



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
THE DIRECTOR

OCT 22 2007

The Honorable Deval L. Patrick
Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State House
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Governor Patrick:

Thank you for your letter requesting a determination of a fishery resource disaster affecting the Massachusetts commercial fishing industry, based on sections 312 and 315 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), as amended.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has carefully analyzed the data regarding the Massachusetts groundfish fishery and also the provisions regarding a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster under MSA 312(a) and 315. Although we understand that there has been economic difficulty in the groundfish-dependent communities of Massachusetts and we are very sympathetic, we find that your request for a determination of a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster does not meet the requirements for such a finding under Sections 312 or 315 of the MSA. Our latest research shows encouraging increases in most of the groundfish stocks including cod, haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail. Even though fishing revenues show some declines, the commercial fishery itself, although diminished, has not failed.

NMFS will continue to work closely with the fishing communities in each of the New England coastal states to rebuild groundfish stocks and strengthen the entire fishing industry. If you have further questions, please contact Pat Kurkul, Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, at (978) 281-9250.

Sincerely,

William T. Hogarth, Ph.D.





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OCT 22 2007

The Honorable Donald L. Carcieri
Governor of Rhode Island
State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Governor Carcieri:

Thank you for your letter requesting a determination of a fishery resource disaster affecting the Rhode Island commercial fishing industry, based on sections 312 and 315 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), as amended.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has carefully analyzed the data regarding the Rhode Island groundfish fishery and also the provisions regarding a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster under MSA 312(a) and 315. An internal NMFS analysis of fish dealer reporting data shows that groundfish revenue for Rhode Island is estimated to have increased by 73%, from \$2.4 million to \$4.2 million during the period of 2005-2006. Thus, the commercial fishery in Rhode Island has not failed. We therefore find that your request for a determination of a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster does not meet the requirements for such a finding under Sections 312 or 315 of the MSA.

NMFS will continue to work closely with the fishing communities in each of the New England coastal states to rebuild groundfish stocks and strengthen the entire fishing industry. If you have further questions, please contact Pat Kurkul, Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, at (978) 281-9250.

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