February 19, 2013

The Honorable Michael Michaud The Honorable Chellie M. Pingree U.S. House of Representatives U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Carol Shea-Porter The Honorable Ann Kuster
U.S. House of Representatives U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Edward J. Markey

U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable John Tierney

U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Michael E. Capuano

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch
U.S. House of Representatives

U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable William Keating

U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Joseph P. Kennedy III

U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Jim Langevin

U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable David Cicilline

U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Joe Courtney

U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Timothy Bishop

U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Representatives:

We the undersigned are members of the Northeast Seafood Coalition and active operating members of Northeast Fishery Sectors. We are writing today to express our very serious distress over the recent decision by policy-makers to accept the lowest of low allowable catches for our fishery in 2013 and beyond while simultaneously expecting an industry on the brink of economic ruin to absorb monitoring costs. We are in immediate need of your help.

The forced transition of our New England groundfish fishery to catch share management and hard TACs came with all sorts of rosy promises of resource abundance and economic stability. Maybe even prosperity.

That transition itself was difficult enough to survive, and many of our friends simply didn't make it. But for those of us left standing the situation today is simply unbelievable. There is no stability. There are only repeated, record reductions in catch limits. Prosperity is a discarded dream. This is a real disaster.

Three weeks ago, NMFS Regional Administrator John Bullard told us at the Council meeting that this was our day of reckoning. This is not our day of reckoning - we've done nothing wrong to reckon. We didn't cause this problem. The problem was caused by the failure of government policies and programs to accept and adequately contemplate the reality that current scientific capabilities are inadequate to

manage this "fishery" safely. For too long we've been subjected to the volatility and futility of pretending to know the unknowable. For nearly a decade now our fishery has fished at or below every catch limit set by the government on every stock. We lived within their quotas, but it is now our businesses, our families and our communities that will be paying the price.

This totally unpredictable process for developing catch advice has destroyed all prudent attempts by industry to develop business plans that may have created at least some limited capacity to accept a level of financial burden for monitoring. Government cannot expect our industry to continue to be subjected to drastic cuts in allowable catches while placing additional, government imposed expenses upon us.

When Amendment 16 was being developed and implemented the Northeast Seafood Coalition (NSC) repeatedly warned the Council, NOAA Fisheries and Congress that the success of the groundfish catch share program would depend on adequate federal funding and sufficient allocations to sustain a fishery. Sure enough, here we are - less than 3 years after sector implementation - and the agency is telling us there is not enough money to monitor or enough fish to sustain our fishery. It's difficult for many of us to believe that this was just a coincidence.

The Secretary of Commerce finally declared our fishery a disaster last September. More than a year before that many Members of Congress had already told NMFS there was no way we could afford to bear the cost of the at-sea or dockside monitoring programs. That was before anyone really knew just how bad things were going to be for fishing year 2013.

Nevertheless, Mr. Bullard delivered the second blow to us three weeks ago when he announced we have yet another price to pay—that we will have to pay at least half of the agency's cost of at-sea monitoring in fishing year 2013. This is incomprehensible. If we couldn't afford the cost of at-sea monitoring before the fishing year 2013 cuts were announced, how does anyone think we can afford it now?

We know that you have worked very hard and closely with our representatives at the NSC to help us survive this travesty. And maybe the only reason we are still standing here today has been all that hard work combined with our guts and determination. We can never thank you enough for all your efforts and support. Fishing is in our blood – it always had been and always will be. But we cannot go fishing unless something is done—a lot is done. We are standing on the edge of a cliff and there is no bridge. We need a bridge.

First, NMFS should reconsider their decision to reject the Council's request for interim measures on Gulf of Maine cod and haddock and should adopt the ABC for GB yellowtail as recommended by the Council for fishing year 2013. For many of us, this is a bridge. How are we – those who have endured the brunt of efforts to rebuild groundfish stocks for over two decades now - expected to survive until all those promises of stock abundance are fulfilled? Who are the fishermen who will be catching those fish? Not our sons or daughters, or their children. Did the NMFS lawyers really get it right? Or, was this just an unfortunate policy decision influenced by NGOs or the threat of litigation?

Second, NMFS simply must cover the cost of at-sea monitoring in FY 2013 and continue to do so until things really turn around. That's a given. We know you know that. All we can do is ask you to do whatever is necessary to make that happen in time. Fishing year 2013 begins on May 1st.

