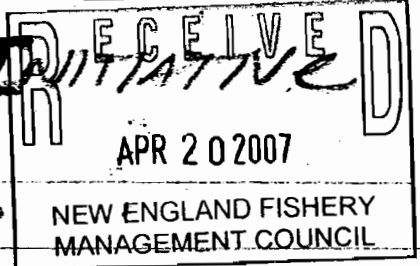


SUSTAINABLE FISHOMES INITIATIVE VINEYARD SECTOR PLAN



Whereas, there are no longer any commercial quantities of groundfish within these waters, and that government management has not succeeded in its efforts for fifteen years, we of the Vineyard seek local control of our waters to effect a restoration.

This restoration effort will join Science and Fisheries and be funded by discards retained by two Vineyard vessels, both in federal and STATE WATERS.

Participants (Hopeful!)

- THE CODFISHES (WANT to come BACK to ISLAND)
- WOOD'S HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC
- UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE
DR. RICH LANGRISH (SAID YES)
- COMM. of MASS (LOBSTER HATCHERY)
- CHILMARK, V.H., OAK BLUFFS, AQUINNAH,
WEST 77 STAIRS.
- NMFS (SOUNDED INTERESTED)
- UNICORN and QUITSA STRIDER (DRAGGERS)
- HANDLINERS / COMM + RECREATIONAL
- AQUINNAH WAMPANOAGS (CHIP + BUDDY ON BOARD PLAN)

5 NEG SAYS YES

SAID MEET WED.

W. CBE (4/27 FN - Cairns)

X Woods Hole to provide technical assistance and monitoring of fishes hatching and after release.

(DR RICH LARSON) X U.N.H. - will use technology developed under information share grant to provide stock for release

(003 0060) X Comm. of MASS., DMF, LOBSTER Hatchery actual site of restoration equipment for hatching - fishes to go to towns for growout and feeding.

X Towns on the ISLAND
- endorse the grandfather provision
- Support sustainable fisheries initiatives to relevant govt. agencies

X **NMFS**

- Has failed to either restore fish or preserve fishing communities.

- As interested in Sector approach - alternative initiatives

X FISHERMEN (themselves)

recreational and commercial handliners and draggermen, will ascribe with fish-potters.

X AQUINNAH WAMPANOAGS

TRIBE HAS LONG CODFISH HISTORY IS eligible for funding - want to help actively.

LIVING BROODSTOCK COD to come from live tank equipped handline vessels from Edgartown, Menomsha Vineyard Haven, Oak Bluffs.

* certain percentage of scrod/market codfish to be integrated and released with stock release which is micro-chip tracked. Use stock from Great Bay Aquaculture if needed at first.

Governing principles to evolve through process and contain as discussion issues strict measures necessary to achieve this heretofore unknown sustainability.

Principles of Sustainability

- ✓ what is good for the fish is good for the fishermen
- ✓ all sea life and components thereof are precious to the ecosystem as a whole
- ✓ fishing efforts must not be negative to the living environment that creates the fish.
- ✓ equality of access based on daily pounds per man - catch rate not to exceed regenerative capacity.

✓ In cases of depletion of particular valuable specie of historic and intrinsic worth beyond dollars A FISHERIES Emergency is auto-matic-ly declared. Extraction of dollars ceases until fishes are restored.

★ The plan for restoration to begin immediately upon approval by NOAA, NMFS, DMF, Comm. of MASS., WHOI, MBL, U.N.H. and Sustainable Fisheries Initiative, in partnership with the towns and fishing communities that still exist and can remember on Martha's Vineyard.

★ "Remember the cod? (with his whisker)"
The plan is a phased in, two stage conversion and development of two possible codfish hatching, grow out and release scenarios involving the in-harbor waters of the towns and alongshore sites. Initially, fry to come from Great Bay Aquaculture and be grown progressively larger as we move to investigate feasibility of doing

...a cod alive is worth more than our belly."

our own hatching.

