

#5a

# Additional Correspondence



Mrs. Doreen Morse  
11 Nagog Hill Rd  
Littleton, MA 01460-2222

Sep 12, 2011

New England Fishery Management Council

Subject: Advance Meaningful Herring Fishery Reform

Dear New England Fishery Management Council,

Almost four years ago, the New England Fishery Management Council initiated a plan to improve catch monitoring and reduce bycatch in the Atlantic herring fishery a move that resulted in nearly 10,000 public comments calling for effective action to reform the industrial herring midwater trawl fleet.

While I heartily support and applaud many of the reforms being proposed, I am concerned there could be an eleventh hour move to eliminate some key monitoring and bycatch reduction measures before the public is given the opportunity to comment.

As we near completion of this plan, please ensure the Council continues to demonstrate their commitment and support of meaningful reform of the Atlantic herring fishery by approving for public comment the full range of management options developed in Amendment 5, including:

- 100% at-sea monitoring on all midwater trawl fishing trips (i.e., one observer per vessel to sample all catch) in order to provide reliable estimates of herring catch and bycatch of river herring, shad, groundfish and other non-target species.
- No herring fishing in areas designated as river herring bycatch "hotspots" to protect river herring and the predators that depend on their coastal migrations.
- No herring midwater trawling in areas established to protect rebuilding groundfish populations.
- A prohibition on the release or dumping of unsampled catch except under exceptional circumstances, such as mechanical failure or when safety is a concern.
- A set of consequences to discourage the wasteful dumping of catch, including an accountability system to ensure the exceptions are not abused (a fleetwide allowance of ten dumping events for each herring management area, after which any dumping event would require a return to port)

Thank you for your consideration of my comments as you finalize these much-needed and long-awaited reforms to the industrialized Atlantic herring fishery.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Doreen Morse

Example of 369 Additional Letters  
received

Ms. Sarah Hafer  
1401 Wyant Way  
Sacramento, CA 95864-2639  
(916) 384-0259

Sep 12, 2011

New England Fishery Management Council

Subject: Advance Meaningful Herring Fishery Reform

Dear New England Fishery Management Council,

Almost four years ago, the New England Fishery Management Council initiated a plan to improve catch monitoring and reduce bycatch in the Atlantic herring fishery a move that resulted in nearly 10,000 public comments calling for effective action to reform the industrial herring midwater trawl fleet.

While I heartily support and applaud many of the reforms being proposed, I am concerned there could be an eleventh hour move to eliminate some key monitoring and bycatch reduction measures before the public is given the opportunity to comment.

As we near completion of this plan, please ensure the Council continues to demonstrate their commitment and support of meaningful reform of the Atlantic herring fishery by approving for public comment the full range of management options developed in Amendment 5, including:

- 100% at-sea monitoring on all midwater trawl fishing trips (i.e., one observer per vessel to sample all catch) in order to provide reliable estimates of herring catch and bycatch of river herring, shad, groundfish and other non-target species.
- No herring fishing in areas designated as river herring bycatch "hotspots" to protect river herring and the predators that depend on their coastal migrations.
- No herring midwater trawling in areas established to protect rebuilding groundfish populations.
- A prohibition on the release or dumping of unsampled catch except under exceptional circumstances, such as mechanical failure or when safety is a concern.
- A set of consequences to discourage the wasteful dumping of catch, including an accountability system to ensure the exceptions are not abused (a fleetwide allowance of ten dumping events for each herring management area, after which any dumping event would require a return to port)

Thank you for your consideration of my comments as you finalize these much-needed and long-awaited reforms to the industrialized Atlantic herring fishery.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Sarah Hafer

# State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

SENATOR  
WILLIAM A. WALASKA  
*Deputy Majority Whip*  
140 Aldrich Avenue  
Warwick, Rhode Island 02889  
District 30



Vice Chair, Committee on  
Environment and Agriculture

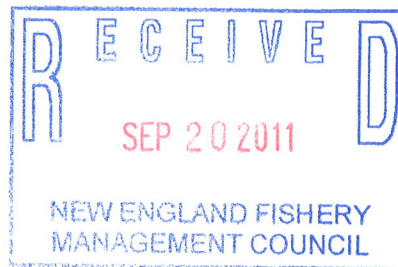
Committee on Judiciary

## Senate Chamber

Room 307A State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

State House: 401-276-2540  
Res. 401-737-1065  
Bus. 401-751-5866  
Fax 401-421-4603

Email: [sen-walaska@rilin.state.ri.us](mailto:sen-walaska@rilin.state.ri.us)  
Web: [www.rilin.state.ri.us/walaska](http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/walaska)



September 14, 2011

The New England Fisheries Management Council  
50 Water Street, Mill 2  
Newburyport, MA 02950

Gentlemen:

I am writing this letter over concern about the accidentally caught and killed marine life in the Atlantic herring fishery.

