

John Pappalardo, Chairman
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill #2
Newburyport, MA 01950

October 7, 2008

Dear Mr. Pappalardo,

Since October 1 I have been fishing in the Closed Area I Hook Gear Haddock SAP (CAI SAP). During my last trip (October 5 & 6th), I saw the midwater trawl fleet fishing within Closed Area I and also heard reports that they were catching haddock bycatch. Also there were three miles of floating striped bass yesterday, three miles! No wonder charter vessels are canceling their striped bass trips.

This is unacceptable. The recovering haddock fishery and the CAI SAP is the mainstay of my and many others' businesses. Closed Area I was designed to protect the groundfish; the success of the closed area should not be sacrificed for the herring fishery.

Were these vessels monitored? A monitoring plan for the midwater fleet must be developed immediately. The future of haddock and our fisheries depend upon knowing just what is caught and discarded in order for the Council to make informed management decisions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Peter Taylor