Funding —

- ✓ try to get grants for project
- ✓ to come from special designation of vineyard fishing vessels of Menemsha

(DEPT of AGRICULTURE) (DEPT of COMMERCE) (NOAA) (SEAGRANT) (SAMMA'S FRIEND) (GOLDBERG TRUST) (INDIAN AFFAIRS)

the UNICORN and Quitso STRIDER

as full retention groundfish vessels, such considerable regulatory and other regulated discards then being sold will accrue equally to the codfish stocking program and as remuneration for the work of these vessels, less the cost borne for the necessary fisheries observer, and equipment. All fishes to be identified and counted, age distribution included.

(try to get participation of the school kids in last week's Times who were row-into the trouts - maybe different school classes of the towns can adopt various hatches of fishes.)

PLAN IS TO **EVOLVE** FURTHER AFTER MEETING Learning Requirements of GOVT SECTOR PLAN.

Cooper A. Gilkes, III
147 West Tisbury Road
Edgartown, Ma 02539

New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport, , MA 01950

Dear Council Members.

As a Martha's Vineyard native son, I was always fascinated by stories told by local fishermen catching cod fish offshore using conventional rod and reel or tub trawling. In the early 1970s, I, too, had the opportunity to go codfishing. We would set long lines, go rod and reeling for three to four hours, then pull the trawl lines and head for home. For several years, this was very productive. Codfish up to thirty pounds filled the boat on a regular basis.

Not always so. One day we arrived at the fishing grounds only to find the large red balls marking gill net lines were everywhere. It was not long before our long lines no longer produced a profitable day - much less our rod and reels. The gill nets remained. Indiscriminately catching all species swimming by. Unattended during stormy weather the gill nets continued to kill, the catch unuseable and wasted. The arrival of the gill nets marked the beginning of the downward spiral of the cod..

I ask the Council to seriously consider the successful restoration which has resulted from Florida's ban on gill netting.

I personally feel that gill nets must be removed from the New England fishing grounds.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Cooper A. Gilkes, III

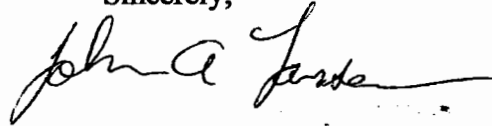
April 19, 2007

Dear Council Members,

The Vineyard had a very successful codfish winter fishery in the 1970's and 1980's. In the winter, all the lobsterboats, conkboats and scup and sea bass boats turned to codfish. We longlined and handlined for cod. The council decided to save the groundfish and directed the Boston and Gloucester gillnet boats to fish for dogfish. They came and set their nets south of the Vineyard where we traditionally fished for cod. They came in November when the dogfish were there and blanketed the area with gillnets and never left until May. They did this for several years. Now you can barely catch a cod to eat.

Prior to the time these gillnetters came, I set a couple of gillnets along with my cod longlines. On an overnight set with these nets, a third of the fish in these nets had to be discarded because the sandfleas ate them up so bad. After that, I threw the nets in the dump. I can't imagine the amount of fish these gillnetters must have wasted by leaving their nets out weeks on end, waiting for weather to tend them. It just defies common sense why the Council ever allowed this to happen, being a group trying to restore fish stocks. Those wasted fish didn't benefit anyone. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John A. Larsen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

John A. Larsen

II Presentation for Vineyard Codfishermen

I) INTRO - Tom Osmer's of West Tisbury

II) CHARTS OF Vineyard Grounds

III) HISTORY - COASTAL TRADITIONS

IV) MANAGEMENT DIFFICULTIES
AND OBJECTIVES - 7 SINS
7 VIRTUES

V) Request for Consideration of us
AS VICTIMS of MANAGEMENT ABUSE

— AND POSSIBLE DISTINCTION FOR
US AS A HAND HAUL FISHERY

JIG + TUB - NO HYDRAULICS

ADVANTAGES =

- 1) Selection
- 2) CREATES JOBS... 4-5 JOBS per BOAT
- 3) Release juveniles ALIVE
- 4) MAXIMUM economic Benefits
High quality - top Dollar - day trips