I would respectfully ask that you approve and send to public comment the full range of management options that were developed to improve catch monitoring and reduce bycatch in the Atlantic herring fishery.

I thank you for your interest in and your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William A. Walaska".

Senator William A. Walaska  
Senate District 30

WAW/bjm

cc: Mr. Bill McWha



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



Re: Herring Amendment 5

Dear Doug,

I am the President of the Connecticut Charter and Party Boat Association and my members are concerned about the management of Atlantic herring. It is clear that the practice of allowing the mid water trawlers to decimate the herring stocks has negatively impacted the stocks of Bluefin Tuna, Cod, Striped Bass and many other fish that depend on this forage. While this gear type has trouble coexisting with other fisheries regardless of how it is managed, there are steps that can be taken to better manage the midwater gear and, in turn, its impact on the herring resource and other fisheries. Herring Amendment 5 has been developed in order to address many of these problems.

I am writing today to encourage the Council to please include all the measures in the current document in the Draft EIS that goes out to the public. Many of these measures have been the focus of much effort by the Council and the public, and the Council should not be removing any of them at this time. It is important to send out a document that has a full range of alternatives, and that has potential to allow for an effective amendment when this process is complete.

Respectfully,

Captain Robert Veach – President – Connecticut Charter and Party Boat Association





**Joan O'Leary**

---

**From:** Lori Steele  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2011 11:10 AM  
**To:** Joan O'Leary  
**Subject:** FW: herring amendment draft eis

**From:** peter santini [<mailto:petesantini@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2011 7:39 AM  
**To:** Lori Steele  
**Subject:** herring amendment draft eis

Dear Doug I strongly suggest that You keep all documents in herring amendment 5 draft eis as is Please explore all other management options for these important food forage fish that many important recreationally caught species of Fish depend on Do the right thing Thanks PETE SANTINI IGFA REP BOSTON MA 90 main st everett ma 02149



**Joan O'Leary**

---

**From:** Lori Steele  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2011 11:08 AM  
**To:** Joan O'Leary  
**Subject:** FW: Herring Amendment 5 Draft EIS

-----Original Message-----

From: Stephen Schillinger [<mailto:tunawishin@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2011 10:40 PM  
To: Lori Steele  
Subject: Herring Amendment 5 Draft EIS

Lori Steele,

Please forward this email comment to Mr. Grout and/or committee members. Many thanks.

Steve Schillinger  
Marblehead, MA

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

Re: Herring Amendment 5 Draft EIS

Dear Mr. Grout,

I am a recreational fisherman and am submitting this comment for consideration at the herring discussion that will take place at the Council meeting on September 29, 2011.

The management of herring is crucial to me and almost every other fisherman in the region. There have been concerns over the monitoring of the herring midwater trawl fishery for too long and it is time for the Council to finally address this issue, in addition to the many other important issues in the amendment.

Over the last three years much work has been done on Amendment 5 and there are numerous measures in the current document that could fix many of the problems in this fishery. I strongly urge the Council to keep this document intact at the meeting on the 29th. It is important that the Council allows for the many current measures in the document to be analyzed further and then sent out to the public. Now is not the time for modifications that will effect any of these measures. Please do what is right and send out a strong document with a full range of management alternatives, allowing for meaningful herring management to be established.

Thank you for your time,

Steve Schillinger  
Marblehead, MA



## Joan O'Leary

---

**From:** Lori Steele  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2011 11:08 AM  
**To:** Joan O'Leary  
**Subject:** FW: Herring Amendment 5 Draft EIS

**From:** DJ Kenny [<mailto:kennydave@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 16, 2011 3:40 PM  
**To:** Lori Steele  
**Subject:** Herring Amendment 5 Draft EIS

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

Re: Herring Amendment 5 Draft EIS

Dear Doug,

I am a recreational fisherman and am submitting this comment in regards to the herring discussion that will take place at the Council meeting on September 29, specifically the approval of the Draft EIS for Herring Amendment 5.

