



**City of Gloucester**  
**Fisheries Commission Minutes**  
Thursday, April 19, 2012- 7:00PM  
Council Conference Room  
First Floor Conference Room  
City Hall  
9 Dale Avenue

Members:

David Bergeron  
Bruce Tobey (absent)  
Sefatia Romeo-Theken (absent)  
Angela Sanfilippo  
Al Cottone

Paul Vitale  
Mark Ring  
Joseph Orlando (absent)  
BG Brown  
Gus Sanfilippo (absent)

Also in attendance: Patti Page, Suzanne Altenburger

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**1. Call to Order & Chairman's Report**

The meeting was called to order at 7:24pm. **Mr. Bergeron** thanked everyone for coming. Without a quorum present, **Mr. Bergeron** began with opening remarks. **Ms. Sanfilippo** relayed to the Commission that she was on her way.

In opening remarks, **Mr. Bergeron** discussed his trip to Washington DC with the Mayor. They met with Senator Kerry and Mayor of New Bedford before the rally, relating to the Senator and staff the importance of the Gulf of Maine cod stock assessment as well as other recent assessments. Also discussed was the need of NOAA and the Science Center to seriously consider and respect Dr. Doug Butterworth's input on the recent assessment. Senator Kerry expressed his support. The Mayor of New Bedford was also supportive. It was a worthwhile meeting.

Following, the rally consisted of around 30 speakers, many of them members of Congress. **Mr. Bergeron** relayed that it was an impressive line-up, but that the crowd was not as robust as it was two years ago. More fishermen were present at the rally in 2010. However, there was still a good showing at this event. There was a great deal of consistency in the speeches and messages of the presenters. Themes included incorporating flexibility in the Magnuson Act, the need for better science in the Northeast (Kerry was very strong on this point), discussion of the "SK" Bill and the need to bring more resources and collaborative research to the management process.

**Mr. Bergeron** next noted that the Science Center has committed to performing a new stock assessment of Gulf of Maine cod this year, which will include side by side tows with the industry. He

noted that it would be good if the SK Bill funding stream could institutionalize this process of using side by side tows in assessments through the Council. While it is beneficial that NOAA is using this method for the new assessment this year, the method needs to be consistent over years to influence scientific and management outcomes.

At the rally, Mayor Kirk spoke briefly because by that point nearly 30 speeches had already been presented, all with similar themes. Therefore, she took the Commission's statement and scaled it back, still hitting the main points. She stressed the importance of the fishing industry to fishing families, agreeing with other speakers for the need for flexibility in the law and better science. She also called on the President—the only speaker to call on him specifically—to pay attention to the fishing issue and help find a solution. Mayor Kirk declared that it was appropriate for all the fishermen assembled together on that day in Washington to proclaim a 'national fisherman day'. She said, "We ourselves proclaim today as a 'national fisherman's day.'" The crowd agreed with loud applause. She also asked that when a solution is agreed the President come to Gloucester to mark the accomplishment by formally proclaiming 'national fisherman's day'. Given the rarity that so many fishermen, advocates and congressional figures were present, it was a very appropriate moment for such a proclamation. This was a pointed moment in the Mayor's speech and marked a theme that may pull more of the industry together – especially more from the west – for future rallies.

In other business, the City sent a letter of support of the dogfish industry's application for Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification. The support letter has been included for the public record with these minutes.

**Mr. Bergeron** also relayed that he spent a couple of days at Woods Hole with the MREP educational program, where fishermen, scientists, and managers were given the opportunity to discuss fisheries science and tour the research vessel Bigelow. The vessel was very impressive. And the program was an interesting and useful experience.

Fishermen on the Commission expressed the need to ensure that the Bigelow is collecting fisheries data correctly. Normally it takes 5-7 years for a new vessel to produce calibrated results. In this light, the side-by-side tows are very important.

**Mr. Bergeron** also noted that fishermen on the west coast have a different but compatible proposal to the SK Bill aimed at redirecting SK funds for the original SK legislation's intent: seafood marketing and product development by the industry. The effort is being headed by the National Seafood Marketing Coalition and United Fishermen of Alaska. **Mr. Bergeron** has reached out to them to learn more about the proposal. They relayed that they would be open to sitting with the Congressional representation from the east coast to blend the two proposals.

At this point in the meeting, **Ms. Sanfilippo** joined the group, making a quorum.

