



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

AUG 31 2010



John Pappalardo, Chairman
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear John:


I am writing to bring to your attention the August 26, 2010, report compiled by the Northeast Region's Fisheries Statistics Office relating to haddock catch in the Atlantic herring fishery. The current haddock incidental catch cap for the Atlantic herring fishery is 189,597 lb, and the preliminary data reported through August 21, 2010, indicate that catch is 88,236 lb or 46.5 % of the cap. The report may be viewed under the quotas tab of our website: www.nero.noaa.gov.

As is noted on the catch report itself, these data are preliminary. The sources of information are (1) dealers via Dealer Electronic Reporting to either the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS) or the Federally Licensed Seafood Dealers Trip Ticket System; (2) NOAA Fisheries Service Observer Program, through audited observer reports submitted by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center; and (3) from the NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement via reports resulting from actual dockside inspections of catch.

As you know, if the cap is attained, vessels issued All Areas or Areas 2/3 herring permits may not possess more than 2,000 lb of herring from the Gulf of Maine (GOM)/Georges Bank (GB) Herring Exemption Area or any haddock. The GOM/GB Herring Exemption Area encompasses herring Management Areas 1A and 1B, and parts of Area 3.

We will continue to monitor haddock catch in the herring fishery and keep the Council informed of its status.

Sincerely,


for Patricia A. Kukul
Regional Administrator

Cc: Vince O'Shea, ASMFC