Management of herring is critical to myself and almost every other fisherman in the region. For too long there has been concerns over the monitoring of the herring midwater trawl fishery and it is time for the Council to finally address this issue.

Over the last three years much work has been done on Amendment 5 and there are numerous measures in the current document that could fix many of the problems in this fishery. I strongly urge the Council to keep this document intact at the meeting on the 29th. It is important that the Council allows for the many current measures in the document to be analyzed further and then sent out to the public. Now is not the time to be removing any of these measures. Please do what is right and send out a strong document with a full range of management alternatives.

Thanks for your time,

David Kenny, Jr

31 Mystic Street #2  
Charlestown, MA 02129  
617-512-8853



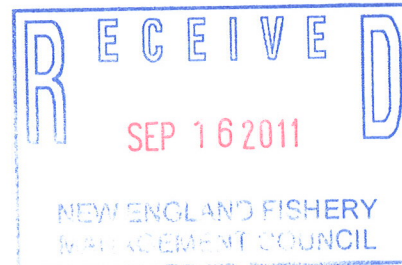


## Northeast Charterboat Captains Association

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

September 15, 2011

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



Dear Doug,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the Northeast Charterboat Captains Association, I would like to submit the following comments on the Draft EIS for Herring Amendment 5.

Ever since the first herring midwater trawler came into New England we have seen the impacts of this gear type on not only the herring resource, but on all of the species that rely on it for food as well. Part of the problem has been the way this fleet has been managed -- there has been far too little observer coverage and far too little accountability when it comes to dumping.

The current Amendment 5 document contains a wide range of alternatives that could potentially address these and other critical problems in the herring fishery. We would strongly encourage the Council to move all of these alternatives forward into the public comment period instead of debating and possibly removing anything at this point in time. You will do the entire party and charter boat sector a disservice if the committee starts removing any of these important measures without fully developing them over the coming months.

Please remember that this herring resource is the backbone of almost every fishery in the region and it needs to be managed as such.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Capt. Michael Sosik  
Secretary, Northeast Charterboat Captains Association





September 14, 2011

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



RE: Amendment 5 Atlantic Herring Fishery Reforms

I am writing because I am deeply concerned by the toll the Atlantic herring midwater trawl fleet is taking on our river herring, Atlantic herring, groundfish, and other marine species, including those species that depend upon Atlantic herring and river herring for food.


I support the reforms being proposed in herring "Amendment 5" but am concerned that lobbyists for the midwater trawl industry will push hard to eliminate some key monitoring and bycatch reduction measures before a full analysis is completed and the public is given the opportunity to comment.

Please ensure that the Council continues to demonstrate its commitment and support of meaningful reform of the Atlantic herring fishery by approving for public comment the full range of management options developed in Amendment 5, including:

- 100 percent at-sea monitoring on all midwater trawl fishing trips (i.e., one observer per vessel to sample all catch) in order to provide reliable estimates of herring catch, and bycatch of river herring, shad, groundfish, seals, whales, and other non-target species.
- No herring fishing in areas designated as river herring bycatch "hotspots" to protect river herring and the predators that depend on their coastal migrations.
- No herring midwater trawling in areas established to protect groundfish populations.
- No release or dumping of uninspected/un-sampled catch except under exceptional circumstances, such as mechanical failure or when safety is a concern.
- Consequences to discourage the wasteful dumping of catch, including an accountability system to ensure the exceptions are not abused, including a fleet-wide limit the number of dumping events, after which any dumping event would require a return to port.

I commend the Council's commitment to and support for meaningful reform of the Atlantic herring fishery. Thank you for considering my comments; reform of this fishery is needed and overdue.

Yours truly,

  
J. Capozzelli  
315 West 90<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10024

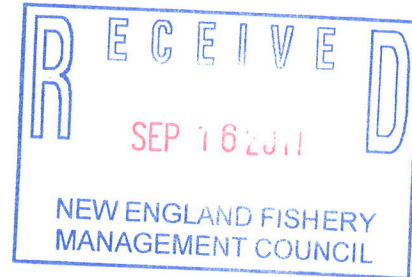


Executive Director  
James A. Donofrio



September 13, 2011

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



Dear Doug,

I am writing on behalf of the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) to comment on the review and approval of Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Herring Amendment 5 that will take place at your meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

The management of Atlantic herring is a critical issue for RFA members for a couple reasons. First and foremost, herring is a vital forage source for many of the fish our members catch, such as striped bass, cod, and tuna. If herring is not managed properly there will not be enough forage to allow for healthy fisheries on these important game and food species. Secondly, bycatch in the herring midwater trawl fishery has the potential to undercut the management of these same predator species, which in turn negatively impacts RFA members.

