

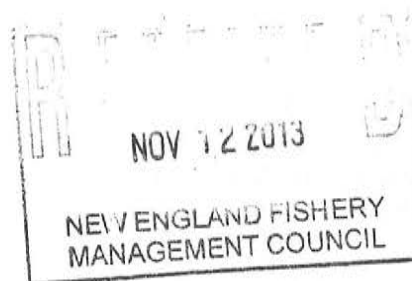
#4

Herring Amendment 5, Temporary ban on mid-water Trawling Comments

Received by the November 15, 2013 comment deadline

November 11th, 2013

Doug Grout, Chair
NEFMC Herring Committee
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950



Re: Herring Amendment 5, Temporary ban on midwater trawling

Dear Doug,

I am submitting this letter on behalf of the membership of the Stellwagen Bank Chart Boat Association (SBCBA) to support a ban on midwater trawling until the measures voted on by the Council in herring Amendment 5 are fully implemented.

Our membership relies heavily on both a healthy herring resource, and a healthy resource of predator stocks such as haddock, cod, bluefish and striped bass. It is well known that the midwater trawl fleet catches large numbers of these stocks, while also impacting their food source. We have worked hard, alongside many others, to push for better rules on these boats. Unfortunately, NMFS decided to take Amendment 5 and remove the most important sections. This is unacceptable in our opinion. The Charter fleet has worked hard to adapt to the new rules in place on groundfish and other important stocks. It is time for the midwater trawl fleet to finally be brought into line with every other fishery in the region.

At its' meeting in September, the Council discussed a measure to ban midwater gear—using emergency action—unless and until the disapproved measures in Amendment 5 are fully implemented. We strongly support this concept and encourage the Council to move forward with it next week in Newport.

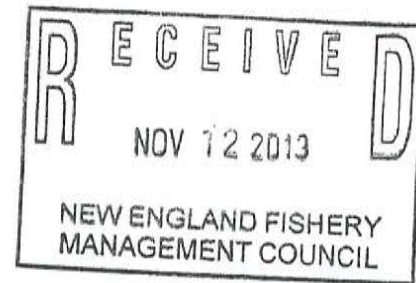
It is difficult to understand why we are in the same position today as prior to the Amendment 5 process. It appears that little or nothing has changed. We hope the Council will take this opportunity to ensure that the important measures it approved in Amendment 5 are finally put in place on the water.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Yours,

Steven James
President, SBCBA

From: Robert Pearce [<mailto:robepear5@aol.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 11:35 AM
To: Doug Grout; Lori Steele
Subject:



November 12th, 2013

Doug Grout, Chair
NEFMC Herring Committee
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950

Re: Herring Amendment 5 and Temporary ban on midwater trawling

Dear Doug,

As a fisherman I have seen firsthand the many problems created by midwater trawl gear. Since these boats came on the scene in the nineties, it has been one issue after the other. That is why myself and others have fought extremely hard to push for better management of these vessels. I was very pleased when the Council listened to the public and voted for rules in Amendment 5 that would finally bring about accountability in the herring fleet. And I was extremely upset to see NMFS then take the Council document and turn it upside down by disapproving the most important measures.

Next week at your meeting in Newport, you will be discussing a measure to ban midwater trawl gear until the measures initially included in Amendment 5 are implemented. I strongly support this measure, and I know I am speaking for many others, too. While haddock bycatch is the most publicized concern, it is well known this gear impacts just about every stock it comes into contact with. It is very important to support this ban, both to put pressure on the agency to finally take some initiative and implement the rules put forth by the Council, but also to ensure protections are in place until that is done.

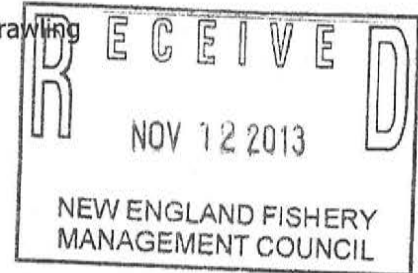
Most fishermen would strongly support a permanent ban on this gear, so I do not think it is too much to ask to ask for a temporary one until the rules are implemented. Please do what is right for our shared resources and the majority of the fishing industry and get these rules in place.

Thanks for your time,
Rob Pearce

From: captbruce@sportfishingma.com [mailto:captbruce@sportfishingma.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 11:03 AM
To: Doug Grout; Lori Steele
Subject: Re: Herring Amendment 5 and Temporary ban on midwater trawling

November 12th, 2013

Doug Grout, Chair
NEFMC Herring Committee
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950



Re: Herring Amendment 5 and Temporary ban on midwater trawling

Dear Doug,

As a fisherman I have seen firsthand the many problems created by midwater trawl gear. Since these boats came on the scene in the nineties, it has been one issue after the other. That is why myself and others have fought extremely hard to push for better management of these vessels. I was very pleased when the Council listened to the public and voted for rules in Amendment 5 that would finally bring about accountability in the herring fleet. And I was extremely upset to see NMFS then take the Council document and turn it upside down by disapproving the most important measures.

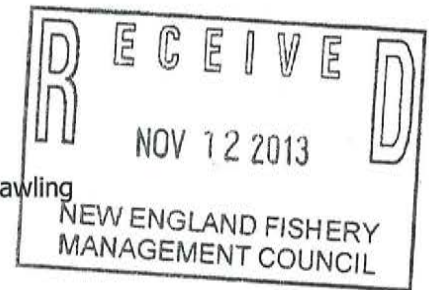
Next week at your meeting in Newport, you will be discussing a measure to ban midwater trawl gear until the measures initially included in Amendment 5 are implemented. I strongly support this measure, and I know I am speaking for many others, too. While haddock bycatch is the most publicized concern, it is well known this gear impacts just about every stock it comes into contact with. It is very important to support this ban, both to put pressure on the agency to finally take some initiative and implement the rules put forth by the Council, but also to ensure protections are in place until that is done.

Most fishermen would strongly support a permanent ban on this gear, so I do not think it is too much to ask to ask for a temporary one until the rules are implemented. Please do what is right for our shared resources and the majority of the fishing industry and get these rules in place.

Thanks for your time,

Capt. Bruce
SWEET DREAM III Sportfishing
www.SportFishingMA.com

From: Mike Day [mailto:mikeday7@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 9:51 AM
To: Doug Grout
Cc: Lori Steele
Subject: Re: Herring Amendment 5 and Temporary ban on midwater trawling



Dear Doug,

As a fisherman I have seen firsthand the many problems created by midwater trawl gear. Since these boats came on the scene in the nineties, it has been one issue after the other. That is why myself and others have fought extremely hard to push for better management of these vessels. I was very pleased when the Council listened to the public and voted for rules in Amendment 5 that would finally bring about accountability in the herring fleet. And I was extremely upset to see NMFS then take the Council document and turn it upside down by disapproving the most important measures.

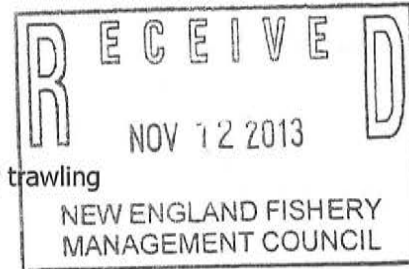
Next week at your meeting in Newport, you will be discussing a measure to ban midwater trawl gear until the measures initially included in Amendment 5 are implemented. I strongly support this measure, and I know I am speaking for many others, too. While haddock bycatch is the most publicized concern, it is well known this gear impacts just about every stock it comes into contact with. It is very important to support this ban, both to put pressure on the agency to finally take some initiative and implement the rules put forth by the Council, but also to ensure protections are in place until that is done.

