



**NATIONAL
FISHERIES
INSTITUTE**

1901 North Fort Myer Drive, Suite 700
Arlington, VA 22209
(703) 524-8880 • Fax: (703) 524-4619
www.nfi.org

April 11, 2002

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket No. 99P-5332

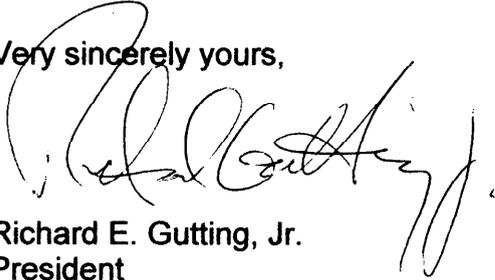
Dear Dockets Management Branch:

The National Fisheries institute is the principal trade association in the United States representing the fish and seafood industry. We are dedicated to ensuring an ample, sustainable and safe seafood supply for consumers. I am writing to let you know that the NFI is in full support of the petition filed by the National Fish Meal and Oil association to amend the list of food categories approved for the inclusion of menhaden oil.

Because it is odorless and tasteless in its refined form, menhaden oil provides consumers with an additional avenue for obtaining the benefits of fish and seafood for their diets. This is particularly important for people who do not care for fish or the preparation of seafood, in areas where access to seafood is limited, or in cases where consumers simply prefer additional menu options.

The approval of the extra food categories proposed on the NFMOA petition would widen consumer opportunities to include the nutritional contribution of menhaden oil and, hence, fish in their healthy diets. The NFMOA additional categories petition is a good idea that merits approval, and we respectfully urge that you take favorable action on it.

Very sincerely yours,

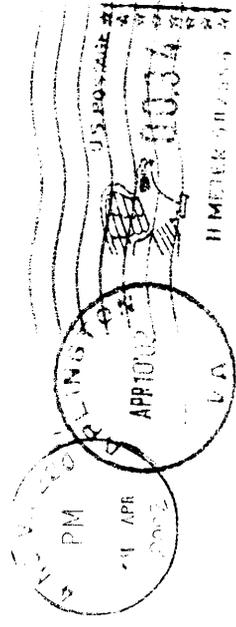

Richard E. Gutting, Jr.
President

99P-5332

C2

NATIONAL
FISHERIES
INSTITUTE

1901 North Fort Myer Drive, Suite 700
Arlington, VA 22209



Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

20257+0001 