Captain Bob Bogan

Brick NJ

Fishing Boat *Gambler,* Pt. Pleasant Bch, NJ

Gambler, 90 foot passenger fishing vessel, built in 2005 with offshore fishing as its main fishery. Providing access to the canyons and other offshore fisheries out to 100 miles, the Gambler carries 24 to 60 passengers from not just our state but from many other states - our vessel *is* a destination.

Our business provides a service for people who cannot afford their own boat or live too far from the ocean to have one.

We fish for Yellowfin, Bluefin, Big Eye Tuna and Albacore Tuna in season. We also target offshore Seabass, Tilefish, Cod and Pollock out to 100 miles. The Gambler was constructed, using an SBA loan, in 2005. The Gambler was built in Maine with four -740 horse powered engines. Cruising speed of 25 knots with a top speed of 30 knots.

To cruise at 10 knots, we would virtually need to put our engines at idle speed.
(I can ride my bike at 13 knots)

Anything less than 16 maintained-knots is very bad for my engines, as they will clog up with carbon residue - eventually causing engine failure.

For Gambler 24 hours trips, it takes our boat about 5 to 6 hours to reach the grounds, which gives our customers about 12 hours of fishing time with 6 hours returned to the dock.

At 10 knots, it would take Gambler about 10 hours out and 10 hours back which would give our customers 3 to 4 hours fishing time in a 24-hour period. Anglers positively do not fish on boats that travel too slow to the fishing grounds.

In season, Gambler Inc provides employment for up to 10 people. Our business, and others like ours, help the local economy: tackle shops, gas stations, food stops, bait supply companies and many others.

Our business also provides a service to many who cannot afford their own boat or just live too far away to keep or maintain a boat.

Gambler is capable and Coast Guard inspected to fish 12 months out of the year. However, our business is subject to many stringent fishery rules that already keep us tied to the dock. --Many of our employees over the years have had to move on to other land-based jobs because they were not able to make enough money to sustain their households –*solely due to these regulations that have been put in place on certain fish stocks that have been re-built over 200%.*

For the first 5 years after the Gambler was built, we were able to fish all winter, offshore for Seabass but the government shut down January, February, March and April, effectively disabling our main fishery income for 3 months. We cannot blame our workers for leaving us. Imagine a three-month government shutdown.

This new speed restriction ruling will cause us the loss of our offshore trips in to include November, December, April and May - another 4 months loss – 7 months' worth of trips not working.

We have worked very hard to pay our SBA mortgage over the years subject not only to government regulations but weather conditions and the economy.

I am a fourth-generation party - fishing boat owner. All my years working on the ocean: winter, spring, summer and fall, I have never hit, nor have seen, nor known of any boater who ever hit a whale.

With new speed restrictions, we stand to lose offshore trips in the months of November, December, January, April and May due to lack of interest because our customers will only be able to fish for a small percentage of time during their trip.

November scheduled offshore Tuna trips one day per week: fare $450 x 24 passengers x 4 trips =$43,000

December scheduled offshore Sea Bass trips fare $250 x 44 passengers x 6 trips = $66,000

January scheduled offshore Tautog trips fare $150 x 44 passengers x 6 trips = $39,000

February and March are already affected by other fisheries rulings --already zero revenue.

April scheduled offshore Tautog trips fare \$150.00 x 44 passengers x 6 trips = \$39,000

May scheduled offshore Tilefish trips fare \$400.00 x 24 passengers x4 trips = \$38,400

Potential loss of revenue caused by a November through May speed restriction: \$225,400

Even if we lost half of this amount - this is unacceptable. And what will happen to our crewmen and crew women? Will they be compelled to find other work, or just go on unemployment?

Will I be able to continue to pay my monthly SBA loan if these measures are implemented?

Thank you for your time and serious consideration regarding this unprecedented new, restrictive rule.

Capt Robert Bogan

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