

#9a

# Additional Correspondence



## Karen Roy

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**From:** Katharine Deuel <KDeuel@pewtrusts.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 15, 2014 11:46 AM  
**To:** comments  
**Subject:** FW: Petition signed by 500 recreational fishermen in New England on herring  
**Attachments:** Petition RISAA 2014\_scanned.pdf

In advance of the New England Fishery Management Council meeting, please consider the attached petition with 533 signers from the recreational fishing community as comment for the discussion of the Herring Committee report on Tuesday, April 22 as well as the discussion of the Industry-Funded Monitoring Omnibus Amendment on Wednesday, April 23.

Thank you,  
Katharine

**From:** Katharine Deuel  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 15, 2014 10:07 AM  
**To:** John Bullard  
**Cc:** 'allison.ferreira@noaa.gov'; 'Marjorie.Mooney-Seus@noaa.gov'  
**Subject:** Petition signed by 500 recreational fishermen in New England on herring

Dear Mr. Bullard,

Several weeks ago, I attended the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association show in Providence, Rhode Island. While there, I spoke to many recreational fisherman about the accountability issues in the Atlantic herring fishery, and the impact this fishery has on depleted river herring and shad populations.

The attached petition has signatures from 533 recreational fishermen who all care about this issue and hope that NOAA and the New England Fishery Management Council will do the following:

- Require an observer aboard every midwater trawl herring vessel, on every trip with no exceptions;
- Enact strong controls on at-sea dumping of un-sampled catch by expanding the current requirements in the groundfish closed areas to the entire fishery, and weight verification of all catch;
- Implement and enforce the river herring and shad catch cap; and
- Include river herring and shad as non-target stocks in the herring fishery management plan.

I hope you will keep these people in mind as the New England Council meets next week in Mystic, Connecticut and discusses Framework 4 to the Atlantic herring plan, as well as observer coverage for the Atlantic herring fleet.

Let me know if you have any questions. I am also sending hard copies of this petition to your office.

Thanks for your consideration,  
Katharine

### **Katharine Deuel**

Associate, U.S. Oceans, Northeast  
The Pew Charitable Trusts  
185 Devonshire St, Ste 701, Boston, MA 02110  
p: 617-207-8802 (direct) f: 617-728-0355  
e: [kdeuel@pewtrusts.org](mailto:kdeuel@pewtrusts.org) | [www.PewEnvironment.org](http://www.PewEnvironment.org)



# NOAA Must Protect and Restore River Herring and Shad

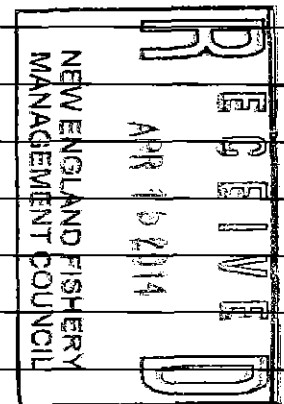
553 Signatures

Dear Regional Administrator John Bullard,

I am a New England resident and recreational angler who is concerned about our declining populations of river herring and shad, and the poorly monitored and unregulated catch of these forage species by the Atlantic herring fishery. For years, most New England states have prohibited the harvest and possession of river herring in their waters, but millions are caught in federal ocean waters. I urge your agency to implement the following reforms in the Atlantic herring fishery:

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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
Lawrence Houghton	Seekonk MA	MA	02771	-
RICK McILROY	Riverside RI	RI	02915	
JEFF LALLA	WEBSTER MA	MA	01570	
ANDRZEJ GADZIK	EAST MATUNUCK	RI	02879	
Mike Armingol	E Providence	RI	02916	
Marie Armingol	Providence Island	RI	02987	
Steve Miller	Auburn	MA	01501	
Phil Sandock	Wayland	MA	01778	
Gilley F. Okun	NEW BEDFORD	MA	02745	
Trish Lepore	CRANBY	MA	01033	
Dennis Bughtman	Dartmouth Ma.	MA	02747	
Steve Munchkin	Medford	MA	02155	
Sam Corbett	Kingston	MA	02364	
EDWARD FITZGERALD III	E. PROV	RI	02916	
SWENSON	NEENTHAM	MA	02097	



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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
James Patterson	Griswold CT	CT	06351	JamesPatterson1293@aol.com
John	REHOBOTH MA	MA	02769	—
John Miranda	Rehoboth MA	MA	02769	—
Robert F. Oliveira Jr	NEW BEDFORD	MA	02740	NONE
Carol Mendonca	New Bedford	MA	02740	X
Robert III	EAST PROV	RI		
Robert Lewis Jr	EAST PROV	RI		
1/2 J. B.	Mystic	CT	06355	R Ginty1707@aol.com
Chris Hampton	Mystic	CT	06355	
Apoll Ziemhroski	Mystic	CT	06350	
Arin Anezij	Peabody	MA	01960	
ROBERT OLIVEIRA	DARTMOUTH	MA	02747	
Zachary Oliveira	Dartmouth	MA	02747	
DAN BROSNAN	Buzzards Bay	MA	02532	
Betsy Brosnan	Buzzards Bay	MA	02532	

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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
BRIAN CURRY	PLYMOUTH	MA	02360	
Evelyn Kelleher	Branthree	MA	02181	
Tony Timonel	East Providence	RI	02914	
D. Monteiro	Warwick	RI	02888	
M. Monteiro	Warwick	RI	02888	
Steve Vabusto	Buzzards Bay	RI	02806	
Adam Melaves	Attleboro	MA	02703	
Jacobson	Providence	RI	02861	
Michael	East Prov	RI	02914	Michael.Federwicz@191koo.com
Key Duke	East Providence	RI	02915	Kevin.doucette@cox.net
Bob Wilson	Ledyard	CT	06335	
John Bond	Eastham	MA	02642	
John Mehall	Eastham	MA	02642	
Peter Fox	Smithfield	RI	02917	moonlightflyfishing@hotmail.com
Al Miller	Johnston	RI	02919	

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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
John N'etsel	Millard	CT	06461	JNetsel@Mail.com
Jessica Perry	CRANSTON	RI	02921	JMPERRY01@gmail.com
Bryan Flannery	E. Bridgewater	MA	02333	bryanflannery11@yahoo.com
Peter Wood	Tiverton	RI	02878	PBW276@AOL.com
Charles Pauldis	Somerset	MA	02706	—
ROBERT ANTOS	CUVENTRY	RI	02816	—
Suzanne Licki	Terryville	CT	06786	SUZLICKI@me.com
CHRISTOPHER HAMBLETT	BARRINGTON	RI	02844	THAMBLETT@SAUEBA7.ORG
Mike Twomey	Danvers	MA	01923	—
Will Beardsky	Middleboro	MA	02746	14WSEC@beardsky@XOHS.NET
Steve Cronello	Duxbury	MA	02332	CronelloSE@YCLCO.com
Chris Clemishaw	W. Warehatch	RI	02893	Sporkbays14293@aol.com
Josh Pomeroy	PROVIDENCE	RI	02902	Spork24@GMAIL.com
Adam Jackman	Warwick	RI	02883	rippinwilp21985@yahoo
Jeff Johnson	New London	CT	06320	—



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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
JAMES ENOS	EAST PROVIDENCE	RI	02915	JenosFire@AOL
Timothy Shaver	Stoughton	MA	02180	Tims32200@gmail.com
John Meserve	Douglas MA	MA	01516	JohnnyM53@Charter.net
Nancy Schroeder	Douglas	MA	01516	JohnnyM53@Charter.net
John Budget	Westerfield RI	RI	02875	
Kyle Newman	Providence	RI	02860	Fishesman.0209.abl
Shelby Gaudette	Rumford	RI		Shelby77@hotmail.com
Scott Kump	Newmarket	NH	03857	Scott.kump@yahoo.com
Kevin Bill	Providence	R.I.	02871	
DAVE BILLO	NEWPORT	RI	02840	
Penn Danker	Providence	RI	02906	
KARL HAYNES	MIDDLETOWN RI		02872	
Jodie Dore	West Warwick	RI	02893	
CHRIS Soderquist	SANDY HOOK	CT	06482	Soderquistph@AOL.com
Louis Almeida	BRISTOL	RI	02809	LOUISALMEIDA@COX.NET

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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
Joseph MacGowan	Seekonk MASS	MASS	02771	
Jacqueline L'Hennec	New Bedford MA	MA	02145	
James Nelson	Rumford	RI	02916	
Shelby Gaudette	Rumford	RI	02916	
John Bolognese	Medford	MA	02155	
Brandon Tyson	Riverside 1	RI	02915	
Jeffrey Klammeyer	Providence	RI	02909	
Paul Kennedy	Narragansett,	RI	02882	
Shirley Hornum	Webster	MA	01570	
GARY POMPROWICZ	SWANSEA	MA	02777	
ROB FARIA	SWANSEA	MA	02777	
Jennifer Faria	Swansea	MA	02777	
Antoine Lavigne	Newport	RI	02840	
Frank Lavigne	Groton	CT	06340	
FREDERICK D SODERQUIST	NEW TOWN	CT	06482	

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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
<del>Paul Shorts</del> Paul Shorts	<del>Provi</del> Provi	RI	02905	
Kathy Redger	Falmouth	MA	02536	
Allen Brooks	Falmouth	MA	02536	allenbrooks3@yahoo.com
Gip Sisson	Exeter	RI	02822	
George Sisson	Uxbridge	RI	02835	
Marc Sisson	Ware	MA	01085	
DENNIS PLONARD	C.P. RI		02914	
PETE DECAMP	WEST DENNIS	MA	02670	PETEPSID@AOL.COM
JOHN F. PENN	RUMFORD RI	RI	02916	N/A
John Rossi	PROV RI	RI	02905	
ROBERT INFUSI	PROV RI	RI	02905	
Lincoln Barber	Millville Ma.	Ma	01329	
Mark Foley				MFF2167@yahoo.com
Wendy Barber	Millville	MA	01529	
Steve Kolsto	Shrewsbury	MA	01545	

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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
JEFFREY LAROCQUE	NORTH PROVIDENCE	RI	02911	JEFFL99@YMAIL.COM
GREGORY GARBER	BOXFORD	MA	01921	heeds81@yahoo.com
ED Dearborn	Leominster	MA	01453	ed-drbn@yahoo.com
RAYMOND CHAPMAN	GARDNER	MA	01440	RHCHAPMAN@VERIZON.NET
William YAVARES	Taunton	ma	.	
Ken Martin	Stoughton	MA	02072	
Charles McDevitt	Hyannis	ma	02601	
Chase Pomeroy	Cranston	RI	02405	Chase@SmokeClean.com
Joel Power	WARWICK	RI	02888	Joel@SmokeClean.com
Michelle Myer	Longmeadow	MA	01106	
Herb Mailer	Longmeadow	MA	01106	
Henry Newell	Medway	MA	02053	khnewell2@verizon.net
CAPT. PHIL BERT	PAWTUCKET	RI	02864	
Charles Alvarez	Warwick <del>RI</del>	RI	02889	
Ball Scully	Pawt RI	RI	02814	

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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
Rick Keller	Westminster	MA	01473	RJB87@msn.com
John Sutela	Hubbardston	MA	01452	JAS.MASONRY@jch.com
Brian Marchetti	Leicester	MA	01453	
Steve Jozzi	Warwick	RI	02889	JozziBuild@gmail
Wayne Sarge	Bridgewater	MA	02324	—
KATE GARAPENNA	BARRINGTON	RI	02806	—
Chris Schwab	East Providence	RI	0288	—
Jon Twomey	Danvers	MA	01923	—
Darryl D. Issa	Providence	RI	02871	darryl-issa@yahoo.com
Tom Chadman	Jamestown	RI	02835	tomchad@hotmail.com
Cam Chadman	Jamestown	RI	02835	
Robert Burt	CONCORD, NH	NH	03258	—
Robert Paterson	North Kingstown	RI	02852	Quonpt25@yahoo.com
DAVID Am name	TOWN	MA	02780	
Ted Gray	SWANSEA MASS	MASS	02777	