Most fishermen would strongly support a permanent ban on this gear, so I do not think it is too much to ask to ask for a temporary one until the rules are implemented. Please do what is right for our shared resources and the majority of the fishing industry and get these rules in place.

Thanks for your time,

Mike Day
Cell: 508.284.5856

From: Seth Lattrell [<mailto:slattrell@bournece.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 9:06 AM
To: Doug Grout
Cc: Lori Steele
Subject: Herring Amendment 5 and Temporary ban on midwater trawling



Dear Doug,

Over the past 13 years, I've had the pleasure of working on the water and seeing the related use issues from several different different lenses. I've worked charter boats, gill netters, fished tuna commercially, worked in fisheries management, written for fisheries publications, and now work in waterfront development dealing with environmental concerns of coastal development. I fully appreciate the arduous task regulators have before them in balancing the needs of the various parties and dealing with the political pressures. As such I'd like to start by thanking you for your time and effort you've devoted to protecting our resources.

When the council voted for accountability in the herring fleet through Amendment 5, I felt like we had made a giant breakthrough in the management of our resources, however it was sickening this summer to see NMFS attempt to gut the document and remove the most important pieces.

I was very pleased when the Council listened to the public and voted for rules in Amendment 5 that would finally bring about accountability in the herring fleet. And I was extremely upset to see NMFS then take the Council document and turn it upside down by disapproving the most important measures.

For the sake of our fisheries, the health of the oceans, and the future of our fishing communities, I am highly in support of the ban on midwater trawling next week at your meeting in Newport. The council works tirelessly to protect our oceans, and we can't let that slip away at such a pivotal point.

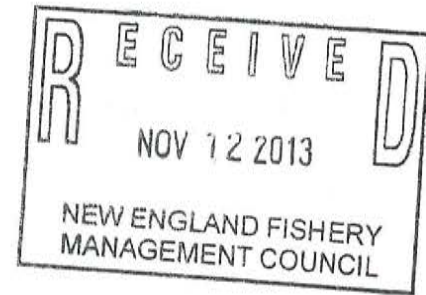
Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Seth Lattrell
Regulatory/Permitting Specialist

BOURNE CONSULTING ENGINEERING
3 Bent Street
Franklin MA, 02038

(508) 533-6666
slattrell@bournece.com

From: Haq, Daniel [<mailto:Daniel.Haq@pfizer.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 7:48 AM
To: Doug Grout
Cc: Lori Steele
Subject: Ammendmant 5



November 12th, 2013

Doug Grout, Chair
NEFMC Herring Committee
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950

Re: Herring Amendment 5 and Temporary ban on midwater trawling

Dear Doug,

As a fisherman I have seen firsthand the many problems created by midwater trawl gear. Since these boats came on the scene in the nineties, it has been one issue after the other. That is why myself and others have fought extremely hard to push for better management of these vessels. I was very pleased when the Council listened to the public and voted for rules in Amendment 5 that would finally bring about accountability in the herring fleet. And I was extremely upset to see NMFS then take the Council document and turn it upside down by disapproving the most important measures.

Next week at your meeting in Newport, you will be discussing a measure to ban midwater trawl gear until the measures initially included in Amendment 5 are implemented. I strongly support this measure, and I know I am speaking for many others, too. While haddock bycatch is the most publicized concern, it is well known this gear impacts just about every stock it comes into contact with. It is very important to support this ban, both to put pressure on the agency to finally take some initiative and implement the rules put forth by the Council, but also to ensure protections are in place until that is done.

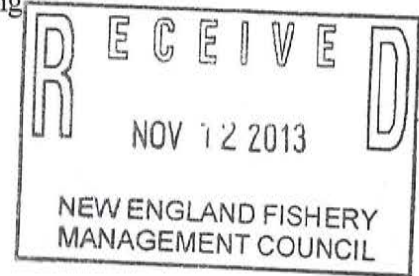
Most fishermen would strongly support a permanent ban on this gear, so I do not think it is too much to ask to ask for a temporary one until the rules are implemented. Please do what is right for our shared resources and the majority of the fishing industry and get these rules in place.

Thanks for your time,

From: Doug Jowett [<mailto:dougjowett@comcast.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 6:17 AM
To: Doug Grout
Cc: Lori Steele
Subject: Herring Amendment 5 and Temporary ban on midwater trawling

November 12th, 2013

Doug Grout, Chair
NEFMC Herring Committee
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950



Re: Herring Amendment 5 and Temporary ban on midwater trawling

Dear Mr. Grout,

I am a full time charter captain from Maine and very concerned about midwater trawling activity. The below letter is copied by me as it represents my position better than I could.

Dear Doug,

As a fisherman I have seen firsthand the many problems created by midwater trawl gear. Since these boats came on the scene in the nineties, it has been one issue after the other. That is why myself and others have fought extremely hard to push for better management of these vessels. I was very pleased when the Council listened to the public and voted for rules in Amendment 5 that would finally bring about accountability in the herring fleet. And I was extremely upset to see NMFS then take the Council document and turn it upside down by disapproving the most important measures.

Next week at your meeting in Newport, you will be discussing a measure to ban midwater trawl gear until the measures initially included in Amendment 5 are implemented. I strongly support this measure, and I know I am speaking for many others, too. While haddock bycatch is the most publicized concern, it is well known this gear impacts just about every stock it comes into contact with. It is very important to support this ban, both to put pressure on the agency to finally take some initiative and implement the rules put forth by the Council, but also to ensure protections are in place until that is done.

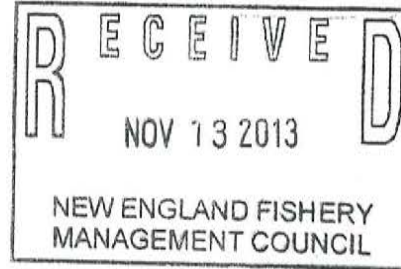
Most fishermen would strongly support a permanent ban on this gear, so I do not think it is too much to ask to ask for a temporary one until the rules are implemented. Please do what is right for our shared resources and the majority of the fishing industry and get these rules in place.

Thanks for your time,

Captain Doug Jowett
61 Four Wheel Drive
Brunswick, Maine 04011
207-725-4573
dougjowett@comcast.net
www.mainestripedbassfishing.com

Woneta M. Cloutier

Subject: FW: BAN MID WATER-TRAWLERS



From: Mike Walsh
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 3:29 PM
To: douglas.grout@wildlife.nh.gov
Cc: lsteel@nefmc.org
Subject: BAN MID WATER-TRAWLERS

To whom it may concern:

I have gone to quite a few meetings, on trying to put a handle on some of these "mid water trawlers " ridiculous greed of our ocean. It seemed to me , there was going to be some sort "tightening" of their greedy fishing ethics, according to the full Amendment 5 issues. For some reason the NMFS decided to make their own decisions, and ignore the real issues at hand. What is it going to take for the pencil pushing idiots, to finally realize, the ocean is taking a beating from these mid water trawlers. Now , you want to have a meeting that may let this type of fishing which is destroying the fishery, exist as not having an issue on the fisheries?? Wake up, the cod fishery, the haddock fishery, the herring , will never have a chance to recoup. Take a look at the state of Florida's swordfishery. Greedy Longliners took a huge toll on the swordfish for quite a while, untill they almost decimated the fishery. Some smart Florida fisheries management officials, pushed by local fisherman, and citizen marine biologist, finally, after almost having no fishery at all, because of the greedy ways of the long liners, finally banished longlining in Florida waters. Today, Florida, beyond any doubt , is the most likely destination, to catch a swordfish IN THE ENTIRE WORLD. That's right, the world. The reason is , is because the greed of few commercial long liner boats{ and it only took a few}, taking every possible swordfish , regardless of size or age, was so over whelming, the fishery almost collapsed. You can compare this story to exactly what is happening in the Gulf Of Maine, with these mid water-trawlers. They are not reporting correctly, they do not want observers on board, they are fishing recklessly, thinking "all is well", and they should fish like this because it is their ocean too. Bull-hit! I cannot understand how they are actually biting off the hands that acutally feed them, and they do not even care about how the ocean cannot sustain, and onslaught, day in and day out. This fishery needs to be nursed back to a proper level, and if you let these trawlers fish, while you are deciding to not to maybe let them fish at all, they are just going abuse the ocean even more. It is time to wake up. Do something , this time for the overall goodness of the oceans' fishery. If you do not, and you may have much more vote than anyone, shame on you if it does indeed collapse.

