

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

_____)
CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION,)
et al.,)
Plaintiffs)
)
)
)
)
) CIVIL ACTION NO. 00-1134 (GK)
)
v.)
)
)
DONALD L. EVANS, et al.,)
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE)
Defendants)
_____)

DECLARATION OF THOMAS R. HILL

I, THOMAS R. HILL, declare as follows:

1. I am the Chairman of the New England Fishery Management Council (Council). The regional fishery management councils' authority to perform functions related to the development of fishery management plans is set forth in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. As Chairman, I am responsible for overseeing the administration of Council resources to schedule meetings, provide for public input, and facilitate the development of fishery management plans.

2. The Council strongly desires and is fully committed to expeditiously completing Amendment 13 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan.

3. The Council expects to adopt Amendment 13 management alternatives at its July 15, 2002, meeting. The Council expects to complete and adopt the Draft Supplemental

Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) at a November 2002 meeting. The Council expects to adopt final management measures and submit Amendment 13 in time for NMFS to publish proposed rules in the Federal Register in May, 2003. The Council expects NMFS to approve and publish final management measures for Amendment 13 in the Federal Register in July, 2003. The Council expects the management measures in Amendment 13 will be implemented in August, 2003.

4. The Council agrees to develop an innovative management plan development process to insure full stakeholder participation and timely completion of Amendment 13.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed in Gloucester, Massachusetts, on this 1st day of March, 2002.

Thomas R. Hill

Chairman, New England Fishery Management Council