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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
KEVIN D. GREENE	CRANSTON	RI	02900	KGREENE216@gmail.com
Ken Fortyne	West SPFLD MA	MA	01089	KFortno.54@gmail.com
Don Uvisina	chicopee	MA	01019	
Mike Twomey	Hamilton	MA	01922	MTWomey53@verizon.net
JUSTIN HALPER	BRISTOL	RI	02809	HappySmoke@yahoo.com
Paul BRAZ	Bristol	R.I	02809	Paul11147@yahoo.com
Eddie West	Haverhill	MA	01830	
Tom Muen	Carver	MA	02330	LINESTIGHT@hotmail.com
Jeff Pennington	Coventry	RI	02816	
Wm. Beardsley	MASHAEE	MA	02649	
T. Caramello	Plymouth	MA	02760	
Scott Brown	W. Warwick	RI	02893	ScottBrownTR5@aol.com
Scott Brown JR	W. Warwick	RI	02893	
John P. Brooks	N. Kingstown	RI	02852	NKFD107@hotmail.com
Derek Cbb	Gr. S. Wold	CT	06351	

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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
Tim Wordell	Exeter, RI	RI	02822	N/A
Bill Drumm	Cranston R	RI	02910	
John Drumm	Cranston RI	RI	02905	
Joe Jettin	Seekonk	MA	02771	
Paul St. Louis	Rhinecliff	MA	02769	
Paul MacKinnon	Charlton I	MA	01508	
Meggan Haddon	Pawtucket	RI	02861	
STEVEN SIMS	Franklin	MA	02038	
DON SMITH	MIDDLEFIELD	CT	06455	
Nelson Custodio	Seekonk	MA	02771	
Francis Smith Jr	Middlefield	CT	06455	
Alan Hackett	Marshfield	MA	02050	
Stephen Penfold	Stonington	CT	06378	
Nolan Telser	East Prov	RI	02914	
David S.	Terryville	CT	06786	

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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
Bill Fallov	Stoughton	MA	02180	
Rick Flannery	Bridgewater	MA	02324	
DAVID ROBERTSON	GLOUCESTER	MA	01930	
John CLARY	SOMERSET	MA	02725	
Kevin Bends	Somerset	MA	02726	
LEONARD ROBERTSON	GLOUCESTER	MA	01930	
BRYAN CARD	DEERING	N.H.	03244	
MATT WISNIEWSKI	WEBSTER	MA	01570	
Jill Morgan Bell	Thompson	CT	06277	
Robert P. Keenan	Swampscott, MA	MA	02777	
Jonathan Kochan	Somerset, MA	MA	02726	
Zena Clark	Branford CT	CT	06405	
Edw. Derr	Johnston RI	RI	02915	
Chris [unclear]	WESTM. J.R. MA.	MA	01473	
Paul [unclear]	CLINTON, CT	CT	06413	



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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
David Tances	West Greenwich	RI	02817	
Pete Karkubas	Weston	MA	02492	
David Silug	Peabody	MA	01960	
David Silug	Peabody	MA	01960	
Joseph Keenan	Woonsocket	RI	02895	
Stephanie Bender	Woonsocket	RI	02895	
Anthony Kennedy	Woonsocket	RI	02895	
Matthew Clarke	Woonsocket	RI	02895	
Walter Brown	Warrick	R.I.	02888	
Ryan Mankuska	Providence	RI	02910	
EL MASMAN	Douglas	MA	01516	
Ken Gray	Douglas	MA	01516	
Jim Charette	No. Attleboro	MA	02710	
Maddie Bishop	Woonsocket	RI	02895	
Alice Pratt	MO-S. Smithfield	RI	02896	

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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
Gregory Fulginiti	Taunton	MA	02780	GregFugi@kizer.net
Mike Laptew	North Kingstown	RI	02852	laptew@cox.net
Joe Farside	E. Greenwich	RI	02818	
Jim Whittman	Milwau	CT	06460	
Miguel Morales	STRAITFORD	CT	06615	
Kenn Patchard	Milford	CT	06460	
WALTER ZAR	FALL RIVER	MA	02780	
John Silva	Peabody	MA	01961	
DOM CHIEFFALO	DANBURY	CT	06810	
Neal Cappola	Broadfield	CT	06804	
George Wilkins	Narragansett	RI	02882	
ANDREW WARE	POCATELLO	MA	02790	
Louise Emmons	Woodsack	RI	02895	
John Capricini	WILMINGTON - MA	MA	01890	
Mike Shuban	Arlington MA	MA	02474	

# NOAA Must Protect and Restore River Herring and Shad

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I am a New England resident and recreational angler who is concerned about our declining populations of river herring and shad, and the poorly monitored and unregulated catch of these forage species by the Atlantic herring fishery. For years, most New England states have prohibited the harvest and possession of river herring in their waters, but millions are caught in federal ocean waters. I urge your agency to implement the following reforms in the Atlantic herring fishery:

- Require an observer aboard every midwater trawl herring vessel, on every trip with no exceptions;
- Enact strong controls on at-sea dumping of un-sampled catch by expanding the current requirements in the groundfish closed areas to the entire fishery, and weight verification of all catch;
- Implement and enforce the river herring and shad catch cap; and
- Include river herring and shad as non-target stocks in the herring fishery management plan.

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
Craig Alford	Narragansett	RI	02882	cwoodpws@gmail.com
<del>[Signature]</del>	Taunton	MA	02780	TLS 130 Comcast.net
<del>[Signature]</del>	Taunton	MA	02780	hirobert3017@gmail.com
<del>[Signature]</del>	Westerly	RI	02891	eder.alter@verizon.net
<del>[Signature]</del>	Hudson	MA	01749	
Angela Bumpus	Plymouth	MA	02360	
Erik Bumpus	Plymouth	MA	02360	
DON DOUCETTE	PAWTUCKET	RI	02860	
DAVID NICHOLSON JR	HARWICH	MA	02645	
David C. Nicholson	HARWICH	MA	02645	
Stephen J. [Signature]	Cranston, RI	RI	02905	
New Haven	EASTON MA	MA	02356	
John Anand	Raynham MA	MA	02767	
Patrick Williamson	Bristol	RI	02809	
Chris Mills	Bristol	RI	02809	

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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
RICHARD M. LASKEY	MENFORD, MA.		02155	
MARK HUDZIN	ALBION, RI		02802	mbudzyn@hotmail.com
March McPike	Greenwich, MA		01864	
Stephen Chotkowski	FALMOUTH MASS	MASS	01936	Masking2@comcast.net
Alex Menke	Narragansett RI	RI	02882	Alexmenke@gmail.com
Robert O'Neil	Burlington	MA	01803	
Bob Cassidy	Barnstable	MA	02632	robocossymetio.com
George Cunningham	Amherst	MA	02174	
Michael Fotiades	Narragansett	RI	02882	mgf@chinacat.com
ERNEST Bai	CENTERVILLE	MA	02632	
Ray Plautner	NORTH PLIM.	RI	02901	
William Tulan	Tiverton	RI	02878	
Kevin Lebeau	T. JEFFERSON	RI	02878	
TONY STETZKO	ORLEANS	MA	02653	
Josh Jager	TAUNTON	MA	02780	

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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
Richard Purnin	LITTLE COMPTON	RI	02837	
Jeffrey Toth	Warwick	RI	02888	
Jack Fisher	VINEYARD HAVEN	MA	02568	
Tom Rabbato	Ellington	CT	06029	
John Miller	Belchertown	MA	01207	
Cde LANG	Springfield	MA	01108	
Thomas J Ruser	HANSON	MA	02341	
Jeremy Mansfield	Mansfield	MA	02650	
PAUL BROOKES	WARWICK	RI	02886	
Paul Spear	Framingham	MA	01701	
Nancy McAllister	Warwick RI	RI	02889	
David Robinson	Greenville	RI	02828	
Armande Shier	Springfield	MA	01104	
John Noy	LEBANON	NH	03766	
Bob Farnel	SANDWICH MA	MA	02563	

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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
GREG HISESEY	WAKEFIELD	MA	02879	GOGGFIELD@AOL.COM
CAPT Mike Decker	Manson	MA	01099	NEVER2@AOL.COM
Bob Parson	Marsden Mills	MA	02468	RPARSON516@comcast.net
Luis Simons	N.B.	MA	01538	
Andy Harrington	Wellesley	MA	02461	andyharrington26@gmail.com
Stanley	Weston	MA	02804	
Edward McLaughlin	Warwick	R.I.	02889	
Ray Starbuck	Charlton	RI	02889	
HARRY G. MAULLS	Hudson	MA	02481	HMAULLS@GMAIL.COM
Julie Cole	Rothsay	CT	06783	
Doug Silva	Easton	MA	02717	
MATT Gouveia	Acushnet	MA	02743	
Robert Johnson	Thomaston	CT	06787	CAPTREG@YAHOO.COM
Benny Martini	Northwick	MA	02062	
Tom Acusset	Wareham	MA	02795	

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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
JODO STORW	SCHLAGHTICOKL	NY	12154	
J.M Webster	Dighton	MA	02767	Webster@mass tackle.com
Jim Coffin	Fairhaven MA	MA-	02179	
Deborah Willett	Grove Pt. MA		01930	
Fred GRETCHNER	E. Greenwich	RI	02818	NAMG10@verizon.net
John Wickman	ELIOT ME	ME	03903	
ROBERT BROWN	NEEDHAM	MA	02492	
Mike Wickman	York	ME	03909	Wickman53@yahoo.com
GARY MAHEU	LACONIA NH	NH	03246	gamahou@gmail.com
Mike Scott	Sandwich	RI	02877	groznyj@bigfoot.com
Ernie A. [unclear]	RIVERSIDE	RI	02915	401 433 0997
Don Jozzatis	Mashpee Ma	MA		
LARRY LOBLAWC	MASHPEE MA	MAA		
Jim Mayo	Pawcatuck, Ct	Ct	06379	
Daniel V. Shorto	East Prov	RI	02914	GUFFISH18@gmail.com

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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
Paul R. [unclear]	Worcester	MA	01605	
Michael W. [unclear]	MYSTIC	CT	06355	
[unclear]	Worcester	MA	02098	
[unclear]	Worcester	MA	02725	
RENE BERTHIAUME	W. BROOKFIELD	MA	01581	
PAUL GIVAN	WARWICK	RI	02889	
MARK KEYS	NEWPORT	RI	02842	
John H. Harrington	LITTLE COMPTON RI	RI	02837	
JACK CREIGHTON	YAR MOUTH	MA.	02664	
DAVE MACLELL	Yar mouth	MA	02669	
Thomas J. King	Swansea	MA	02777	
[unclear]	SWANSEA MA		02777	
THOMAS J. HARVE	WEST WARWICK	RI	02893	
[unclear]	W. WARWICK MA	MA	02156	
[unclear]	WARWICK	MA	-	



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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
Nate Hirschy	Dighton	MA	02764	
Matt Nejni	Dighton	MA	02764	
Mark Spay	Baylston	MA	01505	
Roger A. Lema	Charlestown	RI	02813	
Susan Lema	Charlestown	RI	02813	
Paul Butler	No. Kingston	RI	02985	
Timothy Lefevre	Portsmouth	NH	03801	
George Loomis	W. Kingston	RI	02892	
MARK ANDRS	W. Barnstable	MA	02669	
Joseph Parrish	Boston	MA	02348	
STEVEN FORD	AUON	MA	02322	
Colin McIsaac	NEUIDA	MA	02468	
Todd Corayer	South Kingstown	RI	02879	tcorayer@gmail.com
AVERY REVERE	BARNSTABLE	MA	07630	avery @ friends of barnstable herring
Ron Plourde	BRISTOL, CT.	CT.	06010	

