

July 16, 2002

Dear Commission,

The single greatest need is to reduce fishing pressure before all stocks of every fish are destroyed. Fishing pressure must be reduced. Some fishermen must be put out of work now that some work will remain for the rest in the future.

Pressure must be reduced even on plants: for example rockweed, which is being harvested in huge amounts now, amounts that reduce the food for many fish directly or indirectly.

Most importantly, dragging the bottom must be drastically reduced or eliminated because tearing up the bottom is destroying the base of the chain of food that maintains the stock of fish. To have any fish left, the dragging must stop or nearly stop and drastic reduction in fishing effort must be made until stocks return to sustainable levels.

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