

City of Gloucester
Fisheries Commission Minutes
Wednesday, November 28, 2012- 5:30PM
First Floor Conference Room
City Hall
9 Dale Avenue

Members:

David Bergeron
Sefatia Romeo-Theken
Angela Sanfilippo
Al Cottone
Paul Vitale

Mark Ring
Joseph Orlando
BG Brown
Gus Sanfilippo (absent)
Greg Verga

Also in attendance: Jack Wiggin, Sarah Garcia, Ann Malloy, Sherree DeLorenzo, Suzanne Altenburger, Vince Mortillaro, Patti Page, Jimmy Tarantino, Damon Cummings, Sam Novello, several other members of the public.

1. Call to Order & Chairman's Report

The meeting was called to order at 5:33pm. **Mr. Bergeron** thanked everyone for coming. In announcements, he noted that there is not a lot to report. The only announcement was that there was a letter drafted to send to Congressional representation which was circulated to the Commission members for approval. This letter will be included in the record of this meeting.

2. Minutes of the October 24, 2012 meeting

Next the Commission moved to the minutes of the October 24, 2012 meeting.

MOTION & VOTE ON THE MOTION

Mr. Verga motioned to accept the minutes, **Mr. Cottone** seconded. With no discussion, all voted in favor of accepting the minutes and they were unanimously approved.

3. Committee Reports:

a. Commercial Fishing Dockage

In an update on the Commercial Fishing Dockage Committee, Jack Wiggin provided an update on the progress of the Urban Harbors Institute dockage study. He noted that he would summarize the discussions and talking points of the recent meeting with dockage subcommittee.

In summary, Mr. Wiggin was hired to assist the Commission with two dockage surveys- one intended for property owners on Gloucester's waterfront and the other for vessel owners in the

harbor. Both surveys were distributed at the end of September and responses have been received since that time. Mr. Wiggin noted that 77 property owners were mailed surveys and as of the meeting, 23 have responded. The Dockage Subcommittee went through list of non-responders and developed a plan for outreaching to those who have not yet responded. They Subcommittee feels hopeful that there will be a complete response from all 77.

For the other part of the study, vessel owners have proven more difficult to identify. A database was compiled using several sources including Federal fishing permits, state permits, The Mass Lobsterman's Association, Gloucester's two Sectors and Patti Page's research. All of this information was pulled together to determine which vessels the study wanted to get to. In total, 345 Vessel owners were sent surveys. At this point, 115 have been returned. This is a reasonable response rate, but the Subcommittee still plans to meet again and discuss an outreach strategy for securing responses from the non-respondents.

After responses are collected, Mr. Wiggin will have data for analysis. The Fisheries Commission will then make some recommendations for the City's dockage.

Mr. Bergeron noted that outreach seemed biggest challenge at the outset of this study, and that he is therefore pleased with the responses already. However, he would still like to get to a 100% response rate if possible. He once again asked the Commission and meeting attendees to talk up the survey and try to get as many responses returned as possible. **Mr. Brown** asked if an updated list of those who still need to respond could be sent to the Commission members for reference. Mr. Wiggin agreed to circulate an updated list. Ms. Garcia thanked Nick Brancaleone for his assistance in getting information on the study out to the two Gloucester Sectors.

Mr. Wiggin asked a question regarding the database of vessel owners that has been compiled. He explained that in total, 900+ vessels were identified and that it was a challenge to narrow this number down to vessels who are currently fishing. He asked the Commission for help in ensuring that all the proper vessel owners have been targeted for this study. **Mr. Ring** responded that the list of 900 could be reviewed at the next Subcommittee meeting to make sure all those who are currently fishing have been sent the survey.

Meeting attendee James Tarantino asked if the information gathered as part of this study will be made public. **Mr. Verga** responded that as a publically funded survey, all results will be made available to the public.

Mr. Bergeron thanked Mr. Wiggin for attending.

b. MassDevelopment Working Group

In the next order of business, **Mr. Bergeron** noted that the MassDevelopment working group met recently and had a great meeting. In an update, Ms. Garcia noted that **Mr. Ring, Mr. Cottone, Mr. Brown**, Steve Parkes met with MassDevelopment staff to discuss the implementation of a new survey intended to identify recommendations for encouraging new fishing industry economic opportunity, especially processing ventures on the working waterfront. Jeff Monroe and Judy Harris will be the contacts at MassDevelopment working on this study. Lobster processing and redfish options were discussed at the meeting, along with other areas for opportunity that have been brought up for this study at past commission meetings. Specifically, MassDevelopment was asked to look at the status of state lobster processing legislation to see if this legislation may present barriers for new development. A previously prepared list of topics to explore was provided to this MassDevelopment staff in addition to a list of current processors on the waterfront.