## **2. Brief Public Comments**

The public was given the opportunity to comment before the Commission. Suzanne Altenburger requested the Commission's support on a new boat building proposal. She noted that several fisheries-related publications have covered her work. She believes her methods in boat building can help to put the fleet on better footing economically and ecologically, noting now is the perfect time for the Commission to become involved and support her venture. She noted that Gloucester is her late husband's homeport; he was involved in both fishing and other related businesses for most of his life. He and his family have been part of constructive development in Gloucester. Her husband

began designing boats in 1962, making this the 60<sup>th</sup> year of his work, which she has continued after his passing. The Navy came to him for advice, a relationship that is ongoing and continues to be productive with Ms. Altenburger. Given her success working with the Navy, a door has opened with other federal agencies and she is now well positioned to help fishermen slide across to this new vessel format. She hopes to have the Commission's support with her new proposal, but also understands that these are difficult times for the fleet. She also understands that the fleet's relationships with federal agencies have been challenged. Ms. Altenburger also noted that she began work on her most current project in the summer of 2002, and went public in 2003. However, in all this time, she has been unable to spread her work to include fishing boats. She added that if she can put on a Navy project, a local fishing project should be feasible. High fuel costs are directly on the mind of the local fleet, and her project could help to mediate these costs. Additionally, fishing is ultimately the only industry where no fuel efficiency research and development is occurring on the federal, state or local levels. Ms. Altenburger's letter is attached as an appendix to these minutes. She thanked the Commission for their consideration.

**Mr. Bergeron** thanked Ms. Altenburger for her presentation, and noted that the Commission will consider her proposal and add it to record but that no formal decision could be made at that point. He also agreed with Ms. Altenburger that everyone is very concerned about fuel efficiency.

In additional discussion, **Mr. Vitale** noted that Saving Seafood reported earlier in the day that the government is thinking about closing the Gloucester north east regional NOAA office and consolidating operations to save costs. He added that this would present major difficulties for the fleet, complicating the time and processes involved in interacting with the government. With all the requirements and changes that go on, not having a local office will make things much more complicated and require more travel, time and resources. **Ms. Sanfilippo** added that the proposed closure would go into effect in September of 2013. **Mr. Cottone** added that he finds it hard to believe that they would close the office with all the controversy and changes going on currently. **Ms. Sanfilippo** responded that it is believable in this fiscal environment and would be devastating for the local fleet. Jobs, convenience, and the current relationships that do exist with these officials would all be lost. **Mr. Cottone** followed that the high level of paperwork required, especially at the end of the fishing year, would become even more cumbersome without a local office to report to. **Mr. Vitale** added that Sector Managers meet with government officials in Gloucester all the time. **Ms. Sanfilippo** added that the Commission should start tackling this proposed move right away—the earlier the better. **Mr. Ring** added that talk of closing the office is nothing new. **Ms. Sanfilippo** responded that this is the first time it has been proposed at the Congressional level in this manner, which makes it believable. **Mr. Bergeron** noted that the Commission's position on the proposed closure is a no-brainer; the City should come out in opposition in the name of saving jobs from an economic standpoint, etc. He also suggested that the statement come from the Mayor.

#### *MOTION*

**Ms. Sanfilippo** motions to recommend the mayor issue a statement opposing the closure of the NOAA Fisheries Northeast Region Office in Gloucester. **Mr. Ring** seconds.

*Discussion:* It was discussed that the statement should not only come from the Mayor, but also from the Commission. It was also agreed that Senator Kerry and all other representatives should be contacted with this statement as soon as possible. It will only become harder to beat once it begins to move through the congressional channels. **Mr. Brown** asked if the Northeast Seafood Coalition (NSC) will also draft a statement. **Mr. Bergeron** responded that he is sure they will too, adding that it is also important for the City to issue its own position.

#### *Vote on Motion*

All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

Next in discussion, **Mr. Bergeron** asked about the new harbor porpoise closures, another critical issue. He asked if **Mr. Brown** could come back to the Commission with details on the timing of these new closures and additional info on their impacts on the gillnet fleet.

**Mr. Brown** agreed, asking that it be added to next month's agenda. He noted that the closures won't affect him personally, but it will have a drastic impact on many of his peers. The closure will be in effect from October 1- November 30 and that the area is west of the Western Gulf of Maine closed area. He agreed to get more info and it was agreed that Ms. O'Dell of the NSC should be invited to give the Commission further guidance on this issue. **Mr. Vitale** noted that these are critical months for many in the fleet, so being forced to tie up as a result of the closures will be serious. **Mr. Brown** agreed, noted that many go on a pollock run in the area during these months to offset cuts to cod quota.