Third, NMFS needs to fix their stock assessments. We have paid closer and closer attention to the assessment process and the more we see and understand, the worse it looks. Everything—the stocks and our lives—ultimately depend on the science and all we see are problems. The situation is simply unacceptable. The Magnuson-Stevens Act now demands more from the science than it can produce. That law also needs to be fixed, and Congress can do it. No more arbitrary goals that have no basis in biological or economic reality.

Finally, we ask you to please continue your hard work to find a way for Congress to fund the fishery disaster declarations. We fear we have become a political football and we know you are fighting hard against that. We have seen this great nation step up time and time again to help those that have suffered disasters at the hands of nature to get back on their feet—from hurricanes to droughts to tsunamis. Our disaster is the same. Again, we need a bridge.

Thank you for your consideration. And we thank you again for working with NSC and other industry leaders on all of these difficult issues. For many of us this is probably our last shot at survival.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Akerley Giuseppe Dimaio

F/V Explorer II F/V Capt Joe, F/V Princess Laura, F/V Orion Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

Busty Brancaleone Antonio Giacalone F/V Tina & Tom F/V Caterina G

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

Corrado Buccheri Vito Giacalone F/V Horizon F/V Jenny G

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

Mark Carroll Dean Holt F/V Harvest Moon F/V Katie May

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Newburyport, MA

Daniel Connors Joseph Jurek
F/V Early Times F/V Mystique Lady

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Newburyport, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

Albert Cottone Ramond Lofstad F/V Sabrina Maria F/V Olivia Joan

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Shinnecock, NY

Matteo Logrande Clark Sandler F/V Little Sandra F/V Seafarmer II

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

Paul Metivier Ignazio Sanfilippo F/V Debra Ann II F/V Cat Eyes

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Salisbury, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

Daniel Murphy Joseph Sanfilippo F/V Bantry Bay F/V Maria G S

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

Stefanie Noto Sal Sanfilippo
F/V Grace Marie F/V Janaya & Joseph

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

Sam Novello Gus Sanfilippo F/V Capt Novello F/V Lily Jean

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

Dennis O'Connell Accursio Sanfilippo
F/V Lady Elaine F/V Captain Dominic

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Rockport, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

Joe Orlando Frank Sciortino

F/V Padre Pio F/V Christina Eleni

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

Giuseppe Palazzolo Russell Sherman F/V Francesca & Carlo F/V Lady Jane

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

Joe Randazzo Edward Smith

F/V Razzo F/V Special K, F/V Claudia Marie, F/V Brittannika

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector II & III, Gloucester, MA

F/V Julie Ann II

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

F/V Miss Sandy

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

Vincenzo Russo

Dennis Robillard

F/V Mary and Josephine, F/V Miss Trish II

Thomas Testaverde
Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

F/V Midnight Sun

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

Paul Theriault Daniel Dunbar F/V Terminator F/V Little Mako

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector III, Gloucester, MA

James Vanderpool Peter Eshenfelder

F/V Alyssa & Andrew F/V Sharon E, F/V Hannah Story

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Rockport, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector III, New London, CT

Paul Vitale Peter Fadden
F/V Angela And Rose F/V Catherine F

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector III, Marblehead, MA

David Williams Michael Frontiero

F/V Kathryn W F/V Dunlin

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector III, Gloucester, MA

Steven Wojcicki Douglas Germain F/V Kristine Marie F/V Labor in Vain

Northeast Fishery Sector II, Gloucester, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector III, Gloucester, MA

William "BG" Brown John Greenleaf
F/V Kathryn Leigh F/V David & Jenna II

Northeast Fishery Sector III, Gloucester, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector III, Gloucester, MA

Richard Burgess Brian Higgins
F/V Lori B, F/V Ryan Zachary F/V Toby Ann

Northeast Fishery Sector III, Gloucester, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector III, Gloucester, MA

Mark Byard Thomas Hill

F/V S S Melon III F/V Karoline Marie

Northeast Fishery Sector III, Gloucester, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector III, Gloucester, MA

Christian Chadwick Thomas Lupo F/V Native Son F/V Jennie C

Northeast Fishery Sector III, Gloucester, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector III, Gloucester, MA

Paul Cohan John "Spice" Montgomery

F/V Sasquatch III F/V Chandelle

Northeast Fishery Sector III, Gloucester, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector III, Gloucester, MA

