



*The Community Supported Fishery
of New York State*

January 22, 2018

Dear Mr. Gilmore, Mr. Frisk and Ms. Knoll,

As you know I have been able to maintain perfect attendance at every MRAC meeting since I was appointed to the council in 2016. Tomorrow's meeting, unfortunately, shares a timeframe with a previous responsibility that I am committed to, and I will not be able to attend the MRAC meeting. Because I will not be able to attend, I am writing today to request that my position on two specific matters be read at the meeting and recorded in the meeting notes.

As the operator of New York's only remaining Community Supported Fishery program, my organization relies heavily on a diversified fleet of commercial fishermen ranging from small-scale pinhookers and pound trap fishermen, all the way up to larger trawl and longline vessels. The nature of our business is to provide our members with a true and genuine "catch of the day," which requires a broad spectrum of commercial fishermen using various gear types, operating on flexible schedules and steadily landing fresh local catches as frequently as possible. As such,

Position1: Black Sea Bass

On the black sea bass issue, my understanding is that the decision will be to maintain the current periods and allocations or not. Please let the record show that we rely heavily on black sea bass, and for our Community Supported Fishery to survive, it is important to retain the independence of periods 2 (May/June) and 3 (July/August) and continue to close period 2 when it's allotment is reached.

I have been told that some interests want to open the commercial black sea bass season in mid-May, and run it until both period 2 and 3s allotments are landed. This will inevitably close the fishery from the second or third week of June all the way to Sept 1, which will devastate our operation and strangle our access and supply of black sea bass during a time of the year when we absolutely need those fish. It is our opinion that we need to protect all fishermen, and the markets themselves, by not having large summer closures.

Position 2: Weekend Closures

Because Dock to Dish is a true and genuine "catch of the day" operation, we obviously rely heavily on steady, rhythmic landings being made on a day-to-day basis. These landings, as you know, are already heavily influenced by regulations, wind and weather—making our job very stressful at times, as it is. Therefore, closing down any commercial fishery "on weekends" would also devastate our operation, and force us to either stockpile landings and store them, or shutdown our operation entirely on weekends, during our most important time of the year, which could be a fatal blow to our already fragile operation.

Best Regards,

Sean Barrett

MRAC Council Member / Commercial Fisheries

Hello Michael, John

Since I can not attend Tuesdays MRAC meeting, i have a few comments I would like you to read (get on record) to commissioner Seggos. If he does some form of video presentation.

Commissioner,

I would like to start by saying thank you for staying true to your word and looking into the licensing issues faced by New York's commercial fisherman. Amongst New York's license holders, full time fisherman are the minority and need help.

I believe NYS commercial fisherman are in a unique position to GET help addressing a-lot of our issues. The answer to some of our problems lies in the hands of Deep Water wind.

I have sat in on multiple wind mill meetings and nowhere do they ever mention the hardships fisherman will encounter once the windmills are installed.

Nowhere do they ever mention compensation to the commercial fisherman. They plan to compensate, trustees, townships and even residents.

I have a plan. I have emailed deep water wind as well as the deep water wind fishery liaison with this idea. NOW i am asking the NYSDEC as well as our legislators to approach Deep Water Wind with a similar idea.

The idea is for Deep Water Wind, with guidance from a commercial fishing sub committee, overseen by an outside entity (maybe Cornell) to FUND a comprehensive food fish license buy back..

The implementation of this BUY BACK will alleviate New York's commercial fishing industries biggest issue, too many permits and not enough quota.. The BUY BACK will make the threat of latent effort disappear, elderly fisherman will have an out, and the institution of a permit transfer program will be greatly facilitated.

Ultimately this buy back, in conjunction with the transfer program, will transform the make up of our commercial fisheries. I envision new entrants (both young and old) with higher daily trip limits and ultimately higher prices!!!

Wind farms will limit our access to traditional fishing grounds, Wind farms long term effects are not known, But a BUY BACK of food fish licenses will go a long way in showing the commercial fisherman of New York, that Deep Water Wind "wants" to help the commercial fishing community.

Thanks,

Hanks Lackner