I support to have these mid water trawlers completely stop fishing, while a decision on what should be done permentley. Amendment 5 took a lot of hard hours from the support of the people who really care about the ocean. Do you care? A vote in the right direction will only be the telling sign.

Sincerely

Capt Michael Walsh

Mike Walsh

Senior Loan Officer

Reliant Mortgage Company, LLC

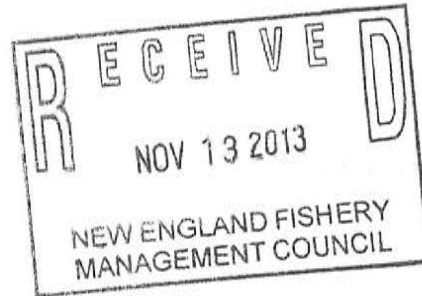
Company NMLS ID 1888

50 Bridge Street, Suite 204

Woneta M. Cloutier

Subject: FW: Herring Amendment 5

From: Capt. Bob Veach [mailto:pelican1081@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 5:42 AM
To: Tom Nies
Subject: Herring Amendment 5



November 14th, 2013

Mr. Tom Nies, Director
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950

Re: Herring Amendment 5 and midwater trawl prohibition

Dear Mr. Nies,

On behalf of the Connecticut Charter/Party Boat Association, I submit these comments in support of a ban on midwater trawling until the full slate of measures voted into Amendment 5, by the Council, are fully implemented.

Our group has been very active in the development of this Amendment over the years, and our position should be well known by now. We find it unacceptable that, after many years of development and enormous public input and support, that NMFS then took the actions it did during its review. The measures that were disapproved were not only the backbone of the monitoring system put forth by the Council, but there was ample rationale for their approval.

We urge the Council to work with NMFS to revise Amendment 5 and include the disapproved measures in the new document. In the meantime, emergency action should be taken to provide protections until those rules are implemented.

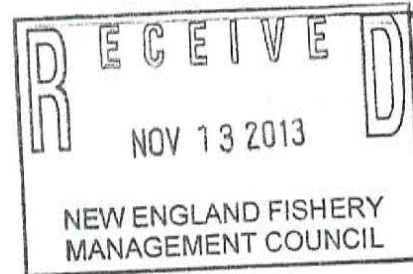
Respectfully,

Captain Bob Veach – President-Connecticut Charter and Party Boat Association.
63 Old RD. Canterbury, CT. 06331 860.917.8688

Woneta M. Cloutier

From: Lori Steele
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 9:58 PM
To: Woneta M. Cloutier
Subject: FW: Herring Amendment 5

From: hugh lozina [mailto:lozinahugh@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 6:28 PM
To: Lori Steele
Subject: Fwd: Herring Amendment 5



----- Forwarded message -----
From: hugh lozina <lozinahugh@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Nov 12, 2013 at 6:26 PM
Subject: Re: Herring Amendment 5
To: douglas.grout@wildlife.nh.gov

Dear Doug,

As a fisherman I have seen firsthand the many problems created by midwater trawl gear. Since these boats came on the scene in the nineties, it has been one issue after the other. That is why myself and others have fought extremely hard to push for better management of these vessels. I was very pleased when the Council listened to the public and voted for rules in Amendment 5 that would finally bring about accountability in the herring fleet. And I was extremely upset to see NMFS then take the Council document and turn it upside down by disapproving the most important measures.

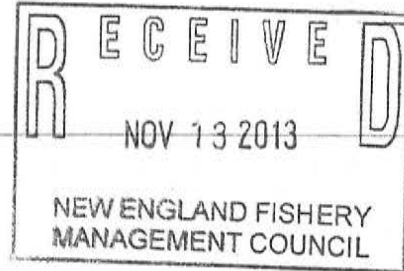
Next week at your meeting in Newport, you will be discussing a measure to ban midwater trawl gear until the measures initially included in Amendment 5 are implemented. I strongly support this measure, and I know I am speaking for many others, too. While haddock bycatch is the most publicized concern, it is well known this gear impacts just about every stock it comes into contact with. It is very important to support this ban, both to put pressure on the agency to finally take some initiative and implement the rules put forth by the Council, but also to ensure protections are in place until that is done.

Most fishermen would strongly support a permanent ban on this gear, so I do not think it is too much to ask to ask for a temporary one until the rules are implemented. Please do what is right for our shared resources and the majority of the fishing industry and get these rules in place.

Thanks for your time,

Woneta M. Cloutier

From: Lori Steele
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 9:58 PM
To: Woneta M. Cloutier
Subject: FW: Herring Amendment 5 and Temporary ban on midwater trawling



From: The Nadeaus [<mailto:nadeauclan5@verizon.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 6:45 PM
To: Doug Grout
Cc: Lori Steele
Subject: Herring Amendment 5 and Temporary ban on midwater trawling

Dear Doug,

Since these boats came on the scene in the nineties, it has been one issue after the other. I've seen thousands of dead striped bass discard, I've seen acres of herring discards - likely because of a tangled whale? This weekend I was jigging for mackerel and caught both river and sea herring together – these boats kill both! That is why myself and others have fought extremely hard to push for better management of these vessels. I was very pleased when the Council listened to the public and voted for rules in Amendment 5 that would finally bring about accountability in the herring fleet. And I was extremely upset to see NMFS then take the Council document and turn it upside down by disapproving the most important measures.

Next week at your meeting in Newport, you will be discussing a measure to ban midwater trawl gear until the measures initially included in Amendment 5 are implemented. I strongly support this measure, and I know I am speaking for many others, too. While haddock bycatch is the most publicized concern, it is well known this gear impacts just about every stock it comes into contact with. It is very important to support this ban, both to put pressure on the agency to finally take some initiative and implement the rules put forth by the Council, but also to ensure protections are in place until that is done.

Most fishermen would strongly support a permanent ban on this gear, so I do not think it is too much to ask to ask for a temporary one until the rules are implemented. Please do what is right for our shared resources and the majority of the fishing industry and get these rules in place.

Thanks for your time,
Don Nadeau

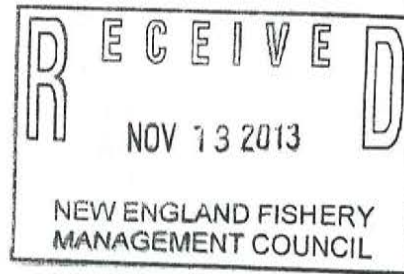
Woneta M. Cloutier

From: Lori Steele
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 9:58 PM
To: Woneta M. Cloutier
Subject: FW: Herring Amendment 5 and Temporary ban on midwater trawling

From: Jonathan Geary [<mailto:jongeary@jkgitc.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 5:55 PM
To: Doug Grout
Cc: Lori Steele
Subject: Herring Amendment 5 and Temporary ban on midwater trawling

November 12th, 2013

Doug Grout, Chair
NEFMC Herring Committee
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950



Dear Doug,

I am a commercial and recreational tuna/ ground fisherman from Chatham MA and I have seen firsthand the many problems created by midwater trawl gear. I do not believe they are the sole cause of our fisheries declines, however since these boats came on the scene in the nineties, it is unmistakable how our fisheries especially tuna have changed. The once lucrative Bluefin Tuna fishery has all but disappeared from Chatham MA due to the relentless midwater trawling of the herring in the fall. That is why myself and others have fought extremely hard to push for better management of these vessels. I was very pleased when the Council listened to the public and voted for rules in Amendment 5 that would finally bring about accountability in the herring fleet. And I was outraged to see NMFS then take the Council document and turn it upside down by disapproving the most important measures.