Matthew Cooney William Muniz
F/V Miss Meredith F/V Never Satisfied

Northeast Fishery Sector III, Gloucester, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector III, Gloucester, MA

Thomas Porter Howard Follett F/V Susan Kimberly F/V Atlantic Queen

Northeast Fishery Sector III, Gloucester, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector V, Point Judith, RI

Craig Porter Steve Follett
F/V kenneth J Duncan, F/V Manford L Porter F/V Heather Lynn

Northeast Fishery Sector III, Gloucester, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector V, Point Judith, RI

Philip Powell Donald Fox

F/V Foxy Lady, F/V Foxy Lady

F/V Determination, F/V Excalibur, F/V Lightning

Northeast Fishery Sector III, Gloucester, MA

Bay, F/V Rebecca Mary, F/V Stephanie & Bryan

Northeast Fishery Sector V, Point Judith, RI

James Santapaola
F/V Amanda & Andy II, F/V Amanda Leigh, F/V Jim Fox

Amanda & Andy F/V Rayda Cheramie

Northeast Fishery Sector III, Gloucester, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector V, Point Judith, RI

Arthur "Sooky" Sawyer Bob Guzzo

F/V Miss Carla F/V Jenna Lynn II

Northeast Fishery Sector III, Gloucester, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector V, Stonington, CT

William Skrobacz Jim Jordan F/V Toots F/V Hopefull

Northeast Fishery Sector III, Gloucester, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector V, Point Judith, RI

Scott Swicker Ken Ketcham
F/V Aaron & Alexa, F/V Ashley & Anthony F/V Linda Marie

Northeast Fishery Sector III, Gloucester, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector V, Point Judith, RI

Steve Arnold Eric Lundvall

F/V Elizabeth Helen F/V Rayna & Kerstin

Northeast Fishery Sector V, Point Judith, RI

Northeast Fishery Sector V, Portland, ME

Charles Brayton Sam Martin
F/V Kelsi & Morgan F/V Anticipation

Northeast Fishery Sector V, Point Judith, RI

Northeast Fishery Sector V, Cape May, NJ

Chris Brown Niles Pearsall F/V Proud Mary F/V Black Sheep

Northeast Fishery Sector V, Point Judith, RI

Northeast Fishery Sector V, Point Judith, RI

Oscar Diaz Sid Smith
F/V Second Wind F/V Merit

Northeast Fishery Sector V, Point Judith, RI

Northeast Fishery Sector V, Greenport, NY

Rodman Sykes Armando Estudante F/V Virginia Marise F/V Endurance

Northeast Fishery Sector V, Point Judith, RI

Northeast Fishery Sector VII, New Bedford, MA

Chuck Weimar Tim Hauser F/V Rianda S F/V Shelby Ann

Northeast Fishery Sector VI, Montauk, NY

Northeast Fishery Sector VII, Point Judith, RI

Bob Westcott William McCann

F/V Ocean State F/V Pilgrim, F/V Shamrock

Northeast Fishery Sector VI, Point Judith, RI

Northeast Fishery Sector VII, New Bedford, MA

John Windels Manuel Puga F/V Mary Rose F/V Mayflower

Northeast Fishery Sector VI, Shinnecock, NY

Northeast Fishery Sector VII, New Bedford, MA

Tory Bramante Mario Ribeiro F/V America F/V Lucimar

Northeast Fishery Sector VI, Boston, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector VII, New Bedford, MA

Michael Walsh

F/V Atlantic Prince, F/V Guardian

Antonio Sao Marcos II

Northeast Fishery Sector VI, Boston, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector VII, New Bedford, MA

Warren Alexander Michael Smith F/V Collin & Warren III, F/V John & Nicholas F/V Majestic

Northeast Fishery Sector VII, Cape May, NJ

Northeast Fishery Sector VII, New Bedford, MA

Willis Blount Tim Stevens
F/V Ruthie B F/V Fish Tails

Northeast Fishery Sector VII, New Bedford, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector VII, Gloucester, MA

Charles Borden Manuel Vinagre F/V Mandrake, F/V Drake F/V Sea Siren

Northeast Fishery Sector VII, Westport, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector VII, New Bedford, MA

