

Sponsors

COMMERCIAL MARINE EXPO
Powering Atlantic Marine Industries
June 9-10, 2010 • State Pier • New Bedford, MA



BASE



Get Daily News Updates
Via Email
Subscribe Today!



Home About Us News Opinion Press Releases Contact Us Subscribe Search: GO

Home | News | Washington | Commerce Secretary replies to Members of Congress on Skate, Pollock, Yellowtail Flounder and Dogfish

Commerce Secretary replies to Members of Congress on Skate, Pollock, Yellowtail Flounder and Dogfish

On April 1, 2010, Representatives Delahunt, Bordallo, Frank, McGovern, Pingree, and Tierney together with Senator Kerry wrote to Commerce Secretary Locke with questions regarding four areas of concern with regard to Skate, Pollock, Yellowtail Flounder and Dogfish.

On April 29, 2010 the Secretary responded.

Secretary Locke wrote, "On March 23, 2010, NMFS, on my behalf, approved Amendment 3 to the Skate Complex Fishery Management Plan as developed and submitted by the New England Fishery Management Council. However, as the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee meeting on March 17, 2010, new data indicated the stock was in better condition than previously thought. Given the new data, NMFS has been working with the Council to incorporate this new information as quickly as possible. Toward that end, the Council's Skate Plan Development Team met on April 8, 2010. Once its analysis is final, NMFS will consider how to incorporate the results into management.

With respect to Pollock, NMFS is actively working on the Pollock benchmark stock assessment and recently completed three of the five steps in the stock assessment process: a meeting with fishermen; a complete re-examination of all relevant data; and the development of a more advanced, age-based stock assessment model.

The only recent assessment of Cape Cod (and Southern New England) yellowtail flounder was conducted as part of the Groundfish Assessment Review Meeting in 2008. Georges Bank yellowtail is assessed annually as part of the Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee process. We are aware that a student at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, School for Marine Science and Technology, used information collected from a Georges Bank yellowtail tagging study to estimate yellowtail flounder abundance in the scallop access area of Closed Area II....the potential implications of the student's thesis for current and future stock assessments will be considered when setting catch levels for fishing year 2011.

With respect to the spiny dogfish assessment, substantial progress has been made on redefinition of the biomass reference point. It appears that new biological reference points will be accepted by NMFS and that spiny dogfish will be deemed rebuilt....Therefore, if spiny dogfish is determined to be rebuilt, a higher quota for 2010 can be set in the final specifications."

[Read the letter to Secretary Locke.](#)

[Read the Secretary's response.](#)

Portland Press Editorial: New fishing rules need time to work

A new set of fishing rules promises to use the best available science to determine how many pounds of fish from each species can be caught allowing the populations to rebuild. It also creates a new method of sharing the catch that gives fishermen the flexibility they need to maximize their earnings by controlling when and how they fish. The biggest threat to the new system, however, is not biology or economics. It's politics.

[More Opinion >](#)

MANAGEMENT & REGULATION

[NOAA Fisheries Service Staff Available to Answer Questions on New Groundfish Regulations this Weekend](#)

[More Management >](#)

WASHINGTON

[Commerce Secretary replies to Members of Congress on Skate, Pollock, Yellowtail Flounder and Dogfish](#)

[More Washington >](#)

ENFORCEMENT

[Gloucester Mayor, Elected Officials, Mass. Lawyers meet with new NOAA Top Cop](#)

[More Enforcement >](#)

LEGAL

[Nations' Largest Port, Fishermen, and Businesses from Six States Sue Feds](#)

[More Legal >](#)

STATE & LOCAL

[Massachusetts House of Representatives Urge US Department of Commerce to Increase 2010 Annual Catch Limits](#)

[More State and Local >](#)

INTERNATIONAL & TRADE

[EU vows to tackle overfishing with policy overhaul](#)

Ads by Google

[Online Stock Management](#)
Trade stocks with optionsXpress. Free tools to help with your trade
[optionsXpress.com](#)

[Online Stock Investment](#)
Powerful Trading Tools & Real Time News! Open a Scottrade Account Now.

[Buy Stocks for \\$4](#)
No Account or Investment Minimums. No Inactivity Fees. Trade Online
[www.ShareBuilder.com](#)

[Industrial Rope Access](#)
North America's Leader in SPRAT Training, Equipment, and Services
[www.ropeworks.com](#)

[\\$0 Stock Trades at Zecco](#)
Up to 10 free trades per month for qualified investors. No gimmicks!
[www.Zecco.com](#)

SHARE Print this Page

[More International »](#)

SAFETY

- [Cape Cod captain dies while saving crewmember](#)

[More Safety »](#)

ECONOMIC IMPACT

- [New boundaries open more fishing in Gulf](#)

[More Economic Impact »](#)

CONSERVATION & ENVIRONMENT

- [NMFS Chief Eric Schwaab leading Gulf spill effort](#)

[More Conservation »](#)

SCIENCE

- [NOAA Ocean Science Mission Changes Course to Collect Seafloor and Water Column Oil Spill Data](#)

[More Science »](#)

NUTRITION

- [Young foodies more exhibitionist, less highbrow](#)

[More Nutrition »](#)

OTHER NEWS

- ['Dr.' Sanfilippo's dream comes true](#)

[More Other News »](#)

[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [News](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Press Releases](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Subscribe](#)
Copyright © 2010. All Rights Reserved.