ISSUING NMFS OFFICE
PERMIT OFFICE, 1 BLACKBURN DR.
BLOUDESTER, MA 01930

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

FEDERAL FISHERIES PERMIT

PERMIT NO. 220258
DATE ISSUED February 26, 1991

ISSUED PURSUANT TO:
16 U.S.C. 971-971H AND/OR 1801-1882

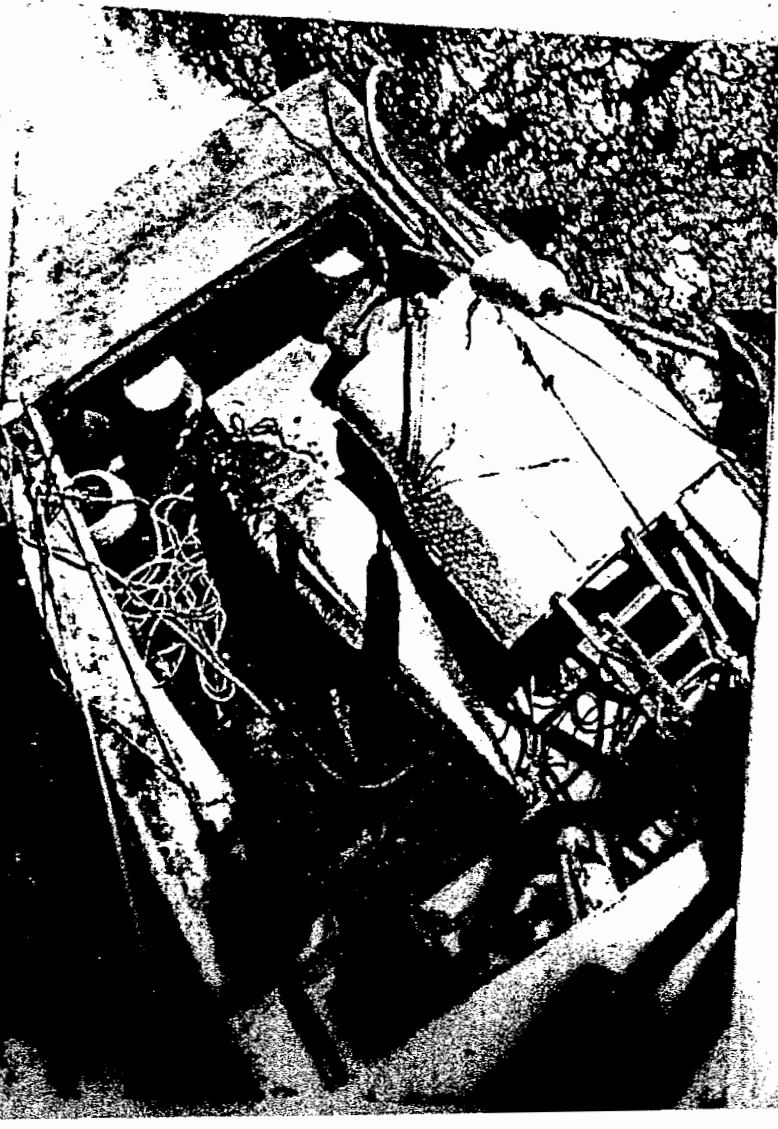
FISHERIES PERMITTED:
ATL BLUEFIN TUNA - HARPOON
WE MULTISPECIES-COMMERCIAL-1991
SQUID/MACK/BUTT-COMMERCIAL-1991
SEA SCALLOP-COMMERCIAL-1991
AMER LOBSTER-COMMERCIAL-1991
SUMMER FLOUNDER-COMMERCIAL-1991

Tel 2019370

ISSUED TO:

VESSEL NAME			
NEZ PERCE			
OFFICIAL NO.	LENGTH	TONS	HOLD CAP.
235995	40	10	6000
PORT			
OAK BLUFFS, MA			
OWNER'S NAME & ADDRESS			
TOM OSHERS BOX 1033 CIRCUIT AVE OAK BLUFFS, MA 02557			
OWNER'S SIGNATURE			