Next week at your meeting in Newport, you will be discussing a measure to ban midwater trawl gear until the measures initially included in Amendment 5 are implemented. I strongly support this measure, and I know I am speaking for many others, too. While haddock bycatch is the most publicized concern, it is well known this gear impacts just about every stock it comes into contact with. It is very important to support this ban, both to put pressure on the agency to finally take some initiative and implement the rules put forth by the Council, but also to ensure protections are in place until that is done.

Most fishermen would strongly support a permanent ban on this gear, so I do not think it is too much to ask to ask for a temporary one until the rules are implemented. Please do what is right for our shared resources and the majority of the fishing industry and get these rules in place.

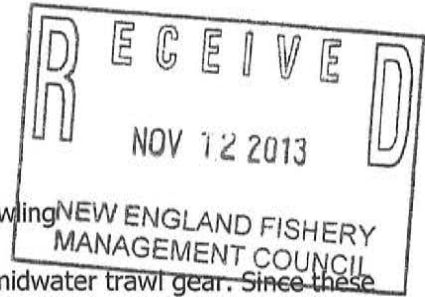
Thanks for your time,
Jonathan Geary
F/V Blue Heron
Stage Harbor, Chatham MA

From: Neff, William D PW [mailto:william.neff@pw.utc.com]

Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 12:58 PM

To: Doug Grout; Lori Steele

Subject: Herring Amendment 5 and Temporary ban on midwater trawling



As a fisherman I have seen firsthand the many problems created by midwater trawl gear. Since these boats came on the scene in the nineties, it has been one issue after the other. That is why myself and others have fought extremely hard to push for better management of these vessels. I was very pleased when the Council listened to the public and voted for rules in Amendment 5 that would finally bring about accountability in the herring fleet. And I was extremely upset to see NMFS then take the Council document and turn it upside down by disapproving the most important measures.

Next week at your meeting in Newport, you will be discussing a measure to ban midwater trawl gear until the measures initially included in Amendment 5 are implemented. I strongly support this measure, and I know I am speaking for many others, too. While haddock bycatch is the most publicized concern, it is well known this gear impacts just about every stock it comes into contact with. It is very important to support this ban, both to put pressure on the agency to finally take some initiative and implement the rules put forth by the Council, but also to ensure protections are in place until that is done.

Most fishermen would strongly support a permanent ban on this gear, so I do not think it is too much to ask to ask for a temporary one until the rules are implemented. Please do what is right for our shared resources and the majority of the fishing industry and get these rules in place.

Thanks,

Bill Neff

Product Definition Manager

HSE - Turbines

Rotors & Shafts

Ph (860)557-1410

Fax (860)755-1241

MS 165-26



Coalition for the Atlantic Herring Fishery's Orderly, Informed and Responsible Long Term Development

November 14th, 2013

Tom Nies, Executive Director
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill #2
Newburyport, MA 01950



Re: Amendment 5 rules and a prohibition on midwater trawling

Dear Tom,

I am writing on behalf of CHOIR to support a temporary ban on midwater trawling until the full set of measures put forth by the Council in Amendment 5 are fully implemented. CHOIR is an industry coalition made up of over 650 commercial and recreational fishing organizations, fishing and shore side businesses, researchers and eco-tourism companies.

As we made clear in our letter to the Council on September 16th of this year, we are very unhappy with the decisions made by NMFS to disapprove the most important aspects of Amendment 5. Since that letter is included below, we will not rehash everything said within it. But we will highlight that we are still dismayed over the decision to disapprove the measures to implement 100% observer coverage along with meaningful caps on slippage. We would also reiterate that we feel strongly—as outlined in the letter below—that we believe NMFS and the Council can and should work together to revise the document to reinsert, and then approve, the disapproved measures.

The main purpose of this letter, though, is to make clear that we support the use of emergency action to ban the use of midwater trawl gear unless and until the disapproved measures are reinserted and then fully implemented. As has been made clear recently, there are growing concerns about the accountability in this fleet. Most notably, there have been numerous "anecdotal" reports of the midwater trawl fleet having serious interactions with small haddock on George's Bank—interactions that were missed by observers. This problem has been magnified by the frequent occurrence of bait barrels along the coast containing large numbers of tiny haddock.

While haddock has been the most visible issue, it must be noted that this fleet has similar interactions with other species that are no less important. So while the

increasing concerns about haddock bycatch may be the issue that has brought this discussion to a head, fishermen are concerned about similar impacts on other stocks, as well. That includes the dumping of herring that is either unmarketable, or that is mixed in with bags that are eventually dumped because they contain haddock or other regulated species.

While we believe that the Council and NMFS can expedite the process of revising Amendment 5 to include the measures that were initially disapproved, we know how long even an expedited process can take. Therefore, the Council should implement a midwater trawl ban in the interim. The Area 3 fishery—where much of haddock interaction occurs—can start as early as April, with the potential for significant effort from May onwards. Additionally, a large fishery in Area 2 in midwinter brings with it the potential for interactions with river herring, another species that is undoubtedly missed quite frequently by observers due to the inadequate rules currently in place.

While we have said it before, we will say it again here: the vast majority of fishermen and others that make up our coalition have long felt that a permanent ban is necessary. And while we have worked very hard to fight for rules that may allow for this fleet to coexist, despite this pressure for a permanent ban, our patience is wearing thin. There is simply no excuse for this fleet to still be fishing under the rules that were in place many years ago when the Council initiated the action that ultimately became Amendment 5. The only path forward now is to prohibit the gear until these new rules are put in place.

Thanks for your time,



Steve Weiner, Chair



Coalition for the Atlantic Herring Fishery's Orderly, Informed and Responsible Long Term Development

September 16th, 2013

Doug Grout, Chair
NEFMC Herring Committee
50 Water Street, Mill #2
Newburyport, MA 01950

Re: Amendment 5

Dear Doug,

I am writing today on behalf of CHOIR to comment on the recent developments in regards to Amendment 5 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP), and to offer some thoughts on how to proceed from here. CHOIR is an industry coalition made up of over 650 commercial and recreational fishing organizations, fishing and shore side businesses, researchers and eco-tourism companies working to promote proper management of the Atlantic herring fishery.

It would be an understatement to say that we are disappointed with the decision made by NMFS to disapprove some of the most critical aspects of Amendment 5. This amendment was the result of many years of hard work on behalf of the Council, its staff, NMFS staff, and stakeholders from all sides of the issue, and much effort was put in to make sure the measures included in the document would be both effective and approvable. This effort was undertaken as a result of widespread concerns about the practice of midwater trawling—concerns that are just as widespread today.

It is impossible to understand how, after five years of development, overwhelming support from the public, and approval by the Council, NMFS decided to simply throw out measures that form the very backbone of the monitoring program developed in Amendment 5—namely, the measures to implement 100% observer coverage, slippage caps with trip termination, and catch weighing. As we have made clear to NMFS, we strongly disagree with the rationale given for the actions they took, and we do not believe disapproval was the right choice. That said, the purpose of this comment is not to spend two pages voicing frustration, but it is to try and offer some ideas and solutions on how best to move forward from here.

