

# NORTHEAST SEAFOOD COALITION

April 18, 2005

Patricia A. Kurkul  
Regional Administrator  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
One Blackburn Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Ms. Kurkul:

The Northeast Seafood Coalition submits the following in response to the request for public comments in the following solicitation:

Proposed Rule for Framework Adjustment 40-B (FW 40-B) to the Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) published in the Federal Register on March 29, 2005.

The Northeast Seafood Coalition (NSC) represents over 300 fishermen, 60 shore-side businesses, municipalities and individual supporters located from Maine to Long Island, New York. The Coalition industry members encompass a variety of family-owned businesses and participate in all the predominant groundfish gear sectors including trawl, gillnet and hook gear. The mission of the NSC is to promote a healthy and sustainable commercial fishing and seafood industry comprised of family-owned business and viable ports. NSC encourages, and inherently supports, reasonable and rational fishery management measures that are based on sound science and legislation.

NSC is grateful for the opportunity to provide public comments on administrative and regulatory procedures that directly affect our membership.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jackie Odell  
Executive Director