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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
Dean Chase	Portsmouth	RI	02871	dehase@carnegiedebayclub.com
Steve Ball	West Greenwich	RI	02817	
Jim Barreault	Mansfield	MA	02048	
Tom Hamilton	Mansfield	MA	02048	
Laura Vope	Narragansett	RI	02882	
GREGORY O. HOUDIE	WARFIELD	RI	02879	
Robert S. Murray	Foster	RI	02825	dovetailsinc@verizon.net
Donald Siegel	Charlestown	RI		
Matthew Bowley	Charlestown	MA	02129	mngbr20w@gmail.com
TOM CUNNINGHAM	DENVIL	MA	01527	CUNNYELECTRIC@YAHOO.COM
Ball Chase	BREWSTER	MA	02631	Kmsw8764@YAHOO.COM
Carol D. Carson	Middleboro	MA	02346	Krillcars@mac.com
Patrick Medeiros	Fall River	MA	02724	medeiros91@icloud.com
Joe Gardner	Warren	RI	02885	JoeySys01@gmail
Don Kelly	Westport	MA	02790	

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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
Kevin O'Grady	Providence	RI	02852	
Kevin JUDAS	So. KINGSTOWN	RI	02879	
Richard Sands	402 N Main St	MA	02335	
John LaForge	3 Stone <sup>CRASHFIELD</sup> DR	MA	02250	
Rob Michael	35 Carpenter St	RI	02878	rmichael@mail.com
Paul Carney	53 Tower Hill	MA	02631	
Domoyne Lowell	Providence	RI	02905	WOODRIVER6744@GMAIL.COM
John Fitch	Norfolk	MA	02056	
Mike Engelage	Easton	MA	02026	
Antoine	Fall River	MA	02720	
Bob Wick	Wickford	RI	02882	NelumboWatergardens@yahoo.com
MIKE SHEPHERD	NEWPORT	RI	02840	FFMICKSHP@AOL.COM
Allie Petros	Yastons Mills	MA	02648	Fapetros@gmail.com
Shan Kelly	Mount Pleasant	MA	02648	
DAVID McGHIE	WARWICK	RI	02889	Dmcghie@BYY.com

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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
Mark Ostrowski	Woonsocket	RI	02895	
Nick Lee	Providence	RI	02903	
Craig Medina	E. Prov.	RI	02914	
Walter Jakman	Narragansett	RI	02882	
Carl J. [unclear]	Rahoboth	MA	02062	
Joe Barabz	Pawtucket	RI	02861	
John Driscoll	Falmouth	MA	02536	
Ted Flynn	Plymouth	MA	02360	
ROBERT FERIOKI	LINCOLN	RI	02865	
NUR MANCABANA	PAWTUCKET	RI	02861	
DAVID E. JAILIN	PLAINFIELD	CT	06374	
Richard Fontaine	Newburyport	MA	01950	
Tom Madson	[unclear]	CT	06227	
IG Carl	Selwindsen	CT	06074	
DOMINIC SILVIO	CHARLESTOWN, RI	RI	02813	

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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
JOHN SOLOMON	METHUEN	MA	01844	JOHN.SOLOMON@COMCAST.NET
PAUL F. OCANTIO	WARRENHAM	MA	02571	
BRENDAN DONATIO	WESTPORT	MA	02790	
JIM HARRIS	WAKEFIELD	RI	02879	jharris841@GMAIL.COM
GEORGE HUNOLD	NORTH KINGSTOWN	RI	02882	ghunold@COX.NET
GARY SICARD	Fitchburg	MA	01420	GSICARD@7@VERIZON.NET
Richard Thomas	Brockton	MA	02302	
Rick Kristoff	Princeton	MA	01541	nick@chutes.org
Brad Hawerly	Barrington	RI	02806	lshave3@ds.com
John Conti	Everett	MA	02149	
Mike Constock	N. Kingstown	RI	02874	
DON ABRAHAM S	W. GREENWICH	RI	02817	
R. Zarembo	Fawcettville	CT	06379	
O. Parungto	Gales Ferry	CT	06335	
Mike Walker	Cambridge	MA	02139	

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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
Ben Allen	Assonet <del>MA</del>	MA	02702	
Cashley Pratas	Cumberland	RI	02864	
Joseph Pratas	Cumberland	RI	02864	—
John Roche	Westerly	MA	02452	
W. V. [unclear]	Tiverton	RI	02878	
Steve Col	Cranston	RI	02920	
Angie Hill	Johnston	RI	02919	
James [unclear]	Kingston	MA	02364	
Steve Knott	Warwick	RI	02886	
James Kelley	Warwick	RI	02886	
Bryan Volpe	Coventry	RI	02816	
Billy Delaney	Falmouth	MA	02536	
Richard Rodwell	Marsfield	MA	02053	
Jim Donovan	Brockton	MA	02301	
Joseph Pata	Warwick	RI	02886	

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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
Geoff Cornwell	Fairfield	CT	06824	
Debbie Cornwell	Fairfield	CT	06824	
Jeff Barker	Warwick	RI	02888	
Brian Pontolillo	Westport	MA	02796	
Ray Vellels	Norfolk	RI	02911	
Bill Noreen	Weymouth MA	MA	02190	—
Donald Willis	Willingtown	CT	06279	DsLRAM96@Charter.net
Ronald W. Laughlin	Brookops NH	NH	03110	Ronald.W.Laughlin@NH.gov
Pill Blackwell	Ryebeach MA	MA	02360	reedmentfish@gmail.com
Tom Spuziani	Boston MA	MA	02127	tspuzian@comcast.net
Charlie Jous. Grant	Gardner MA		01440	BRNTRout64@HOTMAIL.COM
Robert Pasylek	Wallingford, CT	CT	06492	
John Stasiuk	Northington CT	CT	06472	
Barry Rideout	Barrington	RI	02806	
John [unclear]	Natick	MA	01760	

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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
Tom George	YARMOUTH PORT	MA	02675	tgeorge20@hotmail.com
Fish Betty	Mansfield	MA	02048	ubett13@yahoo.com
Robert L. Mander Sr	Fairhaven MA	MA	02719	rlms@comcast.net
<del>John Hall</del>	Ashburnham, MA	MA	01430	bbhall1943@comcast.net
John Hall	Shrewsbury MA	MA	01545	John5Hall32@GMAIL.COM
Howard Sweet	Worcester	RI	02904	
Jeffrey A. M.	Nantucket	MA	02554	jeff@fishstx.nantucket.com
Ronald Hartman	Portsmouth	RI	02871	Rhartman@VHB.com
SCOTT T GAUTHIER	WARWICK	RI	02818	sg6295@gmail.com
Rich Falcone	Bristol	RI	02809	rfalcone76@gmail.com
CHARLEY SOARES	SWANSEA	MA	02777	CHARLES@SOARES.YAHOO.COM
JEFF BRANCO	REHOBOTH	MA	02769	JEFFBRANCO@COMCAST.NET
LARRY KECKLER	ATHOL	MA	01331	kecklerle@gmail.com
Rich Kelly	EDGARTOWN	MA	02539	OSPREYBUSINESS@YAHOO.COM
Greg Nedy	NOYBURY	MA	01532	



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Charles F Brown Jr	Eastham	MA	02642	rockharbor2011@hotmail.com
Armand Normandy	Eastham	MA	02642	Buc1934@Comcast.net
Daniel Putnam	NANTUCKET	MA	02554	ROVINGDC@GMAIL.COM
Ed Voisine	Coventry	RI.	02816	
Daniel Putnam	Hamrock	MA	02047	danielputnam@gmail.com
JOHN SILVA	REHOBOTH	MA	02769	
KEN WHITING	HARWICH	MA	02645	Ken.Whiting@Comcast.net
Bill Cottle	Bourne	MA	02532	ridechart@aol.com
Bill Kobrock	Old Saybrook	CT	06475	Wkobrock@SNET.NET
WAYNE BERLESON	DENNIS, MA	MA	02628	WAYNEA.BERLESON@Comcast.net
CITRUS + RAY	SWAMPSCOTT	MA	02748	CBTRACY@Comcast.net
Wally SARNA	SWAMPSCOTT	MA	02779	
Adam Monteiro	Somerset MASS	MA	02726	bigred3634@yahoo.com
Jim Fife	Westport Ma.	MA	02796	
Jim Fife	N. Attleboro Ma	MA	02760	

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- Implement and enforce the river herring and shad catch cap; and
- Include river herring and shad as non-target stocks in the herring fishery management plan.

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
James Palmer	E. Pror	RT	02914	
Jim Egan	Hopkinton	MA	01748	
Larry Leahy	Amesbury	MA	01913	lp/leahy@hotmail.com
<del>Bob [unclear]</del>	<del>EXETER RI</del>	RI	02822	
<del>[unclear]</del>	New Braintree	MA	01531	
<del>[unclear]</del>	<del>Pror</del>	RI	02914	
<del>[unclear]</del>	<del>[unclear]</del>	<del>RI</del>	<del>[unclear]</del>	
John McElroy	Sagamore BEACH	MA	01962	
Kevin Hendrick	DRAUGHT <del>MA</del>	MA	01826	Kevin.Hendrick@comcast.net
<del>[unclear]</del>	COVENTRY	RI	02916	
Dave Windolosek	DOUGLAS, MA	MA	01516	
P. Hooper	WAKEFIELD	RI	02879	
Cabe Ellis	S. Hadley	ma.	01075	
RICHARD GAWZ	MARBLEHEAD	MA	01945	
Peter Cruz	New Bedford	MA	02744	

# NOAA Must Protect and Restore River Herring and Shad

Dear Regional Administrator John Bullard,

I am a New England resident and recreational angler who is concerned about our declining populations of river herring and shad, and the poorly monitored and unregulated catch of these forage species by the Atlantic herring fishery. For years, most New England states have prohibited the harvest and possession of river herring in their waters, but millions are caught in federal ocean waters. I urge your agency to implement the following reforms in the Atlantic herring fishery:

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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
Wally DeMunn	Worcester	MA	01609	
Harley F. Beaton	WARWICK	R.I	02888	STRIDE 166 @ Cox.net
James Gandy	WARWICK	R.I	02886	
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Jason Ferreira	COVENTRY	R.I	02816	
Lenny Connelly	Foxboro	MA	02067	
Dave Webb	Warwick	R.I	02886	
Tom Henrich	PROVIDENCE	MA	02906	
Paul Mulvaney	TUVO	MA	02666	
James Spivak	WEBSTER	MA	01570	
Bobby Conville	Worcester	MA	01604	BobbyConville@AOL.com
Mike Converse	Orford	MA	01540	BigPATSIAN @ 87 @ jmail.com

©

# NOAA Must Protect and Restore River Herring and Shad

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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
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Mike DiSanto	Westfield	MA	01085	wikescustomplug@comcast.net
Richard Cotti	Ludlow	MA	01056	maureen50@charter.net
Steve Andrews	Westfield	MA	01085	
Vic Nardacci	Westfield	MA	01085	
Bob Goulet	So Hadley	MA	01075	
Robert Woods	N. Dighton	MA	02761	
Frank Crisafulli	Dighton	MA	02715	
Kevin Robinson	West Greenwich	RI	02817	Kevin.Robinson@yahoo.com
Don Rivers	Palm	MA	01069	
Paul Bettencourt	Pawtucket	RI	02861	Paul Bettencourt
Kathy Gonsalves	East Providence	RI	02915	Kathy Gonsalves
Bill Casale	EAST HAVEN	CT	06513	WINSTEIN207@Sbcglobal.NET
Dave Taylor	Barrington	RI	02806	dhtsox@hotmail.com

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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
WAYDE SICVA	N K	RI	02852	WAYDE-VINYL 60Y @ CCK.NET
Doug Morrison	New Braintree	MA	01531	
John Thompson	New Braintree	MA	01531	
DAVID WATSON	WTFD. CT	CT.	06385	
Dale E Wilcox	Killingworth	CT.	06419	
Terry Lyons	Foxboro	MA	02035	terrence.lyons@mn.com
Mark Beckford	Melrose MA	MA	02176	
William Chaplinsky	WESTERLY	RI	02891	
James Deane	Foxfield	CT	06874	
Everett Stone	East Parr	RI	02914	Please
Maac Marchand	NO Smithfield	RI	02896	Big Boy .79mm & small
JAM POINER	Riverside	RI	02915	
Norm Habituille	Juniata	RI	02865	
John Perry	NO. Smithfield	RI	02896	
John Dyer	LANCASTER	MA	01523	