### **3. Minutes of the March 15, 2012 meeting**

The Commission moved next to the minutes of the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### *MOTION*

**Mr. Cottone** moved to accept minutes of the March 15, 2012 meeting. **Ms. Sanfilippo** seconded. No discussion. All in favor, none opposed. Minutes unanimously approved.

### **4. Committees:**

The discussion moved next to an update of the following sub-committees:

#### **a. Commercial Fishing Dockage study**

**Mr. Bergeron** referenced the Draft RFP for a formal dockage study with Ms. Page's data. He revealed that there is still inadequate funding but that he met with Tony Gross of the Waterways Board to see if they can supplement the funding that has already been located. Mr. Gross agreed to put the matter on their agenda. Hopefully **Mr. Bergeron** will have good news to report next month. He also reminded the Commission that of the \$25K proposed for the full study, \$10K has already been provided by the City. The study will be conducted in three parts: a survey of home port vessels, a survey of visiting vessels, and a survey of waterfront property owners.

#### **b. Ad Hoc Committee on Fisheries Summit**

The Ad Hoc Committee on a Fisheries Summit has not met since the last Fisheries Commission meeting. Mr. Tobey sent an email to Commission members indicating that he has spoken with Mr. Balf of Maritime Gloucester who has offered to host a marketing summit for the Commission. **Ms. Sanfilippo** noted that it is important to have a plan in place for this summit before moving forward.

**Ms. Sanfilippo** also noted that she recently spoke with Mr. Balf regarding his organization's "Stellwagen at Twenty" lecture series. She let him know that she would like the fishermen's relationship with Stellwagen be represented, and he was very receptive. A date of May 10 was set for a panel discussion on what Stellwagen means to fishermen. Advertising for the event needs to start soon, so details need to be set in stone ASAP. She asked the members of the Commission who fish Stellwagen to participate, and they agreed. She wants them to tell their stories, to bring the human element to what the fishing grounds have meant to them. It was noted that a lobsterman who fishes the grounds should be identified as well. **Mr. Ring** agreed to ask around and get back to **Ms. Sanfilippo**. **Mr. Bergeron** suggested that the press should also be contacted to attend and report on the event. He also noted that these are the types of events that the ad hoc Committee on a Fisheries Summit/ Marketing should be working on. He added that family pictures and other

visuals should be added to the event. The economic significance of the grounds should also be highlighted.

**Mr. Bergeron** noted that he also spoke recently with Mr. Balf, and that he will be coming to meet with the Commission at next month's meeting.

There was also a brief discussion on the study currently being conducted by the Massachusetts Fishermen's Partnership on Stellwagen. **Ms. Sanfilippo** commented that the findings of the study have not yet been made public, but should be soon. She is waiting on a few final surveys from fishermen.

### **c. Rapid Response Ad Hoc Committee**

**Mr. Bergeron** moved next to the Rapid Response Ad Hoc Committee, asking the Commission to consider a hand out he prepared to formalize the purpose and procedures of this committee. The handout has been included in the appendix of these minutes. He then moved through the points on the handouts one-by-one, asking for feedback where necessary. As recorded in the Emergency Fisheries Commission meeting in February, members of this sub-committee are **Ms. Sanfilippo, Mr. Vitale, Mr. Ring, Mr. Brown** and **Mr. Bergeron**.

#### *MOTION*

**Mr. Vitale** motioned to accept the draft purpose and procedures of the Rapid Response Ad Hoc Committee. **Mr. Cottone** seconded the motion.

#### *Discussion*

**Mr. Ring** asked if decisions will be made on behalf of the Commission at these sub-committee meetings. **Mr. Bergeron** responded that if it's an issue that needs a quick response, such a statement will be passed to Commission members via email before being published. **Mr. Ring** noted that it's important to give careful consideration to the non-commission experts that are brought in for advice on these issues. **Mr. Vitale** added that these experts will be brought in to advise the Commission on issues/ developments. **Mr. Ring** noted that these decisions should be selective. **Mr. Cottone** noted that some of the experts brought in would be obvious choices—including the NSC on policy issues. **Mr. Bergeron** added that the MLA would be contacted on lobster-related issues. He also added that in the case of major/ emergency issues, an emergency meeting of the whole Commission will be called. He also noted that the Rapid Response Sub- Committee has not yet issued any formal statements to date. One was prepared for the Mayor's trip to Washington, but she ended up condensing it due to the length of the event and her late appearance in the order of presenters.

