Petition to increase the quotas & daily catch limits of the Spiny Dogfish in the Gulf of Maine

Location_____ Date_____

Fact: It is well established that the spiny dogfish are voracious and opportunistic predatory fish. Preliminary investigation of stomach contents from over 300 adult spiny dogfish by Dr. James Sulikowski, Ph. D., of the University of New England, suggest that the percent mass (weight of prey items found in the stomachs) of fish is over 93%.

Fact: Dogfish consume 70% to 80% of juvenile codfish wintering in MA waters. (Dr. David Pierce)

Fact: The biomass of dogfish has increased over the past 4 years. (NMFS)

To Whom It May Concern,

We the undersigned are concerned with the management of the spiny dogfish by the National Marine Fisheries Service. (NMFS)

Spiny dogfish have become one of the predominant members of the Northeastern US ecosystem in terms of biomass and abundance. A voracious and opportunistic predatory fish they present a negative impact on commercially important ground fish stocks. (Cod, Haddock, Herring, Halibut, Lobsters including roe) This is an escalating problem impacting commercial fisherman and the sport fishing industry daily. For the commercial fisherman this is exacerbated by the high cost of fuel.

Currently there is a commercial market for these fish, which is impacted adversely by the current quota and trip restrictions.

If you agree with the above, please sign and print your name below and add any comments you wish. Thank you for your support!

Name	Phone Number	Signature	Date Signed