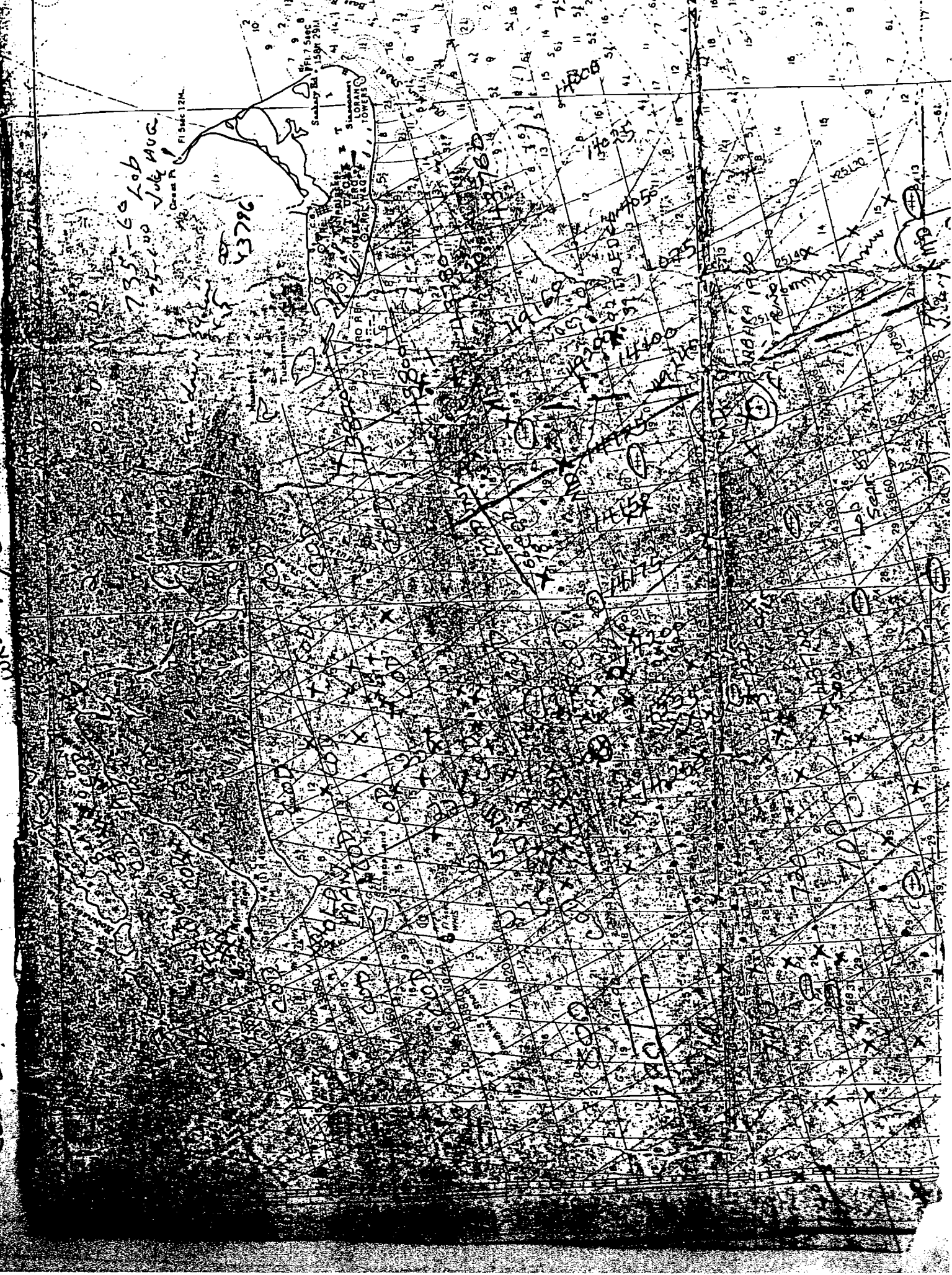
See reverse side for permit conditions & information.



