



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

JUN 22 2010

Richard B. Robins, Jr., Chairman  
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
800 North State Street, Suite 201  
Dover, Delaware 19901

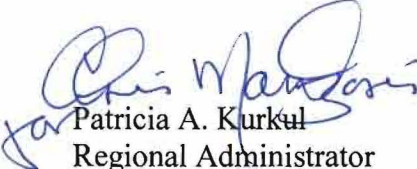
Dear Rick:

I am happy to formally inform you that the results of the most recent stock assessment for the spiny dogfish stock have resulted in the determination that the stock is considered rebuilt for the purposes of U.S. management.

The Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee (TRAC) conducted a peer-reviewed benchmark stock assessment for spiny dogfish in January 2010, where they planned to re-examine biological reference points. However, the TRAC was unable to agree upon a revised assessment model, so a group of peer reviewers was selected to define biological reference points for the purposes of U.S. management. The group of peer reviewers accepted a newly defined biomass target of 159,288 mt based on analysis of information in the TRAC assessment. The reviewers concluded that the stochastic estimate of spawning stock biomass (SSB) for 2008 (194,616 mt) exceeded the newly defined biomass target. Biomass in 2009 (163,256 mt) also exceeded the biomass reference point, consistent with a rebuilt stock. In addition, the peer reviewers agreed on a new fishing mortality target ( $F_{\text{target}}$ ) of 0.207 (previously 0.28), which allows 1.5 pups per recruit, and a fishing mortality rate threshold ( $F_{\text{threshold}}$ ) of 0.325 (previously 0.39). As a result of this work, the determination that the stock has rebuilt will be utilized to set the FY 2010 specifications for the spiny dogfish fishery, consistent with provisions of the Spiny Dogfish Fishery Management Plan.

I appreciate the work the Councils have done to date to rebuild this stock, and look forward to continuing our efforts to effectively manage the fishery.

Sincerely,

  
Patricia A. Kurkul  
Regional Administrator

cc: John Pappalardo, New England Fishery Management Council

