

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE • BOSTON, MA 02133
(617) 725-4000

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

February 4, 2014

The Honorable Penny Pritzker
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Pritzker:

I support recent action by Congress and the President to provide relief funds for struggling fishermen and the fishing industry impacted by the recently declared fishery disasters. The Commonwealth's fishing industry is both historic and economically important, and I remain committed to preserving the industry and coastal communities for future generations. These disaster funds will help achieve that, providing both immediate relief and targeted investments to ensure our fleet becomes more sustainable in the future.

Preliminary analysis conducted by my agency staff concluded that the direct and indirect impact to Massachusetts as a result of this disaster is significant. Accounting for fishing year 2013 catch limit reductions, the direct revenue loss due to lowered landings in Massachusetts is estimated to approach \$33.5 million for 2013 compared to direct revenue in 2011. This impact on Massachusetts fishermen is consistent with my original disaster declaration request in 2011.

Using an accepted economic multiplier of 3.1 to estimate industry-wide impacts, the direct and indirect losses to the commercial groundfish industry and communities totals over \$103 million. Because Massachusetts accounts for roughly 90% of groundfish landings in the

Northeast region, direct and indirect losses for the entire region exceed approximately \$115 million.

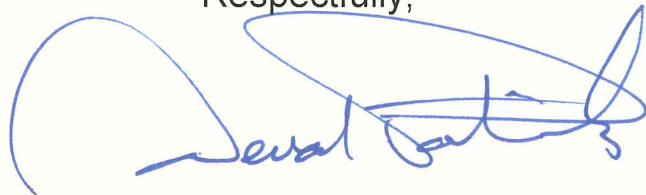
While the precise cause of this fishery disaster remains unclear, the impacts on Massachusetts' fishermen, families and communities are all too certain. I share your belief that this disaster funding should be used to not only begin to remedy the economic harm caused by the fisheries disaster, but to also better position our fishery to weather this ongoing resource disaster. Based on past work by the Commonwealth to distribute federal disaster funds and preliminary comments from industry, I recommend that the following strategies, in no particular order of preference, be considered for disbursement of disaster aid:

- establish direct subsidy programs to fishermen and fishing businesses to provide temporary relief and deal with immediate changes in fishery management;
- support crew and family services programs;
- support loan assistance programs including a long-term revolving loan fund;
- fund shore-side infrastructure support; and
- develop and implement industry and community plans to rationalize aspects of the groundfish industry and ensure future sustainability of the industry and fishing communities.

I thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of all possible steps to provide our fishermen the economic relief they desperately need and ensure that the Northeast groundfishing industry not only survives this crisis but thrives in the future.

I look forward to working with you to ensure the economic health of our fishing communities and sustainability of this valuable resource.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Seval Gentry", written in a cursive style.

Cc: U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren
U.S. Senator Edward Markey
U.S. Congressman William Keating
U.S. Congressman John Tierney
U.S. Congressman James McGovern
U.S. Congressman Richard Neal
U.S. Congressman Stephen Lynch
U.S. Congresswoman Niki Tsongas
U.S. Congressman Joseph Kennedy, III
U.S. Congresswoman Katherine Clark
U.S. Congressman Michael Capuano
Senate President Therese Murray
Senator Bruce Tarr
Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo
Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante
Mayor Carolyn Kirk
Mayor Jon Mitchell
Acting Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and Acting NOAA Administrator Dr. Kathryn Sullivan
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries Eileen Sobeck
NOAA Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, John Bullard
Terry Stockwell, Chair, New England Fishery Management Council
Tom Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management
Council
Secretary Richard K. Sullivan, Executive Office of Energy and
Environmental Affairs
Mary Griffin, Commissioner, Department of Fish & Game
Paul Diodati, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries