

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Pelagics Committee (Herring)

I. STATUS

A. Meetings:

- The Pelagics Committee has not met to address Atlantic herring since the last Council meeting. The Committee addressed issues related to requirements for observer coverage on U.S. at-sea processing vessels during Other Business at the May 3, 2007 meeting, a meeting which focused primarily on the development of an amendment for small mesh multispecies (whiting, red hake, offshore hake). The Committee passed the following motion for the Council to consider regarding the U.S. at-sea processing issue (see May 3, 2007 Pelagics Committee Meeting Summary for additional discussion):

That the Council take action so that NMFS can require at-sea processors to take observers, in the most expedient way possible, because there is no way to observe the catch on vessels that transfer codends to the processor and because this is the most efficient way to observe a number of vessels, and further that catcher boats be required to deliver the entire catch (codend) to the processor, to the extent possible, so that accurate observations can be made.

- The Final Rule for Amendment 1 to the Herring FMP was published in the *Federal Register* on March 12, 2007. Some of the Amendment 1 measures became effective on April 11, 2007, and others, including the limited access program, became effective on June 1, 2007.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. Consideration of public comment and Pelagics Committee recommendations related to observer coverage on U.S. at-sea processing vessels

III. INFORMATION

- A. May 3, 2007 Pelagics Committee Meeting Summary
- B. May 30, 2007 Letter from Patricia Kurkul
- C. Public Comments received regarding Observer Coverage on U.S. At-Sea Processing Vessels (provided separately)