CODING GROUNDS 16005 - 1790

735-60 Job
75-100 July AUG

43796



Reasons for lack of participation:

IN Regulatory process

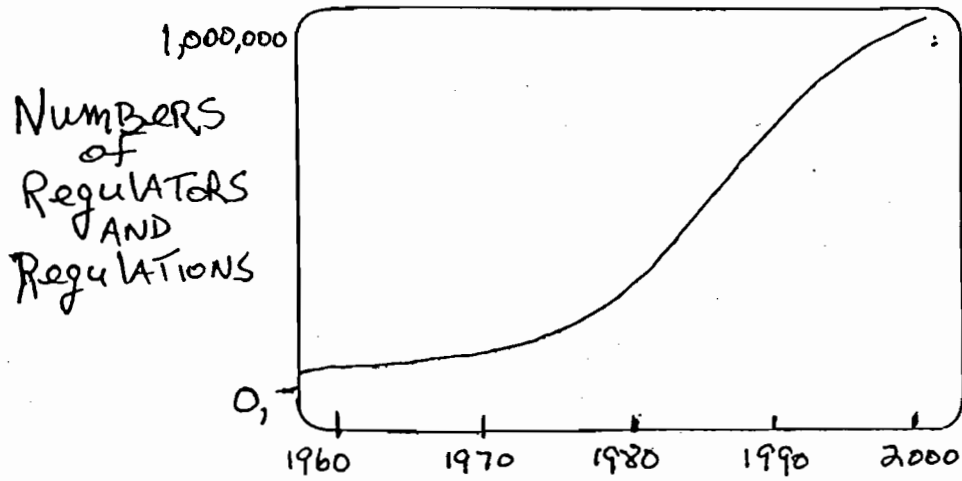
- 1) demoralized - ^{our JOBS for winter gone} Past experiences BAD
Swampfish / Fluke / Scup / Set Bass
- 2) paranoid - BIG vs. SMALL
- 3) ISOLATION - live on an island
- 4) feel that huge discards are easily tolerated on large boats.
BIG Boats unaccountable for discards.

Causes for OPTIMISM —

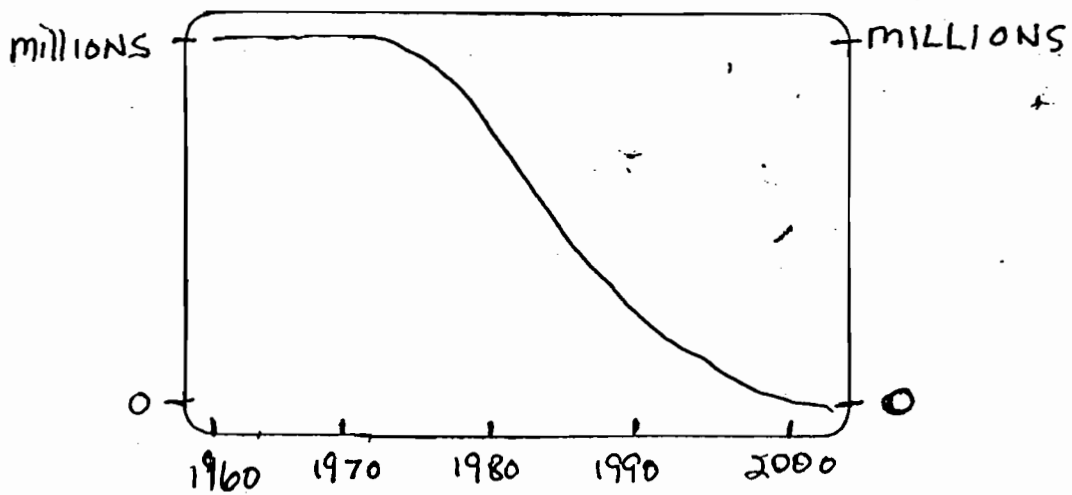
- 1) FISH WANT to reproduce
- 2) Cheap cod (frozen) available from ALASKA, Iceland makes remaining cod in local waters more valuable if left alive and able to reproduce.
- 3) from period of collapse onward is prime chance to develop a fisheries plan BASED ON PRINCIPLES.
 - a) permit maximum spawning (size limits, closures)
 - b) eliminate discards in future (starting now)
 - c) Realize that men with mortgages make poor stewards of resource.

