

April 21, 2010

RE: Fleet Diversity

To the New England Fisheries Management Council,

My Name is Ed Snell. I'm starting a commercial jigging operation out of South Portland Maine. Under the new catch share system, I'm concerned that without a cap on quota and without addressing the leasing of quota, it will make more sense for fishermen to lease quota then to fish.

In this system those with capital to invest control access to the entire fishery. It is my hope that in the case of fleet diversity, as in all items considered by the council, that you all legislate in such away that promotes sustainability in the Gulf of Maine and provides opportunity for independent fishermen.

Thanks for your consideration and hard work on behalf of the fishery,

Ed Snell