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June 10, 2013

The Honorable Stephen M. Brewer
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways & Means
State House, Room 212
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Brian S. Dempsey
Chair, House Committee on Ways & Means
State House, Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Jennifer L. Flanagan
Vice-Chair, Senate Committee on Ways &
Means
State House, Room 208
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Stephen Kulik
Vice-Chair, House Committee on Ways &
Means
State House, Room 238
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Michael R. Knapik
Ranking Minority Member, Senate
Committee on Ways & Means
State House, Room 419
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Viriato M. deMacedo
Ranking Minority Member, House
Committee on Ways & Means
State House, Room 124
Boston, MA 02133

Re: Support for Fisheries Research in Fiscal Year 2014 Budget

Dear Honorable House and Senate Budget Conferees:

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for fisheries research funding provided in the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget that is being considered by the Conference Committee.

As you know, our Office has filed suit against the federal government for ignoring the devastating economic impact and lack of mitigation efforts when instituting their latest regulation on our fishing industry. Moreover, our lawsuit alleges that NOAA failed to identify and use the best scientific information available in issuing these new regulations.

We are grateful to the House and Senate which in both Final Budget proposals include funding for innovative research to assess the biomass of groundfish. We have argued that if the federal government is going to take such a draconian step against our fishing industry, it should at least be based on the best possible science. Unfortunately, one of the key problems that existed even before our lawsuit has been the lack of a collaborative effort to accurately assess

these fish species by independent research institutions. Our Office is supportive of using sonar research, or alternative assessment methodologies, in an effort to attain the "best science available," as included in the House Budget proposal.

Our fishing industry has been part of our Commonwealth's historic past, and must be part of our vibrant economic future. As we continue our legal challenge, the Legislature's parallel efforts to obtain updated and accurate science is critical to ensuring that we get the right result for our fishing communities. We urge you to include such funding in your Final Budget.

We appreciate your continued commitment to address this issue and others of importance to the Commonwealth. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Corey Welford, Chief of Staff, at 617-963-2321 with any questions or comments that you may have.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martha Coakley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Martha Coakley

Cc: The Honorable Bruce E. Tarr
The Honorable Ann-Margaret Ferrante
The Honorable Antonio Cabral
The Honorable Mark C. Montigny