

August 8, 2011

Mr. Rip Cunningham, Chair, Groundfish Oversight Committee

Dear Mr. Cunningham,

In June the New England Fisheries Management Council tasked the Groundfish Committee to develop a Scoping document and proceed with an amendment to address fleet diversity and excessive consolidation.

The undersigned group of fishermen and community leaders urge the Council members to include the following issues:

- Anchor fishing privileges to fishing communities.
- Limit the share of the catch of any one fisherman or fishing operation.
- Incentivize and reward owner operators.
- Ensure affordable access for new fishermen.

The undersigned are committed to support all policies that promote a more diverse fleet. The undersigned are committed to oppose all policies that seek to further consolidate the fleet and disproportionately squeeze out the independent community based fishermen.

Sincerely,

# Take the Fleet Diversity pledge to support a healthy ocean!

## HERE'S WHAT WE KNOW AND THESE ARE THE FACTS:

- Fleet consolidation and affordable access are major threats to the future of New England's groundfish fishery.
- The top three entities in Massachusetts control 36% of George's Bank Winter Flounder.
- Last year the New England groundfish fleet lost 458 crew positions.
- Last year vessels > 50 ft. had landings up 8.4% and revenue up 21.5%.
- Last year vessels < 50 ft. had landings down 51.7% and revenue down 34.2%.
- Who fishes matters to the health of our ocean and our communities.

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## BY SIGNING THE PLEDGE I PROMISE TO:

- Support officials and politicians who promote fleet diversity and an affordable fishery.
- Support policies that anchor fishing privileges to fishing communities, limit the share of the catch of any one fisherman or fishing operation, incentivize and reward owner operators, and ensure affordable access for new fishermen.
- Stand opposed to any decision-makers that seek to further consolidate the fleet and squeeze out the independent community based fishermen.
- We, in order to support a healthy ocean, fishing communities and our local food system, make this pledge and invite our fellow community members to join us in exerting our influence to do the right thing – end industrial consolidation of our ocean.

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**TO SIGN:** Email Brett Tolley with your name and info. at [brett@namanet.org](mailto:brett@namanet.org)

Local Fishermen. Local Seafood. Local Control. Local Communities.

# Who Fishes Matters.

Doug Maxfield  
Commercial Fisherman  
Gloucester, MA

Ed Barrett  
President Sector X  
Commercial Fisherman  
Plymouth, MA

Jay Driscoll  
President Sector XI and XII  
Commercial Fisherman  
Rye, NH

Phil Karlin  
Commercial Fisherman  
Mattituck, NY

Lou Frattarelli  
Narragansett Bay  
Seafood Coop  
Commercial Fisherman  
Bristol, RI

Ken Tolley  
Commercial Fisherman  
Chatham, MA

Brian Pearce  
Commercial Fisherman  
North Yarmouth, ME

Kathi and Jim Turner  
Turner's Seafood Corp.  
Gloucester, MA

Eat Local Foods  
Coalition of Maine

Billy Chaprales  
Commercial Fisherman  
Sandwich, MA

Ed Snell  
Commercial Fisherman  
Portland, ME

Tom Dority  
Commercial Fisherman  
Nantucket, MA

Greg and Todd Mayhew  
Commercial Fishermen  
Martha's Vineyard, MA

Mike Pratt  
Commercial Fisherman  
Canton, MA

Aaron Dority  
NCCS Sector Manager  
Director, Downeast  
Groundfish Initiative,  
Stonington, ME

Hannah Mellion  
Farm Fresh Rhode Island  
Providence, RI

Mike and Padi Anderson  
Commercial Fisherman  
Rye, NH

David Martins  
Fishery Biologist  
UMASS at Dartmouth  
SMAST Program

Naz Sanfilippo  
Commercial Fisherman  
Gloucester, MA

Marc Stettner  
President  
Northeast Hook  
Fisherman's Association

Tina Jackson  
President  
American Alliance of  
Fishermen  
Wakefield, RI

Rob Odlin  
Commercial Fisherman  
Portland, ME

Carolyn & Eddie Eastman  
Eastman's Fish Market  
Commercial Fisherman  
Seabrook, NH

