

December 1, 2006

Ms. Laurinds Sousa Smith, Program Coordinator  
Northeast Consortium  
39 College Rd., 142 Morse Hall  
Durham, NH 03824

Dear Ms. Sousa Smith:

We are happy to report that our funded project, "*Effect of Amendment 13 on New Bedford's Groundfish Industry*" is right on schedule.

As promised, between the fourth and ninth month of our study of economic effects of amendment 13 on the groundfish fleet, we have been interviewing the crews of New Bedford based fishing vessels. With more than 50% of these crew interviews completed we are confident that we will end our research with a more than ample survey sample.

The settlement houses have been very cooperative as well. We have collected and entered data on more than 50% of the vessels in our survey, comparing crew incomes from 2003 and 2005. With more to gather and enter in this category also, we are confident that our study will bring some interesting information to bear.

We added a bit of data to the study, by including comparisons of fuel expenses from the vessel data collection in 2003 and 2005. The rising cost of fuel has had a great impact on the net settlements for the vessels. Further comments will be included in our final report.

We have met with our advisors, which include an owner of a settlement house, two former fishermen, a marine insurer, a fish dealer and two former fishermen. They have been helpful in both group and one-on-one meetings.

Our next steps are to gather information through the insurance industry, and do further research with the Coast Guard regarding safety.

Though we are pleased with our progress, there have been challenges in obtaining this information. Below is a short list:

- The reduction in Days at Sea for multispecies groundfishermen have been so drastic that we have been canvassing the docks on a regular basis in order to catch each boat active, with the crew aboard.

- Because of the difficulty fishermen are having, many were less than receptive to be interviewed, worrying that if by giving information they may find themselves in an even more difficult position. This was overcome, in most cases, because of the fact that this is a "community based" study, and if they were not familiar with the interviewer, they were familiar with, and had confidence in, SMAST and Shore Support.
- Many boats have sold and/or changed names during this time, making it difficult to match the vessels with the National Marine Fisheries reference material.

These challenges aside, we will continue to work toward a solid final report, based on an excellent survey sample.

If you have any further questions, please do hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Daniel Georgianna  
Professor of Economics  
UMD/SMAST



Deb Shrader  
Executive Director  
Shore Support, Inc.