

April 21, 2015

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 Warner
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 Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Dear Senators:

The undersigned express, through this petition, no confidence in the stock status reported by recent assessments for many groundfish stocks. While these concerns are with respect to the recent Gulf of Maine cod report and management actions that have flowed from it, many of these same concerns apply to other groundfish stocks throughout the northeast region.

We are conveying our no confidence because the latest assessment and reported status of Gulf of Maine cod **does not remotely** match what fishermen (we) have seen on the water over the past year. Specifically fishermen (we) have seen multiple concentrations of cod appearing simultaneously across the Gulf of Maine, specifically those that are open to both commercial and recreational fishing. These concentrations indicate numerous age classes and recruitment events.

Although this petition of no confidence is primarily about Gulf of Maine cod, other stocks throughout the northeast region (Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank and Southern New England) are showing similar results of abundance and strength in year classes that are not being reported by most recent assessments. Those species include, but are not limited to Georges Bank cod,

Gulf of Maine haddock, yellowtail, witch flounder, American plaice, red hake, thorny skate, wolfish and windowpane flounders.

For these reasons we strongly support the following action:

The formation of a blue ribbon panel of assessment scientists, which includes government and academic and industry leaders to be coordinated by either the National Research Council (NRC) or the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO), to determine the underlying causes of assessment failures. Based on these findings, provide binding recommendations to correct those causes in a transparent and collaborative manner and in time for the updated review scheduled for all groundfish stocks this coming September.

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| Michael Walsh | F/V Atlantic Prince, F/V Guardian | Boston, MA |
| Tory Bramante | F/V American Pride, F/V America | Boston, MA |
| James Hayward | F/V Heidi & Elisabeth | Eliot, ME |
| Carl Bouchard | F/V Stormy Weather | Exeter, NH |
| Albert Cottone | F/V Sabrina Maria | Gloucester, MA |
| Vincenzo Taormina | F/V Miss Sandy | Gloucester, MA |
| Sebastian Brancaleone | F/V Tina & Tom | Gloucester, MA |
| Joseph Jurek | F/V Mystique Lady | Gloucester, MA |
| Giusseppe Randazzo | F/V Razzo | Gloucester, MA |
| Daniel Murphy | F/V Bantry Bay | Gloucester, MA |
| Joseph Orlando | F/V Santo Paulo | Gloucester, MA |
| Clark and Susan Sandler | F/V Sea Farmer II | Gloucester, MA |
| Russell and Christine Sherman | F/V Lady Jane | Gloucester, MA |
| Richard Beal | F/V Explorer IV | Gloucester, MA |
| Sam Novello | F/V Capt. Novello | Gloucester, MA |
| Mark Novello | F/V Capt. Novello | Gloucester, MA |
| Francesco Paul Vitale | F/V Angela Rose | Gloucester, MA |
| Frank Sciortino | F/V Christina Eleni | Gloucester, MA |
| Vincenzo Russo | F/V Miss Trish II | Gloucester, MA |
| Sebastian and Stefanie Noto | F/V Grace Marie | Gloucester, MA |
| Giuseppe Dimaio | F/V Capt. Joe, F/V Tyler, F/V Orion | Gloucester, MA |
| Thomas T. Testaverde | F/V Midnight Sun | Gloucester, MA |
| Thomas J. Testaverde | F/V Midnight Sun | Gloucester, MA |
| Ignazio Sanfilippo | F/V Cat Eyes | Gloucester, MA |
| Accurssio Sanfilippo | F/V Lilly Jean | Gloucester, MA |
| Accurssio Sanfilippo | F/V Captain Dominic | Gloucester, MA |
| Joseph Sanfilippo | F/V Maria GS | Gloucester, MA |

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| John Deltorchio | F/V Amber and John | Gloucester, MA |
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| Pete Mondello | F/V Allison Carol | Gloucester, MA |
| Tom Lupo | F/V Jennie C | Gloucester, MA |
| Jim Santapaola | F/V Amanda Leigh, F/V Amanda & Andy II, F/V Amanda & Andy III | Gloucester, MA |
| Doug Germain | F/V Labor in Vain | Gloucester, MA |
| Mark Byard | F/V SS Mellon 3 | Gloucester, MA |
| Bonnie Akerley | F/V Explorer II | Gloucester, MA |
| Randall Morgan | F/V Miss Dolores | Greenbackville, VA |
| Richard Syphers | F/V Ashleigh | Hampton, NH |
| Dean Holt | F/V Katie May | Hampton, NH |
| David Goethel | F/V Ellen & Diane | Hampton, NH |
| Peter Lagerstrom | F/V Miss Maura | Hampton, NH |
| Troy Dwyer | F/V Langley Douglas | Hampton, VA |
| Ed Smith | F/V Special K, F/V Claudia Marie | Manchester, MA |
| Richard Burgess | F/V Lori B, F/V Ryan Zackery | Manchester, MA |
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| Mark Phillips | F/V Illusion | Montauk, NY |
| Dan Farnham | F/V Megan Marie | Montauk, NY |
| Kevin Maquire | F/V Evening Prayer | Montauk, NY |
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| Standley Adamczewski | F/V Humbak | New Bedford, MA |
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| Armando Silva | F/V Iberia II | New Bedford, MA |
| Tomas Vinegra | F/V Hustler | New Bedford, MA |
| Pedro Cura | F/V Fisherman | New Bedford, MA |
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| Carlos Alberto | F/V CSM | New Bedford, MA |
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| David Stanley | F/V Kathy & Jackie | New Bedford, MA |
| Antonio Fernandes | F/V Vila Nova do Corvo I | New Bedford, MA |