#### *Vote*

All in favor, none opposed. Commission unanimously approves the purpose and procedures of the Rapid Response Ad Hoc Committee.

**Ms Sanfilippo** asked for some clarification on the Commission's relation to the current administration. She noted that the formerly constituted Fisheries Commission was autonomous and had authority independent from the Mayor's office. If the previous Commission made a recommendation, it stood and was always presented as separate from the administration. She asked if this was still the case. **Mr. Bergeron** responded that yes, the Commission is entitled to make statements independently from the Mayor. **Ms. Sanfilippo** noted that she wants to make sure the Commission does not need the Mayor's approval to act on issues. It was made clear that the purpose of the Commission is to inform the Mayor, and that they are entitled to make statements and decisions without her permission. It is the Commission's responsibility to also bring the fleet's needs and perspectives to the forefront.

## 5. Proposed Commission Statement on Implementation of the Gulf of Maine Cod Interim Rule

Next, **Mr. Bergeron moved** to a draft Commission statement on the Implementation of the Gulf of Maine Cod Interim Rule to be published/ presented before the May 1 opening of the new fishing season. He asked for the Commission's review/ approval of the draft statement (attached to these minutes). The Commission reviewed the statement.

**Mr. Cottone** suggested that a note be added to the last paragraph of the statement referencing that aside from the effects of the stock assessments, the definition of "overfishing" in Magnuson requires attention and amendment for the fleet to continue business in 2013. Without a change to this definition, the fishery will be doomed in 2013. Reviewing the stock assessment will not be relevant if the data is simply input into the same model.

**Mr. Bergeron** noted that the main impetus of the statement is to request disaster relief and to call on all stakeholders (managers, science members, and fishing community) to collaborate to avoid disaster.

**Mr. Cottone** reiterated that the last paragraph needs a comment about the need for a change to the definition of overfishing. Without a change in *both* the stock assessment *and* a change in the overfishing definition, there is no way around a 90% reduction in Gulf of Maine cod. Gulf of Maine haddock, Georges Bank cod, gray sole and Cape Cod yellowtail will also face serious reductions without these changes.

**Mr. Vitale** suggested a change for the third paragraph, noting that something should be added about the fact that the fleet has not exceeded a TAC in many years. The fleet hasn't come close to the cod TAC since 1996.

**Mr. Cottone** asked how this statement will be released- will it just be a press release? **Mr. Bergeron** answered that it will be released as a press release to the major circuits, including Saving Seafood. It will also be send to the major politicians.

**Ms. Sanfilippo** suggested reversing the order of "federal" and "state" in the last paragraph. Also, to avoid repetition from the NSC request for disaster relief, she suggested changing the wording to indicate that the Commission is "supporting the NSC's request and joining with the industry in asking Governors of all regions for disaster relief." The statement should also be sent to these governors.

The Commission came to a consensus to move forward with statement with proposed changes.

Patti Page suggested a change for the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph: instead of "if a fishing community..." change to "for a fishing community" She noted the importance of staying away from statements that indicate the fishery is on its way out. All agreed.

**Mr. Bergeron** added that it's always important to stress that the industry is robust now, but faces issues that could be disastrous if not properly addressed. He added that he has personally been emphasizing that these will be straightened out—that they have to be. He noted that the industry has faced obstacles in the past and persevered.

**Mr. Bergeron** also suggested that something should be added to the statement referring to the value of the fishery: \$60 million, a figure from Paul Diodati encompassing state and federal fisheries. **Ms. Sanfilippo** noted that this gross figure has been increasing in the past few years. **Mr. Bergeron** also suggested including the number of boats fishing out of Gloucester. Patti Page noted that her figures indicate that there are currently 197 active fishing boats in Gloucester out of a total of 240 commercial vessels.

Patti Page noted that she finds it troubling that these businesses must constantly lay private/proprietary business information on the table in their defense. It is the only industry where this is consistently required and it seems grossly unfair. Ms Sanfilippo agreed, noting that the fleet has always had to justify themselves. She added that she is tired of hearing that the fishing industry is dead. It seems many have to use that argument to support their own causes, although the two are often unrelated.

## **6. New Business**

**Ms. Sanfilippo** suggested that the Commission should seriously consider taking a stance and drafting a formal response to Whole Foods recent decision to discontinue sales of fish caught by trawl vessels as of Earth Day 2012. As a business that plans on continuing to base its seafood operations out of Gloucester, this is a disgraceful and misinformed decision. The Commission and the Mayor should issue a formal statement in response.

