



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

Paul J. Howard
Executive Director
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

FEB - 6 2009

Dear Paul:

As you are aware, a final determination regarding the status of pollock could not be made until the fall 2008 survey data were made available. In a January 28, 2009, memorandum, Dr. Nancy Thompson, Science and Research Director of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, presented updated data concerning the status of pollock using the results of the fall 2008 survey. The memorandum concluded that the three-year centered average biomass is 0.898 kg/tow and below the 1.0 kg/tow biomass threshold. In addition, the 2007 relative fishing mortality (F), based upon the average biomass index from 2006-2008, is 10.46, nearly twice the F_{MSY} proxy of 5.65. Therefore, available data indicate that this species is overfished and subject to overfishing based upon the status determination criteria adopted under Amendment 13 to the Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

At the December 19, 2008, Groundfish Oversight Committee (Committee) meeting, the Committee recommended that the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) include Atlantic wolffish into the management unit for the NE Multispecies FMP via Amendment 16. On January 20, 2009, a report by the Peer Review Panel for the Northeast Data Poor Stocks Working Group concluded that, based upon available information, Atlantic wolffish is currently overfished. However, the Peer Review Panel could not determine whether overfishing was occurring due to uncertainty over maturity schedule and pattern of selectivity in the fishery.

Given this new information, and pursuant to section 304(e)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), I am providing notification to the Council that, based upon the best available information, pollock is subject to overfishing and is in an overfished condition. Further, Atlantic wolffish is overfished. The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires that the Council must take action within 1 year of this notice to end overfishing and [in accordance with the National Standard Guidelines] adopt conservation and management measures to rebuild these stocks. I recommend that measures to address the condition of these stocks be implemented through Amendment 16 to the FMP, and look forward to working with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator





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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

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F/SER25:JCM

Mr. Duane Harris, Chairman
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201
North Charleston, SC 29405

June 9, 2010

Dear Mr. Harris:

NOAA Fisheries Service has determined, based upon best available scientific information, the South Atlantic red grouper stock is undergoing overfishing and is overfished according to the current definition of the minimum stock size threshold. This determination is based upon a review of the 2010 assessment of this species by the Southeast, Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) 19 panel and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (Council) Scientific and Statistical Committee. A final report for SEDAR 19 can be obtained from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center's Web site at: www.sefsc.noaa.gov/sedar.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires the Council, within two years of notification that a stock is overfishing and overfished, to prepare and implement a plan amendment or propose regulations to end overfishing immediately and rebuild the affected stock. I look forward to working with the Council in developing a plan to end overfishing and rebuild the red grouper stock.

Sincerely,

Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator

cc: F/SER2 – Phil Steele
F/SEC – Bonnie Ponwith