The purpose of this study is to identify barriers to expanding processing on our waterfront, and see how those barriers can be overcome. Generally, this latest meeting was a brainstorming session. Ms. Garcia was asked for a timeline on this new survey. She responded that she was not sure of the timeline, and **Mr. Bergeron** noted that he was hoping for a 6 month turn around.

Mr. Orlando asked if water pretreatment was discussed at this latest meeting, and it was noted that exploring the development of a pretreatment plant or plants is on the list of things to be considered by MassDevelopment. **Mr. Orlando** also noted that it will be important for these MassDevelopment surveyors to talk to processors outside of town and find out what is keeping them from operating in Gloucester.

Looking forward, **Mr. Bergeron** is hoping for an updated report from MassDevelopment at the January Fisheries Commission meeting.

Meeting attendee Ann Malloy of Neptune's Harvest noted that the single biggest obstacle facing expanded processing on our harbor is the lack of available property. It took her business 5 years to locate and secure a location on the harbor. This is a huge obstacle to overcome. **Mr. Bergeron** responded that Ms. Molloy's concern is an important one, and he encouraged others who are currently processing seafood products on the harbor to come forward to the Commission with their concerns/ suggestions as well. Mr. Tarantino suggested that the consultants from MassDevelopment contact Monty Rome at Intershell, who is full of creative ideas for expanding processing on our harbor. He also noted that securing funding for new processing development is key and if the Commission can help current businesses with finding funds. Meeting attendee Suzanne Altenburger noted that any fish that leaves town unprocessed is a loss to the community.

4. New Business

b. Request for Commercial Street Fish Business Development Planning

Next, **Mr. Bergeron** noted that Vince Mortillaro of Mortillaro's Lobster on Commercial Street sent a memo (attached) asking the Fisheries Commission to support proper planning around the development that is going to be ongoing on Commercial Street and to make sure that businesses are able to function normally. As a center for unloading and processing fresh seafood, millions of dollars and many jobs depend on access to this section of town. **Mr. Bergeron** stated that he believes that the memo makes reasonable requests and thinks it should be supported. He asked the Commission members for their opinions.

Mr. Vitale responded that he is in full support of proper planning around the forthcoming development proposed for the Fort neighborhood. If any of the businesses can't get their trucks up and down the road, it will present serious problems. These businesses have brought decades of business to our community, and the Commission needs to support and appreciate them. They should not be encumbered in anyway.

Mr. Verga agreed, noting it would be smart for the Commission to write a letter in support of these businesses to ensure proposed developments do not pose any obstacles to their business.

MOTION

Mr. Verga motioned for the Chair to draft a letter on the behalf of Commission for The City Council and the current Administration to support the memo sent to the Commission by Vince Mortillaro.

Mr. Orlando seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION

Mr. Cottone noted that he docks at Felicia's oil, which means the smooth operation of his business will also rely on unencumbered access to Commercial Street. He added that businesses operate 24/7 in this neighborhood so the road should remain unrestricted at all times. If for any reason the road is blocked as a result of construction, something must be done to remedy the situation immediately.

Mr. Ring noted that the letter drafted by **Mr. Bergeron** should not use the language "mitigate" - it should be made clear that the Commission and the City is not in that position to provide compensation for any business that may be hindered by this proposed development. However, the City can be forward and upfront to make it clear that proper measures need to be taken to ensure that the road is never blocked and that any issues that do arise need to be addressed immediately.

Mr. Verga asked that a draft of this letter be circulated to the Commission members for approval before being sent out. **Mr. Bergeron** agreed.

Ms. Romeo-Theken added that recent construction on Washington Street presented a similar set of issues. To avoid major problems, these issues were discussed in full before the City's Boards and City Council to ensure that business and residential properties would not be encumbered by the construction. Similarly, development on Commercial Street required a thorough plan be put in place *before* the work starts. This plan should include a protocol for dealing with any issues that may arise, including a contact person to be available 24-7. It is essential that this contact person has the power to remedy any issues that may arise. It's a highly congested area, and everyone needs to be properly informed as the work moves forward.

Mr. Verga noted that this letter from the Commission should serve the dual purpose of addressing both the potential construction and the infrastructure upgrades scheduled for Commercial Street.

