NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Herring Committee

I. STATUS

A. <u>Meetings</u>:

- The Herring Committee met on March 30-31, 2010 to continue development of the catch monitoring alternatives for inclusion in Amendment 5 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP), and to develop a recommendation for Council consideration regarding the timing of the next benchmark stock assessment for the Atlantic herring stock complex.

- The Herring Plan Development Team (PDT) met on April 8, 2010 to work on information and analyses to support the development of Amendment 5; PDT work at the April 8 meeting focused on developing measures to address river herring bycatch.

- The Herring Committee is scheduled to meet on May 17, 2010 and June 17, 2010 to continue work on the alternatives for Amendment 5 (catch monitoring, measures to address river herring bycatch, criteria for access to groundfish closed areas, spawning protection, measures to address interactions with the Atlantic mackerel fishery).

II. COUNCIL ACTION

A. **Herring Committee Motion:** To recommend that the next herring benchmark assessment be conducted in June 2012 (SARC 54)

B. **Herring Committee Motion:** To request the Interspecies Committee to consider developing a mechanism to allow retention of bycatch of federal and ASMFC-managed species in the Atlantic herring fishery. Also, to potentially consider allowing landing and sale of bycatch as a means to fund monitoring of the Atlantic herring fishery

III. INFORMATION

1. Discussion Materials: Herring Stock Assessment Timing

2. March 30-31, 2010 Herring Committee Meeting Summary (to be distributed)

3. Draft Amendment 5 Discussion Document – Catch Monitoring Alternatives (dated for March 30-31, 2010 Herring Committee Meeting)

4. March 22, 2010 Correspondence from Pat Kurkul re. Amendment 5 Alternatives

5. Amendment 5 Timeline (updated)

6. Draft Addendum III to the ASMFC Amendment 2 to the Interstate FMP for Herring

6a. NMFS comments on ASMFC Draft Addendum III to the Interstate FMP for Herring