FOR VINEYARD WATERS

Resource Management Graph



FISHERY ABUNDANCE OF COD





New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
John Pappalardo, *Chairman* | Paul J. Howard, *Executive Director*

MEETING NOTICE
MULTISPECIES (GROUND FISH) ADVISORY PANEL

Date: Thursday, April 19, 2007
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Holiday Inn
One Newbury Street
Peabody, MA 01960
Telephone: (978) 535-4600; Fax: (978) 535-8238

Agenda:

- Review scoping comments received for Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. This amendment will adopt measures as necessary to continue rebuilding of several stocks of groundfish, as well as make other changes to the FMP that may be required.
- Review issues common to all management alternatives.
- Review two alternative management proposals received during scoping.
 - One proposal - called area management - suggests managing in discrete, finite areas with specific measures tailored to those areas. Catches in each area are limited by a hard TAC.
 - A second proposal suggests allocating points to commercial fishing vessels that will be deducted based on catch.
- Review other comments received during scoping, including suggestions for changes to the DAS program and other management measures.
- Other business.

Panel recommendations will be forwarded to the Multispecies Committee on April 20, 2007.

TA#:07-34

MULTISPECIES (GROUND FISH) OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Date: Friday, April 20, 2007
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Same as above

(MUST BE AT THIS MEETING)

Agenda:

- Further develop Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). This amendment will adopt measures as necessary to continue rebuilding of several stocks of groundfish, as well as make other changes to the FMP that may be required.
- Review two alternative management proposals received during scoping.
 - One proposal - called area management - suggests managing in discrete, finite areas with specific measures tailored to those areas. Catches in each area are limited by a hard TAC.
 - A second proposal ("the point system) suggests allocating points to commercial fishing vessels that will be deducted based on catch.
- The Committee will also discuss the Gulf of Maine party/charter limited entry proposal.
- Other business

Committee recommendations will be considered by the full Council at its meeting in June, 2007.

- Continued on reverse -

4:00 Council Hearing on the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Omnibus Amendment 2 (Sally McGee)
Opportunity for the public to comment on Phase 1 of the EFH Omnibus Amendment Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement which contains the following components: EFH designation alternatives, Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC) alternatives, evaluation of prey species for the species in the Council's fishery management units and an evaluation of the potential impact of non-fishing activities on EFH.

Thursday, April 12, 2007

8:30 a.m. Research Steering Committee Report (David Goethel)
➤ Summary of recently reviewed final cooperative reports and associated comments concerning the use of project results in management decision-making
➤ Recommendations for 2007 research priorities for Council consideration
➤ Review of the committee's discussion about the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's report on the impacts of fishing on groundfish spawning activities

9:30 Omnibus Sector Committee Report (John Nelson)
Update on the development of the omnibus sector amendment

10:00 Multispecies (Groundfish) Committee Report (Rip Cunningham)
➤ Receive an update on the development of Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP
➤ Review proposed sector operations plans for 2007 for the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Gear Sector and the Fixed Gear Sector and possible approval of Council comments and recommendations

11:30 Open Period Public Comments Open
Opportunity for brief comments from the public on items relevant to Council business, but not otherwise listed on the meeting agenda

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:00 Multispecies (Skate) Committee Report (Rip Cunningham)
Review of management advice from the Skate Plan Development Team and draft management alternatives for possible inclusion in a Skate Plan amendment; discuss and if appropriate, approve a scoping document

2:00 Enforcement Committee Report (Rodney Avila)
Review committee progress, following the second in a series of meetings, to develop recommendations concerning the use of Vessel Monitoring Systems and other tools to address safety at sea, regulatory compliance and other fishery management-related activities

3:30 Other Business

*This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities.
Council member financial disclosure forms are available for examination at each meeting of the full Council.*

Although other non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305 (c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Documents pertaining to final actions or framework adjustments are available for public review prior to a final vote by the Council. Please check the Council website at www.nefmc.org or call (978) 465-0492 for copies. Please note that if you are submitting comments for Council consideration at this meeting, they must be received at the office at least 72 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

notice mailing date: March 20, 2007

attn: Board of Selectmen

①

RE: FEDERAL NMFS Rule Change affecting Vineyard
FOR CODFISH

Under Amendment #13 of the NMFS groundfish plan the qualifying years were established at 1996-2001.

