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New England Fishery Management Council

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**To:** Scientific and Statistical Committee  
**From:** Paul J. Howard, Executive Director  
**Date:** March 30, 2009

**Subject: Herring Amendment 4: Processes for Determining ABC, Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures**

In June 2009, the Council is scheduled to select a range of management alternatives for analysis in the Herring Amendment 4 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The objectives of the amendment are to implement MSRA requirements by establishing processes for specifying acceptable biological catch (ABC) and for establishing annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs). In addition, the amendment will establish a comprehensive catch monitoring program for the Atlantic herring fishery. The Council anticipates approving the DEIS for the amendment in November 2009 or early 2010.

**The SSC is asked to provide guidance on the process drafted by the Herring PDT and Herring Committee for specifying ABC and for setting ACLs and AMs by management area, with consideration of the importance of herring as a forage species.**

**Relevant Meeting Materials**

1. The proposed ACL/AM process is described in the attachment: **Amendment 4 to the Atlantic Herring FMP: ACL/AM Provisions (Draft)**.
2. The document **Proposed Atlantic Herring Specifications, January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2009** is provided as background to familiarize SSC members with the herring management program.
3. Council staff will give a PowerPoint presentation at the SSC meeting that will summarize the herring management plan, the status of the resource/fishery, and key elements of the proposed ACL/AM process.