Mr. Orlando noted that fresh fish unloaded here every morning needs to leave at a certain time in order to retain its value—especially in the summer. The road has to be open at all times.

Ms. Romeo-Theken suggested that the Fisheries Commission let the DPW & other construction companies know of their concerns, and that before any work starts, a contact person be identified as the overseer to ensure the projects run smoothly and that if problems arise, they will be addressed immediately.

Mr. Ring noted that a recent project in another part of town involved a contact person/ liaison who was a neighborhood resident. This person was notified of any major developments in the construction process and went door-to-door to ensure everyone was kept informed. It worked well in this case.

Mr. Verga added that as part of the permitting process for any City event, a cell phone number for a contact person must be identified in order for the event to be approved. Language can be borrowed from this documentation for the Fisheries Commission in drafting this letter. **Mr. Verga** agreed to email the language to **Mr. Bergeron**.

A member of the audience, Lee Delicker, President of Windover Construction Company that has been contracted to build the proposed hotel on Commercial Street addressed the Commission stating that there will be a comprehensive plan put into place before construction starts on this project. The plan will include an outline of all logistical angles of this project- including ensuring traffic access to Commercial Street. Also, all residents and businesses will be approached to find

out any concerns and to distribute the name and contract information of a lead contact person should any issues arise. This plan will be presented as part of the permitting process and just prior to construction. Someone will be available on site and 24 hours a day for issues.

Meeting attendee Vince Mortillaro, author of the memo sent to the Commission, explained that he sent the memo because a few months ago he sent a two page letter to the Mayor requesting similar support and no response was received as of yet. He went on to explain that no one is talking to him from the City, and it seemed no one cared about his concerns. **Mr. Bergeron** responded that the Commission is listening to these concerns and taking them seriously and that a letter will be sent to ensure business is able to operate as usual with the proposed developments for this neighborhood.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

All in favor, City Councilors Romeo-Theken and Verga abstained, none opposed, motion adopted.

b. Fisheries Gloucester Public Education & Communication Campaign

In the next order of business, **Mr. Bergeron** noted that over the past year, various constituent groups have met with the Commission and expressed consistent feelings that there is not a sufficient understanding of industry's contribution to the community. As a result, this seems like a good time for enhancing communication and making more information on the local fleet available to the public. With many proposed changes coming in the areas of zoning, development, and DPA status, it is essential to have an educated citizenry that understands what is at stake when it comes to the commercial fishing industry. In this light, **Mr. Bergeron** explained that he would like to have a discussion to develop a plan for this education & outreach. Additionally, he would like the Commission to consider asking for the City's support and investment in this project.

Mr. Bergeron added that Tom Balf of the Maritime Gloucester called after agenda was circulated and he saw this topic up for discussion. He expressed apologies for not being able to attend this evening, but wanted to convey his strong interest to work with the Fisheries Commission to tell this story of the fishing industry of today. He thinks the Heritage Center can play an important role in this process and would like to help to develop materials that would be useful in this endeavor.

Mr. Bergeron finished by suggesting the Commission develop a request to send to the City Council to support a formal Commission project. He asked the Commission members for feedback.

Ms. Romeo-Theken responded that this project sounds like a great idea, especially in the context of the upcoming City Council decision to submit a Home Rule Petition to take I4-C2 out of the DPA. The public needs to be informed of what is at stake for issues like this one. She asked if anyone on the Commission would be attending this City Council meeting on Dec. 11.

Mr. Orlando responded that he will be attending, and that he thinks the Commission needs to take a stand on this important issue. In his opinion, there is no way I4-C2 should be taken out of the DPA.

Mr. Verga responded that he cannot take a formal position on this issue before the public speaks before City Council on the issue. He would have to abstain from a vote. He also noted that this discussion is off topic from the agenda. It was agreed this issue would be re-addressed later in the meeting under new business.

Mr. Bergeron re-stated that his intention is to develop a formal plan to educate the public on key fisheries issues. **Ms. Sanfilippo** and **Mr. Vitale** agreed this is an important and needed project. **Mr. Vitale** added that there is a lot of rhetoric that fishing is dead and a great deal of misinformation, so

people don't realize what the fleet contributes. He added that the presentation he was a part of at the Maritime Gloucester's Sanctuary series was very well received by the public, and that he was pleasantly surprised by their reactions to his stories of fishing on Stellwagen. Any education along these lines that can be set forth would be very valuable. Schools should also be considered as a venue.

Mr. Cottone asked if there are funds available for this type of project. If there are, a documentary film in partnership with a local University would be worth exploring. It could be shown at the Maritime Gloucester (formerly the Heritage Center) and at local schools, etc.

