TO: Paul Diodati, Director, MA Division of Marine Fisheries

FROM: Doug Grout, Marine Division Chief, NH Fish and Game

Cc: Glenn Normandeau, Executive Director, NH Fish and Game

DATE: December 21, 2010

SUBJECT: Recreational Saltwater Fishing Permit/License Reciprocity Agreement

In your December 14 memo to me you determined that the requirements of the Massachusetts Recreational Saltwater Fishing Permit issued pursuant to 322 CMR 7.10 are substantially the same as the requirements of the New Hampshire Recreational Saltwater Fishing License issued pursuant to RSA 214:9, XVIII, and that Massachusetts provides privileges to its resident under 322 CMR 7.10 that are similar to those privileges granted to New Hampshire residents under RSA 214:9, XVIII.

You went on to say that the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MarineFisheries) will establish it as policy, provided that New Hampshire Fish and Game will establish a reciprocal policy, that:

1) An individual, that is not a resident of Massachusetts, holding a valid New Hampshire Recreational Saltwater Fishing License may engage in lawful recreational fishing activities from land or waters under the jurisdiction of MarineFisheries without holding a Massachusetts Recreational Saltwater Fishing Permit; and

2) A for-hire vessel with a valid New Hampshire Saltwater Fishing Charter Boat or Party Boat License may engage in lawful for-hire fishing activities from waters under the jurisdiction of MarineFisheries without holding a Massachusetts Saltwater Charter Boat or Head Boat Permit, but may not use the Massachusetts shore to launch or land said vessel, pick-up or drop-off passengers from said vessel, or land fish from said vessel; a resident of New Hampshire with a for-hire vessel that is part of a business incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts may purchase a Massachusetts Saltwater Charter Boat or Head Boat Permit at the resident rate.
Once you have established the afore mentioned policy on reciprocity on January 1, 2011, RSA 214:9, XVIII (c) provides for the following reciprocity with holders of a valid Massachusetts recreational saltwater license or a for-hire charter or party boat saltwater license so long as that policy is in place:

1) An individual, that is not a resident of New Hampshire, holding a valid Massachusetts Recreational Saltwater Fishing Permit shall be allowed to take, possess, or transport finfish from New Hampshire coastal and estuarine waters without holding a New Hampshire Recreational Saltwater Fishing License; and

2) A for-hire vessel with a valid Massachusetts Saltwater Charter Boat or Head Boat Permit shall be allowed to take, possess, or transport finfish from New Hampshire coastal and estuarine waters without holding a New Hampshire Saltwater Fishing Charter Boat or Party Boat License, but may not use the New Hampshire shore to launch or land said vessel, pick-up or drop-off passengers from said vessel, or land fish from said vessel.

Please contact me with any questions about this proposed agreement.

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Douglas Grout
Chief of Marine Fisheries