



New England Fishery Management Council



**Joint Statement by
NOAA Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Samuel Rauch
New England Fishery Management Council Chair, C.M. “Rip” Cunningham
about joint meeting with fishing industry on Gulf of Maine Cod**

*Portsmouth, New Hampshire
February 10, 2012*

“Today, the NOAA Fisheries Service and New England Fishery Management Council joint Gulf of Maine Cod Working Group held its second meeting with commercial and recreational fishermen and other members of the public to solicit further input on the development of management measures for Gulf of Maine cod for the 2012 fishing year. We are grateful to the many fishermen and others who shared their perspectives, concerns and thoughtful suggestions. We will certainly consider the helpful input we heard as NOAA and the Council move ahead with developing interim measures for 2012, further explore the scientific basis of any decisions and consider management measures for 2013. This has been a difficult time for all of us, and we know whatever measures are ultimately adopted will have economic impacts on fishermen and fishing communities. Together, we remain committed to identifying measures that will keep fishermen on the water and allow this iconic resource to continue to rebuild.”

A digital audio recording of this meeting will be available for download shortly on our Gulf of Maine Cod webpage at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/hotnews/gomcod/>