At that time, I appeared at the NMFS groundfish subcommittee at the Biltmore Hotel in Providence, R.I. to ^{TRAWL} testify and plead that the Vineyard, ~~trawl~~ jig and handline fishermen could not qualify to get permits under this regime (and due to our long, pre Revolutionary association with codfish and our 350 year history of codfish export), and we deserved to be grandfathered. This meeting was chaired by Mr. Frank Blount of R.I. The subcommittee and grand council both approved to give us special status

Now, under the new Amendment 16 of the Groundfish Plan, the qualifying years are changing to 2000-05, more newer years in which no codfish have been accessible to Vineyard fisherman.

On April 12, 2007, I gave testimony and made a plea for maintaining special consideration i.e., the grandfather provision

giving us special status that will hopefully continue through the new amendment 16.

On Friday, April 20, the Vineyard will get to present its case to the NMFS ~~MULTI~~SPECIES (Groundfish) Oversight Committee

Any help local from a fishing community would be greatly helpful, especially from Menomsha hopefully Edgartown, and others.

A letter to the council at

NEFMC
New England
Fisheries
Management
Council

50 Water Street

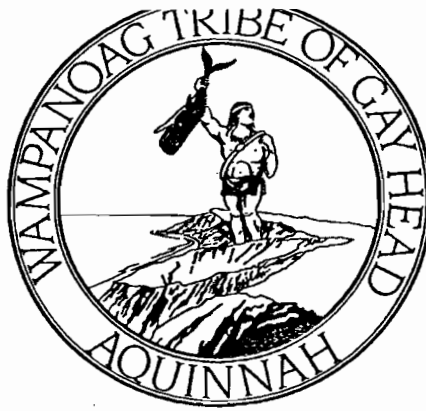
Newburyport Mass 01950.

or something that I can bring personally to this meeting would be helpful.

JOHN Pappalardo, Chairman

Paul Howard executive director.

20 BLACK BROOK ROAD
AQUINNAH, MA 02535-1546



OFFICE (508) 645-9265
FAX (508) 645-3790

April 19, 2007

New England Fisheries Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport MA 01950

Dear Sirs:

The Tribal Council of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) urge that our fishermen be able to pursue their traditional harvest of codfish by means of trawl, handline, or jigging.

The people of the Wampanoag Tribe as well as the Martha's Vineyard fishing community should enjoy grandfathered statutes and area/sector planning under the rule change of Amendment 16 of the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan.

Our historic participation in this fishery covers millenniums and has always been low impact.

Yours Truly,

Jay Smalley,
Vice-Chairman

A FEDERALLY ACKNOWLEDGED TRIBE



TEL. 508 645-2300
FAX 508 645-2310

TOWN OF AQUINNAH

65 STATE ROAD
AQUINNAH, MASSACHUSETTS 02535

April 18, 2007

New England Fisheries Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport MA 01950

Dear Sirs:

The Selectmen of the Town of Aquinnah urge that our fishermen be able to pursue their traditional harvest of codfish by means of trawl, handline, or jigging.

The Gay Head people as well as the Martha's Vineyard fishing community should enjoy grandfathered statutes under the rule change of Amendment 16 of the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan.

Our historic participation in this fishery covers hundreds of years and has always been low impact.

Your truly,

Michael Hebert,
Chairman

p.s. We are also interested in the area/sector planning for the Vineyard fisherman.

