

## **NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

### **Herring Committee**

#### **I. STATUS**

##### **A. Meetings:**

- The Council held eight public hearings during March 2012 to solicit comments on management alternatives/options under consideration in Amendment 5 to the Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Public comments were received by the Council through April 20, 2012. The NEPA 45-day comment period on the Amendment 5 DEIS is currently underway; comments will be accepted through early June, and the Council is scheduled to select final management measures for Amendment 5 at its June 19-21, 2012 meeting.
- The Herring Plan Development Team (PDT) is scheduled to meet jointly with the MAFMC's Mackerel Fishery Management Action Team (FMAT) on May 22, 2012 to discuss Draft Environmental Impact Statements (DEISs) for Amendment 5 to the Herring FMP and Amendment 14 to the Mackerel FMP, and to develop recommendations for both Councils to consider regarding the selection of final management measures.
- The Herring Advisory Panel is scheduled to meet on May 31, 2012 to review the Amendment 5 DEIS and develop recommendations regarding the Council's selection of final management measures.
- The Herring Committee is scheduled to meet on June 6, 2012 to review the Amendment 5 DEIS and all public comments received during both the Council's comment period and the NEPA 45-day comment period, and to develop recommendations regarding the Council's selection of final management measures.

#### **II. COUNCIL ACTION**

- A. Review/discuss public comments received to date regarding Draft Amendment 5 to the Atlantic Herring FMP

#### **III. INFORMATION**

1. Summaries from eight Public Hearings for Draft Amendment 5, conducted by the Council during March 2012 (Rockland ME, Gloucester MA, Portsmouth NH, Fairhaven MA, Portland ME, Plymouth MA, Warwick RI, Cape May NJ)
2. Written comments received to date re. Draft Amendment 5
3. Presentation Slides: *Draft Amendment 5: Public Comments March/April 2012* (to be distributed at Council Meeting)