First and foremost, we believe that the solution here is for the Council and NMFS to work together towards revising Amendment 5 with the goal of having it approved by the Secretary of Commerce in a timely fashion. While it will naturally take some

amount of extra time to “fix” the document, such a delay would be acceptable. But in order for this to become a reality, both the Council and NMFS will have to show a high level of leadership and will have to be totally focused on the specific problems that need to be addressed.

Before addressing specific issues here, the natural first step towards revising Amendment 5 will be for NMFS to provide the Council with recommendations on how the Council could address the aspects of the three critical measures mentioned above—100% observer coverage and the its funding program, slippage caps with trip termination, and a catch weighing system—that led to disapproval. That is, NMFS must explain to the Council, in clear language, what needs to be done to make the measures acceptable. This is an avenue outlined clearly in the Magnuson-Stevens Act and represents the quickest path towards a solution in the given situation.

100% Observer Coverage and Funding

In June 2012, the Council approved both 100% observer coverage for A and B vessels and an industry funding mechanism. This funding system was intended to require the industry to pay for whatever amount of the 100% coverage that the government could not cover. While there was a so-called “target” of \$325 included in the motion, this was not intended to be a “maximum” level of funding. Unfortunately, NMFS eventually disapproved 100% coverage because of (in part) what they perceived to be an unfunded mandate, along with the resulting concerns connected to the Anti-deficiency Act.

We would urge the Council to officially clarify its intent in regard to 100% observer and the related funding mechanism. The problems outlined by the agency would be solved if the Council made clear that the intent all along was to have 100% coverage and to have the industry pay the difference between the total cost and available federal funds.

Additionally, it is our belief that the intent of the Council was to require the industry to contract with third party providers and then pay them as necessary, and not to have money being exchanged between the government and the industry. But this exchange of money, and the legal issues surrounding such an exchange, is another reason NMFS disapproved the measure. If the Council were to clarify that the goal was to have the industry pay for the costs not covered by the federal government, it would remove one of the major hurdles in the way of approval.

Lastly, we would add that, in our view, the issue of cost sharing is hardly a major obstacle. There are numerous methods that could be devised to coordinate such a program. The FMAT was developed specifically to answer these questions, but the problem has been a lack of urgency and leadership that has essentially crippled the FMAT. Therefore, it is important that the Council push for the clock to begin running on the FMAT timeline, and to both help fill the leadership void and to urge NMFS to do its part, as well.

Slippage Caps with Trip Termination

Along with 100% coverage, the measure to implement slippage caps with trip termination represents the very core of any effective monitoring system in this fishery. After disapproving the Council's preferred alternative, what was left was nothing of substance. As such, it is absolutely necessary to revise the measure to ensure its eventual approval.

We recommend that the Council modify its original language slightly to address the concerns outlined by NMFS, despite our belief that these concerns are unfounded. Originally, the measure called for a vessel to terminate its trip completely if it slipped its net in an area whose cap had been met for the gear type in question. As a way to revise the measure to allow for approval, the Council should make require a vessel in this situation to simply exit just the area in question for the duration of that trip. Not only would such a revision alleviate the concerns voiced by NMFS pertaining to fairness and safety, but it would also align the measure more closely to the system in place currently in Closed Area I.

Catch Weighing

After spending enormous amounts of time on the development of a new and effective catch weighing system, it should have been clear to NMFS that the Council was not asking for status quo. Yet, unfortunately, this is how the agency interpreted the measure. In order to address this glaring deficiency, we would urge the Council to add language into the measure to make clear that some level of verification was intended. This will clarify the Council's intent and will signal to NMFS that something well beyond the current practice of estimation is acceptable. As was the goal all along, by requiring verification, the industry members will devise effective systems that will allow for accurate accounting of what is being brought to shore.

All parties involved spent a great deal of time and effort making Amendment 5 into the document that it is today. We believe that if the Council and NMFS were to focus on the problems at hand, provide much needed leadership, and make some of the changes and clarifications outlined above, that the rules could be on the water in a timely fashion. We urge you to work with the agency to find a way to make this happen. These rules were developed because of real concerns, and these concerns have not gone away. It is unacceptable to either weaken this document any more than is mentioned above, or to proceed in such a manner that causes needless delays.

Thanks for your time,



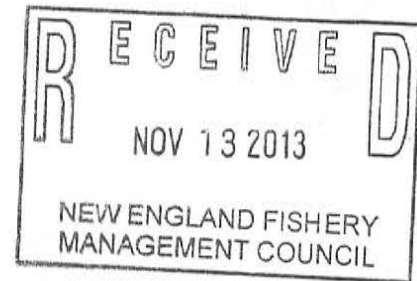
Steve Weiner, Chair

Executive Director
James A. Donofrio



November 12, 2013

Mr. Doug Groat, Chair
NEFMC Herring Committee
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950



Dear Doug,

I am writing on behalf of the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) to support a temporary ban on midwater trawling in the herring fishery until the measures that were disapproved in Amendment 5 are implemented fishery-wide.

Whether it be the disruption of the forage base, or the mortality on haddock and other recreationally-important species, the herring midwater trawl fleet negatively impacts our membership drastically. As such, we have worked hard to push for rules that would change how this fishery is managed. The Council, when developing and then voting through Amendment 5, worked hard to address many of our concerns. The document, however, was then rendered meaningless by NMFS when the agency disapproved key measures.

While most fishermen in this region would support a permanent ban on midwater trawl gear, I am writing today to show our strong support for the temporary ban discussed by the Council at its meeting in September. Such a ban would reduce the impacts on critical stocks such as haddock until the rules initially proposed by the Council are implemented in full.

It is impossible to understand why NMFS decided to disapprove the most critical measures contained in Amendment 5, which raises concerns that are beyond the scope of this letter. However, it is important that action be taken immediately to address this potentially serious threat to groundfish and other stocks, and we hope the Council will do just that next week.

Sincerely,

Capt. Barry Gibson
New England Regional Director
Recreational Fishing Alliance
19 Royall Rd.
East Boothbay, ME 04544

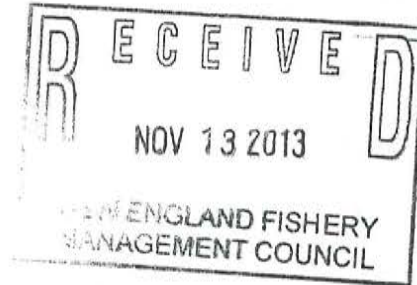


Northeast Charterboat Captains Association

P.O. Box 7 ⚓ Sturbridge, MA 01566 (800) 526-8152
66 High Road ⚓ Newbury, MA 01951 (978) 465-2307

November 12, 2013

Mr. Douglas Grout
Chairman, NEFMC Herring Committee
NH Fish & Game Dept.
225 Main St.
Durham, NH 03824



Dear Doug,

The Northeast Charterboat Captains Association (NCCA), an organization of over 75 small businesses in New England that depend upon healthy fishery resources, urges the NEFMC to support a temporary ban on midwater trawling in the herring fishery until the measures that were disapproved in Amendment 5 are implemented throughout the fishery.

The herring midwater trawl fleet negatively impacts our membership drastically due to mortality on haddock and other recreationally important species, as does the resulting depletion of the forage base. The NEFMC, when developing and then voting up Amendment 5, worked hard to address many of our concerns. The new plan, however, was then rendered meaningless by NMFS when the agency disapproved key measures.

Most charter captains and anglers in this region actually support a permanent ban on midwater trawl gear, but I am writing today to show our strong support for the temporary ban discussed by the NEFMC at its meeting in September. Such a ban would reduce the impacts on critical stocks, especially groundfish, until the rules initially endorsed by the Council are implemented in full.

The NCCA feels that it is important that action be taken immediately to address this potentially serious threat to groundfish and other stocks, and we hope the Council will vote to do so at next week's meeting.

