

This is an example of 2,259 Letters received  
from PEW Environmental Group

## **Karen Martakos**

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43 Massachusetts Ave. #2 , Arlington, MA 02474

September 23, 2010 2:05 PM

Executive Director Paul Howard  
New England Fishery Management Council  
50 Water Street, Mill 2  
Newburyport, MA 01950

Subject: Advance a Strong Amendment 5

Executive Director Howard,

I am concerned about the growth of industrial herring trawling in New England and the threat it poses to the balance and health of the marine ecosystem and wildlife populations. Millions of pounds of Atlantic herring and other marine life are captured and dumped by midwater trawl vessels each year - including alarming amounts of depleted river herring and shad, and commercially valuable species such as haddock and other groundfish.

At your September meeting, please ensure the Council advances a strong Amendment 5 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan that includes a full range of management alternatives, including:

\*\*\*100% at-sea monitoring on all midwater trawl fishing trips (i.e., one observer per vessel to sample all catch) to ensure accurate estimates of herring catch and bycatch of other species

\*\*\*Rules that require herring vessels to temporarily (leave and) avoid areas where the catch of river herring, shad and/or spawning sea herring exceeds acceptable levels (i.e., "move along" rules)

\*\*\*No herring fishing within areas designated as "hotspots," where river herring, shad and/or spawning herring are caught in large numbers

\*\*\*An annual catch cap for river herring and shad and measures to ensure limits are not exceeded

\*\*\*No herring midwater trawling in areas established to protect rebuilding groundfish populations

\*\*\*No release or dumping of any unsampled catch except under exceptional circumstances, such as mechanical failure or when safety is a concern

The problems in this industrialized fishery are too important to ignore. I urge you to demonstrate your commitment and responsibility to addressing these critical issues in order to protect the long-term health of Atlantic herring populations and the marine ecosystem as a whole.

Sincerely,  
Karen Martakos  
43 Massachusetts Ave. #2  
Arlington, MA 02474