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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
Leo Swiper	SMITHFIELD	RI	02917	leo_cmlr@juno.com
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Roger St Germain	Lincoln	RI	02865	
PAT WALSH	Manchester	NH	03103	
Mike Lorello	South Portland	Me	04106	
Mark Lewicki	Old Lytle	CT	06371	
RUSS HUBERT	FALL RIVER	MA	02783	
Joseph Mollica	East Greenwich	RI	02818	8broach@gmail.com
RICHARD J. SPENCER	EAST PROU	RI	02914	SPENCE_1960@YAHOO.COM



# NOAA Must Protect and Restore River Herring and Shad

Dear Regional Administrator John Bullard,

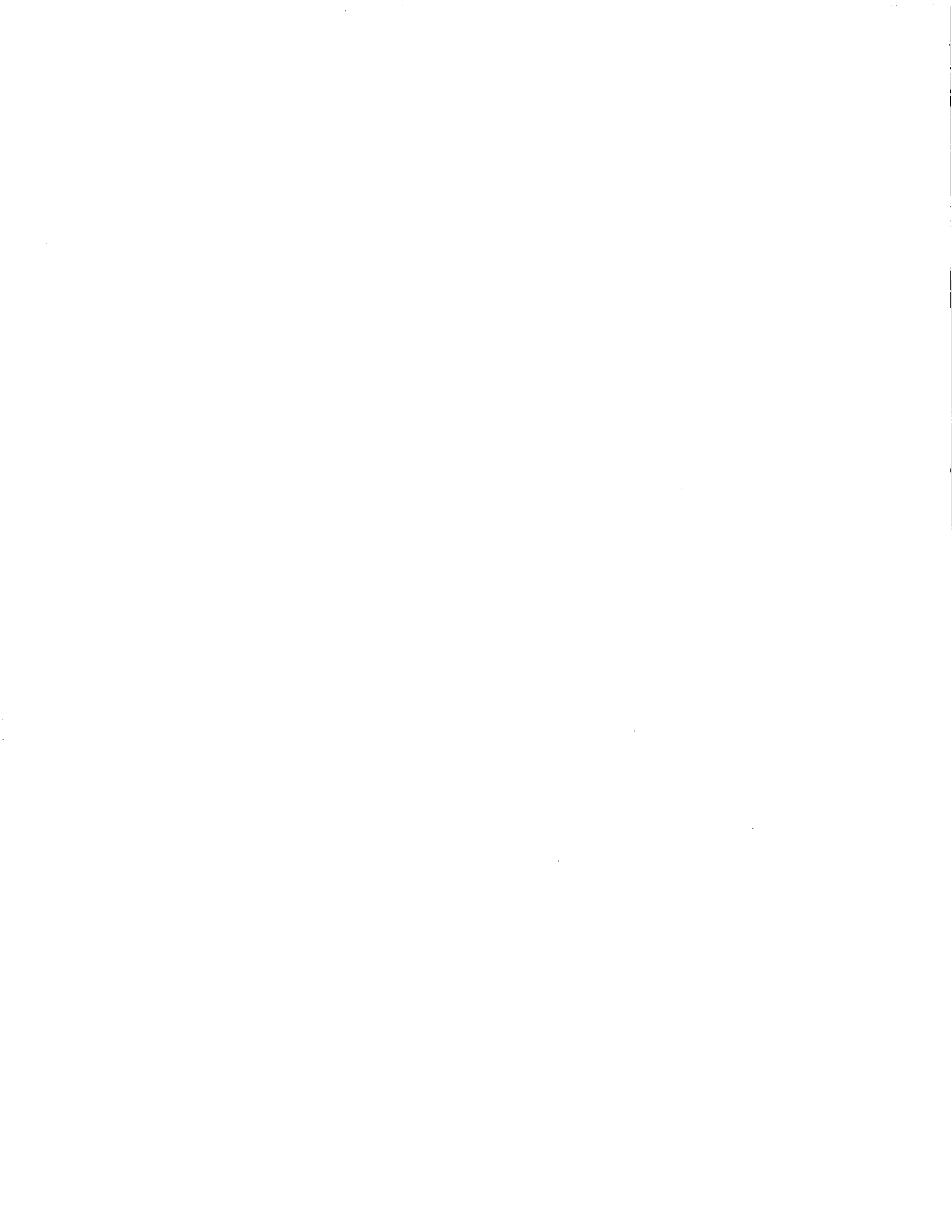
I am a New England resident and recreational angler who is concerned about our declining populations of river herring and shad, and the poorly monitored and unregulated catch of these forage species by the Atlantic herring fishery. For years, most New England states have prohibited the harvest and possession of river herring in their waters, but millions are caught in federal ocean waters. I urge your agency to implement the following reforms in the Atlantic herring fishery:

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NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL
Karen Westerberg	New London	CT	06320	KFWESTERBERG@GMAIL.COM
Tom Carlotto	Burrington	RI	02804	tcarlotto@ox.net
John A Metaxas	Swansea	MA	02777	jametaxas@hotmail.com
JOHN FISH	NARR	RI	02882	
Reg Welles	Ledyard	CT	06339	reg.welles@gmail.com
SCOTT CHAGMAN	BENNINGTON	MA	02769	S.CHAGMAN@AOL
Frank Goff	GRISWOLD	CT	06351	
Gregory P. Dalbec	ROCHESTER	MA	02770	
Dave Grant	Centerville	MA	02321	
Susan Carchedi	Upton	MA	01568	Suecarchedi@gmail.com
Robert Carchedi	Upton	MA	01568	"
Angelo Vaccaro	WATERBURY	CT	06708	
NORMAN BRITTON	TIVERTON	RI	02878	NORMAN@INTSTRAM.COM



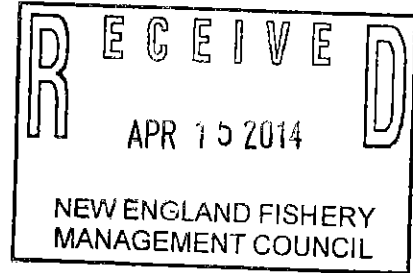




**Karen Roy**

---

**From:** Elena M. Fetch <efetch@ceaemployment.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 15, 2014 12:36 PM  
**To:** comments  
**Subject:** Herring Framework 4



Dear New England Fishery Management Council:

In regards to implementing the necessary reforms to the Atlantic herring fishery:

Catch weights should be accurate and verified, and that the consequences for dumping catch should be effective and without loopholes.

High levels of observer coverage are needed to protect the long-term health of the Atlantic herring population, and ensure that catch limits and bycatch caps are effectively monitored and enforced.

I am urging NOAA and New England and the Mid-Atlantic Councils to finalize this plan so increased monitoring is implemented as quickly as possible.

Regards,

*Elena Marie*

Elena Marie Fetch  
Work Adjustment Training (WAT) Coordinator 



11 Minneakoning Road, Flemington, NJ 08822  
Work: 908.782.1480, Ext. 229  
efetch@ceaemployment.com  
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 Please Consider the Environment before printing this E-mail

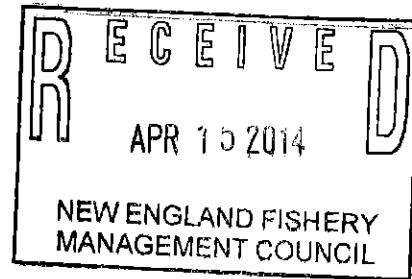


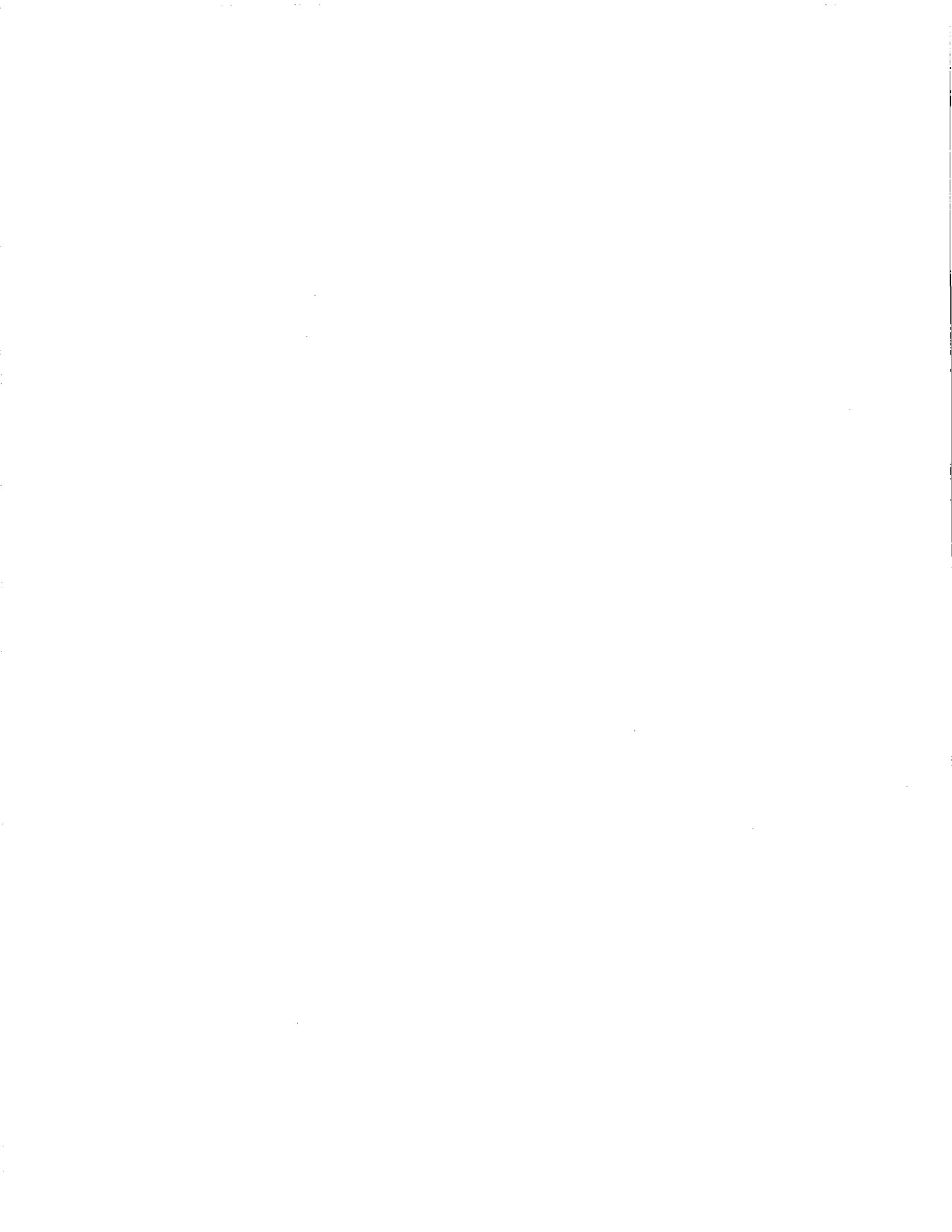
**Karen Roy**

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**From:** SiegridB@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 15, 2014 12:24 PM  
**To:** comments  
**Subject:** Herring Framework 4

PLEASE STOP OVERFISHING







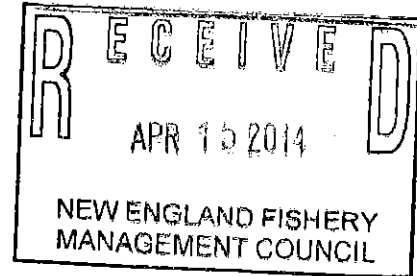
## Friends of the Blackstone

John Marsland, President

---

April 5, 2014

Janet Coit, Director  
RIDEM  
235 Promenade Street  
Providence, RI 02908



Dear Director Coit,

The Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone (BRWC/FOB) and the Cumberland High School are partnering to form a River Rat program at the high school. With the support of the school faculty, the importance of the Blackstone River's ecosystem will be introduced into the curriculum next year in conjunction with an afterschool Extended Learning Opportunity through the Rhode Island After School Alliance. Students who participate in the program will receive credit towards graduation while learning about the importance of the Blackstone River fish ladder project. This project will restore river herring to the Blackstone River and help rebuild the herring stocks that are so important to the aquatic food chain that we as humans depend on.