Rev. Dr. Robert Ross  
Minister  
New Bedford First  
Unitarian Church  
New Bedford, MA

Ted Hoskins  
Penobscot East  
Resource Center  
Belize Fishermen's  
Advisory Council

BG Brown  
Commercial Fisherman  
Gloucester, MA

Brian Paine  
Commercial Fisherman  
Plymouth, MA

Chuck Etzel  
Commercial Fisherman  
Montauk, NY

Mark McDonough  
Serenitee  
Restaurant Group  
Gloucester, MA

Jamie Hayward  
Commercial Fisherman  
Eliot, ME

Kevin McDonough  
Commercial Fisherman  
Plymouth, MA

Kirk Kirkwanson  
Commercial Fisherman  
Gloucester, MA

Ron Borjesson  
Commercial Fisherman  
Sandwich, MA

Charlie Mansfield  
Commercial Fisherman  
Plymouth, MA

Al Cattone  
Commercial Fisherman  
Gloucester, MA

Tim Barrett  
Commercial Fisherman  
Plymouth, MA

Jason Joyce  
Commercial Fisherman  
Swans Island, ME

Jennifer Brewer, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
East Carolina University

Dan Eagan  
Commercial Fisherman  
Bristol, RI

Robin Alden  
Executive Director  
Penobscot East  
Resource Center  
Stonington, ME

Bob Steneck, PhD  
Professor  
School of Marine Sciences  
University of Maine

Andy Burt  
Maine Council of Churches  
Portland, ME

Dwight Carver  
Commercial Fisherman  
Jonesport, ME

Daniel Wallace  
Board Member  
Eat Local Foods  
Coalition of Maine  
Portland, ME

Ryan Tolley  
Commercial Fisherman  
Chatham, MA

Katherine Ozer  
Executive Director  
National Family  
Farm Coalition

Susan West  
Hatteras Connection  
Hatteras Island, NC

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Monomoy Trap Company  
Cape Cod CSF  
West Chatham, MA

John Barrett  
Commercial Fisherman  
Cohasset, MA

Hilary Dombrowski  
Commercial Fisherman  
Gloucester, MA

Amanda Beal  
Eat Local Foods  
Coalition of Maine  
MA Candidate  
Tufts University

Steven Welch  
Commercial Fisherman  
Scituate, MA

Stu Tolley  
Commercial Fisherman  
Chatham, MA

Mark Gallagher  
Commercial Fisherman  
Hanover, MA

Frank Mirarchi  
Commercial Fisherman  
Scituate, MA

Dianne Langeland  
Editor  
Edible Cape Cod

Steven Kelban  
Executive Director  
Andrus Family Fund

Wes Brighton  
Commercial Fisherman  
Martha's Vineyard, MA

Henry McCarthy  
Commercial Fisherman  
Duxbury, MA

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Commercial Fisherman  
Plymouth, MA

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Lobsters on the Fly  
Orrs Island, ME

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Scientist  
Stonington, ME

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Homeport Restaurant  
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Commercial Fisherman  
Duxbury, MA

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Commercial Fisherman  
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John Dings  
Commercial Fisherman  
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Eat Local Foods  
Coalition of Maine  
Board of Directors

Kate Harris  
Belfast Food Co-op  
Belfast, ME

John Eldredge  
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Chatham Ice Co  
Chatham, MA

Sara Randall  
School of Policy and  
International Affairs  
School of Marine Science  
Graduate Assistant  
University of Maine

John Gray  
Commercial Fisherman  
Plymouth, MA

Kevin Shay  
Commercial Fisherman  
Scituate, MA

James 'Howdy' Houghton  
Downeast Foodshed  
Bar Harbor, ME

Ernie Eldredge  
Chatham Fisheries  
Monomoy Trap Company  
Chatham Ice Co  
West Chatham, MA

Ellen Tyler  
MS Agriculture,  
Food & Environment  
Friedman School  
of Nutrition  
Tufts University

Peter Burns  
Zooarchaeology  
Laboratory at Harvard  
University  
Cambridge, MA