Ms. Sanfilippo added that a recent showing of a documentary on this history of the Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Association was well received at the Maritime Gloucester. This documentary only goes through 2001, however, and therefore an updated piece would be useful.

Mr. Verga agreed that this is a meaningful project worth investing in. He would love to see how the Maritime Gloucester could partner with the Commission to advance the project.

If comes down to funding, **Ms. Romeo-Theken** said the Commission could ask for a portion of the City's free cash surplus funding. **Mr. Bergeron** suggested that the Commission put together a formal request for targeted funding from the City. If initial support is given, it would provide the opportunity to show what can be done so more funding could be secured in the future.

Meeting attendee Damon Cummings explained that he and a small group of collaborators have started a project to document the economic development cluster here on the waterfront. The project interviews people on film who are working, innovating, and making investments on Gloucester's Harbor. This project relates to the ideas the Commission is proposing.

Meeting attendee Sam Novello, a local fisherman, relayed that a former "Adopt a Fisherman" program that he participated in was a great success. Through this program, a class of young students would adopt a fisherman and learn all about how he makes a living on the water. Mr. Novello explained that he went to a 3rd grade class in Roxbury and was amazed by the results and success of the project. The kids were very interested, and asked lots of questions. **Mr. Bergeron** suggested that something like this could be of benefit locally now that many local kids don't know much about fishing.

Nick Brancaleone of the Northeast Seafood Coalition mentioned that the NSC is also working with the Maritime Gloucester to do an educational project. On Monday a pre-proposal was sent to the National Fish and Wildlife Project for funding. This project would detail the face of the current industry as well as the management process that governs our fisheries. Topics would include gear types that operate out of Gloucester, types of vessels, what they fish for where they fish. The goal is to get the community more knowledgeable on today's industry. A focus would also be placed on Gloucester as a multigenerational fishing community by working with local families in the industry. He asked for the Commission's support in this project, suggesting a partnership if funding could be secured from the City as well.

Meeting attendee Ann Malloy noted that when the Commission was reconvened by the Mayor, she was asked to participate. At this time, she reviewed the charter and noticed that \$60,000 is supposed to be allocated to the Commission as part of the annual budget. **Ms. Sanfilippo** agreed, noting that by law, funding is supposed to be made available through the City for the Commission to

cover staff. If the City has surplus money, the Commission should go after some of it, as funding for the commission is mandated by law.

In regards to outreach and education on the industry, **Ms. Sanfilippo** added that the Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Association is in the process of reprinting their cookbook. There is a great deal of educational information on the industry in this publication, and it should be a reference point for the Commission during this educating initiative.

Meeting attendee Suzanne Altenburger suggested that the Commission consider putting together a regular publication in the local media that details the importance of the industry, similar to the "Ebb and Flow" column that Peter Prybot used to write in the Gloucester Daily Times. A segment on Cape Ann TV could also be considered. A consistent and timely publication would make it easier to combat negative press.

Mr. Bergeron asked the Commission what the next steps should be. The Commission agreed to move forward with this project and ask Mr. Balf of the Maritime Gloucester to attend the next meeting. The Northeast Seafood Coalition should also be informed of any next steps to make sure efforts are not duplicated- the project should be a group effort. Members also agreed to look to the City for funding and staff for this project.

c. Other

In other new business, the Commission moved to a discussion of the Designated Port Area and the proposal to remove the I4-C2 parcel from the DPA. It was noted that a Home Rule Petition will be up for vote before the City Council on December 11, 2012 to request removal of I4-C2 from the DPA.

Ms. Garcia made it clear that the Mayor does not support the request to do a Home Rule Petition to have this parcel removed, and that she intends to veto the petition if it passes City Council. Ms. Garcia wanted to make it clear that the current administration has no intention to remove I4-C2 from the DPA unless there is clear public support to do so as made evident by the public planning process currently underway with the Harbor Planning Commission. She also noted that the issue would be put to a non-binding referendum about a year from now.

Taking a step back, **Mr. Verga** explained that in order for the Home Rule Petition to go through, the Mayor will have to sign off on it (i.e., not veto it), and then it would have to go to the state for further consideration. If the City Council is not unanimous on this issue or if the Mayor does in fact veto the petition, it will not be sent to the state for consideration. In response to this need for unanimous support by both the city Council and the Mayor, the Mayor suggested putting the issue to referendum as part of the public Harbor Planning process. That being said, anyone can come to the City Council meeting on Dec. 11 and be heard by the City Council. He also reiterated that he would have to abstain on any vote taken by the Commission in support or opposition to the Home Rule Petition as a result of his seat on the City Council.

