

To the New England Fisheries Management Council,

My name is Tracy Pearce I am the wife of a Commercial Fisherman and the livelihood of our family depends on your actions.

I'm asking the Committee to take immediate actions to end consolidation of allocation within our New England Groundfishing Fleet. The rules in place under the current catch share system have left out any prevention from consolidation and without regulating, small scale operations will not have a future. Accessible purchasing and leasing of allocation by a small or mid size business has not been protected when it once was through length and horsepower. When the formula failed to include permit length and horsepower large vessel permit holders were over allocated species.

Immediate action will show that the committee and council is willing to do what is fair and have no bias. When reports show that 90% of the fleet is doing worse and 10% is doing better there is an inequity that cannot be ignored.

Thank you,
Tracy Pearce
F/V Gretchen Marie