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TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

November 5, 2010

The Honorable Gary Locke, Secretary
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Locke:

Thank you for your continued attention to the crisis facing the ground fish industry in Massachusetts.

I write in response to your letter of October 14, in which you wrote that you were "prepared to issue an emergency regulation to revise catch limits whenever there is both sufficient economic and sound scientific data" to support such an emergency regulation. At the time, you encouraged me to share with you the scientific and economic information that could support the exercise of your emergency authority in response to the current situation in Massachusetts.

I asked my Division of Marine Fisheries to work with the Massachusetts School of Marine Science and Technology through the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Institute, along with our Congressional delegation and the mayors of New Bedford and Gloucester, to prepare the attached report. We believe the findings demonstrate the existence of an economic disaster and meet the necessary criteria for emergency action to raise catch limits and ask

Secretary Gary Locke

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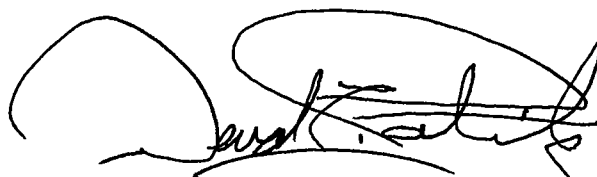
that you move expeditiously to protect the economic viability of our fishing ports while maintaining the conservation goals necessary for the long-term preservation of our fish stocks.

Based on the information presented in this report, I ask that you take two immediate actions:

1. Exercise your authority to issue emergency regulations to revise catch limits to higher levels that are still consistent with conservation requirements. The report demonstrates that there is scientific justification to raise catch limits by at least 30% for most species, and significantly more for some, while still remaining within conservation bounds. Based on this analysis, the report identifies approximately \$19 million of foregone economic opportunities in Massachusetts due to catch limits that were set at the lowest end of allowable ranges; and
2. Provide \$21 million in direct economic relief for the impact caused by the transition to catch shares. I make the request for direct economic relief in response to a fishery resources disaster as specified under Sections 312(a) and 315 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The report demonstrates a direct economic impact of \$21 million resulting from two key factors: first, the initial quota allocation has left two-thirds of the fleet with 50% to 60% lower allocation than they had fished in prior years, and second, the broader market is non-functioning, and has resulted in the inability of fishermen to buy, sell and lease shares for a host of unforeseen reasons. The full magnitude of this impact from these under-allocations and the failure of the market to function effectively were unforeseen and, while the market may correct itself over time, it needs immediate attention at this point.

Thank you again for your leadership and personal attention to this issue of vital importance to our fishing communities, Massachusetts fishermen and their families.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Locke", is written over a horizontal line.

CC:

Jane Lubchenco, Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Eric Schwaab, Assistant Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service

Pat Kurkul, Northeast Regional Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Senator John Kerry

Senator Scott Brown

Representative Barney Frank

Representative John Tierney

Representative William Delahunt

Mayor Scott Lang, New Bedford

Mayor Carolyn Kirk, Gloucester

Ian Bowles, Massachusetts Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Mary Griffin, Massachusetts Commissioner of Department of Fish and Game

Paul Diodati, Massachusetts Director of Marine Fisheries