Ms. Sanfilippo noted that this Commission has a history of supporting the DPA since the beginning. She strongly recommended that the Commission make a decision as a board as to how we want to go to Dec. 11 meeting. This position should go on record. She proceeded to make a motion on the issue.

MOTION

Ms. Sanfilippo motions for the Fisheries Commission to oppose the Home Rule Petition for I4-C2 to be removed from DPA. This statement of opposition should be read at the Dec. 11 meeting

before City Council to make the Commission's position be known to the City Council and the public. **Mr. Vitale** seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION:

In discussion, **Mr. Orlando** noted that he docks his boat at the dockage attached to the I4-C2 and has therefore personally witnessed how this property allows for unique and direct access to the working waterfront. He has seen how the open accessibility of this property has provided a public space for people to interact with Gloucester's working waterfront, see the boats that dock there, and talk with members of the local fleet.

Ms. Sanfilippo noted that on a recent trip to San Diego, she was shocked to see that there is nothing left of a once thriving and successful fishing port. She fears the same will happen to Gloucester if its waterfront is not protected for industry and marine-based uses. This is a very sad reality and it is essential that Gloucester fight to maintain and protect what is left of the working port.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Seven Commission members vote in favor of the motion, two (**Mr. Verga** and **Ms. Romeo-Theken**) abstained from the vote. Motion passes.

Mr. Vitale noted that dockage attached to I4-C2 is separate from the property. He added that through his role on the Harbor Planning Committee, he has worked to voice support for the industry especially in the area of maintaining and expanding commercial dockage. **Mr. Bergeron** commented that an update on **Mr. Vitale's** role on this Committee should be added to the agenda each month. **Mr. Vitale** is simply representing the Commission at this Harbor Planning Committee, so it is important the Commission be kept up to speed and help **Mr. Vitale** with his role there.

Ms. Sanfilippo asked if the Home Rule Petition was for both sections of land at I4-C2 or only the land locked portion. Ms. Garcia explained that the City bought both and now owns parcels and that the petition was for the entire property. She added that any proposed development for the property would have to go through the Waterways Board because of the dockage attached to the property. **Mr. Verga** added that in his understanding, vessels currently docking at this property will not be displaced as the result of any new development there.

Looking ahead to future meetings, **Mr. Bergeron** asked what time works best for everyone to meet. It was decided that the meetings would go back to Thursdays and that 6pm works best for everyone. It was also decided that with the holidays and a limited amount of items up for discussion, the December meeting would be canceled. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 24 at 6pm.

Mr. Orlando asked **Mr. Bergeron** if he could find out the Waterways Board plan is on the dockage at I4-C2. Do they plan to increase the dockage there, and if so what size will the slips be? **Mr. Ring** agreed to ask Tony Gross these questions and Ms. Garcia noted that these topics will be included by the Dockage Study with the Urban Harbors Institute.

In left over business, Ms. Altenburger noted that she looked into the issue of by-catch and how it is handled in British Columbia. All fish caught is landed in this fishery and cameras are installed on boats for monitoring purposes. This means that fisheries scientists are able to measure the health of the fishery with more accuracy than in fisheries with regulatory discards. It's a model that seems to work.

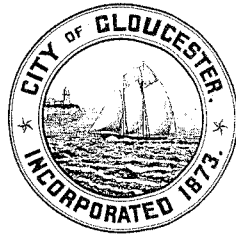
Meeting attendee Sam Novello asked for a chance to address the Commission, stating that he has run into several problems in past years and is fed up with the management system of the fishery. His family has a long history fishing out of Gloucester and he is beyond frustrated with the many obstacles and challenges facing the fleet today. Something must be done. New alternatives need to be explored as well- he suggested opening additional grounds for a whiting fishery or expanding the shrimp season. He expressed frustration with the process of making changes- it is all too complicated with the Council and the law-making process. Gloucester has been cut out from too many things. In response to his comments, it was suggested once again that John Bullard be invited to meet with the Commission so these concerns can be expressed. **Mr. Cottone** noted that one small step that can be taken in support of Mr. Novello's comments is to oppose any historical-based quotas for shrimp or whiting. These fisheries were destroyed years ago, and with closures, few in town have been shrimping or whiting fishing for past 20-30 years. This means historical landings data will not favor Gloucester and should be opposed to ensure alternative options are available other than ground fish for our local fleet.

