

98 Madison Street
New Bedford, Ma 02740

April 30, 2018

Mr. Dennis Farias,
City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council
Office of the City Clerk
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740-6182

Dear Clerk Farias:

This is in response to your April 20 letter requesting my support and assistance regarding the economic and social crisis facing the greater New Bedford groundfish industry.

In your letter, you cite Councilor Gomes request to hold an emergency summit meeting among elected officials, the fishing industry, and other interested individuals to identify the causes of the serious decline in groundfish landings and the fishery crisis.

I personally support councilor Gomes initiative.

We have to recall that a "summit approach" was used by Senator Kennedy and local members of the fishing industry to generate new scallop regulations that increased the magnitude of our scallop landings such that New Bedford became the number one port, economically in the Nation.

In my view it is imperative that we implement Councilor Gomes initiative. We need to set a date for the summit, agree on a summit agenda, and set the stage for effecting an action plan that is responsive to the summit deliberations.

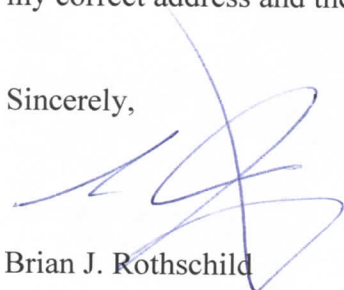
The agenda should lead to discussions that are short, focused and unencumbered with technical details. I suggest that the agenda consider the following issues: 1) the large quantities of groundfish that could have been caught but were not, 2) the large amount of waste associated with discards and 3) alternative regulations that induce greater flexibility in the management system minimizing wasteful underfishing and discards.

In addition to these points, despite the passage of an inordinate amount of time, we need to focus on and remedy the regulations that have constrained sector IX from fishing.

In order to keep the summit focused, I suggest that NOAA provide a several page background document of the above agenda points. I further suggest that the City utilize its Port Authority to manage the summit.

I would be happy to discuss this matter further and encourage sharing of this communication. Please note my correct address and the fact that I am not affiliated with any organizations.

Sincerely,



Brian J. Rothschild

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CITY CLERK
NEW BEDFORD, MA