The Commission had a short discussion on MSC certification, relating the process and cumbersome fees associated with certification to the misinformed and misleading Whole Foods decision.

Patti Page made the point that she recently had a conversation with a young person who was convinced that trawl fishing is harmful and destructive to the environment. This suggested to her that there are others who feel the same. In opposition to the stance that trawlers are detrimental to the environment, she made the point that many of the vessels that trawl fish off our shores have been making tows in the same areas for decades if not more—and that the seabed continues to thrive and produce fish. These areas remain productive in spite of trawl fishing.

**Mr. Cottone** followed by explaining that a single storm can do more to disrupt the seafloor than years of trawling.

**Mr. Bergeron** added that it isn't 100% one way or the other. Discussions with experts have led him to believe that certain types of seafloor are more susceptible to damage from trawl fishing than others. However, these areas can and have already been protected by closed areas.

**Mr. Cottone** noted that the current diversity of gear types works to protect the ocean ecosystem. Policies that serve to limit certain gear types (such as the new Harbor Porpoise closures) are often detrimental to a healthy ecosystem.

**Ms. Sanfilippo** added that the historic schooner hook and line fishery did more to deplete fish stocks than trawlers have. She also noted that Whole Foods has built much of its business on Gloucester fish. For them to exclude it now and send misinformed messaging to the public is misleading and needs addressing.

## **7. Agenda for the May 17, 2012 meeting**

The agenda for the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting will include the following:

- Tom Balf presentation
- Ms. Altenburger's request
- Harbor porpoise- **Mr. Bergeron** asked **Mr. Brown** to pull some info on this topic from Sector III for the next meeting. **Mr. Brown** agreed to follow up on it.
- Whole foods statement
- Other issues as they arise

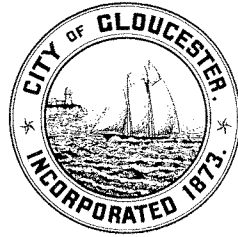
## **8. Adjournment**

*MOTION*

**Ms. Sanfilippo** motioned to adjourn the meeting. **Mr. Vitale** seconds. All were in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 8:53pm.



City Hall  
Nine Dale Avenue  
Gloucester, MA 01930



TEL 978-281-9700  
FAX 978-281-9738  
ckirk@gloucester-ma.gov

CITY OF GLOUCESTER  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

March 27, 2012

Ian Scott  
Intertek Moody Marine  
99 Wyse Road, Suite 815  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B3A 4S5  
Canada

Re: Marine Stewardship Council certification of the U.S. Atlantic Spiny Dogfish fishery

Dear Mr. Scott:

The City of Gloucester is submitting the following comments in support of certification by the Marine Stewardship Council ("MSC") that the U.S. Atlantic Spiny Dogfish fishery is sustainable.

The City of Gloucester is a primary stakeholder in the U.S. Atlantic Spiny Dogfish fishery and has a vested interest in seeing the continued success of the fishery as a sustainable resource indefinitely. The City of Gloucester is proud of its' long history as one of the top commercial fishing ports in the world. There are many people whose jobs are directly tied to the U.S. Atlantic Spiny Dogfish fishery at Zeus Packing, Inc., a seafood processing facility in Gloucester. Many more make their living working on commercial fishing vessels that harvest U.S. Atlantic Spiny Dogfish and call Gloucester their home port. Equally important are the hundreds of people employed by companies that provide goods and services to the seafood processing facilities and the fleet, including: ice, fuel, gear, provisions, packaging and transportation.

It is the opinion of the City of Gloucester that the U.S. Atlantic Spiny Dogfish fishery meets all of the MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing.

Regarding Principle 1:

*A fishery must be conducted in a manner that does not lead to over-fishing or depletion of the exploited populations and, for those populations that are depleted, the fishery must be conducted in a manner that demonstrably leads to their recovery.*

The U.S. Atlantic Spiny Dogfish fishery is conducted in a manner that does not lead to over-fishing or depletion of the exploited populations. Support for this conclusion is found at [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishwatch/species/atl\\_spiny\\_dogfish.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishwatch/species/atl_spiny_dogfish.htm), which states "The Atlantic spiny dogfish population has been rebuilt and is currently harvested at a sustainable rate." The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service ("NMFS") also concludes the 'Sustainability Status' of the U.S. Atlantic Spiny Dogfish is that it is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring.

