

NORTHEAST SEAFOOD COALITION

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Contact Information

Nick Brancaleone

Email: nsc.communications@gmail.com

Tel: (978) 283-9992

NSC ENDORSES “SAFETY AND FRAUD ENFORCEMENT FOR SEAFOOD ACT”

March 21, 2013—Gloucester, Mass. The Northeast Seafood Coalition (NSC) is pleased to endorse the “Safety and Fraud Enforcement for Seafood Act,” otherwise known as the “SAFE Seafood Act,” which seeks to protect the American seafood industry and consumers by making the supply chain more transparent and trustworthy.

American consumers expect to know how and where their seafood was produced, if it is safe to eat, and if it is in fact the species they intended to purchase. The SAFE Seafood Act substantially advances transparency and tractability by utilizing information and data that is already collected by American fishermen, such as species name, catch location, and harvest method.

With over 90 percent of seafood consumed in the United States imported and just 2 percent inspected, it is very easy for cheap, illegal imports to displace American fishermen’s products with inferior and mislabeled products. Furthermore, it is becoming increasingly difficult to regain market shares with American caught, responsibly harvested seafood.

“We especially appreciate the focus on imported seafood and provisions to combat the astonishing array of fraudulent schemes used to evade U.S. food safety and labeling laws that do great harm to both U.S. fishermen and consumers alike,” according to NSC executive director Jackie Odell.

NSC is grateful to Congressman Markey and the original cosponsors of the Safety and Fraud Enforcement for Seafood Act including Congressman Walter Jones, Congressman John Tierney, Congressman Bill Keating, Congresswoman Lois Capps and Congressman Jo Bonner.

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About the Northeast Seafood Coalition:

The Northeast Seafood Coalition is a non-profit organization representing over 250 commercial fishing entities, which hold over 500 limited access groundfish permits, in the northeast United States on political and policy issues affecting their interests as participants in the groundfish fishery and the Sector program in the Northeast multispecies groundfish fishery. NSC members are small, independent, entrepreneurial businesses that fish for—and support fishing for—cod, haddock, flounders, and other groundfish species along the northeast coast. NSC’s fishing business members fish from small and large ports all along the northeast coast. They fish small, medium, and large vessels, and they employ all groundfish gear types.

NSC works for rules that embody real solutions to complex fishery problems.