Steve Winterson  
Commercial Fisherman  
Weymouth, MA

Zack Klyver  
Local food supporter

Kathy McQuarrie  
Fishing family  
Portsmouth, NH

Steve Gilman  
Interstate Policy  
Coordinator  
Northeast Organic  
Farmers Association  
Stillwater, NY

Kim Libby  
Local food activist  
Fishing family  
Port Clyde, ME

Northwest Atlantic  
Marine Alliance (NAMA)

Gary McDonnell  
Commercial Fisherman  
Scituate, MA

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Local food activist  
Cape Cod CSF  
Harwich, MA

Tracy Frisch  
Local food supporter  
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Local food supporter  
Braintree, MA

Shannon Eldredge  
Women of Fishing Families  
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Jim Whedby  
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Tad Miller  
Commercial Fisherman  
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Katie Reed  
Gourmet Raw Chef  
and Educator  
FarmAid Foods

Susan S. Michaud  
Commercial Fisherman  
Marblehead, MA

Jay Michaud  
Commercial Fisherman  
Marblehead, MA

Elizabeth Rectanus  
Fishing family  
Scituate, MA

Patricia A. Daly  
Executive Director  
Tri-State Coalition for  
Responsible Investment

John Welch  
Fishing family  
Scituate, MA

Karen Stephanie  
Fishing family  
Sandwich, MA

Chad Hunter  
Local food supporter  
Plymouth, MA

Brain Connolly  
Local food supporter  
Waltham, MA

Paul Welch  
Fishing family  
Scituate, MA

Brendan and Jason  
Stephanie  
Fish family  
Sandwich, MA

Russ Burgess  
Local food supporter  
Plymouth, MA

Mike McQuarrie  
Fishing family  
Scituate, MA

Judy Keating  
Fishing family  
Plymouth, MA

Geoffrey Day  
Seafood Research  
Associates  
Cambridge, MA

Ron Spencer  
Local food supporter  
Nadic, MA

Weslie Welch  
Fishing family  
Plymouth, MA

Dorothy Baldini  
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Local food supporter  
Cambridge, MA

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Cape Ann  
Farmers Market  
Gloucester, MA

Jen Brooks  
Local food supporter  
Gloucester, MA

Tim Greiner  
Managing Director  
Pure Strategies, Inc.

Chris Chapron  
Local food supporter

Shawn Bennett  
Local food supporter  
Beverly, MA

Sandy Ferrell  
Health Care Practitioner  
Gloucester, MA

Beth Germain  
Fishing family  
Gloucester, MA

Christopher Childs  
Author  
St. Paul, MN

Josh Churchman  
Local food supporter  
San Francisco, CA

Anne and John Connolly  
Local food supporters  
Boston, MA



Katie Connolly  
Local food supporter

Laurie Higgins  
Local food supporter  
Brewster, MA

Dena Hoff  
Northern Plains Council  
Helena, MT

Jan DeKenis  
Local food supporter  
Cambridge, MA

Sheila Garzoni  
Local food supporter

Alicia Essers  
Local food supporter

Dorothy G Hemmings  
Local food supporter  
Cape Cod, MA

Jennifer Riley  
Local food supporter

Ernest J. P. Muhly  
Local food supporter  
Walkersville, MD

Willa Kammerer  
Multimedia Storyteller  
Portland, ME

John C. Goodman  
Local food supporter  
Belmont, MA

Tim Gordon  
Local food supporter  
Carlisle, MA

Christine Wenc  
Local food supporter  
Roslindale, MA

Chuck Willer  
Local food supporter  
Corvallis, OR

Josiah Mayo  
Local food supporter  
Welfleet, MA

Mike McCorkle  
President  
Southern CA Trawlers  
Association

Kate OSullivan  
Local food supporter

Craig Pendleton  
Saco, ME

Mustafa Varoglu  
Commercial fisherman  
British Columbia, CND

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New York, NY

Ken Warnock  
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Theresa Smith  
Local food supporter

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Local food supporter  
Brighton, MA

Nancy Sullivan  
Local food supporter

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Local food supporter