

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 31, 2011

Chairman Harold Rogers
House Appropriations Committee
H-307, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Norman D. Dicks
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Frank R. Wolf
House Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science and Related Agencies
H-309, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Chaka Fattah
House Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science and Related Agencies
1001 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Dicks, Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Fattah:

We are writing to request that language be included in the final FY 2012 Commerce-Justice-Science (CJS) appropriations bill to restrict the use of funds for development or approval of new “catch share” programs for any fishery under the jurisdiction of the New England, Mid Atlantic or South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils. You may recall that earlier this year the full House approved a similar amendment to the FY 2011 CJS appropriations bill by a wide margin of 259 to 159 (Roll Call Vote # 130).

The last thing the American government should be doing in these economic times is spending millions of taxpayer dollars to expand programs that will put even more Americans out of work. But that’s exactly what the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is attempting to do by requesting \$54 million in its FY12 Budget to accelerate implementation of new fisheries catch share programs across the U.S.

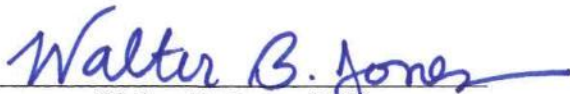
Fishermen up and down the Atlantic coast vehemently oppose new catch share programs because they can destroy recreational and commercial fishing jobs and communities. These devastating effects were most recently experienced in New England when NOAA forced a catch share program on the groundfish fishery in 2010. According to a recent report by Food and Water Watch: “Members of the [New England fishing] community warned, ‘50-75 percent of the fleet and thousands of jobs will be lost in a relatively short period of time.’ Five months after the program was implemented, 253 of the 500 boats in the fishery were sitting at the dock, unable to fish without quota.” The tragedy is that these job losses are totally unnecessary to protect fish stocks; when solid science shows that harvest reductions in a fishery are needed, there are far better options than catch shares for achieving those reductions.

We are very pleased that the House Appropriations Committee recognized the problems with rapid implementation of new catch share programs by including report language in the FY12 CJS bill that cut funding for catch shares to \$21.956 million, roughly half the FY11 level. And while we are grateful for this reduction, it unfortunately will not prevent NOAA from imposing new job-destroying catch share programs on our fishing communities. Therefore, we respectfully request that you include the following language in the final FY 2012 CJS bill:

"None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to develop or approve a new limited access privilege program (as that term is used in section 303A of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1853a) for any fishery under the jurisdiction of the South Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, or New England Fishery Management Council."

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Walter B. Jones (NC)



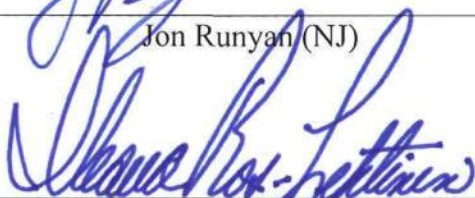
Barrey Frank (MA)



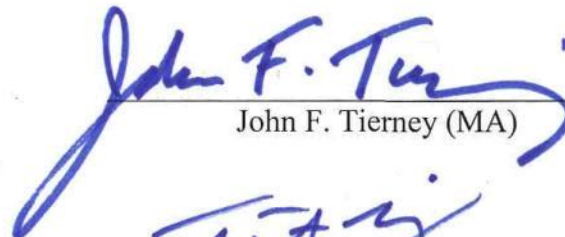
Jon Runyan (NJ)



Frank Pallone (NJ)



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL)



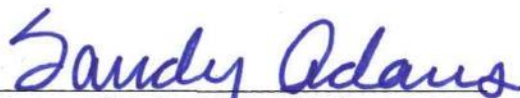
John F. Tierney (MA)



Frank C. Guinta (NH)



Timothy H. Bishop (NY)



Sandy Adams (FL)



Joe Courtney (CT)



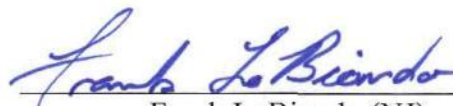
Allen B. West (FL)



Mike McIntyre (NC)



John L. Mica (FL)



Frank LoBiondo (NJ)

Peter T. King (NY)

Bill Posey (FL)

Christopher H. Smith (NJ)

Thomas J. Rooney (FL)

William R. Keating (MA)