It was agreed that John Bullard should be invited to attend the January 24, 2013 meeting. Meeting attendee Patti Page also suggested reaching out to the Chairmen of the Regional Council and the people at the Science Center since all must be on Board to initiate changes to policy. These entities need not all be invited to the same meeting, but a multi-faceted approach is important in this context.

5. Adjournment

Mr. Verga motioned to adjourn the meeting. **Mr. Vitale** seconded. All in favor, meeting was adjourned at 7:19pm.

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CITY OF GLOUCESTER
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

November 8, 2012

Senator Scott Brown
2400 JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02203
and
359 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator John F. Kerry
One Bowdoin Square
Tenth Floor
Boston, MA 02114
and
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman John F. Tierney
17 Peabody Square
Peabody, MA 01960
and
2238 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Brown, Senator Kerry and Congressman Tierney:

Unprecedented cuts in allowable catches of New England fish stocks are being considered for FY2013 by NOAA Fisheries. These cuts, if implemented, will deal a severe economic blow to many fishing vessels in our struggling fleet. We estimate these cuts would put at least 50% of our groundfish vessels out of business. Every effort must be made to mitigate the economic and social crisis such cuts would cause. We are very grateful that the administration has declared a fishery failure and that the Congressional delegation is pursuing emergency financial assistance to our fleet. These efforts are very important and the need for financial assistance could not be clearer, but more is needed.

In addition to disaster assistance funding, an independent review by the National Academy of Science is urgently needed of the legal implications of reasons for changes in observed New England stock biomasses. Specifically, we request this independent review render an impartial assessment of the extent to which scientific observations trigger an exemption to the Magnuson Stevens Act (MSA) requirement to rebuild stocks within 10 years as provided in MSA § 304(e)4A(ii), rebuilding may "not exceed 10 years, except in cases where the biology of the stock of fish, other environmental conditions...dictate otherwise."


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NOAA officials have stated that biological factors and environmental conditions other than fishing activities account for recent changes in observed measurements of local stock abundances. We believe that these factors allow NOAA Fisheries the authority under current law to implement a management regimen that exceeds 10 years to rebuild the stocks. We make note of the history of Gloucester fishermen sailing as far away as the Grand Banks because fish were there before later returning to local waters. Therefore, environmental conditions and the biology of the stocks trigger an MSA exemption to rebuilding requirements that grants NOAA Fisheries authority to implement a freeze in changes to allowable catch limits next year. A review by the National Academy of Science would make this legal flexibility clear.

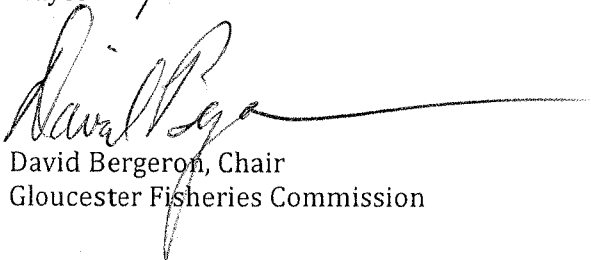
We emphasize the need for immediate financial assistance to the groundfish industry and; moreover, in addition to financial assistance we request an independent review be conducted by the National Academy of Science to assess the legal implications of recent scientific observations of New England fish stocks. Members of the groundfish industry are already in desperate financial difficulties. We urge Congress to do everything possible to move forward in response to these requests as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your hard work on behalf of our fishermen and your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,



Carolyn A. Kirk
Mayor



David Bergeron, Chair
Gloucester Fisheries Commission

cc: Senator Bruce Tarr
Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante

October ²⁵~~15~~, 2012

TO: Gloucester Fisheries Commission
FROM: Vincent Mortillaro, Mortillaro Lobster, Inc.
SUBJECT: Development plans for Commercial Street

As you may be aware the City of Gloucester's City Council has approved a zoning change for 47-61 Commercial Street in order to allow a 101 room hotel to be built within the Marine Industrial zone. The project will impact the use of Commercial Street. The entire length and width of Commercial Street is protected under the State Designated Port Area regulations for the transportation of marine fishery product and related commerce. Infrastructure upgrades and construction could result in the existing marine industrial businesses being severely compromised.

I am seeking support from the Fisheries Commission to mitigate negative impacts during this process. It is only necessary to have clear plans in place to protect the existing marine industrial businesses located, on the opposite side of Commercial Street, to insure their daily operations are not disrupted and are given priority consideration during this period of transition.