From: Jeff Grant
To: Duhamel, Peter (DEM); Lake, John (DEM); McManus, Conor (DEM)
Subject: Public hearing comments
Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 7:01:34 PM

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All,
I am writing to make comments on the proposed regulatory changes as follows:

Section 1.8
1.8 “Possession Limit and Vessel Operating Compliance”

I am not in support of the proposed amendment, and recommend keeping the current language over the proposed language. The change would allow only 1 possession limit per license OR VESSEL. While this works with finfish and crustaceans, the shellfish sector does not operate under a vessel limit, only a per license limit. (The exception is management areas where only 2 licenses per vessel are allowed.) The menhaden limit for fixed gear also allows for more than 1 license per vessel. the proposed language would create a large substantive change in the shellfish and menhaden industry that I do not believe was the intention of the language.

Summer flounder possession limit in summer: I would like to see the possession limit for sub period beginning May1 the be 200lbs. The catch rates from last year at this limit would result in landings close to the sub quota for 2024.

Aggregate program:
I would like to see the aggregate program for summer/fall fluke and sea bass to be reinstated in 2024. It is a good program that allows people who depend upon fishing for their livelihood to operate in the most efficient manner. It’s good for the fish and the fishermen.

Thank you, Jeff Grant