



JOHN H. LYNCH  
Governor

## State of New Hampshire

### OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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October 10, 2007

The Honorable Carlos M. Gutierrez  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Gutierrez:

I am writing to notify you of my intent to seek a declaration of a fisheries resource disaster for the commercial fishing industry in New Hampshire based on sections 312 and 315 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Reauthorization Act of 2006.

Since 1994, Amendments 5, 7, and 13 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan have significantly reduced the area and the number of days that New Hampshire vessels are allowed to fish. Most recently, the fishery management plan's Framework Adjustment 42 (FW42), which became effective November 22, 2006, reduced the fishing days available to the inshore groundfishing fleet by an additional 50 percent by counting fishing time at a 2:1 ratio. The FW42 reduction has a significant impact on New Hampshire fishing vessels, most of which cannot move out of the 2 to 1 count area because of their smaller vessel sizes. These regulations threaten the survival of the majority of New Hampshire's fishing industry.

We are already experiencing economic impacts relating to FW42. One of our two fishery facilities, the Portsmouth Fisherman's Coop, is expected to close shortly. With the closure, fishermen will be forced to find alternatives for getting their products to market, further straining their financial resources.

State officials and stakeholders are in the process of documenting the nature and extent of the economic disaster affecting the New Hampshire fishing fleet and related industries. We expect to shortly submit a formal request for a disaster declaration based on the economic losses suffered by our coastal and fishing communities due to regulatory restrictions.

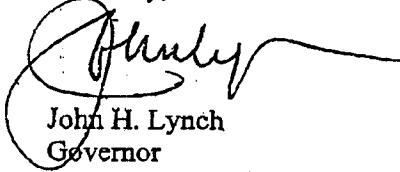
The Honorable Carlos M. Gutierrez

Page 2

October 10, 2007

We should come together to support our fishermen and their families during this difficult time. I also believe we must continue to work together to improve federal regulations to ensure a regulatory environment that is fair and equitable while protecting our natural resources. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Lynch", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John H. Lynch  
Governor

cc: William Hogarth, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Senator Judd Gregg  
Senator John Sununu  
Representative Shea Porter  
Representative Paul Hodes  
John Nelson, NH Fish and Game Marine Fisheries Division