



Fisheries Commission
City of Gloucester

www.gloucester-ma.gov
David Bergeron, Chair
(978) 239-3337

*Representing the interests of 197 active commercial
fishing vessels in America's oldest seaport.*

September 6, 2012

Mr. Samuel D. Rauch
Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Rauch:

We are writing to support the request of the Northeast Seafood Coalition (NSC) for a one-year modification to the harbor porpoise consequence closure scheduled to take place in the Gulf of Maine this coming management season.

Members of the Gloucester fishing industry are gravely concerned by the economic impacts that this additional closure will have at any time, but economic injury would be somewhat mitigated if the October and November consequence closure scheduled to come into effect this year remain open, and that the Agency within its authority replace this closure with a February 15, 2013 through March 31, 2013 closure with a southern boundary change of 42° 24'. This request is limited solely for this upcoming management season (September 15, 2012 - May 30, 2013) until such time as the Agency and the Take Reduction team is able to meet and evaluate the entire take reduction program in light of the current management programs and timely data. Moreover, NSC analysis indicates that this change would result in a greater conservation benefit.

For the above stated reasons the Gloucester Fisheries Commission urges the Agency to implement the NSC recommended changes to this closure. We have enclosed the NSC's request with this letter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Bergeron, Chairman
Gloucester Fisheries Commission

Enclosure attached

The Gloucester Fisheries Commission was established in 1956 by act of the Massachusetts Legislature as an advisory body to the City of Gloucester on all matters related to the commercial fishing industry. The Commission currently consists of 10 members nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

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Mark Ring Sefatia Romeo-Theken Angela Sanfilippo
Gus Sanfilippo Bruce Tobey Paul Vitale