

ANGUS S. KING, JR.
MAINE

133 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 224-5344
Website: <http://www.King.Senate.gov>

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 18, 2015

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
BUDGET
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
INTELLIGENCE
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

VIA FAX

Mr. Jeff Trandahl
Executive Director
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
1133 15th Street, NW Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Trandahl:

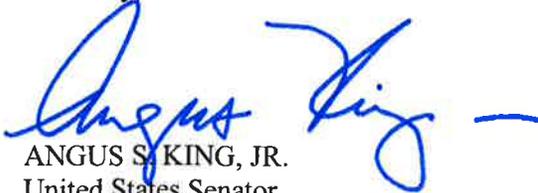
I am pleased to offer my support for The Nature Conservancy's application for funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Electronic Monitoring (EM) and Reporting Grant Program Project 49391: *Electronic Monitoring for New England's Groundfish Fishery*.

Alongside NOAA regulators and scientists and other NGOs, The Nature Conservancy is working collaboratively with fishermen in the New England groundfish fishery from Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire on the development of electronic video monitoring (EM) standards with implementation in the fishery planned for May 2016. Timely and effective at-sea monitoring and reporting plays a critical role in successful and sustainable fisheries management. Monitoring fisheries with human observers is expensive, inconvenient for fishermen, and presents safety concerns—particularly on smaller vessels that are common in Maine. Recent fishery disasters, the continued decline of species like cod, and shortfalls in federal funding for at-sea observers have all put increasing stress on both good fisheries management and fishermen's livelihoods.

The proposed project is designed to accelerate the implementation of EM in New England by supporting the collaborative process of developing an affordable alternative monitoring system and then implementing it on vessels across multiple sectors and communities. The Nature Conservancy and Massachusetts fishermen have been leaders in several EM pilots over the last decade and bring considerable expertise and experience to this project. This funding is needed to advance EM past the pilot stage and on to implementation, where private innovation can further drive down costs. We are at a critical time for improving accountability and efficiency in the New England groundfish fishery, and support from NFWF will help seize this important opportunity.

I encourage this proposal be given your full consideration in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. Please contact Pete Benoit at 202-224-3874 in my office if and when a decision is made, or if you need additional information.

Sincerely,



ANGUS S. KING, JR.
United States Senator

AUGUSTA
4 Gabriel Drive, Suite F1
Augusta, ME 04330
(207) 622-8292

PRESQUE ISLE
169 Academy Street, Suite A
Presque Isle, ME 04769
(207) 764-5124

SCARBOROUGH
383 US Route 1, Suite 1C
Scarborough, ME 04074
(207) 883-1588