



August 26, 2013

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senator

The Honorable Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

The Honorable Kelly Ayotte
United States Senator

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senator

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

The Honorable Christopher Murphy
United States Senator

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

The Honorable Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator

The Honorable Robert Menendez
United States Senator

The Honorable Jeff Chiesa
United States Senator

Dear Senators:

Thank you for your tireless support and efforts to secure a future for our fisheries, families and communities in the face of the natural disaster declared for our northeast groundfish fishery.

Each of the FY 2014 appropriations measures to provide crucial fishery disaster assistance, make improvements to the use of Saltonstall-Kennedy funds, and ensure the costs of monitoring are covered represent an extraordinary achievement and an exceptional demonstration of leadership on your part.

Your work is in stark contrast to NOAA's repeated rejection of innovative mitigation measures developed by the New England Council and our industry, and the agency's overall failure to develop a response commensurate with the scope and severity of a disaster they declared nearly one year ago.

Indeed, the proportions of the groundfish fishery disaster are historic by any measure and like other natural disasters for which our government provides assistance is a consequence of natural forces far beyond our control. Likewise, our recovery will not be a simple thing. It will likely require many unprecedented adjustments to the management of both our fish stocks and our industry. It will require substantial improvements to fishery science including its ability to measure those natural forces and

predict their effect on fish stocks. It may also rely on the natural cycles of the ecosystem itself to return to a higher state of productivity. Above all, this will take time which makes your provision of substantial fishery disaster assistance to our fishermen absolutely essential if there is to be a future for our fishery.

We recognize there are miles to go and much work to be done in both the Senate and with your colleagues in the House of Representatives, but if our fishery has a future it will be in large measure a result of you working together in the northeast, with your colleagues in other regions, and with Senate Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski and Ranking Member Richard Shelby to make this a bipartisan priority. And so, on behalf of the 361 fishing and shore-side businesses from the Gulf of Maine to the Mid-Atlantic that make up the Northeast Seafood Coalition, I thank you again for all you've done. Please know just how grateful we are and that we are here to assist you in any way we can.

Sincerely,



Jackie Odell
Executive Director