Ian Scott  
March 27, 2012  
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Regarding Principle 2:

*Fishing operations should allow for the maintenance of the structure, productivity, function and diversity of the ecosystem (including habitat and associated dependent and ecologically related species) on which the fishery depends.*

Fishing operations in the U.S. Atlantic Spiny Dogfish fishery allow for the maintenance of the structure, productivity, function and diversity of the ecosystem (including habitat and associated dependent and ecologically related species) on which the fishery depends. This is true in large part because the Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils have a joint fishery management plan ("Dogfish FMP") to regulate fishing operations and set an annual quota for U.S. Atlantic Spiny Dogfish in federal waters. Also, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission works in collaboration with the Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils and manages U.S. Atlantic Spiny Dogfish fishing efforts in state waters. The Dogfish FMP is a prime example of the successful management of a fishery: when implemented in 2000, the annual quota was set to allow the stock to rebuild and in 2010 NOAA declared the stock rebuilt. Additional support for the conclusion that Principle 2 has been met may be found at [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishwatch/species/atl\\_spiny\\_dogfish.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishwatch/species/atl_spiny_dogfish.htm).

Regarding Principle 3:

*The fishery is subject to an effective management system that respects local, national and international laws and standards and incorporates institutional and operational frameworks that require use of the resource to be responsible and sustainable.*

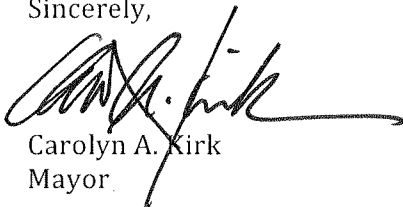
The U.S. Atlantic Spiny Dogfish fishery is a prime example of a successful wild-caught fishery whose sustainability is due in large part to compliance with the 10 National Standards of the *Magnuson-Stevens Act* (MSA). The U.S. Atlantic Spiny Dogfish fishery is harvested under a science-based fishery management plan designed around the 10 National Standards that include sustainable harvest rates and ecosystem-based conservation requirements to minimize by catch and habitat impacts and address social economic impacts. This science-based management process has been evolving since 1976 when the MSA was enacted and eight regional Fishery Management Councils were established to help NMFS manage fisheries based on peer reviewed science of the agency. Most rating and certification programs in the United States, including certification by MSC, are premised on the data provided by NMFS. The data on the U.S. Atlantic Spiny Dogfish is updated quarterly at: [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishwatch/species/atl\\_spiny\\_dogfish.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishwatch/species/atl_spiny_dogfish.htm)

Conclusion:

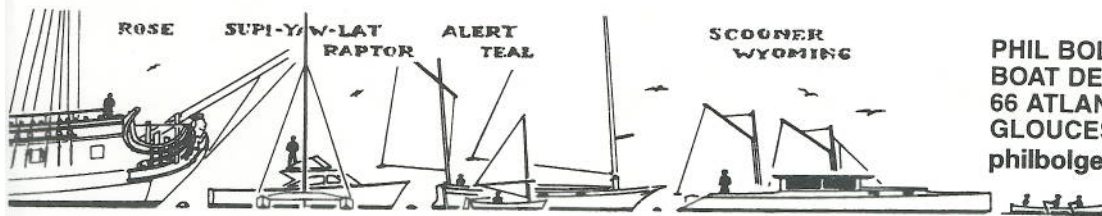
The City of Gloucester encourages MSC to certify the U.S. Atlantic Spiny Dogfish as sustainable because it meets all of the MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Carolyn A. Kirk  
Mayor



PHIL BOLGER & FRIENDS, INC.  
BOAT DESIGNERS, P.O. BOX 1209  
66 ATLANTIC ST. FAX 978-282-1349  
GLOUCESTER, MA 01930-1627, U.S.A.  
philbolger@comcast.net

Gloucester Fisheries Commission  
David Bergeron (Chairman)

04/19/12

Mr. Chairman and Commissioners,

after many years of working pro bono towards an advanced fishing-fleet here in Gloucester fit to face \$5/gal under constricting regulatory provision, this is the time to ask for your and the Commission's support in our pursuit to establish a new baseline of economic viability under strict ecological dictates based on a public & private partnership of research and development of advanced commercial fishing types. It has become clear during the regulatory developments over recent years that reasserting political strength if not outright leadership by this Port's fleet and the Industry in general is vital to securing the most favorable political and regulatory provisions to reinvigorate the fleet and its ports.