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| Jose Janardo | F/V Sasha Lee | New Bedford, MA |
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| Luis Fidalgo | F/V Destiny | New Bedford, MA |
| Antonio Pereira | F/V Poseidon | New Bedford, MA |
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| Domingos Goncalves | F/V Cowboy | New Bedford, MA |
| Thomas Simpson | F/V Bull Dog | New Bedford, MA |
| Shawn Machic | F/V Apollo | New Bedford, MA |
| Amilcar Esteves | F/V Green Acres | New Bedford, MA |
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| Antonio Rico | F/V Luso American I | New Bedford, MA |
| Carlos Alberto | F/V Luso American I | New Bedford, MA |
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| Arlindo Casteira | F/V Sao Jacinto | New Bedford, MA |
| Antonio Pacheco | F/V Predator | New Bedford, MA |
| Antonio Oliveira | F/V Sandra | New Bedford, MA |
| Virginia Martins | F/V Can-Do | New Bedford, MA |
| Francosco Garcia | F/V Casa Blanca | New Bedford, MA |
| Dan Connors | F/V Early Times | Newburyport, MA |
| Mike Doyle | F/V Seafarer, F/V Charlies Pride | Point Judith, RI |
| Tim Hauser | F/V Shelby Ann | Point Judith, RI |
| Donald Fox | F/V Determination, F/V Stephanie & Bryan, F/V Excalibur, F/V Lightning Bay, F/V Rebecca Mary, F/V Tenacity | Point Judith, RI |
| Patrick Knapp | F/V Connoe & Michael | Point Judith, RI |
| Troy Sawyer | F/V Debbie Sue | Point Judith, RI |
| Steve Roebuck | F/V Margaret Holly | Point Judith, RI |
| James Haitz | F/V James & Matthew | Point Judith, RI |
| Tony Faciano | F/V Shelby Ann | Point Judith, RI |
| Steve Follett | F/V Heather Lynn | Point Judith, RI |
| Cathy Harvey | F/V Ryan & Dillon | Point Judith, RI |
| Michael Gallagher | F/V Determination | Point Judith, RI |
| Joe Alvernes | F/V Yankee Pride | Point Judith, RI |
| Timothy Carrell | Seaside Fuel Inc. | Point Judith, RI |

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| Dave Gallup | Rhode Island Engine Co. | Point Judith, RI |
| Thomas Williams | F/V Heritage, F/V Tradition | Point Judith, RI |
| Donald Roebuck | F/V Margaret Holley, F/V Debbie Sue | Point Judith, RI |
| Christopher Roebuck | F/V Yankee Pride, F/V Karen Elizabeth | Point Judith, RI |
| Brent Loftes | F/V Asher & Arianna | Point Judith, RI |
| Robert Cabral | F/V Provider | Point Judith, RI |
| Einar Barlow | F/V Lena Pearl | Point Judith, RI |
| Brian loftes | F/V Evan Christine | Point Judith, RI |
| John Ainsworth | F/V Hope & Sydney | Point Judith, RI |
| Stephan Arnold | F/V Elizabeth & Katherine | Point Judith, RI |
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| Mike and Whitney Waltron | F/V Wendy Lee | Portsmouth, NH |
| Geordie King | F/V Brittany Lynn | Portsmouth, NH |
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| Paul Theriault | F/V Terminator | Rockport, MA |
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| Jim Jones | F/V Wil-Mar | Rye, NH |
| Richard Anderson | F/V Bridget Leigh | Rye, NH |
| Jayson Driscoll | F/V Sweet Misery | Rye, NH |
| Jonathan Drake | F/V Paniolo | Rye, NH |
| Jean-Paul and Debra Metivier | F/V Debra Ann II | Salisbury, MA |
| Kevin Norton | F/V Yankee Rose | Scituate, MA |
| Dan Shannon | F/V Sorry Charlie | Scituate, MA |
| Kevin Shea | F/V Endeavor | Scituate, MA |
| Paul Unagst | F/V Destiny | Scituate, MA |
| Brainerd Ames | F/V Brenna Ashley | Scituate, MA |
| Frank Mirachi | F/V Barbara I Peters | Scituate, MA |
| Ronald Gustafson | F/V Cherylann | Scituate, MA |
| Charles Felch | F/V Lady Victoria | Seabrook, NH |
| Thomas Lyons | F/V Marion J | Seabrook, NH |
| Peter Bessette | F/V Miss Karyn | Stonington, CT |
| Phil Powell | F/V Foxy Lady | Swampscott, MA |
| Pete Fadden | F/V Catherine F | Swampscott, MA |
| William Borges | F/V Holly Jean | Westport, MA |