



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
THE DIRECTOR

**OCT 22 2007**

The Honorable Deval L. Patrick  
Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
State House  
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Governor Patrick:

Thank you for your letter requesting a determination of a fishery resource disaster affecting the Massachusetts commercial fishing industry, based on sections 312 and 315 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), as amended.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has carefully analyzed the data regarding the Massachusetts groundfish fishery and also the provisions regarding a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster under MSA 312(a) and 315. Although we understand that there has been economic difficulty in the groundfish-dependent communities of Massachusetts and we are very sympathetic, we find that your request for a determination of a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster does not meet the requirements for such a finding under Sections 312 or 315 of the MSA. Our latest research shows encouraging increases in most of the groundfish stocks including cod, haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail. Even though fishing revenues show some declines, the commercial fishery itself, although diminished, has not failed.

NMFS will continue to work closely with the fishing communities in each of the New England coastal states to rebuild groundfish stocks and strengthen the entire fishing industry. If you have further questions, please contact Pat Kurkul, Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, at (978) 281-9250.

Sincerely,

William T. Hogarth, Ph.D.





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**OCT 22 2007**

The Honorable John E. Baldacci  
Governor of Maine  
1 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Governor Baldacci:

Thank you for your letter requesting a determination of a fishery resource disaster affecting the Maine commercial fishing industry, based on sections 312 and 315 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), as amended.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has carefully analyzed the data regarding the Maine groundfish fishery and also the provisions regarding a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster under MSA 312(a) and 315. Although we understand that there has been economic difficulty in the groundfish-dependent communities of Maine and we are very sympathetic, we find that your request for a determination of a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster does not meet the requirements for such a finding under Sections 312 or 315 of the MSA. Our latest research shows encouraging increases in most of the groundfish stocks. Even though fishing revenues show some declines, the commercial fishery itself, although diminished, has not failed.

NMFS will continue to work closely with the fishing communities in each of the New England coastal states to rebuild groundfish stocks and strengthen the entire fishing industry. If you have further questions, please contact Pat Kurkul, Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, at (978) 281-9250.

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**OCT 22 2007**

The Honorable Donald L. Carcieri  
Governor of Rhode Island  
State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Governor Carcieri:

Thank you for your letter requesting a determination of a fishery resource disaster affecting the Rhode Island commercial fishing industry, based on sections 312 and 315 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), as amended.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has carefully analyzed the data regarding the Rhode Island groundfish fishery and also the provisions regarding a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster under MSA 312(a) and 315. An internal NMFS analysis of fish dealer reporting data shows that groundfish revenue for Rhode Island is estimated to have increased by 73%, from \$2.4 million to \$4.2 million during the period of 2005-2006. Thus, the commercial fishery in Rhode Island has not failed. We therefore find that your request for a determination of a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster does not meet the requirements for such a finding under Sections 312 or 315 of the MSA.

NMFS will continue to work closely with the fishing communities in each of the New England coastal states to rebuild groundfish stocks and strengthen the entire fishing industry. If you have further questions, please contact Pat Kurkul, Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, at (978) 281-9250.

Sincerely,

William T. Hogarth, Ph.D.

