

## CORRESPONDENCE

**Sherie Goutier**

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**From:** LOUISE MORGAN <weeziem@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 15, 2019 6:28 PM  
**To:** comments  
**Subject:** skate ssc

I need to offer what we are seeing on the water to those of you who are not out here , which is a dramatic increase in the biomass of skates in the last 3 or 4 years. We here , working out of Chatham, a fleet of maybe 20 gillnet vessels, displaced cod boats who have been targeting skate for almost 2 decades now . We are seeing a large amount of monk and skate in southern NE this past winter and spring ,and right now are catching our daily limit of skate in five 300' nets. What you set out to achieve in rebuilding skate has been accomplished , consider our observer data in your discussions , Four years ago we were taking 30 nets to catch our limit , now it's taking 5 .The biomass of skate here off Chatham is as healthy as it's been in 20 years, I hope the data that your looking at is similar to what we are seeing and that the Bigelow confirms this , at some point. Most of our fishing is done in shallow water, 11 to 18 fathom , and should be noted that the Bigelow can't go that shoal or doesn't tow under 20. I would finish by asking you to consider raising the TAC for both Monk and Skate, that is what we see first hand on the ocean, a dramatic increase in biomass. Regards, Jan Margeson F/V Great Pumpkin