On April 22-24, the New England Fisheries Management Council will be meeting in Mystic, Connecticut to review a range of options to improve observer coverage for industrial trawlers in the Atlantic herring fleet. They will also be making decisions on final measures to address the wasteful dumping of by-catch. These decisions will have vast implications for the future stock of river herring, shad, and other juvenile ground fish that is so often discarded as by-catch from these trawlers.

Because of the importance of the NE Fishery Management Council's initiative and the way it is so dramatically illuminates the links between local river restoration efforts and the river's broader context, BRWC/FOB will be incorporating information on it into the River Rat program. Our goal is to provide the broadest educational and recreational opportunities on the Blackstone River to foster a love for the river and a sense of responsibility for it that will inspire the students to become the future leaders of the BRWC/FOB.

We believe that your support for the initiative is crucial. We urge you to vigorously pursue change in these areas so that together we can rebuild these important forage fish stocks.

Sincerely,

John Marsland  
President  
BRWC/FOB





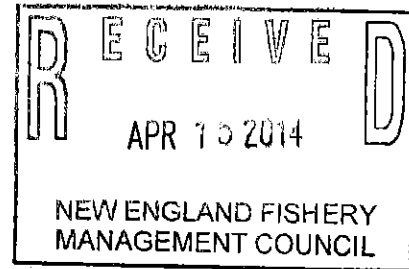
04/14/2014

From:

F/V Providian  
New England Fish Company

To:

New England Fishery Management Council



Comments concerning alternatives that address measures disapproved in Herring Amendment 5 to be considered at Council meeting April 22-24

### **Dealer Alternative 2**

A. Vessel operators required to validate information reported through Fish-on-line.

- Duplicates efforts of the NMFS Quality Assurance team.
- It is redundant and unnecessary

B.) VTR's and dealer reports require to be submitted within 24 hours of trip/purchase.

- Increasing the frequency of data collected adds costs
- Changing the reporting frequency will have little or no effect on quality or usefulness of information. NMFS VTR and dealer QC systems cycle on a weekly basis so increasing the reporting frequency would not result in potential data issues being identified on a daily basis. (Steele, 2014)
- In some cases, it would be impossible for dealers to supply an accurate weight within 24 hours. Speeding up the process could diminish the quality of the data.

C.) Fish hold on limited access herring vessels required to be empty before leaving the dock when declared into herring fishery.

- This regulation promotes responsible fishing and does not have to add unnecessary paperwork. However, there are limited circumstances when a boat might need to dispose of unwanted (rotten) fish even when fishing responsibly. There would need to be a waiver for such events.

### **Dealer Alternative 2**

#### **Third-Party Catch Verification**

The Herring oversight committee expressed a need for a third-party catch verification system. The system described involved the observer or portside sampler “stick the tanks” upon return to port. As long as it does not delay the offload, the system could be implemented with little burden to vessel. However, there is already a third part system in place. This is why the observer is on board in the first place. The observer already reports the catch to NOAA. “Sticking the tank” will not increase the quality and accuracy of the data collected. It will do little to determine species composition and it creates a new data stream for NOAA to manage.

#### **Operational Discards**

Operational discards are a product of normal operations. Although the crews make every effort to get all fish on board, fish sometimes gets released in the process of unhooking the pump. Sometimes weather makes it unsafe to bring the codend along side the vessel when pumping operations is complete. In such instances, operational discards are unavoidable. Prior to unhooking the pump, the net is made available to the observer, both in and out of the water. The observers are getting a clear view of any fish left in the bag. Recent observer comments:

- “I had a clear view of the codend after it was disconnected from the pump. I saw only a few scattered fish left in the bag, no more than 10lb of all Atlantic Herring”
- “Had a clear view of codend as it was detached from pump. Saw no more than 5lbs of Atlantic Herring dispense in water”
- “~10lbs fish, NK (Herring) fell out of codend when pump was detached.”
- “When pump was disconnected from codend after completion of pumping, I had clear view of the opening as it was thrown back overboard, I saw no more than 10lbs of Atlantic Herring dispense in the water.”
- “All fish were pumped onboard. Net was brought onboard at end of tow and there were no discards. Codend seen in the water and on deck with no discards.”
- “I had a clear view of the codend as it was detached from the pump. When the bag was released in the water, I saw about 10lbs of Atlantic Herring dispense in the water and about 1 lb. of Atlantic Mackerel.”

These comments show:

- Every effort is made to bring all fish onboard
- Operational discards are a normal part of fishing operation
- Operational discards are small amounts
- Operational discards are being clearly observed
- All fish are observable.



## Net Slippage

Amendment 5 just came effective March 17, 2014 and implements additional management measures to enhance at-sea monitoring and discourage net slippage. The council should give time to see how effective the new regulations are at reducing slippage events before implementing new ones.

### Move Along Rules:

- Any move along rule is essentially a trip termination. The time and money spent finding the fish will be wasted. Moving would be moving away from the fish.
- Requiring the vessel to move along will not improve the quality of the data collected.

- The penalty would have a different economical effect on different size vessels.
- Potential of creating a hazardous situation. A captain may try to bring aboard fish in a dangerous situation to avoid moving.

## Laws and Regulations

Issued by the Obama administration in 2012, Executive Order 13610 requires agencies to take continuing steps to reassess regulatory requirements and to streamline, improve or eliminate those requirements. The order also requires agencies to “give special consideration to initiatives that would reduce unjustified regulatory burdens or simplify or harmonize regulatory requirements imposed on small business’.” (Sunstein, 2012)

Consistent with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) and Executive Order 13610, agencies should take meaningful steps to reduce paperwork and reporting burdens on the American people, including small businesses. For example:

**1. Eliminating redundant or unnecessary collections.** In some cases, information collections are not necessary, and in other cases, they are redundant. Agencies should eliminate unnecessary and redundant collections. They should also, where appropriate, streamline existing collections (as, for example, by reducing the number of questions and increasing simplicity).

**2. Use of "short form" options.** Significant burden reductions can be achieved by providing respondents the option of using streamlined short forms for situations of lesser complexity or importance.

**3. Exemptions or streamlining for small entities (including small businesses).**

Because of economies of scale, a collection may be disproportionately more burdensome for a small entity than a large one. Important burden reduction efforts may involve exemptions of small entities from reporting requirements, or streamlined requirements for such entities (as in the case of short or simplified forms).

**4. Simplified applications.** The process of renewing or applying for federal licenses or approvals, or for participation in federal programs, can be time-consuming, confusing, and unnecessarily complex. Undue complexity may discourage applications and participation. Sometimes agencies collect data that are unchanged from prior applications; in such circumstances, they might be able to use, or to give people the option to use, pre-populated electronic forms. It is also worth considering whether it might be appropriate and possible, in certain circumstances, to dispense with forms entirely and to rely on more automatic or direct approval.

**5. Use of sampling.** Sampling may be useful when it is not possible or desirable to collect data from every member of the population of interest. Respondent burden, cost, and operational feasibility may justify sampling. When the benefits of collecting information from an entire population do not justify the costs, agencies should consider whether it is appropriate to use sampling for program evaluations and research studies.

**6. Use of electronic communication and "fillable fileable" forms (or data systems).** Electronic communication can substantially reduce burdens on respondents and simultaneously increase efficiency in data collection and processing.

**7. Reducing frequency of information collection.** Agencies should reexamine the frequency of routine reporting requirements to determine whether less frequent reporting would meet program needs.

**8. Reducing record retention requirements (consistent with law).**

Administrative record retention requirements can often be costly, as regulated entities must set aside valuable storage space, time, and human resources to maintain records.

**9. Maximizing the re-use of data that are already collected.** Administrative or program data can sometimes be re-used or shared to reduce the paperwork burdens imposed on the public. (Sunsten, 2012)

**Magnuson Stevens- Tittle III- Sec. 301**

**104-297**

(6) Conservation and management measures shall take into account and allow for variations among, and contingencies in, fisheries, fishery resources, and catches.

(7) Conservation and management measures shall, where practicable, minimize costs and avoid unnecessary duplications.

**References**

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Managing Act. (May 2007) U.S.

Department of Commerce. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.  
National Marine Fisheries Service.

Sunsten, C. (06/22/2012) Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies. Executive Office of the President. [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

Steele, L. (03/31/2014) Memorandum: NMFS APSD Comments on Framework 4  
Dealer Alternatives. New England Fishery Management Council.

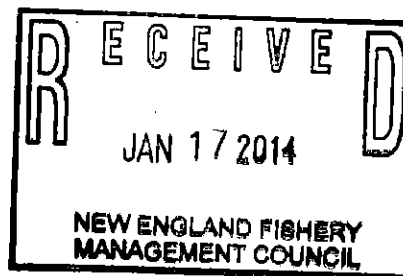




**MAINE COAST  
FISHERMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION**

Douglas Grout  
Herring Committee Chairman  
New England Fishery Management Council  
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Newburyport, MA 01950  
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Phone: 207.619.1755  
Fax 866.876.3564



**RE: Framework 4 to the Atlantic Herring FMP (dealer weighing requirements and measures to address net slippage)**

April 16, 2014

Dear Chairman Grout,

The Maine Coast Fishermen's Association supports the intent of Framework 4 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP) to address some of the proposed alternatives removed from Amendment 5. As a fishermen led organization established with the goal of preserving Maine's fishing heritage through responsible marine stewardship, the MCFA was a strong proponent of Amendment 5 and while Framework 4 does not address all our concerns about the Midwater Trawl Fishery we hope it is a step in the right direction. We stand in agreement with the goals of Framework 4 that aim to benefit our ongoing efforts to rehabilitate the Gulf of Maine ecosystem and rebuild our struggling groundfish stocks. It is vital that the Council consider the potential for Framework 4 alternatives to have a positive impact on both the herring and groundfish fisheries. In particular, we strongly urge the Council to move forward with alternatives to approve critical measures designed to better monitor catch and bycatch in the herring fishery and develop an accountability system to decrease discard rates.

We support these goals because the health of the herring fishery directly affects the ability of Gulf of Maine groundfish to recover. The success of these goals is of paramount importance to our own commitment of revitalizing the groundfish fishery.

Amendment 5 was developed in response to public and industry concern over the use of midwater trawling to prosecute the Atlantic herring fishery. These vessels pose a distinct threat to the recovery of the Gulf of Maine's groundfish populations and also Maine's coastal communities as bycatch and localized depletion directly impact small fishing businesses. Their catching ability not only takes a toll on the target species but on seabirds, mammals, and especially juvenile groundfish that school with Atlantic herring. Increased accurate weighing and timely reporting of the catch can help assess true catch and by-catch levels and begin to quantify the impact on groundfish recovery in the Gulf of Maine and out on Georges Bank which has much higher documented rates of groundfish bycatch. With the groundfish fishery in its current state of crisis, we cannot afford to allow this practice to continue without adequate checks and supervision while Maine's small-vessel fishermen suffer. For these reasons, we support the Council moving forward with Framework 4 Dealer and Reporting Requirements: Alternative 2 – especially with data verification and a verified empty hull before leaving the dock, with a combination of Alternative 3 – which allows for third party catch verification.

