



December 16, 2004

Mr. Bruce Wilson  
Mr. Tim Hansen  
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition  
Food and Drug Administration  
5100 Paint Branch Parkway  
College Park, MD 20740

Dear Sirs:

The Maine Lobster Promotion Council is concerned about the costly impact to the Maine lobster industry of the Proposed Referral Program from the Food and Drug Administration to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Seafood Inspection Program for the Certification of Live and Perishable Fish and Fishery Products for Export to the European Union and the European Free Trade Association.

The Maine lobster industry is fast-paced and competitive, selling a commodity in to a price-sensitive marketplace. Increased costs resulting from this proposed rule change will have a tremendously negative impact on the industry's ability to compete internationally.

In order to provide industry and government ample time to devise a solution that does not burden the market with additional costs, we would like to request that the comment period is lengthened by 30 days to allow the industry ample time to respond to the proposal.

Sincerely,

Kristen Millar  
Executive Director

Cc: Division of Dockets Management, FDA  
U.S. Senator Susan Collins  
U.S. Senator Olympia Snowe  
U.S. Representative Tom Allen  
U.S. Representative Michael Michaud

**The world's finest lobster comes from Maine.**