

## **NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

### **Enforcement**

#### **I. STATUS**

The Enforcement Committee met yesterday, June 18, 2007 from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

#### **II. COUNCIL ACTION**

Consider the following recommendations from the April 9, 2007 committee meeting:

1. The committee recommends that the Council request that OLE draft a list of concerns and recommendations to establish a protocol for safe harbor. The motion was approved, by roll call, with three yes votes (Peter Jenkins, Ruhle, Leary) and three abstentions (Murphy, McGuinness, Semrau).
2. The committee recommends that the Council request that NMFS develop an updated, more user friendly, VMS system, with consideration given to addressing issues that would allow easing regulations that are inconsistent or duplicative, and that would allow for reporting requirements to increase industry flexibility and administrative ease. The motion was approved with three yes votes, zero no votes, and three abstentions.
3. The committee recommends that the Council request NMFS to establish a declaration that would allow vessels to transit closed areas with minimal gear stowage requirements, as the gear stowage requirements create serious safety concern. The motion was approved with two yes votes, one no vote, and three abstentions.

Recommendations may come from the June 18, 2007 committee meeting as well.

#### **III. INFORMATION**

1. Draft VMS-Enforcement committee summary dated April 9, 2007
2. Draft Emergency contact list (N.C. updated)
3. Draft Safe Harbor protocol
4. Letter to Patricia Kurkul dated April 18, 2007 requesting a change from current VMS practices to a "legacy code" and/or IVR
5. Letter from Andrew Cohen dated April 30, 2007 re safe harbor protocol