Here is a range of technical approaches that need exploring further to help bring this fleet up to hard 21st-century economic and ecological dictates:

- 1.) Longer and leaner hull-geometries per-given-weight requiring much less power and fuel to operate.
- 2.) Mono- and multi-hull geometries in pursuit of the best match of type with a particular fisheries.
- 3.) Enhanced exploration of using Bio-Fuel.
- 4.) Hybrid-Propulsion geometries, including the use of Wind-Power via sails, kites and turbines.
- 5.) Primary structural use of low-carbon Renewable Hull-Materials in lieu of High-Carbon options.

The quest towards low-to-least-carbon vessel-technology is vital in this growing political and regulatory environment of 'Eco-System-based Fisheries Management'. The point is to politically out-class pseudo-ecological pressure groups interested in whole-sale fleet-consolidation and the destruction of the ecologically-superior small-business model of catching wild unadulterated fish to sustainable practices and economics out of many small and medium ports close to the resource. The point is to partner with substantial collaborators to help the fleet reassert both political standing and economic security as energy-cost rise further and apparent political imbalances continue to do damage to fleet, families and ports.

There are a number of emerging regulatory and fiscal opportunities that could potentially offer Fishermen the right and matching incentives to migrate laterally from high-carbon- towards least-carbon vessels and such operational principles, using

- Grants,
- Tax-Incentives,
- Exchange Programs to swap 'High-Carbon' vessel-types for State-of-the-Art 'Green' types,
- 'Lend-Lease' programs., etc.

This industry should be offered the full range of industry-sustaining options to re-empower its fleet and solidly support its shore-based infrastructure. Gloucester's Fisheries Commission is in a superior position to play a significant role in this project. I ask for your support in this on-going venture.

Yours sincerely

Susanne Altenburger (P.B.&F.)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susanne Altenburger', written in a cursive style.

# **Gloucester Fisheries Commission**

## **Rapid Response Ad Hoc Committee**

Draft Purpose & Procedures  
February 16, 2012

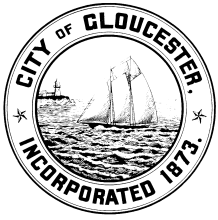
### Purpose

The Rapid Response Ad Hoc Committee will:

1. Monitor developments in fisheries and ocean management;
2. Alert the Commission and City Administration to critical issues and upcoming meetings where the City should be represented;
3. Draft responses on behalf of the Commission to media or political inquiries at the request of the Mayor or Chairman;
4. Recommend emergency meetings of the Commission.

### Procedures

1. There will be a routine report of the committee at each regular Commission meeting that will include alerts of critical issues and upcoming meetings where the City should be represented;
2. The committee will deliberate and make recommendations at the request of the Mayor or Chairman;
3. The committee may consult non-Commission, non-Committee experts on relevant issues;
4. The committee is authorized to draft rapid responses to the media and policy statements to government entities that will be released by the Mayor or Chairman or their designee.
5. All committee recommendations for release will be sent via email to all Commission members before the time they are released to the public;
6. All committee activities, email correspondence pertaining to the relevant topic(s), and recommendations will be reported to the full Commission during the committee report section of the next Commission meeting.



## Fisheries Commission City of Gloucester

[www.gloucester-ma.gov](http://www.gloucester-ma.gov)  
David Bergeron, Chair  
(617) 680-3548

*Representing the interests of 197 active commercial  
fishing vessels in America's oldest seaport.*

April 27, 2012

Press Release for April 27, 2012

### **City of Gloucester Fisheries Commission Statement Regarding May 1<sup>st</sup> Implementation of Interim Rule on Gulf of Maine Cod**

On May 1 the NOAA Fisheries will implement a 22% reduction in the allowable catch of Gulf of Maine cod. NOAA announced that fishermen will be allowed to catch up to 6,700 metric tons of Gulf of Maine cod in 2012. This 22% cut in allocation of GOM cod will have significant economic impact to the City of Gloucester, a port of 197 active commercial fishing vessels grossing \$60 million in landings during the last fishing year.

The City of Gloucester Fisheries Commission thanks our industry and political representatives that have worked so hard to obtain this compromise interim ruling. We recognize our Mayor Carolyn Kirk, Senators Kerry and Brown, Congressmen Tierney, Frank and Keating in particular. We also thank State Senator Bruce Tarr and State Rep. Ann Margaret Ferrante. We are grateful to the federal government for working collaboratively with stakeholders in an unprecedented and encouraging manner and for approving this interim action.

