



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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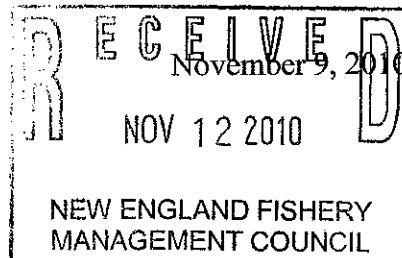
Robert H. Boyles, Jr. (SC), Chair

Paul Diodati, (MA), Vice-Chair

John V. O'Shea, Executive Director

*Healthy, self-sustaining populations for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful restoration well in progress by the year 2015*

Paul Howard, Executive Director  
New England Fishery Management Council  
50 Water Street  
Newbury Massachusetts



Dear Captain, ~~Howard,~~ *Paul*

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Herring Section (Section) discussed the haddock bycatch cap during its meeting on 8 November 2010 and is concerned that a premature closure to the Gulf of Maine herring fishery will have significant economic impacts to the fishery and its supporting industries. In the interest of preventing any unnecessary hardships to a herring fishery whose TAC's were reduced by 40% in 2010, the Section passed the following motion:

*Move the Section, in the interest of our continuing partnership with the NEFMC on management of Atlantic sea herring and our shared concerns about bycatch in the herring fishery, request the Council determine: (1) if the percentage of the haddock TAC for the sea herring fishery haddock bycatch cap can be increased in response to a recent increase in observer coverage and (2) whether the boundaries of the area(s) to which the bycatch cap applies can be modified to prevent a closure of the Gulf of Maine fishery when the cap is reached.*

The Section is aware that the Council has limited staff time and funds and we thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

John V. O'Shea

Cc: Atlantic Herring Section