

March 29, 2013

Mr. John Bullard, Regional Administrator, Northeast Region
NOAA Fisheries
55 Great Republic Dr
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear John Bullard,

We write to express our concern regarding the scale of fishing pressure currently taking place in the Western Gulf of Maine. We believe the pressure is too heavy for the ecosystem to withstand. The result is both a depleted ecosystem and displaced community based fishermen who have historically depended on this area for a living and still do to this day.

We'd like to request an ongoing dialogue and work together to return the Western Gulf of Maine to a scale of fishing that the ecosystem can sustain.

We are fishermen and community members who depend on this area. Many fishermen have sacrificed over the past 15-20 years to rebuild the stocks. Prior to 2010, there were positive signs that the ecological commitment was paying off.

Once inshore trip limits were waived for sector vessels – over 97 percent of the fleet – we watched all the rebuilding efforts undermined by a scale of fishing pressure, which is far too great for our ecosystem to sustain. Fishermen see this every time they set their gear only to witness fewer and fewer signs of life.

We share your vision of a diverse fleet where each fish and each fisherman matters. In light of the drop in catch and the cod stock assessment showing that cod are in terrible shape, both the fleet and fish stocks are extremely vulnerable. To move toward our shared vision, we believe safeguards are imperative.

This is a rare time in our fisheries history where fishermen from different user groups are uniting with community stakeholders to preserve our fishing heritage. For the sake of the fish, the fishermen, and our coastal communities, we thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

ORGANIZATIONS

Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association	Northeast Hook Fishermen's Association
Stellwagen Bank Charterboat Association	Dukes County Fishermen's Association
Penobscot East Resource Center	Food and Water Watch
Northeast Coastal Communities Sector	Grassroots International
National Family Farm Coalition	Slow Food Cape Cod
Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance	Food Chain Workers Alliance
Family Farm Defenders	WhyHunger
Maine Council of Churches	Cooperative Development Institute
Southern California Trawlers Association	Sierra Club RI Chapter
Dock to Dish Community Supported Fishery	Artisanal Fishers Association
SLO Fresh Catch Community Supported Fishery	Local to Global Advocates for Justice
Hospitals for a Healthy Environment in RI	Downeast Foodshed
Turner's Seafood	Farm Fresh RI
Ecology Action Center	Slow Food, Fikir Sahibi Damaklar
Good Egg Marketing	Osterville Anglers Club
Uganda Fisheries and Fish Conservation Assoc.	Comet Consol. Fisheries, Inc.
San Antonio Bay Waterkeeper	Saltwater Connections
Virginia Food System Council	New Hampshire Institute of Agriculture and Forestry

COMMERCIAL, RECREATIONAL, + LOBSTER FISHERMEN

Bill Amaru F/V Joanne A III Chatham, MA	Ed Barrett F/V Phoenix Marshfield, MA	Jay Berggren Enoch Fishing Charters Boston, MA	Edward Smith F/V Claudia Marie F/V Britannika II F/V Special K Gloucester, MA
David Schalit F/V Zerlina New York, NY	Geordie King F/V Ocean Pride III Eliot, ME	Tim Barrett F/V Odessa Plymouth, MA	Mark Simonitsch Nantucket Sound Fish Weirs Chatham, MA
Jim Keding F/V Zachary Nicholas Plymouth, MA	Katherine Carscallen F/V Sea Hawk Dillingham, Alaska	Phil Karlin F/V Brianna Mattituck, NY	Willy Hatch F/V Machaca F/V Tormenta Falmouth, MA
Frank Mirarchi F/V Barbara L Peters Scituate MA	Ernest R Eldredge F/V Lester F Eldredge Chatham, MA	Alex Friedman F/V Dazed & Confused Oak Bluffs, MA	Jason Amaru F/V Joanne A III Chatham, MA
Shawn Goulart F/V Danielle White Gloucester, MA	Ted Ames Retired Fisherman Stonington, ME	Dave Waldrip F/V Relentless Green Harbor, MA	Harry Graff F/V The Makana Dennis, MA
Jamie Hayward F/V Heidi and Elisabeth Rye Harbor, NH	Keper Connell F/V Cayo Mio Rye, NH	Doug Maxfield, F/V Sarah Day Ipswich, MA	John Richardson F/V Jesse J. Hingham, MA
Peter Phillips F/V Madrigan Rye, Harbor	Padi & Mike Anderson F/V Rimrack Rye, NH	BG Brown F/V Katherine Leigh Gloucester, MA	