William Borges Stanley Adamczewski

F/V Holly Jean, F/V Sao Paulo F/V Humbak

Northeast Fishery Sector VII, New Bedford, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector VIII, New Bedford, MA

Pedro Cura Carlos Camarao

F/V Fisherman F/V Santa Queen, F/V Virginia Sands

Northeast Fishery Sector VII, New Bedford, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector VIII, New Bedford, MA

Antonio Cravo William Amaru F/V United States F/V Joanne A III

Northeast Fishery Sector VIII, New Bedford, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector X, Chatham, MA

Paul Lemieux Edward Barrett F/V Hustler, F/V Resilient F/V Sirius

Northeast Fishery Sector VIII, New Bedford, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector X, Boston, MA

William Norton Timothy Barrett F/V Galaxy F/V Odessa

Northeast Fishery Sector VIII, New Bedford, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector X, Plymouth, MA

Pedro Pelicas Tom Bell
F/V Iberia II F/V Michael Brandon

Northeast Fishery Sector VIII, New Bedford, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector X, Scituate, MA

Peter Reposa Philip Brazao
F/V Olivia Catherine, F/V Alexis Martina F/V Sarah Ann

Northeast Fishery Sector VIII, Point Judith, RI

Northeast Fishery Sector X, Green Harbor, MA

Jeffrey SkaarTimothy CaldwellF/V ThorF/V C W Griswold

Northeast Fishery Sector VIII, New Bedford, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector X, Scituate, MA

Carlos Alberto Ronald Gustafson F/V Luso American I F/V Cheryl Ann

Northeast Fishery Sector IX, New Bedford, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector X, Scituate, MA

Joao DosSantos Christopher King F/V Neves F/V Donna Marie

Northeast Fishery Sector IX, New Bedford, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector X, Provincetown, MA

Antonio Pereira Mark Krzyzewski F/V Blue Seas II F/V Underwing

Northeast Fishery Sector IX, New Bedford, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector X, Green Harbor, MA

Carlos Rafael Gordon Lyman

F/V Green Acres, F/V Lady Patricia, F/V Olivia & F/V Annie Wilder II

Northeast Fishery Sector IX, New Bedford, MA

Rafaela, F/V Triunfo, F/V My Way, F/V Destiny,
F/V Sasha Lee, F/V Southern Crusader II, F/V

F/V Annie Wilder II

Northeast Fishery Sector X, Sandwich, MA

Ilha do Corvo, F/V Resolute, F/V Edward L Phillip Lynch

Moore, F/V Drake, F/V Apollo, F/V Cowboy, F/V F/V Mary Elizabeth, F/V Paula Lyn

Bulldog, F/V Hera, F/V Vila No

Northeast Fishery Sector X, Scituate, MA

Frank Mirarchi Jay Driscoll
F/V Barbara L Peters F/V Karen Lyn

Northeast Fishery Sector X, Scituate, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector XI, Rye, NH

Lance Ricci Charles Felch
F/V Silver Rose F/V Lady Victoria

Northeast Fishery Sector XI, Scituate, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector XI, Seabrook, NH

Daniel Shannon James Hayward

F/V Sorry Charlie F/V Rolling Stone, F/V Heidi & Elisabeth
Northeast Fishery Sector X, Scituate, MA Northeast Fishery Sector XI, Portsmouth, NH

John Shea James Jones F/V Yankee Rose F/V Wil-Mar

Northeast Fishery Sector X, Scituate, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector XI, Rye, NH

Kevin SheaPeter LagerstromF/V EndeavorF/V Kysea Lynn

Northeast Fishery Sector X, Scituate, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector XI, Great Kills, NY

Paul Unangst Kurtis Lang

F/V Destiny F/V Alanna Renee

Northeast Fishery Sector X, Green Harbor, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector XI, Portsmouth, NH

