



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

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The Honorable Olympia J. Snowe
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1903

Apr 27 2005

Dear Senator Snowe:

Thank you for the letter of February 16, 2005, co-signed by several of your colleagues, regarding the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) "Guidance and Protocol for Industry and the Food and Drug Administration Staff for Certification of Fish and Fishery Products for Export to the European Union and the European Free Trade Association," published in the *Federal Register* on November 22, 2004. The proposal by the New England Lobster Coalition, which you forwarded, encourages FDA to provide a "voluntary custodial program" for European Union certificates.

FDA appreciates the points raised in your letter and we are considering the program. We appreciate your views on this subject. By copy of this letter we are forwarding your proposal to the docket for this issue.

Thank you again for contacting us about this matter. If you have further questions, please let us know. An identical letter has been sent to the co-signers of your letter.

Sincerely,

Patrick Ronan
Assistant Commissioner
for Legislation

cc: Dockets Management Branch, HFA-305
(Docket Number 2004D-0510)

2004D-0510

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