

MEMORANDUM

Superfund Records Center

SITE: New BedfordBREAK: 3.01OTHER: 46737

TO: Leigh Bridges, Assistant Director

FROM: Drew Kolek, Marine Fisheries Biologist

SUBJECT: Basis for determining value of lobster fishery in closed PCB area

DATE: January 12, 1984

In 1980, subsequent to the PCB closure in Buzzards Bay, I attempted to determine the value of the lobster fishery in Area I, II, & III. Normally the statistics project reports lobster landings only by county. There was, however, the report "Commercial Fisheries of Massachusetts, 1977" compiled by the Area Teams. This listed landings and values by port as well as numbers of fishermen in each port. When I was compiling the information for area 2, Dick Beals provided me with names and addresses of commercial inshore lobster fishermen by port and total weight and value of lobsters landed by port. For the calendar year 1977, forty-eight lobstermen from the ports of New Bedford, Fairhaven, Dartmouth, and Mattapoisett reported landing a total of 110,647 pounds of lobsters valued at \$212,485.

In 1980 I asked approximately 15 lobstermen from these ports to recall what percent of their catch came from the PCB area prior to the closure. Responses ranged from 25-100%. Most responders reported in the 50-75% range. When calculating the value of the lobster fishery for the PCB report, I chose 60% as a best average estimate. Sixty percent of \$212,485 is \$127,491. Therefore, I reported the value of the commercial lobster fishery to exceed \$125,000.