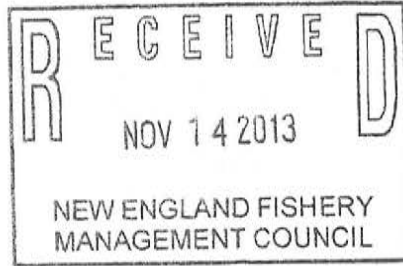
Thanks, Doug, for your consideration of this important issue.

Capt. Michael Sosik, President
Northeast Charterboat Captains Association

Woneta M. Cloutier

Subject: FW: Herring Amendment 5

From: Capt. Forrest Faulkingham [mailto:mesaltwtr@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 6:13 PM
To: Tom Nies
Cc: Lori Steele
Subject: Herring Amendment 5



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

Dear Tom,

On behalf of the 55 members of the Maine Association of Charterboat Captains, I offer the following comments in regards to Herring Amendment 5 and the temporary ban on midwater trawl gear.

For the better part of a decade, our association has been involved in the effort to bring about reform in how the herring fishery is managed. Amendment 5, the product of many years of hard work, had within it the right measures to finally impose meaningful changes in the herring management process. Unfortunately, NMFS took the recommendations of the Council and ignored the most critical ones, rendering Amendment 5 meaningless.

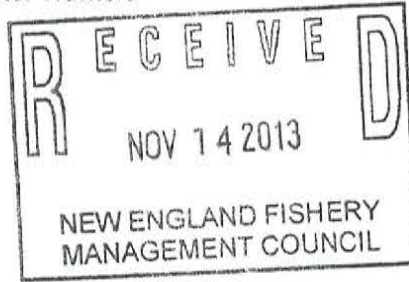
It is time for the Council to stand up for what it worked hard to create in Amendment 5. And in the mean time, the Council should impose a temporary ban on midwater trawling. This will ensure the stocks are protected until the new rules go into place.

Thanks for your time,
Capt. Forrest Faulkingham - President
Maine Association of Charterboat Captains
836 W. Alna Rd.
Alna, ME 04535
207-841-7973

Woneta M. Cloutier

Subject: FW: Ban on Midwater Trawlers

From: Adams, Roger [mailto:bo.adams@willis.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 6:05 PM
To: Tom Nies
Subject: Ban on Midwater Trawlers



Dear Tom,

To say that the tuna season in the Gulf of Maine this past season was dismal would be an understatement. While there may be numerous factors contributing to this it is my opinion and that of many other tuna harpooners and fishermen that the midwater trawl fleet is a significant root of the problem. The midwater trawl fleet, their lack of rules and other issues was to be addressed by Amendment 5. It appears to me that NMFS had a hand in letting Amendment 5 slide off the transom which only exacerbates the problems that need to be addressed immediately! Until such time that Amendment 5 is revised and the rules fully implemented the only logical and fair course of action by you and the NMFS Council is to prohibit midwater trawling until then. I know that I speak for all of the harpooners and rod and reel fisherman in the northeast region. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,

Bo Adams
F/V Cindy K



Bo Adams
Senior Vice President
Willis of New Hampshire
1 New Hampshire Avenue, Suite 200
Portsmouth, NH 03801
Phone: 603-334-3002
Fax: 603-334-3090
Email: bo.adams@willis.com
Website: www.mountainguard.com

For information pertaining to Willis' email confidentiality and monitoring policy, usage restrictions, or for specific company registration and regulatory status information, please visit http://www.willis.com/email_trailer.aspx

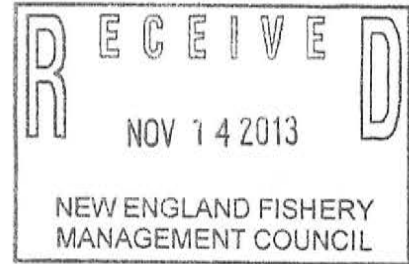
We are now able to offer our clients an encrypted email capability for secure communication purposes. If you

CAPE COD COMMERCIAL
**FISHERMEN'S
ALLIANCE**

Small Boats. Big Ideas.

November 15, 2013

Chairman Terry Stockwell
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950



Dear Chairman Stockwell;

I am taking this opportunity to urge the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) to 1) work with the National Marine Fisheries Service to revise and resubmit Amendment 5 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan, and 2) to approve the Emergency Action suspending use of midwater trawl gear until measures requiring 100% observer coverage and dumping provisions can be implemented.

Amendment 5, as voted through by the Council in June 2012, addressed both industry and public concerns regarding oversight and accountability, provided access to the comprehensive catch data required for accurate stock assessments, and most importantly, created the opportunity to significantly improve management of this fishery. The agency's decision to disapprove the most critical components of Amendment 5 has only hindered efforts by the industry and managers to navigate the current state of New England's fisheries. A number of groundfish stocks are at historic lows, making it more important than ever that we manage for a robust forage base capable of supporting the recovery of depleted stocks and profitable fisheries.

The only light on the horizon for New England's groundfish fleet in the near-term is the unprecedented size of the 2010 haddock year class on Georges Bank. The fleet is depending on these fish reaching a harvestable size for the survival of their businesses, and meanwhile, the midwater trawl fleet continues to operate in these waters with minimal oversight despite their well-documented interactions with haddock.

The agency has done a disservice to the industry by delaying implementation of these much-needed measures, but the Council is capable of implementing the oversight and accountability necessary for this fishery. I urge the Council to support the responsible management of this fleet by resubmitting Amendment 5 and, in the interim, establishing accountability measures through approval of the Emergency Action.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Pappalardo".

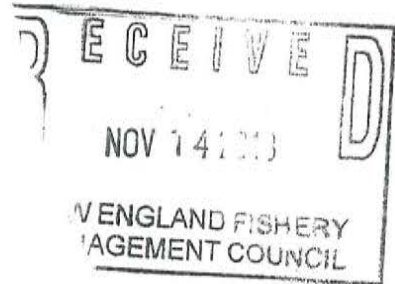
John Pappalardo
CEO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Nick Muto, *Chairman* • Phil Marshall, *Vice Chairman* • Elliott Carr, *Treasurer* • Andy Baler, *Clerk*
Eric Hesse • Bruce Kaminski • Kurt Martin • William Martin • Jim Nash • Tye Vecchione • Greg Walinski



November 12, 2013

Mr. Doug Grout
Herring Oversight Committee
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950



Chairman Doug Grout and NEFMC,

I am writing to you on behalf of the marine mammal, seabird, and wildlife watching and research community, who throughout the over five year long Herring Amendment 5 process, wrote and spoke out in favor of 100% observer coverage on all herring mid-water and pair trawl vessels. We support...

- 1) Employing emergency action to stop the use of herring mid-water and pair trawl fishing gear in federal waters until these vessels have 100% at-sea monitoring and regulations that stop them from dumping bycatch without bringing the catch onboard.
- 2) That the NEFMC Council takes immediate action to have the mid-water industry pay for any observer funding, that the federal appropriations process doesn't annually provide, to reach 100% observer coverage.

