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DIRECTOR

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts 60233

Division of Marine Fisheries
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5.3.35

727-3193

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Ms. Trudy Coxe, Secretary
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, 20th Floor
Boston, MA 02202

Dear Secretary Coxe:

Please be advised that the Division has reviewed the proposed Cleanup Plan by EPA for Upper and Lower New Bedford Harbor (RODII). We strongly support the dredging of 450,000 cubic yards of PCB contaminated sediment in the upper estuary. We believe that in the long run the marine resources of both the upper and lower harbor will benefit from this action. Moreover, we also strongly support the proposed enhancement of this remedy with navigational dredging. The navigational dredging is badly needed and will provide long-term benefits to the New Bedford commercial fishing industry.

The proposed monitoring of the project should be adequate to determine levels of PCB's occurring during dredging operations. Our only caution in this regard would be for the protection of any anadromous fish and shellfish in the vicinity of the dredge operations. We believe that these can be accommodated in this dredging plan.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this important project.

Sincerely yours,

for Philip G. Coates
Philip G. Coates
Director

cc: Peg Brady, Director, CZM
Jane Mead, CZM
David Dickerson, EPA Project Manager