

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

July 13, 2015

Director Dan Ashe
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, NW Room 3331
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Dear Director Ashe:

The Sustainable Fisheries Association submitted a comment to the Fish and Wildlife Service on June 6, 2015, under *Federal Register* Notice FWS-HQ-IA-2014-0018. We respectfully ask that you give it your utmost consideration.

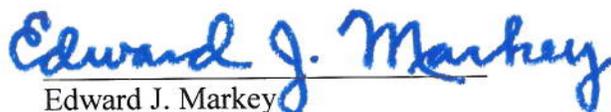
Federal and state management of spiny dogfish has been successful. Spawning stock biomass of the species increased by more than 240% (nearly 150,000 mega tons) between 2001 and 2013. This success is the product of joint management of the species by the Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils in federal waters, and, in state waters, spiny dogfish are managed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission under an interstate management plan which complements the federal plan.

NOAA and the Marine Stewardship Council consider the spiny dogfish fishery to be sustainable. The fishery is sustainably managed in compliance with the 10 National Standards of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and it is a prime example of a wild-caught fishery which is not overfished and in which overfishing is not occurring.

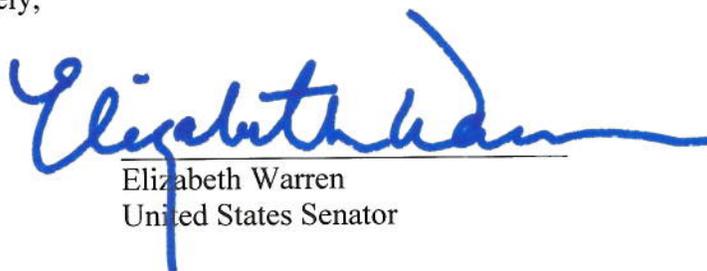
Moreover, spiny dogfish is an important part of the Mid-Atlantic and New England fishing industry, which has struggled in recent years. We ask you to oppose any proposals that would impact the continued ability of our fishing industry to responsibly and sustainably manage and catch spiny dogfish.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact Ana Unruh Cohen on Senator Markey's staff at (202) 224-2742 with any questions.

Sincerely,



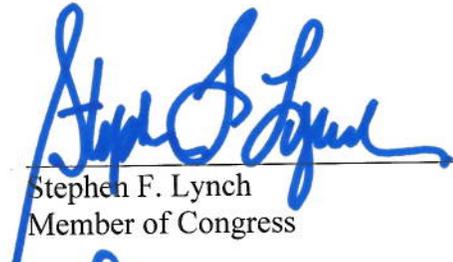
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator


Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress


William Keating
Member of Congress


Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress


Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

CC: Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, Administrator, NOAA