Scott Swicker F/V Aaron & Alexa F/V Ashley & Anthony Gloucester, MA	Gary McDonnell F/V Holly & Abby Scituate, MA	Dennis Chaprales F/V Predatuna Hyannis, MA	Ralph Pratt F/V Michael Kevin Green Harbor, MA
Sarah Schumann F/V Nushagak Warren, RI	Lou Frattarelli F/V Rocco Bristol, RI	Brian Pearce F/V Danny Boy North Yarmouth, ME	Mike Burke F/V Sea-Quentia Marshfield, MA
Mike Pratt F/V Perfect C's Marshfield, MA	Sebastian Brancaleone F/V Tina & Tom Gloucester, MA	Gary Libby F/V Leslie & Jessica Port Clyde Maine	Michael Sawyer Charter Boat Capt. Plymouth, MA
Shannon Eldredge Monomoy Trap Co Chatham, MA	Stu Tolley F/V Dawn T Chatham, MA	Jim Santapaola F/V Amanda & Andy III Gloucester, MA	Edward Newell F/V Kelly Lynn Marshfield, MA
Andy Santapaola F/V Amanda & Andy II Gloucester, MA	Ed Snell F/V Rita B. Buxton, ME	Stephen Welch F/V Holly and Abby Hanover, MA	James Corbett F/V Emily Laurel II Duxbury, MA
Ken Tolley F/V Hunter Chatham, MA	Billy Chaprales F/V Rueby Sandwich, MA	Nick Chaprales F/V Rueby Sandwich, MA	Dan Eagan Commercial Fisherman Bristol, RI
Brian Paine Crew Plymouth, MA	Kevin McDonough Crew Plymouth, MA	Ron Borjeson F/V Angenette Sandwich, MA	Jason Joyce F/V Andanarnra Swans Island, ME
Mike Davis F/V Labor n Vain Gloucester, MA	Patrick J. Bowes F/V Katie Pat Scituate, MA	David Jewell F/V Lady J Gloucester, MA	Sean Goulart F/V Labor n Vain Gloucester, MA
Fred Lavitman F/V Akula Green Harbor, MA	Michel Lange F/V Inseine Attleboro, MA	Peter Shunney F/V Silver Quahog Essex, MA	Doug Brander F/V Ya-Hoo! Hull, MA
Bruce Sweet Sweet Dream III Gloucester, MA	Christian R Chadwick F/V Native Son Gloucester, MA	Zach Harvey Crew Point Judith, RI	Paul Molyneaux Dory #3 Trescott, Maine
Marc Stettner F/V Too Far Portsmouth, NH	Bob Briggs F/V Lorraine B Scituate, MA	Mark Paolucci F/V Moonlighter Quincy, MA	Arthur Sawyer Jr. F/V Miss Carla Gloucester, MA
William Henderson F/V Lady Lyn Hull, MA	Charles Wade F/V Ghillie Green Harbor, MA	Mike Delzingo F/V Hookin Up Boston, MA	Mark Hurley F/V Seaborne Green Harbor, MA
Michael Colleary Recreational Fisherman Pembroke, MA Steven James	Jim McFarland Big Mac Charters Green Harbor, MA Bill Dowling	Rich Antonino Black Rose Fishing Green Harbor, MA Mike Warner	Michael Pierdinock F/V Perseverance Green Harbor, MA Bill Bartlett

F/V Quality Time Green Harbor, MA	Fisherman Cranberry Isles, ME	Fisherman Hope Valley, RI	F/V Michael and Erin Danvers MA
Jeff Bartlett F/V Jennifer and Robyn Danvers MA	Jim Bartlett F/V Pamela B Danvers MA	Mike Bartlett F/V Hannah Mary Danvers MA	Tim Bartlett F/V Ragged Edge Danvers, MA
Dusty Ketchopolous F/V Special K Gloucester MA	Joe Randazzo F/V Razzo Gloucester MA	Paul Theriault F/V Terminator Gloucester, MA	Dave Jermain F/V Xiphias Essex, MA
Richard Burgess Heidi & Heather Fisheries Gloucester, MA	Kevin Norton F/V Last Call Plymouth, MA	Dan Shannon F/V Sorry Charlie North River, MA	Wes Brighton F/V Martha Elizabeth Chilmark, MA
Tony Carnevale Crew Gloucester, MA	Max Carpman Crew Hyannis, MA	Aaron Longton F/V Goldeneye Port Orford, OR	Tom DePersia Big Fish II Charters Marshfield, MA
Mike Furbish Fisherman Eliot, ME	Jason Jarvis Fisherman Point Judith, RI	Shareen Davis F/V Morgan Chatham, MA	Todd Jesse F/V Voyager Plymouth, MA
David Crowley F/V Kaitlyn Victoria Sandwich, MA	Ronald Jordon F/V Liberty Portland, ME		

