



**\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\***

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**\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\***

***New England's community-based fishermen and supporters to demonstrate against corporate consolidation and inaction by fisheries policy makers***

***Fishing economies, access to local seafood, and marine environment at risk***

Fed up with policies designed to consolidate the fishing industry and privatize the rights to fish, a group of community-based fishermen and their supporters will gather at the New England Fisheries Management Council's (NEFMC) meeting in Plymouth, MA this coming Wednesday, September 30th. Reporters covering business, environment, food, and politics are encouraged to attend.

The NEFMC has ignored and blocked input by community-based fishermen, students, and sustainable food advocates while implementing policies that are bad for the fish, bad for the fishermen, and bad for our regional food system. Fishermen are protesting the Council's lack of action to protect the fish, and the effects it is having on fishing in New England as we know it.

**WHAT:** Demonstration, press conference, and a fishermen-led tour of the fishing docks in Plymouth to highlight failure of the NEFMC to protect fisheries as a public resource and work on behalf of the region's marine ecosystems and community based fishermen.

**WHO:** Dozens of community-based fishermen and fisheries advocates, including former Patriots Super Bowl champion Jarvis Green, will join allies such as the Real Food Challenge, Health Care Without Harm, the US Food Sovereignty Alliance and more.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, September 30 from 2-4pm.

**WHERE:** Radisson Hotel, 180 Water St, Plymouth, MA

## **WHY:**

- **FOR BUSINESS REPORTERS:** *The fishing industry - especially community-based fishing - is struggling while policies of privatization and consolidation called Catch Shares prevail. These policies jeopardize the viability of small and medium scale fishing operations. Could the fishing industry look like industrial-scale agriculture in 5 or 10 years?*
- **FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTERS:** *As a result of Catch Share policies, inappropriate scale of fishing has encroached on inshore areas. This puts undue pressure on ecosystems, fish populations, and fish habitat, and will displace small-and-mid-scale fishers with the lowest ecological impact.*
- **FOR FOOD REPORTERS:** *As current fisheries policies continue to displace small-and-mid-sized fishing boats, and fishing rights are consolidated among the industrially-scaled fleet, transparency in the seafood market will continue to decline, along with access to fresh, local seafood from farmers markets, community supported fisheries, and so on. These issues are important to engaged eaters from across socio-economic and cultural backgrounds.*
- **FOR POLITICAL REPORTERS:** *The fisheries are a public commons, and yet policy makers have marginalized small and medium scale fishermen and ignored the overwhelming will of the public. Not only that, the consolidation of fishing rights to single entities defies the intent of the public commons.*

*\*\*While the protest is happening in Plymouth, representatives will be in Washington, DC taking part in the American Sustainable Business Council's White House Summit to bring attention to this issue with the administration and members of Congress.\*\**

NAMA is a fishermen-led organization working at the intersection of marine conservation and social, economic, and environmental justice. We're working to build a movement toward a healthy ocean, a just seafood system, and community-based fisheries that are diverse, fair, and equitable for all. More information: [www.namanet.org](http://www.namanet.org)

## **Available for interviews:**

- **Tim Rider, Maine fisherman, F/V Finlander, 603-953-5515**
- **Stephen Welch, Plymouth MA fisherman, F/V Mystic**