery. .

This brings me to my second concern. Why does NMFS believe it is a pressing issue if we are not reaching our TAC? I imagine it is assumed that stocks are down. However, I and others in my regional industry believe strongly that this can be attributed to several factors. For example weather, market prices, availability of other fish, and abundance of winter skate. Over the last two years weather and the abundance of winter skate have been a major contributor in NJ Monk Fisherman not reaching our TAC. The mild winters have been stalling fish movements into late December, and strong prevailing wind patterns have kept small boat fleets at dock. Furthermore, our spring Monk season has been littered with skates. This has been a deterrent for NJ fisherman as we are politically and environmentally conscious of discarded bycatch. Finally, I feel strongly that we need a "current" benchmark stock assessment, on the the Monkfish stock, before we make any drastic changes in days at sea and trip limits.

My last concern is the pressing issue of latent permits. I believe if days at sea and trip limits are increased we will also see an increase in latent permit activity. A control date has already been set to address this issue, however, I feel strongly that if we move forward with Framework 10 this should take precedent.

In closing, I feel the best direction for this fishery at this time is to hold at status quo, in both the North and South management areas, and to first solve the uncertainty of latent permits.

Sincerely,

Christopher Rainone,
Monkfish AP