*cc: Council, CS (4/17)*

Revitalized groundfish populations depend on healthy forage stocks of Atlantic herring and river herring. The Lenfest Forage Fish Taskforce that was convened in 2012 found that forage species are particularly vulnerable to concentrated fishing pressure because they aggregate as easy targets and their recovery rates from depletion are often uncertain. Without robust forage bases, predator populations of Gulf of Maine cod for example will likely have a more difficult path to recovery. Slippage events can dramatically deplete this congregated forage species resources, and therefore we support moving forward with Slippage Alternative 4b that would require a vessel to move at least 15 nautical miles from the slippage location to reduce the risks of overharvesting other species caught as bycatch. Framework 4 is an essential step in the improvement of herring management—something that will directly impact the groundfish populations that support Maine's struggling coastal communities.

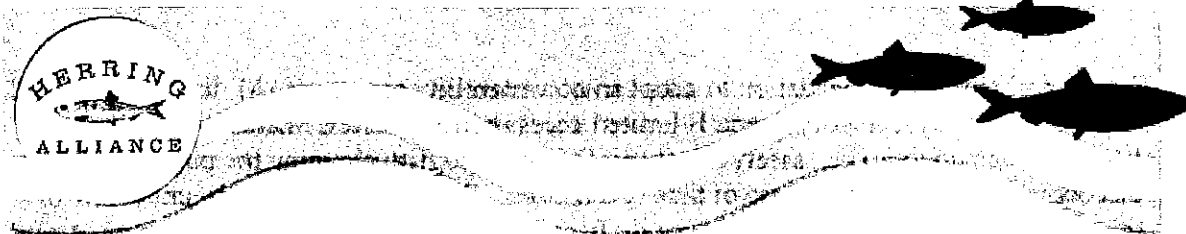
These measures will move us closer to our goal of limiting the herring fishery's impact on groundfish populations. With the challenges now facing Maine's fishermen, it is imperative that something as important as forage be taken into consideration and that appropriate action be taken to successfully manage those species. Maine's inshore fleet can only survive these difficult times if the appropriate safeguards are established to conserve the food supply of our most valuable market species.

The Maine Coast Fishermen's Association recognizes the need for responsible forage management if the Gulf of Maine's groundfish populations are to fully recover. In our acknowledgement of the necessity for proper herring management, we urge the Council to act prudently as it considers the alternatives provided in Framework 4. Continuing to improve the accountability and verifiable aspects of the herring fishery will better serve the herring fishery as well as the fisheries that depend on the forage fish.

Sincerely,

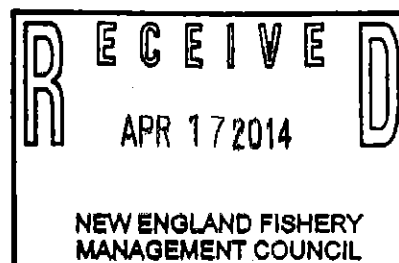
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Martens", with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Ben Martens  
Executive Director  
Maine Coast Fishermen's Association



April 17, 2014

Thomas J. Nies, Executive Director  
New England Fisheries Management Council  
50 Water Street, Mill 2  
Newburyport, MA 01950



**RE: Framework 4 to the Atlantic Herring FMP (dealer weighing requirements and measures to address net slippage)**

Dear Mr. Nies:

I am writing on behalf of the Herring Alliance<sup>1</sup> regarding the catch weighing and slippage accountability measures proposed in Framework 4 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The Herring Alliance has commented on these needed reforms previously during the development of Amendment 5 to the Atlantic Herring FMP (Amendment 5).<sup>2</sup> The Herring Alliance is interested in these issues because Atlantic herring is a vital forage fish as are some of the other stocks with which this powerful fishery interacts (e.g., river herring and shad). While we were disappointed that these measures were disapproved by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), we are encouraged by the progress made by the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) to pursue and develop proposed solutions that will restore catch weighing and slippage accountability requirements in as short a timeframe as possible. We have also commented on these ongoing efforts to remedy the Amendment 5 disapprovals, most recently in correspondence to the Council's Herring Oversight Committee (Committee).<sup>3</sup>

Specifically, we urge the Council to take final action on Framework 4 and submit it to NOAA Fisheries for implementation, and to include the following management measures in the framework:

<sup>1</sup> The Herring Alliance includes 87 organizations representing nearly 2.5 million individuals. The Herring Alliance is concerned about the Atlantic coast's forage fish, such as Atlantic herring, river herring and shad, and the impacts of forage fish fisheries on the ecosystem through food web depletion and bycatch of non-target species.

<sup>2</sup> See June 4, 2012 Letter from Herring Alliance to NEFMC regarding Amendment 5 DEIS; June 21, 2013 Letter from Herring Alliance to NOAA Fisheries Regional Administrator John Bullard regarding Amendment 5 FEIS and Proposed Rule; September 16, 2013 Letter from Herring Alliance to NOAA Fisheries and NEFMC regarding Amendment 5 Partial Approval.

<sup>3</sup> See March 31, 2014 Letter from Herring Alliance to NEFMC regarding Framework 4.

- The Committee recommendation to adopt an accountability measure (AM) that applies to all slippage events by Category A and B limited access herring vessels, including the three allowable exemptions (i.e., safety, mechanical failure, dogfish clogging the pump), to discourage the inappropriate use of these exemptions. Vessels slipping catch under any of the exemptions should be required to cease fishing within, and as soon as safe and practicable move from, the area where the slippage event occurred for the duration of the trip. A released catch affidavit is a potentially useful buttress to this spatial AM if industry compliance and NOAA Fisheries enforcement is improved, but is not a sufficient AM in and of itself. **Slippage Alternative 4/Option B/no exemptions to the Move-Along Rule (Move-Along 15 Nautical Miles Away).**
- The Committee recommendation to require vessels to cease fishing and return to port if slippage occurs for reasons other than the allowed exemptions noted above. Such vessels should also be subject to any additional measures deemed appropriate by the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement for violating the existing fishery-wide prohibition on slippage. **Trip Termination Option B.**
- The Committee recommendation to clarify the existing prohibition on operational discarding by midwater trawl vessels operating in the groundfish closed areas (implemented March 17, 2014 under Amendment 5) and apply this measure to all areas of the fishery through Framework 4. **Operational Discards Option B.**
- **Clarify that there is no allowable exemption from this prohibition on operational discarding. Vessels which choose not to bring operational discards aboard must exercise one of the allowable slippage exemptions and comply with the requisite AM's.**
- The Committee recommendation for Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) notification of slippage incidents to provide real-time communication to NOAA Fisheries to ensure the effectiveness and enforceability of management measures. The location of the slippage event should be noted.
- Clarifications and adjustments to the provisions in Framework 4 that are responsive to the enforceability concerns raised by the Council's Enforcement Committee and Advisory Panel at their meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014, including:
  - a mechanism by which NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) cross-checks and/or audits all available data (slippage affidavits, Vessel Trip Reports, VMS tracks, and observer data) to ensure compliance with and enforcement of slippage regulations;
  - clarify that vessels slipping catch for safety reasons or mechanical failure do not need to leave the area immediately, but rather must cease fishing in that area immediately and leave as soon as practicable after resolving the issue at hand;
  - if the circular "no-fishing zone" presents insurmountable enforcement problems, consider converting it to a square 30 miles on a side with the center of the square being the tow-end location of the slippage event.
- Establish a requirement that all catch in the Atlantic herring fishery be reported based on a standardized and verifiable weight. The Herring Alliance supports the Committee recommendations for **Dealer Alternative 2A** (dealer/vessel cross-checking via SAFIS and Fish-on-Line), **Dealer Alternative 2B** (24 hour e-reporting), **Dealer Alternative 2C** (empty holds before sailing), and **Dealer Alternative 3** (vessel-based third-party catch verification). We emphasize that Dealer Alternatives 2A-2C are incremental improvements to self-

reporting, and by themselves are not adequate nor do they meet the goals and objectives of Framework 4. We only support these measures in concert with Alternative 3.

### *Measures to Address Net Slippage and Operational Discards*

The practice of slipping or dumping catch at sea is a long-recognized problem in the Atlantic herring fishery and a serious conservation concern, particularly due to the high-volume nature of the midwater trawl fleet and its demonstrated propensity for episodic and high-impact bycatch events. At-sea dumping of un-sampled catch has been demonstrated to be serious and widespread: from 2010-2013, operational discards were observed on about 30% of all observed midwater trawl trips and from 2008-2011, the number of *reported* slippage events per year ranged between 35 and 166.<sup>4</sup> It has also been shown to undermine the validity of catch data and in most cases to be unnecessary and wasteful bycatch, in turn undermining conservation objectives of the FMP.<sup>5</sup> NOAA Fisheries has acknowledged that accurate catch composition records cannot be obtained for dumped catch, and that issues such as stratification of catch in the cod-end or the strainer-like effect of the intake grates on the pumps used to transfer fish from the floating cod-end to the vessel limit the collection of accurate and complete catch data, and thus undermine attempts to assess the biological impacts of the fishery.<sup>6</sup> NOAA Fisheries further acknowledges that there are safe and operationally feasible ways to get all catch aboard for sampling.<sup>7</sup>

The herring industry maintains that there are several circumstances under which they should be allowed to dump catch at sea: mechanical failure, spiny dogfish clogging the pump, and safety concerns. The Herring Alliance recognizes the need for maintaining this limited set of exemptions to a prohibition on dumping, in order to ensure vessel and crew safety. However, it is important that an accountability system is adopted that will prevent the inappropriate use of the exemptions, such as a vessel claiming a safety reason to avoid bringing undesirable bycatch aboard the vessel so it can be recorded by an observer.

In its September 20, 2013 disapproval letter to the Council, NOAA Fisheries indicated that slippage measures “could be revised to be more similar to the sampling requirements in Groundfish Closed Area I (CA I), such that all vessels that slip catch have a consequence.”<sup>8</sup> The Herring Alliance strongly supports this approach, and urges the Council to adopt a set of measures that honor the integrity of the CA I model. This approach has two key elements:

1. **Maintain the three-pronged approach that the Council adopted and submitted to NOAA Fisheries as part of Amendment 5 that deters slippage and ensures accountability.**

<sup>4</sup> See Am 5 DEIS at p. 414; see also Framework 4 Draft Discussion Document at pp. 4, 58.

<sup>5</sup> See Am 5 DEIS at p. 415 (illustrating extent of catch not identified to species level due to dumping), and p. 419 (illustrating that most at-sea dumping is not necessary).

<sup>6</sup> See Final Rule entitled Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Discard Provision for Herring Midwater Trawl Vessels Fishing in Groundfish Closed Area I, 75 Fed. Reg. 73979 (Nov. 30, 2010).

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> See November 30, 2013 Letter from NOAA Fisheries Regional Administrator John Bullard to NEFMC regarding Partial Approval of Amendment 5.

The approach that the Council adopted and submitted to NOAA Fisheries as part of Amendment 5 included three critical requirements: 1) a prohibition on slippage, 2) limited exemptions to ensure crew and vessel safety for safety, mechanical failure, or spiny dogfish catch, and 3) a system of accountability measures to limit inappropriate use of the exemptions.<sup>9</sup> In disapproving the slippage caps and trip termination, NOAA Fisheries cut out the third and crucial element of the Council's plan (i.e., accountability measures).

Consistent with the CA I rules, the Herring Alliance supports the Committee recommendation to adopt measures in Framework 4 that apply a consequence to all slippage, including a move-along requirement for all three exempted slippage events (Slippage Alternative 4 with no exemptions from the move-along rule) and trip termination for non-allowable slippage (Trip Termination Option B). Our top priority is to maintain the integrity of the CA I model which applies the accountability measures to all three exemptions and prohibits operational discards. If a slippage occurs due to one of the exemptions, vessels should be required to exit the area where the slippage event occurred and not fish in that area for the duration of that trip. We support the Committee recommendation of Option B, a 15 nm move-along rule, for all allowable slippage types. If slippage occurs for any other reason, the vessel should be required to end the trip and return to port.