Stephen Welch Thomas Lyons
F/V Holly & Abby, F/V Mystic F/V Marion J

Northeast Fishery Sector XI, Boston, MA

Northeast Fishery Sector XI, Seabrook, NH

Richard Anderson Randall Morgan
F/V Bridget Leigh F/V Miss Dolores

Northeast Fishery Sector XI, Rye, NH

Northeast Fishery Sector XI, Greenbackville, VA

Michael Anderson Norman Pike

F/V Rim Rack F/V Sandi Lynn, F/V Hope Lynn

Northeast Fishery Sector XI, Rye, NH Northeast Fishery Sector XI, Seabrook, NH

Jeremy Davis Vincent Prien F/V Karen Lynn I F/V Katie-Rue

Northeast Fishery Sector XI, Kittery, ME

Northeast Fishery Sector XI, Portsmouth, NH

Jon Drake Richard Syphers F/V Paniolo F/V Ashleigh E

Northeast Fishery Sector XI, Rye, NH

Northeast Fishery Sector XI, Hampton, NH

Jeff White John Curzake
F/V Jacquie And Nicole F/V Emilia Rose

Northeast Fishery Sector XI, York Harbor, ME Northeast Fishery Sector XIII, Point Judith, RI

Yvonne Dobre Michael Doyle F/V Jennifer K, F/V Ann Marie F/V Seafarer

Northeast Fishery Sector XII, Portsmouth, NH Northeast Fishery Sector XIII, Point Judith, RI

David Goethel Dick Grachek
F/V Ellen Diane F/V Anne Kathryn

Northeast Fishery Sector XII, Hampton, NH Northeast Fishery Sector XIII, Mystic, CT

Peter Kendall James Haitz

F/V Elizabeth Ann F/V James & Matthew

Northeast Fishery Sector XII, Rye, NH

Northeast Fishery Sector XIII, Point Judith, RI

Geordie King Patrick Knapp

F/V Ocean Pride III F/V Conor And Michael

Northeast Fishery Sector XII, Portsmouth, NH Northeast Fishery Sector XIII, Point Judith, RI

Craig Mavrikis Hank Lackner

F/V Marion Mae F/V Jason & Danielle

Northeast Fishery Sector XII, Portsmouth, NH Northeast Fishery Sector XIII, Montauk, NY

John Ainsworth Brent Loftes
F/V Hope & Sydney F/V Damariscotta

Northeast Fishery Sector XIII, Point Judith, RI

Northeast Fishery Sector XIII, Montauk, NY

Einar "Bunky" Barlow

F/V Lena Pearl

F/V Miste Rose

Northeast Fishery Sector XIII, Point Judith, RI

Northeast Fishery Sector XIII, Montauk, NY

Robert Cabral Frank Mazza
F/V Provider F/V Rose Marie

Northeast Fishery Sector XIII, Point Judith, RI

Northeast Fishery Sector XIII, Fairhaven, MA

Vincent Carillo Malcolm McClintock
F/V Tenacity F/V Rhonda Denise

Northeast Fishery Sector XIII, Barnegat Light, NJ

Northeast Fishery Sector XIII, Montauk, NY

Victor Carpenter Paddy McGlade

F/V Kate & Sean F/V Cody, F/V Enterprise

Northeast Fishery Sector XIII, Point Judith, RI

Northeast Fishery Sector XIII, Point Judith, RI

Bart McNeel Christopher Roebuck

F/V William Lynn F/V Karen Elizabeth, F/V Yankee Pride

Northeast Fishery Sector XIII, Portland, ME Northeast Fishery Sector XIII, Point Judith, RI

Mark Phillips Herb Smith

F/V Illusion F/V Curlew II, F/V Mischief, F/V Buzzards Bay
Northeast Fishery Sector XIII, Greenport, NY Northeast Fishery Sector XIII, New Bedford, MA

Clark Reposa Julia Westcott F/V Mattie And Maren F/V Prevail

Northeast Fishery Sector XIII, Point Judith, RI

Northeast Fishery Sector XIII, Narragansett, RI

Donald Roebuck Thomas Williams

F/V Margaret Holley, F/V Debbie Sue F/V Tradition, F/V Heritage

Northeast Fishery Sector XIII, Point Judith, RI

Northeast Fishery Sector XIII, Point Judith, RI

Cc: C.M. "Rip" Cunningham, Jr., Chairman, New England Fishery Management Council

Sam Rauch, NOAA Fisheries Assistant Administrator (Acting)

John Bullard, NOAA Fisheries Northeast Regional Administrator

The Honorable Paul LePage, Governor of Maine

The Honorable Maggie Hassan, Governor of New Hampshire

The Honorable Deval Patrick, Governor of Massachusetts

The Honorable Lincoln Chafee, Governor of Rhode Island

The Honorable Dannel Malloy, Governor of Connecticut

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo, Governor of New York