Leading up to the final vote on Amendment 5, NMFS and NERO said that they couldn't guarantee any specific amount of funding for herring fishery observer coverage. Therefore, wasn't it the intent of the council all along to have the industry pay a minimum of amount of \$325 per day, but to pay a larger contribution when the federal observer funding was less than allocated to reach 100% coverage? This would put the onus on the industry to annually lobby for federal funding to help offset observer costs. Other resource extraction industries (forestry, mining, oil) buy or lease the land or ocean they use when harvesting resources. The owners of the herring mid-water fleet are fishing a federally owned public resource where they pay nothing. The council has a "fiduciary responsibility" to manage the herring fishery, and the many other federal resources and fisheries affected by it, for the public trust. Asking the herring mid-water industry to pay a small % of their profit back to provide observer coverage to make sure that the fishery is conducted in a responsible way is clearly what needs to happen.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

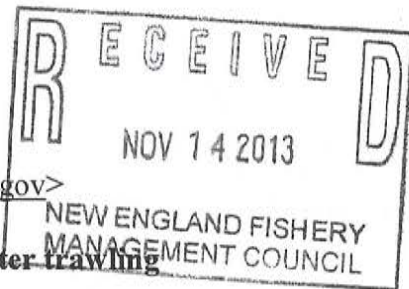
R. Z. Klyver

Zack Klyver
Lead Naturalist and Biologist
Bar Harbor Whale Watch Co.
1 West Street
Bar Harbor, ME 04609

Woneta M. Cloutier

Subject: FW: Herring Amendment 5 and Temporary ban on midwater trawling

From: richard perry <bonefishdick@yahoo.com>
Date: November 14, 2013 at 3:29:00 PM PST
To: "douglas.grout@wildlife.nh.gov" <douglas.grout@wildlife.nh.gov>
Cc: "lstele@nefmc.org" <lstele@nefmc.org>
Subject: Herring Amendment 5 and Temporary ban on midwater trawling
Reply-To: richard perry <bonefishdick@yahoo.com>



Dear Doug,

As a fisherman I have seen firsthand the many problems created by midwater trawl gear. Since these boats came on the scene in the nineties, it has been one issue after the other. That is why myself and others have fought extremely hard to push for better management of these vessels. I was very pleased when the Council listened to the public and voted for rules in Amendment 5 that would finally bring about accountability in the herring fleet. And I was extremely upset to see NMFS then take the Council document and turn it upside down by disapproving the most important measures.

Next week at your meeting in Newport, you will be discussing a measure to ban midwater trawl gear until the measures initially included in Amendment 5 are implemented. I strongly support this measure, and I know I am speaking for many others, too. While haddock bycatch is the most publicized concern, it is well known this gear impacts just about every stock it comes into contact with. It is very important to support this ban, both to put pressure on the agency to finally take some initiative and implement the rules put forth by the Council, but also to ensure protections are in place until that is done.

Most fishermen would strongly support a permanent ban on this gear, so I do not think it is too much to ask to ask for a temporary one until the rules are implemented. Please do what is right for our shared resources and the majority of the fishing industry and get these rules in place.

Thanks for your time,
Richard V. Perry

Woneta M. Cloutier

Subject: FW: Herring Amendment 5

From: Capt. Forrest Faulkingham <mesaltwtr@yahoo.com>

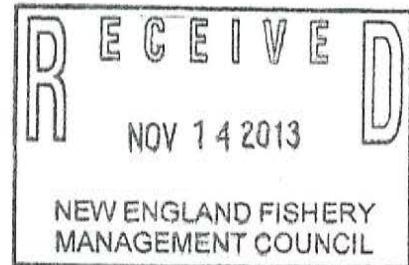
Date: November 14, 2013 at 3:12:50 PM PST

To: <tnies@nefmc.org>

Cc: <lstele@nefmc.org>

Subject: Herring Amendment 5

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



Dear Tom,

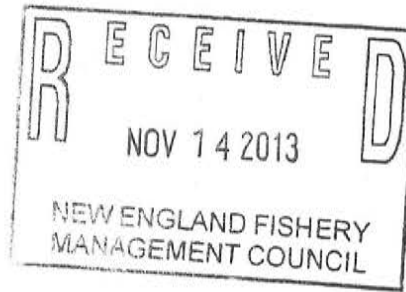
On behalf of the 55 members of the Maine Association of Charterboat Captains, I offer the following comment in regards to Herring Amendment 5 and the temporary ban on midwater trawl gear.

For the better part of a decade, our association has been involved in the effort to bring about reform in how the herring fishery is managed. Amendment 5, the product of many years of hard work, had within it the right measures to finally impose meaningful changes in the herring management process. Unfortunately, NMFS took the recommendations of the Council and ignored the most critical ones, rendering Amendment 5 meaningless.

It is time for the Council to stand up for what it worked hard to create in Amendment 5. And in the mean time the Council should impose a temporary ban on midwater trawling. This will ensure the stocks are protected until the new rules go into place.

Thanks for your time,
Capt. Forrest Faulkingham - President
Maine Association of Charterboat Captains
836 W. Alna Rd.
Alna, ME 04535
207-841-7973

Chairman Terry Stockwell
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950



November 15, 2013

Dear Chairman Stockwell:

We are small-boat commercial fishermen who rely on groundfish to make a living, a resource that is important to us. It's common knowledge that the herring fleet doesn't fish exclusively in the midwater column, and they do catch groundfish. We've always known and opposed that, but it's even more unacceptable given the current state of the groundfish fishery.

Codfish are at seven percent of their biomass and are on an extended rebuilding plan. The Georges Bank 2010 haddock class is the only bright spot for groundfishermen in the near term and is crucial to the survival of our businesses. The agency's decision not to adopt 100% observer coverage and dumping restrictions will have devastating impacts on this resource. The herring fleet, as currently managed, will catch those haddock before they reach legal landing size and can be harvested by the groundfish fleet. The Council did the right thing in June 2012. They voted for 100% observer coverage and dumping restrictions to keep the midwater trawl fleet in check. The agency's decision to disapprove the most important parts of Amendment 5 and delay implementation of these much-needed measures has put the future of our businesses at risk.

We urge the Council not to give up on Amendment 5 to the Herring FMP. The Council is the voice of the industry, and we need its members to work with NMFS to address our concerns and get this amendment up and on the water. In the meantime, the motion suspending the use of midwater trawl gear until 100% observer coverage and dumping provisions are put in place achieves the same goal as Amendment 5. We urge the Council to seriously consider this Emergency Action as a way of implementing these measures now.

Sincerely,

Ron Braun
Charlie Dodge
Beau Gribbin
Bruce Kaminski
Michael Terrenzi
John Tuttle
Greg Walinski
Robert DeCosta
Gov Allen
Doug Feeney
Capt. Earl LeGeyt Jr.
Tom Traina
Tom Norbury
Ray Brunelle
Kurt Martin
Alex Friedman

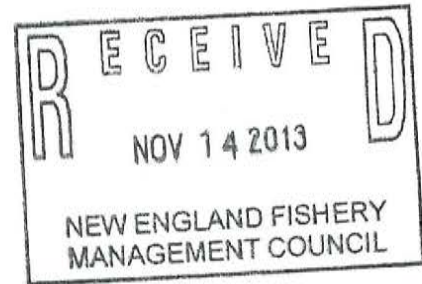
Mike Abdow
Jamie Eldredge
David Gelfman
Ted Ligenza
Stu Tolley
Ray Ranson
Pete Kaizer
Rick Miszkin
Jonas Baker
Mark Leach
Tom Smith
Willy Hatch
Nick Muto
Ben Berquist
Eric Hesse
Janice Cranshaw

Massachusetts Commercial Striped Bass Association *on behalf of 129 commercial permit holders*
Martha's Vineyard Dukes County Fishermen's Association *on behalf of 40 commercial permit holders*

Woneta M. Cloutier

Subject: FW: Midwater Trawling

From: Tim Virgin <tvirgin1@gmail.com>
Date: November 14, 2013 at 6:54:45 AM PST
To: "tnies@nefmc.org" <tnies@nefmc.org>
Cc: "lsteel@nefmc.org" <lsteel@nefmc.org>
Subject: Midwater Trawling



Dear Tom,

I can not believe this is still going on in 2013. The small boat commercial fisherman is headed for extinction, yet 160' midwater trawlers are still annihilating the very resource that the whole North Atlantic needs to survive. It just doesn't make sense to me. I can not believe it makes sense to you either.

