

TOWN OF NARRAGANSETT
Rhode Island
RESOLUTION NO.

**A RESOLUTION RESPECTIVELY REQUESTING THE SUSPENSION OF
THE CURRENT CATCH SHARE/SECTOR MANAGEMENT IN THE
NORTHEAST IMPLEMENTED BY THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION**

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2010 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Amendment 16 to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act became effective restructuring the fishing industry to a catch share/sector management program; and

WHEREAS, the intention of Amendment 16 is to immediately reduce overfishing in the Northeast multispecies fishery, while addressing the need to help sustain fishing communities, without compromising rebuilding objectives; and

WHEREAS, the complexity of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the regulations to implement this Act have created a web of confusion and bureaucracy for commercial fisherman to negotiate and understand; and

WHEREAS, the measures proposed in this action are intended to reduce overfishing while the possible unintended consequences include dramatic bycatch increases of any fish managed by quota; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Southern New England Closure Area has led many Rhode Island commercial fishermen to secure dock space in Massachusetts in order to continue fishing in areas that are not proposed to be closed; and

WHEREAS, this possible transfer of effort from one New England state to another is not considered to be sound fisheries management and will likely have a negative impact on the species that are targeted for rebuilding in this interim rule; and

WHEREAS, the New England Fisheries Management Council provided a number of recommendations to the National Marine Fisheries Service in September 2008 to address the severity of the stock assessment findings, however, most of these recommendations are not included in Amendment 16; and

WHEREAS, commercial fishing is one of the oldest and most important industries in Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Galilee upholds the long standing tradition of fishing and ranks the third largest commercial fishing port in New England; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, fishermen in the Port of Galilee landed approximately 37.6 million pounds of fish worth approximately \$36.9 million; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2002 census, Rhode Island ranked #1 in sales or receipts per capita in the fish and seafood wholesale in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the economic impact of lower federal catch limits and the transition to the catch shares/sector management system will be devastating to the already struggling fishing industry that has been suffering through the worst economic crisis in decades; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 226 commercial fishing boats currently registered in the Port of Galilee; and

WHEREAS, the effect of the new regulations will not only have an impact on the fishermen, wholesalers, processing plants and the trucking industry but also countless others such as boat builders, bait shops, restaurants and banks; and

WHEREAS, the State of Rhode Island and the United States of America should do everything in its power to rebuild fish stocks and reinvigorate the commercial fishing industry in order to produce its own food supply rather than rely on shipments of frozen fish from other countries; and

WHEREAS, the viability of the Port of Galilee and the success of the fishing fleet is a vital component to the overall economic health of the Town of Narragansett, Rhode Island and New England; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Galilee is a large tourist attraction in Rhode Island where tourism ranks as the third largest industry; and

WHEREAS, recreational saltwater fishing is Rhode Island's 8th largest tourism attraction generating more than \$160 million in revenue and more than 1,000 jobs. **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT**

RESOLVED the Town Council respectively requests that the current catch share/sector management in the Northeast implemented by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on May 1, 2010 be suspended and encourages an amendment to the current regulations and advocates for the implementation of emergency regulations and for the increase of the 2010 annual catch limits, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council hereby respectfully requests that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Marine Fisheries Service continue to work with the New England Fisheries Management Council to develop appropriate management polices that will have less of an economic impact to the commercial fishing industry and will not result in the bycatch of other species

ADOPTED this sixth day of July A.D. 2010.

David J. Crook, Sr., President

ATTEST:

Anne M. Irons, CMC
Town Clerk