The Plan Development Team (PDT) provided additional justification for applying the same accountability measure to all of the allowable exemptions in a new measure:

*The Herring PDT recommends adopting a rule that would apply the same consequences to all three allowable slippage events (safety, mechanical, dogfish), not a subset of allowable slippage events (dogfish and safety but not mechanical failure, for example), and not different rules for different events. This approach would help to reduce complexity and enhance compliance with any additional regulations that may be implemented.<sup>10</sup>*

It must be emphasized that a critical aspect of comprehensive slippage management is an accountability system that applies to all three exempted slippage events. Without adequate accountability, vessels will be able to continue to slip catch and simply attribute it to one of the exemptions for which no AM applies, undermining this action as well as the accuracy, completeness and reliability of catch and bycatch data collected by observers.

To honor the integrity of the CA I model, the Council should adopt several clarifications and adjustments to the provisions in Framework 4 that are responsive to the enforceability concerns raised by the Council's Enforcement Committee and Advisory Panel at their meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014, including: 1) a mechanism by which NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) cross-checks and/or audits all available data (slippage affidavits, Vessel Trip Reports, VMS tracks, and observer data) to ensure compliance with and enforcement of slippage regulations (both observer and Captain should log slippage event so inconsistencies can be

<sup>9</sup> See Final Rule Amendment 5, 79 Fed. Reg. 6786 (Feb. 13, 2014).

<sup>10</sup> See March 6, 2014 Final Herring PDT Report at 6, available at: <http://www.nefmc.org/herring/cte%20mtg%20docs/2014/140402-03/140306%20FINAL%20Herring%20PDT%20Report%20Glouctester.pdf>.

resolved); 2) clarify that vessels slipping catch for safety reasons or mechanical failure do not need to leave the area immediately, but rather must cease fishing in that area immediately and leave as soon as practicable after resolving the issue at hand; and 3) if the circular “no-fishing zone” presents insurmountable enforcement problems, consider converting it to a square 30 miles on a side with the center of the square being the tow-end location of the slippage event.

Further rationale for slippage measures was provided in Amendment 5, which stated that the Council’s preferred alternative to apply a consequential AM to exempted slippages:

*“directly relate to the first objective of Amendment 5: to implement measures to improve the long-term monitoring of catch (landings and bycatch) in the herring fishery. Minimizing slippage events and better documenting slipped catch may improve estimates of bycatch in the fishery. To the extent that the amount and species composition of slipped catch can be sampled and/or estimated, catch monitoring will be enhanced. To the extent that slippage events can be reduced/ eliminated, bycatch can be further minimized”*<sup>11</sup>

The rationale from Amendment 5, along with the information presented on page 3 documenting NOAA Fisheries’ stated concerns over observer’s inability to completely and accurately sample catch in the fishery when catch is slipped, and related admissions that slipped catch and operational discards are not necessarily representative of the sampled catch, demonstrate the biological rationale for the Committee’s recommendations. The biological rationale of this regulatory package controlling and limiting slippage) is that we cannot know the biological impact of the fishery unless and until this problem is solved, because a significant portion of the catch is going un-sampled. The ongoing impacts of slippage are amply demonstrated by the continuing classification of hundreds of thousands of pounds of catch in the fishery as “Fish, Not Known” or “Herring, Not Known.”<sup>12</sup> The Committee recommendation is also directly responsive to the Amendment 5 Catch Monitoring Program Objective of eliminating reliance on self-reported catch estimates.

**2. Expand the prohibition on operational discards in the Groundfish Closed Areas to the entire fishery for midwater trawl vessels.**

Framework 4 also seeks to clarify management measures that relate to operational discards (small amounts of fish remaining in the net at the conclusion of pumping operations) and other catch not brought on board the vessel for reasons other than slippage. The Herring Alliance fully supports clarifying these measures, while offering the following comments.

The Amendment 5 definition of “slippage” excludes operational discards, but the Amendment 5 regulations also prohibit operational discards on midwater trawl vessels fishing in year-round groundfish closed areas. The prohibition on operational discards currently in place in CA I should be extended to midwater trawl vessels operating in all areas of the fishery. All fish remaining in the net at the conclusion of pumping must be brought aboard for sampling and may

<sup>11</sup> Amendment 5 FEIS at p. 58.

<sup>12</sup> See Framework 4 Draft Appendix II, Summary of Slippage Data: Observed Trips on Atlantic Herring Vessels 2010-2013, p. 4, p. 7, etc., available at: <http://www.nefmc.org/herring/cte%20mtg%20docs/2014/140402-03/Draft%20Appendix%20II%20Slippage%20Data%203%2026%2014.pdf>.

only be dumped for one of the three exemptions. If this catch is dumped, vessels would be subject to the accountability measure (e.g., Slippage Alternatives 4). Although the practice degrades tow-specific data, the Herring Alliance supports the application of the existing test tow language to operational discards that allows small amounts of fish to remain in the net at the end of pumping if the net is reset without releasing its contents and provided that all catch is available to the observer for sampling when the next tow is brought aboard.<sup>13</sup>

The Council must clarify that the accountability measures will apply to operational discards under Option B (which seems clear on Table 1, at p.13 of the Discussion Document but less clear in other places, pp. 14 and 58). Catch not brought on board due to gear damage should fall under the “mechanical failure” exemption, and therefore would be subject to the accountability requirements. Fish that fall from the gear during gear retrieval and/or pumping operations may be reasonably exempted from consequence measures provided the amounts are minimal and documented and confirmed by the observer.

Data demonstrates that the current sampling provisions in CA I are both safe and operationally feasible.<sup>14</sup> As evidenced by their original approval and recent expansion to the other year-round groundfish closed areas, they are also fully approvable by NOAA Fisheries.<sup>15</sup> In addition, data in Amendment 5 showed that the CA I rules are effective at reducing dumping.<sup>16</sup> There is no reason not to replicate these rules for the entire fishery. Although recent data indicates that dumping events have increased in CA I in recent years (2012-2013),<sup>17</sup> new information also suggests that a lack of both industry compliance and NOAA Fisheries enforcement of the CAI rules may be the cause of the increased dumping,<sup>18</sup> rather than a flaw in the rule itself. NOAA Fisheries staff indicated, at the March 6, 2014 Herring PDT meeting, that there is a misconception among industry members, who think that if they slip a net for one of the three allowable exemptions there is no need to leave CA I and file a released catch affidavit. For regulations to be effective industry must commit to comply and NOAA Fisheries must enforce. It is also possible that this apparent change in industry behavior and compliance, manifesting in an increase in CA I slippage events, is a result of interactions with the 2010 haddock year class, thus effective compliance and enforcement is even more critical given that the groundfish industry was recently declared a disaster as a result of the economic consequences of failure to rebuild depleted groundfish populations.

<sup>13</sup> See 50 C.F.R. § 648.11 (m)(4) (ii).

<sup>14</sup> See Amendment 5 FEIS at p. 588.

<sup>15</sup> See Final Rule Amendment 5, 79 Fed. Reg. 6786 (Feb. 13, 2014); *see also* Final Rule entitled Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Discard Provision for Herring Midwater Trawl Vessels Fishing in Groundfish Closed Area I, 75 Fed. Reg. 73979 (Nov. 30, 2010).

<sup>16</sup> Amendment 5 FEIS at p. 588 (“The sampling provisions implemented in Closed Area I appear to have been successful in reducing slippage events to date”).

<sup>17</sup> See Framework 4 Draft Appendix II, Summary of Slippage Data: Observed Trips on Atlantic Herring Vessels 2010-2013, pp. 23-24, available at: <http://www.nefmc.org/herring/cte%20mtg%20docs/2014/140402-03/Draft%20Appendix%20II%20Slippage%20Data%203%2026%2014.pdf>.

<sup>18</sup> See DRAFT Framework 4 Discussion Document at p. 12, available at: <http://www.nefmc.org/herring/cte%20mtg%20docs/2014/140402-03/140328%20Fw4%20Discussion%20Document%20April%20Meetings%20FINAL.pdf>; *see also* March 6, 2014 Final Herring PDT Report at p. 7.



### *Measures to address dealer weighing/reporting requirements*

Current practices allow vessel captains to estimate the weight of the catch in their hold when they arrive at port. The catch is sold to the dealer and reported to NOAA Fisheries using this estimated weight, which may be based on as little as a Captain's "eyeballing" his fish.<sup>19</sup> This provides far too much opportunity for misreporting (deliberate or accidental), and offers no opportunity for third-party observers, port samplers, or law enforcement personnel to verify that accurate and complete catch weights are being reported.

There is ample evidence that this status quo regime is inadequate. First, NOAA Fisheries itself acknowledges serious flaws, discrepancies, and loopholes in the existing mechanisms used to track catch and landings in the fishery.<sup>20</sup> Second, the fishery is prone to repeated and destructive quota overages.<sup>21</sup> As documented in the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the most recent 3-year specifications, the fishery has a recent history of frequent sub-ACL overages that negatively impact the fishery, and preliminary data indicate that the overall ACL was also exceeded in 2012.<sup>22</sup>

New measures should be developed in Framework 4 that would require all catch in the herring fishery to be reported based on a standardized and verifiable weight. Implementing third-party catch verification and requiring vessels to confirm the amount of fish landed will result in better overall estimates of catch and help ensure that catch limits are not exceeded. Accurate landings data will improve the performance of the stock assessments for the directed fisheries and for species incidentally caught like river herring and shad. It will also aid in monitoring the river herring and shad mortality caps, and in achieving better catch and bycatch estimates of river herring and shad.

The Herring Alliance sees valuable and complimentary weighing and catch-tracking provisions in all of the measures recommended by the Committee, and as such we urge the Council to approve all of these measures. Most importantly, the Council must adopt the Committee recommendation that landings data are verified by a third-party (Dealer Alternative 3) because it meets the Amendment 5 objective of eliminating reliance on self-reporting. We submit that the problems identified by the Herring PDT (for instance, the contractual complications of any addition of post-trip duties for NOAA Fisheries observers) are solvable. For instance, the definition of the end of a trip could be slightly adjusted such that the brief time required to stick the tanks is included in the trip. Or, tanks could be stuck once the vessel

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<sup>19</sup> See 79 Fed. Reg. 8974.

<sup>20</sup> See e.g. Proposed Rule, Adjustments to 2014 sub-Annual Catch Limits, 78 Fed Reg 70009 (Nov. 22, 2013) ("Common dealer reporting issues were: Missing dealer reports, incorrect or missing VTR serial numbers, incorrect or missing vessel permit numbers, and incorrect dates. VTRs had similar errors. Common VTR reporting issues were: Missing VTRs, missing or incorrect dealer information, incorrect amounts of landed herring, incorrect dates, and missing or incorrect statistical area. The quality of herring landings data is affected by unresolved data errors.").

<sup>21</sup> See Amendment 4 Final Rule, 76 Fed. Reg. 11373 (Mar. 2, 2011) (analysis showing that between 2001 and 2009, management area closure thresholds were exceeded on 8 of 36 occasions); see also NMFS quota monitoring reports, available at: [http://www.nero.noaa.gov/ro/fso/reports/reports\\_frame.htm](http://www.nero.noaa.gov/ro/fso/reports/reports_frame.htm) (showing that this trend has continued in recent years, with cascading overages in Management Area 1B of 138% (2010) and 156% (2012)).

<sup>22</sup> See EA for Framework Adjustment 2 and 2013-2015 Specifications at pp. 112-113, available at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/regs/2013/August/13herfw2ea.pdf>.

enters sheltered waters in the harbor, but prior to landing. Also, other third parties besides observers could be deployed as additional landings weight verification vectors. Finally, the third-party landings verification measures could be modified such that verification was required whenever possible, accounting for any difficulties encountered on any particular landing event. We note that the Herring Advisory Panel (AP) supported Dealer Alternative 3, including consideration of additional entities to perform measurements, at their meeting on April 2.<sup>23</sup>

In the past, the Herring Alliance has supported alternatives that would allow dealer participation in SAFIS with vessel error-checking through Fish-On-Line.<sup>24</sup> We again support this additional cross-checking mechanism (Dealer Alternative 2A) to improve the quality of the data used to track and manage sub-ACLs for each of the four management areas. We also support Dealer Alternative 2B (24-hour electronic reporting) because it will help facilitate more timely catch tracking, which is badly needed in the fishery. We support Dealer Alternative 2C (emptying fish holds prior to sailing) to promote consistency with ASMFC regulations.