TOWN CLERK
508-645-2304
ASSESSORS
508-645-2306

ACCOUNTANT
508-645-2305
BUILDING INSPECTOR
508-645-2307

TOWN COORDINATOR
508-645-2300
TAX COLLECTOR/TREASURER
508-645-2303



TOWN OF CHILMARK
CHILMARK, MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN OFFICES:
Beetlebung Comer
Post Office Box 119
Chilmark, MA 02535
508-645-2110 Fax


April 17, 2007

New England Fisheries Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport, Ma. 01950

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Chilmark has been working for several years now to rebuild our commercial fishing fleet in Menemsha Harbor. We are dedicating about 60% of our harbor waterfront exclusively to commercial fishing activity and we are resisting any movement toward expanding our yacht marina. But our fishing fleet needs help and that means new fishing regulations that are tailored to our harbor and our needs.

We are lending our support to the development of a Vineyard Sector for Groundfish quotas and management. Local control and local husbanding of our resource could lead to resource recovery. We endorse the proposal being brought to you by Tom Osmer.

Sincerely,


J. B. Riggs Parker
Board of Selectmen, Chairman



TOWN OF TISBURY
OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN
BOX 1239 - 51 SPRING STREET
VINEYARD HAVEN, MASSACHUSETTS 02568
TEL: (508) 696-4200
FAX: (508) 693-5876

April 18, 2007

To: New England Fisheries Management Council
(Groundfish Oversight)

From: Board of Selectmen, Town of Tisbury

The Town of Tisbury strongly urges that the grandfather status of Vineyard hand trawl, jig and hand-line codfishermen be continued under the new management provisions of Amendment #16 to the Groundfish Plan.

Please listen to the bearers of this letter concerning the plight of the fish and the codfishermen of the Vineyard.

The Town of Tisbury shares deeply in the long history of codfishing which has occurred in Vineyard waters for over 350 years.

Yours very truly,
Tisbury Board of Selectmen

Tristan R. Israel, Chairman

Thomas W. Pachico

Denys Wortman



TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS

Post Office Box 1327 • Oak Bluffs, MA 02557
Telephone 508-693-3554 • Fax 508-696-7736

Board of Selectmen

Duncan Ross, *Chairman*
Gregory A. Coogan
Ronald L. DiOrio
Kerry Scott
Roger W. Wey

Michael M. Dutton
Town Administrator

April 18, 2007

Mr. Tom Osmers
West Tisbury Shelfish Warden
West Tisbury, MA 02575

Re: New England Fisheries Management

Dear Mr. Osmers:

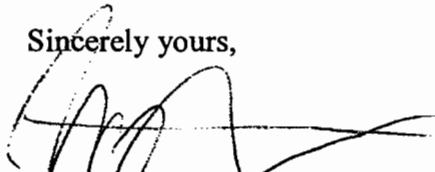
Pursuant to your request, I am writing to express my office's endorsement of your request to the NEFMC to retain favorable treatment for Martha's Vineyard fisherman adversely affected by potential new regulations concerning ground fish.

This office looks forward to and heartily endorses the granting of special status to Vineyard fisherman under Amendment 16.

Please feel free to forward this letter to the appropriate authorities for inclusion in their public records.

Good luck with your efforts to provide a sustainable living for Vineyard fisherman.

Sincerely yours,



Michael M. Dutton



Town of West Tisbury
Board of Selectmen
West Tisbury, MA 02575

NE Fisheries Management Council
Groundfish Oversight
50 Water St
Newburyport, MA 01950

Re: Amendment 16


Dear Mr. Pappalardo;

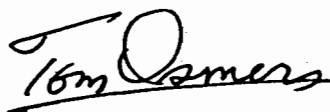
The Town of West Tisbury strongly urges that the grandfather status of Vineyard hand trawl, jig, and handline cod fishermen be continued under the new management regime of amendment 16 to the Groundfish Plan. Please listen to the bearers of this letter concerning the plight of the fish and the cod fishermen from the Vineyard.

The Town of West Tisbury shares deeply in the long history of cod fishing, which has occurred in Vineyard waters for over 350 years.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Jennifer Rand
Executive Secretary


Tom Osmer
Shellfish Warden