



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

MAY - 9 2011

The Honorable Paul LaPage
Governor of Maine
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Governor LaPage:

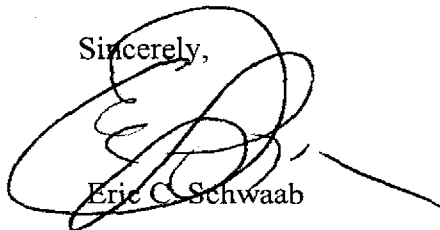
On September 26, 2008, former Governor John Baldacci requested a determination of a commercial fishery failure due to a fisheries resource disaster in the Maine groundfish fishery under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). His request was based on NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service implementing management measures to rebuild several overfished groundfish stocks in the New England multispecies fishery, as required by the MSA.

We recognize that fishermen in Maine are suffering economically as a result of management actions taken to end overfishing and rebuild important groundfish stocks. However, the noted changes in groundfish revenue are not indicative of a commercial fishery failure. In addition, for the 2008 fishing season, there was an increase in the total groundfish revenue when compared to 2006, and a slight increase in value of landings by Maine home port vessels from 2005. Therefore, based on this information, there is no basis to determine that there has been a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster.

In coordination with the New England Fishery Management Council, we continue to look at the economic impacts of this management system. If, as a result of any new analysis, you believe we should reconsider this decision, please let us know.

If you have further questions, please contact John Gray, Director of NOAA's Office of Legislative Affairs, at (202) 482-4981.

Sincerely,



Eric C. Schwaab