The importance of GOM cod to the fishermen and economy of Gloucester cannot be overemphasized. We ask the governors of all the region's states to cooperate with the fishing industry and our City to craft an emergency disaster assistance package for the impacted fishermen – especially since the fishing industry has complied with all regulations and has not exceeded the total allowable catch for Gulf of Maine cod since 1996. Fishermen are not responsible for what has taken place. The Commission joins with the industry in a request for disaster relief and supports the attached March 26, 2012 Northeast Seafood Coalition letter to the governors making this request.

The stark difference between the two assessments in 2008 and 2011 threatens all fishing related businesses in our City, and it is essential to reassess such wildly different findings and conflicting results, for a fishing community like Gloucester is to exist. The current 22% cut in GOM cod taking effect this May is but a harbinger of far deeper cuts in allowable catches that are being discussed for cod and other stocks as well to take effect in May 2013. The Commission is gravely concerned that these cuts will be too severe for our port infrastructure to survive.

Regardless of current law, our fishermen should not be shut out of the fishery if the decrease in the measured biomass was in error or occurred primarily for natural reasons that are not accounted for in the models.

Commission chairman David Bergeron asked, "Why should our fishermen be put out of business because Mother Nature didn't read the Magnuson Act?"

Before catch limits are established for 2013, the City of Gloucester calls on federal and state agencies to work with fishermen and scientists to develop a reasonable management response that addresses legitimate biological concerns for the resource, is based on our full scientific understanding of the dynamics of fisheries and oceans ecosystems, and incorporates greater flexibility in the definition of "overfishing" in the Magnuson Act to allow fishing communities to remain economically viable through this assessment crisis.

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*The Gloucester Fisheries Commission was established in 1956 by act of the Massachusetts Legislature as an advisory body to the City of Gloucester on all matters related to the commercial fishing industry. The Commission currently consists of 10 members nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.*

David Bergeron    BG Brown    Al Cottone    Joseph Orlando  
Mark Ring        Sefatia Romeo-Theken    Angela Sanfilippo  
Gus Sanfilippo        Bruce Tobey        Paul Vitale



# NORTHEAST SEAFOOD COALITION

March 26, 2012

The Honorable Paul LePage,  
Governor of Maine

The Honorable Dan Malloy,  
Governor of Connecticut

The Honorable John Lynch,  
Governor of New Hampshire

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo,  
Governor of New York

The Honorable Deval Patrick,  
Governor of Massachusetts

The Honorable Chris Christie,  
Governor of New Jersey

The Honorable Lincoln Chafee,  
Governor of Rhode Island

Dear Governors:

The Northeast Seafood Coalition (NSC) proudly represents a large number of trawl, gillnet and hook groundfish fishermen operating from ports in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey.

Working cooperatively with other industry associations in the region, the New England Fishery Management Council, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the scientific community and other stakeholders, we have been deeply involved in the process of addressing the crisis facing many of our fishermen due to the unexpected results of the recent stock assessment for Gulf of Maine cod.

Although this effort has taken us a long way from the very worst case scenario of a complete fishery shutdown, it appears certain now that the catch level for fishing year 2012 beginning on May 1, 2012, will result in the collapse of many small business fishing operations. This holds true for all vessel sizes and fishing gears throughout the region. This is truly a regional crisis.

With this in mind, we feel strongly that this crisis requires a coordinated regional response by all affected states. Please recall that section 312 (a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1861a(a)) sets forth a process for the Governors of affected states to request a determination by the Secretary of Commerce of a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster. Pursuant to such a determination, the Secretary is authorized to provide financial assistance to the affected states to assess and mitigate the economic and social impacts of the fishery failure.

We are advised by NMFS that it will issue an interim catch limit for Gulf of Maine cod for fishing year 2012 very soon. NMFS is expected to choose a catch limit at the low end of the Council's recommended range of 6700mt to 7500mt. While the higher the catch limit NMFS issues the less the impacts will be, of course, we still fully expect the economic and social impacts of this catch limit on our fishermen and communities will be so great that they will meet the statutory requirements for the Secretary to make such a determination.

Thus, we respectfully request a coordinated, regional effort by all of the affected states to request a determination by the Secretary of a commercial fishery failure in the groundfish fishery due to the Gulf of Maine cod resource disaster.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Jackie Odell*

Jackie Odell  
Executive Director