The fact that the term 'midwater' is used is ridiculous. How do they catch so much haddock in the middle of the water column? This proposed ban should be based on common sense, not haddock bycatch.

For far too long, myself and fishermen have watched themidwater trawl fleet operate with totally inadequate rules. Amendment 5 was supposed to address many of these issues, but then NMFS decided to derail the process. The problems being caused by midwater trawlers are only increasing, and so action must be taken now.

I encourage you and the rest of the Council to push for a prohibition onmidwater trawling until Amendment 5 is revised and the rules are implemented fully. You have the full support of the region in making such a move.

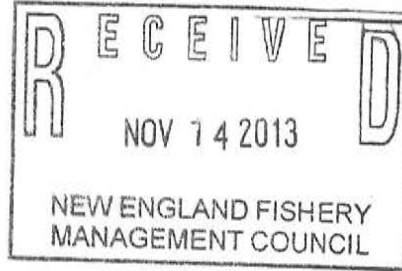
Thanks for your time,

Tim Virgin
F/V Bettina H.
Perkins Cove Me.

Woneta M. Cloutier

Subject: Please do right thing for our bait fish population!!

From: <Scott_Ratte@Dell.com>
Date: November 14, 2013 at 12:36:05 PM PST
To: <douglas.grout@wildlife.nh.gov>
Cc: <lsteele@nefmc.org>, <info@firstlightanglers.com>
Subject: Please do right thing for our bait fish population!!



Doug Grout, Chair
NEFMC Herring Committee
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950

Re: Herring Amendment 5 and Temporary ban on mid-water trawling

Dear Doug,

As a rec fisherman I have seen first hand the many problems created by mid-water trawl gear. Since these boats came on the scene in the nineties, it has been one issue after the other. That is why myself and others have fought extremely hard to push for better management of these vessels. I was very pleased when the Council listened to the public and voted for rules in Amendment 5 that would finally bring about accountability in the herring fleet. And I was extremely upset to see NMFS then take the Council document and turn it upside down by disapproving the most important measures.

Next week at your meeting in Newport, you will be discussing a measure to ban mid-water trawl gear until the measures initially included in Amendment 5 are implemented. I strongly support this measure, and I know I am speaking for many others, too. While haddock by catch is the most publicized concern, it is well known this gear impacts just about every stock it comes into contact with. It is very important to support this ban, both to put pressure on the agency to finally take some initiative and implement the rules put forth by the Council, but also to ensure protections are in place until that is done.

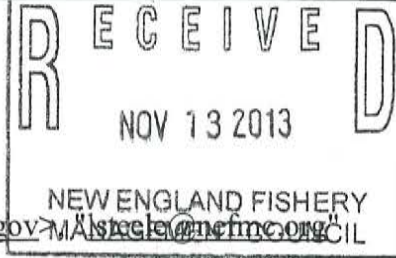
Most fishermen would strongly support a permanent ban on this gear, so I do not think it is too much to ask to ask for a temporary one until the rules are implemented. Please do what is right for our shared resources and the majority of the fishing industry and get these rules in place.

Thanks for your time,

Scott Ratté
Director, Sales GTM
Dell | Enterprise Solutions, Networking
Direct +1 978 303 7462
Learn about Dell Networking at: www.dell.com/networking

Woneta M. Cloutier

Subject: FW: Herring Stocks



From: Paul Spear <pspear@hotmail.com>

Date: November 13, 2013 at 4:27:44 PM PST

To: "douglas.grout@wildlife.nh.gov" <douglas.grout@wildlife.nh.gov> "lsteel@nefmc.org" <lsteel@nefmc.org>

Subject: Herring Stocks

I can't support the measure to ban midwater trawlers enough, please stop what they are doing. As a tuna fisherman and a striped bass charter captain i have seen the decline of important species in our local waters and the decline coincided with the arrival of these boats. While I am not a scientist it is clear something has to be done before it is too late.

Again please, we all implore you to stop what is happening now.

Sincerely,

Paul Spear
Sea Dog Fishing Team and Charters

Woneta M. Cloutier

Subject: FW: Herring Amendment 5 and Temporary ban on midwater trawling

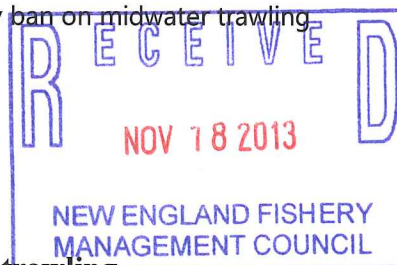
From: Matt Patnaude <mattpatnaude@gmail.com>

Date: November 15, 2013 at 11:45:42 AM PST

To: <douglas.grout@wildlife.nh.gov>

Cc: <lsteele@nefmc.org>

Subject: Herring Amendment 5 and Temporary ban on midwater trawling



November 15th, 2013

Doug Grout, Chair
NEFMC Herring Committee

Dear Doug,

As a fisherman I have seen firsthand the many problems created by midwater trawl gear. Since these boats came on the scene in the nineties, it has been one issue after the other. That is why myself and others have fought extremely hard to push for better management of these vessels. I was very pleased when the Council listened to the public and voted for rules in Amendment 5 that would finally bring about accountability in the herring fleet. ***And I was extremely upset to see NMFS then take the Council document and turn it upside down by disapproving the most important measures.***

Next week at your meeting in Newport, you will be discussing a measure to ban midwater trawl gear until the measures initially included in Amendment 5 are implemented. I strongly support this measure, and I know I am speaking for many others, too. While haddock bycatch is the most publicized concern, it is well known this gear impacts just about every stock it comes into contact with. It is very important to support this ban, both to put pressure on the agency to finally take some initiative and implement the rules put forth by the Council, but also to ensure protections are in place until that is done.

Most fishermen would strongly support a permanent ban on this gear, so I do not think it is too much to ask to ask for a temporary one until the rules are implemented. Enough is enough. Please do what is right for our shared resources and the majority of the fishing industry and get these rules in place.

Thanks for your time,

Matthew Patnaude
Peabody, MA

Woneta M. Cloutier

Subject: FW: Herring Amendment 5 and Temporary ban on midwater trawling



From: Matt Patnaude <mattpatnaude@gmail.com>

Date: November 15, 2013 at 11:45:42 AM PST

To: <douglas.grout@wildlife.nh.gov>

Cc: <lsteele@nefmc.org>

Subject: Herring Amendment 5 and Temporary ban on midwater trawling

November 15th, 2013

Doug Grout, Chair
NEFMC Herring Committee

Dear Doug,

As a fisherman I have seen firsthand the many problems created by midwater trawl gear. Since these boats came on the scene in the nineties, it has been one issue after the other. That is why myself and others have fought extremely hard to push for better management of these vessels. I was very pleased when the Council listened to the public and voted for rules in Amendment 5 that would finally bring about accountability in the herring fleet. ***And I was extremely upset to see NMFS then take the Council document and turn it upside down by disapproving the most important measures.***

Next week at your meeting in Newport, you will be discussing a measure to ban midwater trawl gear until the measures initially included in Amendment 5 are implemented. I strongly support this measure, and I know I am speaking for many others, too. While haddock bycatch is the most publicized concern, it is well known this gear impacts just about every stock it comes into contact with. It is very important to support this ban, both to put pressure on the agency to finally take some initiative and implement the rules put forth by the Council, but also to ensure protections are in place until that is done.

Most fishermen would strongly support a permanent ban on this gear, so I do not think it is too much to ask to ask for a temporary one until the rules are implemented. Enough is enough. Please do what is right for our shared resources and the majority of the fishing industry and get these rules in place.

Thanks for your time,

Matthew Patnaude
Peabody, MA