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Received via email: October 24, 2014

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From: togue@mainedayboatscallops.com [mailto:togue@mainedayboatscallops.com]

Sent: Friday, October 24, 2014 8:35 AM

To: Deirdre Boelke

Subject: FW 26 and NGOM

Dear members of the Scallop Advisory Panel and Scallop Committee:

I am writing to remind you of the importance of correcting the problem that results in (only those) fishermen with Federal permits being excluded from northern New England's state water fisheries once the Federal water NGOM TAC is reached.

At the September meetings, both the AP and the Committee voted to correct this problem in FW 26. Thank you for recognizing the importance of this issue.

Draft FW 26 includes two options for removing the trigger that closes state waters to federally permitted vessels once the (Federal water) NGOM TAC is reached. The first would craft a blanket exemption for all permit holders. The second would allow individual states to craft state water exemptions for whichever Federal permit holders they deemed appropriate.

I ask you to support a hybrid approach that exempts all NGOM permit holders from the prohibition, but also allows individual states to craft additional exemptions as they see fit. This would allow security for NGOM permit holders, who would not have to rely on individual states to complete paperwork each year, and would also allow individual states the flexibility to exempt (or not exempt) additional permit categories in the way that makes the most sense for their state waters.

Thank you again for continuing to work on this important matter.

Yours truly,

- Togue Brawn