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The Herring Alliance also urges the Council to keep the Omnibus Industry-Funded Monitoring Amendment on schedule with final action in September 2014 and implementation in January 2015, as NMFS and the Council originally promised. This amendment and the requirement for 100-percent observer coverage in the herring fleet is critical to the effective monitoring of the directed fishery, and its bycatch and incidental catch, including the River Herring and Shad Catch Cap slated for implementation under Framework 3 late this summer. Delay is disappointing and again calls into question whether some gear-types in this fishery can be monitored at all and, as a result, whether they should be allowed to continue to operate.

We thank the Council for its efforts to develop Framework 4 and urge you to support a robust set of catching weighing and slippage accountability to improve the effectiveness of catch monitoring and bycatch estimation in the herring fishery. Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Erica Fuller  
Erica Fuller  
Earthjustice

*On behalf of the Herring Alliance*

<sup>23</sup> See April 2, 2014 Herring AP Report, available at [http://www.nefmc.org/herring/council\\_mtg\\_docs/April%202014/5\\_Draft%20Herring%20AP%20Report%20April%202%202014.pdf](http://www.nefmc.org/herring/council_mtg_docs/April%202014/5_Draft%20Herring%20AP%20Report%20April%202%202014.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> See June 4, 2012 Letter from Herring Alliance to NEFMC regarding Amendment 5 DEIS.

## Herring Alliance Member List

Alewives Anonymous  
Rochester, Massachusetts  
[www.plumblibrary.com/alewives.html](http://www.plumblibrary.com/alewives.html)

Blackstone River Watershed Council / Friends of  
the Blackstone  
Cumberland, Rhode Island  
[www.blackstoneriver.org](http://www.blackstoneriver.org)

Blue Ocean Institute  
Cold Spring Harbor, New York  
[www.blueocean.org](http://www.blueocean.org)

Buckeye Brook Coalition  
Warwick, Rhode Island  
[www.buckeyebrook.org](http://www.buckeyebrook.org)

Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Annapolis, Maryland  
[www.cbf.org](http://www.cbf.org)

Connecticut River Watershed Council  
Greenfield, Massachusetts  
[www.ctriver.org](http://www.ctriver.org)

Conservation Law Foundation  
Boston, Massachusetts  
[www.clf.org](http://www.clf.org)

Delaware Audubon Society  
Christiana, Delaware  
[www.delawareaudubon.org](http://www.delawareaudubon.org)

Delaware River Fishermen's Association  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
[www.drfishermen.com](http://www.drfishermen.com)

Delaware River Shad Fishermen's Association  
Hellertown, Pennsylvania  
[www.drfsfa.org](http://www.drfsfa.org)

Earthjustice  
Washington, DC  
[www.earthjustice.org](http://www.earthjustice.org)

Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Coordinating  
Committee  
Haddam, Connecticut  
[www.eightmileriver.org](http://www.eightmileriver.org)

Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2)  
Boston, Massachusetts  
[www.e2.org](http://www.e2.org)

Environment America  
Washington, DC  
[www.environmentamerica.org](http://www.environmentamerica.org)

Environment Connecticut  
West Hartford, Connecticut  
[www.environmentconnecticut.org](http://www.environmentconnecticut.org)

Environment Maine  
Portland, Maine  
[www.environmentmaine.org](http://www.environmentmaine.org)

Environment Massachusetts  
Boston, Massachusetts  
[www.environmentmassachusetts.org](http://www.environmentmassachusetts.org)

Environment New Hampshire  
Concord, New Hampshire  
[www.environmentnewhampshire.org](http://www.environmentnewhampshire.org)

Environment New Jersey  
Trenton, New Jersey  
[www.environmentnewjersey.org](http://www.environmentnewjersey.org)

Environment New York  
New York, New York  
[www.environmentnewyork.org](http://www.environmentnewyork.org)

Environment North Carolina  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
[www.environmentnorthcarolina.org](http://www.environmentnorthcarolina.org)

Environment Rhode Island  
Providence, Rhode Island  
[www.environmentrhodeisland.org](http://www.environmentrhodeisland.org)

Environment Virginia  
Washington, DC  
[www.environmentvirginia.org](http://www.environmentvirginia.org)

Farmington River Watershed Association  
Simsbury, Connecticut  
[www.frwa.org](http://www.frwa.org)

## Herring Alliance Member List

Float Fishermen of Virginia  
Roanoke, Virginia  
[www.floatfishermen.org](http://www.floatfishermen.org)

Friends of the Bay  
Oyster, New York  
[www.friendsofthebay.org](http://www.friendsofthebay.org)

Friends of Poquessing Watershed  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
[www.friendsofpoquessing.org](http://www.friendsofpoquessing.org)

Friends of the Rappahannock  
Fredericksburg, Virginia  
[www.riverfriends.org](http://www.riverfriends.org)

Friends of the Rivers of Virginia  
Roanoke, Virginia  
[www.forva.giving.officelive.com](http://www.forva.giving.officelive.com)

Gateway Striper Club  
Maspeth, New York

Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational  
River Council  
Newtonville, New Jersey  
[www.gehwa.org/river.html](http://www.gehwa.org/river.html)

Greater Boston Trout Unlimited  
Boston, Massachusetts  
[www.gbtu.org](http://www.gbtu.org)

Greenpeace  
Washington, DC  
[www.greenpeace.org](http://www.greenpeace.org)

Green Valleys Watershed Association  
Pottstown, Pennsylvania  
[www.greenvalleys.org](http://www.greenvalleys.org)

Hackensack Riverkeeper  
Hackensack, New Jersey  
[www.hackensackriverkeeper.org](http://www.hackensackriverkeeper.org)

Hudson River Fishermen's Association  
Ridgefield Park, New Jersey  
[www.hrfanj.org](http://www.hrfanj.org)

Ipswich River Watershed Association  
Ipswich, Massachusetts  
[www.ipswichriver.org](http://www.ipswichriver.org)

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society  
Huntington, New York  
[www.huntingtonaudubon.org](http://www.huntingtonaudubon.org)

Island Institute  
Rockland, Maine  
[www.islandinstitute.org](http://www.islandinstitute.org)

James River Association  
Richmond, Virginia  
[www.jamesriverassociation.org](http://www.jamesriverassociation.org)

Jones River Watershed Association  
Kingston, Massachusetts  
[www.jonesriver.org](http://www.jonesriver.org)

Juniata Valley Audubon  
Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania  
[www.jvas.org](http://www.jvas.org)

Long Island Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
Long Island, New York  
[www.longislandtu.org](http://www.longislandtu.org)

Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust  
Lowell, Massachusetts  
[www.lowelllandtrust.org](http://www.lowelllandtrust.org)

Massachusetts Baykeeper  
Watertown, Massachusetts  
[www.massbaykeeper.org](http://www.massbaykeeper.org)

Mattawoman Watershed Society  
Bryans Road, Maryland  
[www.mattawomanwatershedsociety.org](http://www.mattawomanwatershedsociety.org)

Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy  
Easton, Maryland  
[www.midshoreriverkeeper.org](http://www.midshoreriverkeeper.org)

Mystic River Watershed Association  
Arlington, Massachusetts  
[www.mysticriver.org](http://www.mysticriver.org)

## Herring Alliance Member List

National Audubon Society  
Washington, DC  
[www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)

Natural Resources Defense Council  
Washington, DC  
[www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org)

Neponset River Watershed Association  
Canton, Massachusetts  
[www.neponset.org](http://www.neponset.org)

Neuse Riverkeeper Foundation  
New Bern, North Carolina  
[www.neuseriver.org](http://www.neuseriver.org)

New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance  
Middleboro, Massachusetts  
[www.necwa.org](http://www.necwa.org)

North Fork Environmental Council  
Mattituck, New York  
[www.nfec1.org](http://www.nfec1.org)

North and South River Watershed Association  
Norwell, Massachusetts  
[www.nsrwa.org](http://www.nsrwa.org)

Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy  
[www.npcweb.org](http://www.npcweb.org)  
Williamsport, Pennsylvania

NY/NJ Baykeeper  
Keyport, New Jersey  
[www.nynjbaykeeper.org](http://www.nynjbaykeeper.org)

Oceana  
Washington, DC  
[www.oceana.org](http://www.oceana.org)

Ocean River Institute  
Cambridge, Massachusetts  
[www.oceanriver.org](http://www.oceanriver.org)

Operation SPLASH  
Freeport, New York  
[www.operationsplash.org](http://www.operationsplash.org)

Pamlico-Tar River Foundation  
Washington, North Carolina  
[www.ptrf.org](http://www.ptrf.org)

Parker River Clean Water Association  
Byfield, Massachusetts  
[www.businessevision.info/parker\\_river](http://www.businessevision.info/parker_river)

Pawtuxet River Authority & Watershed Council  
Hope, Rhode Island  
[www.pawtuxet.org](http://www.pawtuxet.org)

Peconic Baykeeper  
Quogue, New York  
[www.peconicbaykeeper.org](http://www.peconicbaykeeper.org)

PennEnvironment  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
[www.pennenvironment.org](http://www.pennenvironment.org)

PennFuture  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
[www.pennfuture.org](http://www.pennfuture.org)

Pennsylvania Org. for Watersheds and Rivers  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
[www.pawatersheds.org](http://www.pawatersheds.org)

The Pew Charitable Trusts  
Washington, DC  
[www.pewenvironment.org](http://www.pewenvironment.org)

Red Lily Pond Project Assn, Inc.  
Craigville, Massachusetts  
[www.craigville.org](http://www.craigville.org)

Richmond Audubon Society  
Richmond, Virginia  
[www.richmondaudubon.org](http://www.richmondaudubon.org)

Riverkeeper  
Ossining, New York  
[www.riverkeeper.org](http://www.riverkeeper.org)

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut  
Litchfield, Connecticut  
[www.riversalliance.org](http://www.riversalliance.org)

## Herring Alliance Member List

Save the Sound  
New Haven, Connecticut  
[www.ctenvironment.org/save-the-sound](http://www.ctenvironment.org/save-the-sound)

Schuylkill Headwaters Association  
Pottsville, Pennsylvania  
[www.schuylkillheadwaters.org](http://www.schuylkillheadwaters.org)

Seatuck Environmental Association  
Islip, New York  
[www.seatuck.org](http://www.seatuck.org)

Shark Angels  
New York, New York  
[www.sharkangels.org](http://www.sharkangels.org)

Shenandoah Riverkeeper  
Washington, DC  
[www.shenandoahriverkeeper.org](http://www.shenandoahriverkeeper.org)

South River Federation  
Edgewater, Maryland  
[www.southernriverfederation.net](http://www.southernriverfederation.net)

Spruill Farm Conservation Project  
Roper, North Carolina  
[www.spruillfarm.org](http://www.spruillfarm.org)

Susquehanna River Heartland Coalition for  
Environmental Studies  
Lewisburg, Pennsylvania  
[www.srhces.org](http://www.srhces.org)

Ten Mile River Watershed Council  
Pawtucket, Rhode Island  
[www.tenmileriver.net](http://www.tenmileriver.net)

Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
[www.ttfwatershed.org](http://www.ttfwatershed.org)

West and Rhode Riverkeeper  
Shady Side, Maryland  
[www.westrhoderiverkeeper.org](http://www.westrhoderiverkeeper.org)

Waterkeepers Carolina  
Washington, North Carolina  
[www.waterkeeperscarolina.org](http://www.waterkeeperscarolina.org)

Waterkeepers Chesapeake  
Washington, DC  
[www.waterkeeperschesapeake.org](http://www.waterkeeperschesapeake.org)

Watershed Action Alliance of Southeastern  
Massachusetts  
Plymouth, Massachusetts  
[www.watershedaction.org](http://www.watershedaction.org)

Wild Oceans  
Leesburg, Virginia  
[www.savethefish.org](http://www.savethefish.org)