CONCERNED PEOPLE AND STAKEHOLDERS

Sean Sullivan, Marblehead, MA	Charles Taylor, Freeport, ME
India Roger, New York, NY	Jennifer Brewer, Eastern Carolina University
Christopher Childs, St. Paul, MN	Ann Anagnost, Seattle, WA
Peter Burns, Cambridge, MA	Maria Whittaker, Kansas City, KS
Margaret D. Russell, Winchester, MA	Connie Chen-Simone, Stow, MA
Heidi Burgess, Boston, MA	Mary DeBartolo, Hyannis, MA
Jeanne Brooks, Orrs Island, ME	Susan Goldhor, Rye, NH
Steven Swartz, Belfast, ME	Larry Yee, Boston, MA
Maggi Flanagan, Welfleet, MA	Rob Johnson, Beverly, MA
Paula Humerick, N. Hollywood, CA	Mike Johnson, Kensington, NH
Hilda Marshall, Somerville, MA	Kim Libby, Port Clyde, ME
Janne Hellgren, Cambridge, MA	Dawn Tolley, Chatham, MA
Orson Moon, Jamaica Plain, MA	Mitch Jones, Washington, DC
Leigh Belanger, Jamaica Plaine, MA	Christine Baron, Beverly, MA
Les Watling, Newcastle, ME	Adrien Schless-Meier
Howdy Houghton, Bar Harbor, ME	Steven McFadden, Lincoln, NE
Steven Kelban, New York, NY	Bob Campbell, Gloucester, MA
Bronwyn Clement, Bar Harbor, ME	Paul Welch, Waterbury, VT
Scott Sederstrom, Chicago, IL	Karen Stefani, Sandwich, MA
Abby Evankow, Gorham, NH	Sadie Beaton, Halifax, NS
Mary Coughlan, Rye, NH	Susan Sakash, Providence, RI
Sandra L Farrell, Gloucester, MA	Nancy Sullivan, Gloucester, MA

Susan West, Buxton, NC
Nancy Goodman, Rockport, MA
Nathalie McCarthy, Gloucester, MA
Andres Aguirre, Belmont, MA
Ted Hoskins, Blue Hill, ME
Jean Sylvia, Bar Harbor, ME
Mireille Gart, New Bedford, MA
Olga Pelecky, Holliston, MA
Linda Muri, Watertown, MA
Sharon Klein, Bolton, MA
Virginia T. Nickerson, North Chatham, MA
Stephen Walch, Salisbury, MA
Morgan Parker, Plymouth, MA
Margaret Weber, Detroit, MI
Neil Savage, Exeter, NH
Steven J Paglierani, Marstons Mills, MA
J. Moher, Wakefield, MA
Cassandra Sciacca, Gloucester, MA
Diane Dussault, Rye, NH
Muffy Young, Waltham, MA
Theresa Smith, Somerville, MA
Sarah Gribbin, Gloucester, MA
Charlene Tyler, Marblehead, MA
Barbara Meyers, Cranberry Island, ME
John Koza, Boston, MA
James B Turner, Gloucester, MA
Taylor Phillips, Rye, NH
Lina Tollis, Revere, MA
Beverly Crocker, Foxboro, MA
Patience Sandrof, Foxboro, MA
Don Ackerman, Plymouth, MA
Putnam Maclean, Marshfield, MA
Bernadine Young, Plymouth, MA
Danielle Valley, Los Gatos, CA
Suzanne Brown, Farmer, North Conway, NH
Jan Burling, East Orleans, MA
Garland Mason, Wells, Vermont
Nikhil Aziz, Boston, MA
Joann Lo, Los Angeles, CA
Julie Murthy, Somerville, MA
Elizabeth Wrigley, Wells, ME
Catherine Bradshaw, Boston, MA
Anne D. Burt, Edgecomb, ME
Shira Catlin, Northampton, MA
Ramona Hart, Gloucester, MA
Tammy Packie, Malvern, OH

Sandy Marcusl, Marblehead, MA
Richhard Owens, MT
Kate Tolley, Durham, NC
Sarah Howard
Jezanna Gruber, Acton, MA
Walter Unda, Milford, NH
Andrianna Natsoulas, Sitka, AK
Anne Earhart, Corona, CA
Tara Rowe, Waltham, MA
Margaret Terrio
Rebekah Wilce, Madison, WI
Deb Christensen Lowe, Wellesley, MA
Dr. Joan P Mencher, New York, NY
John E. Peck, Madison, WI
Kathy Felt, East Sandwich, MA
Heidi Perkins, Centerville, MA
Bruce Munson, Beverly, MA
Kathy MacQuarrie, Kensington, NH
Melissa Kaminsky, Madison, WI
David Dow, Falmouth, MA
Myrna Greenfield, Jamaica Plain, MA
Jennifer Merritt
Manuela Barrett
Cassidy MacQuarrie
Ryenne Hindley, Albany, NY
Meribeth Ratzel, Harwich, MA
Josiah Mayo
Renee Duncan, Mount Desert, ME
Brett Ciccotelli, Mount Desert, ME
LS Johnson
Ian Hayes, Beverly, MA
Chad Chalmers, Benton, ME
John C Goodman, Belmont, MA
Natalie Syrion, Somerville, MA
Ronald Cosentino, Boston, MA
Maria Van Dyke, Charlottesville, VA
Karolyn Beebe, Madison, WI
Jon Swart, Saugus, MA
Karen Morey, Los Angeles, CA
Laura MacDOugall, Stoughton, MA
Steven Silvern, Amherst, MA
Terry d'Selkie, Los Angeles, CA
Boyce Thorne Miller, Dickerson, MD
Nancy Luther, Topsfield, MA
Chris McCaffity, Morehead City, NC