

#2

## MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

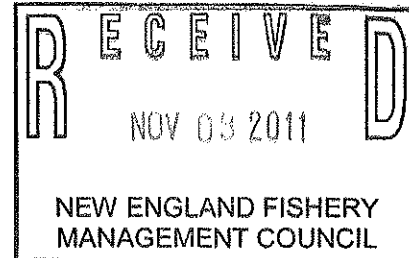
Richard B. Robins, Jr.  
Chairman

Lee G. Anderson  
Vice Chairman

800 North State Street, Suite 201  
Dover, Delaware 19901-3910  
Tel: 302-674-2331  
Toll Free: 877-446-2362  
FAX: 302-674-5399  
www.mafmc.org

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

### MEMORANDUM



DATE: November 3, 2011

TO: Lori Steele

FROM: Jason Didden *JD*

SUBJECT: Alignment of Amendments 5 and 14 regarding river herring/shad mortality caps

This memo is designed to facilitate creation of one or more alternatives in Amendment 5 to complement the mortality cap alternatives for river herring and shad in Amendment 14. Two primary issues could develop if the caps did not work in a complementary fashion with the Atl. herring fishery.

One issue is that due to overlap in the relevant fisheries, large-scale discarding of Atl. mackerel could occur if vessels continue to fish for Atl. herring in Area 2 during an Atl. mackerel closure. The overlap in the fisheries can be seen in Vessel Trip Report (VTR) data. From 2001-2010 (most recent 10 years), about 92% of total annual Atl. mackerel and about 15% of total annual Atl. herring "VTR kept catches" were caught in Herring Management Area 2 (waters south and/or west of Cape Cod) during January through April.

Another issue is that continued Atl. herring fishing in Area 2 after Atl. mackerel closures could reduce any positive impacts to river herrings and/or shads if the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council selects mortality caps, and if closures occur because of such caps. Analysis in Amendment 14 suggests that mid-water and small mesh bottom trawl fishing in Area 2 in January-April accounted for over 1/3 of total ocean river herring and shad catch by all gears from 2005-2010.

Including an alternative in Amendment 5 that considered closing Area 2 to Atl. herring fishing during January-April when the Atl. mackerel fishery was closed would address the potential issues described above. You could also include two separate alternatives depending on whether river herrings or shads were the cause of a closure (Amendment 14 considers catch caps on both species groups).

Please contact me if you have any questions,  
Jason

cc: L. Anderson, E. Berg, C. Moore, R. Robins, R. Seagraves, A. Szumylo

*cc = /s, /b*