RFA has been following the development of Amendment 5 very closely over the past three years. We have been pleased to see the Council addressing many of the concerns we voiced such as lack of observer coverage and the potential for the dumping of unsampled catches. We would urge the Council to keep the current document intact and to move all of these important measures forward to public comment.

Management of the herring fishery is not only important to members of the RFA, but to all stakeholders along the coast of New England. Again we urge you to move forward with a full range of alternatives and allow the public to comment on the many important aspects of the amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry Gibson".

Barry Gibson  
New England Regional Director  
Recreational Fishing Alliance



**Joan O'Leary**

---

**From:** Lori Steele  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2011 11:15 AM  
**To:** Joan O'Leary  
**Subject:** FW: Herring Amendment

**From:** JOHN J WALKER [<mailto:jjwalker22@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2011 10:30 AM  
**To:** Lori Steele  
**Subject:** Herring Amendment

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

Re: Herring Amendment 5 Draft EIS

Dear Doug,

I am a recreational fisherman and am submitting this comment in regards to the herring discussion that will take place at the Council meeting on September 29, specifically the approval of the Draft EIS for Herring Amendment 5.

Management of herring is critical to myself and almost every other fisherman in the region. For too long there has been concerns over the monitoring of the herring midwater trawl fishery and it is time for the Council to finally address this issue.

Over the last three years much work has been done on Amendment 5 and there are numerous measures in the current document that could fix many of the problems in this fishery. I strongly urge the Council to keep this document intact at the meeting on the 29th. It is important that the Council allows for the many current measures in the document to be analyzed further and then sent out to the public. Now is not the time to be removing any of these measures. Please do what is right and send out a strong document with a full range of management alternatives.

Thanks for your time,

John J. Walker

253 Front St.

Weymouth, MA

02188

617-413-3473

## Joan O'Leary

---

**From:** Lori Steele  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2011 11:45 AM  
**To:** Joan O'Leary  
**Subject:** FW: Amendment 5

**From:** [tpdlnj@aol.com](mailto:tpdlnj@aol.com) [mailto:[tpdlnj@aol.com](mailto:tpdlnj@aol.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2011 11:36 AM  
**To:** Lori Steele  
**Subject:** Amendment 5

Good Morning Ms. Steele:

As the person in charge of administration of Amendment 5, please include my letter below in the discussion materials for the meeting on the 29th.

Thank you,

Doug Grout, Chairman

Herring Oversight Committee

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

Re: Herring Amendment 5

Dear Doug,

I am writing this comment in regards to the herring discussion that will take place at the Council meeting on September 29, specifically the approval of the Draft EIS for Herring Amendment 5.

Management of herring is of the utmost importance to the ecosystem off the northeast coast and to all those that rely on it. For too long there has been concerns over the monitoring of the herring midwater trawl fishery and it is time for the Council to finally address this issue as well as the many others addressed in the amendment.

Over the last three years much work has been done on Amendment 5 and there are numerous measures in the current document that could address many of the problems in this fishery. I strongly urge the Council to keep this document intact at the meeting on the 29th. It is important that the Council allows for the many current measures in the document to be analyzed further and then sent out to the public. Now is not the time to be removing any of these measures.

Please do what is right and send out a thorough document with a full range of management alternatives.

Thanks for your time,

Captain Tom Delotto, CMM  
"Nifty and Provider" Charters - Newport RI and Marthas Vineyard MA.





## Joan O'Leary

---

**From:** Conservation Law Foundation <e-info@clf.org> on behalf of Skylin Baestlein <bassist4lif@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 20, 2011 9:50 AM  
**To:** comment  
**Subject:** Advance Meaningful Herring Fishery Reform

Sep 20, 2011

New England Fishery Management Council

Dear Management Council,

Almost four years ago, the New England Fishery Management Council initiated a plan to improve catch monitoring and reduce bycatch in the Atlantic herring fishery a move that resulted in nearly 10,000 public comments calling for effective action to reform the industrial herring midwater trawl fleet.

While I heartily support and applaud many of the reforms being proposed, I am concerned there could be an eleventh hour move to eliminate some key monitoring and bycatch reduction measures before the public is given the opportunity to comment.

As we near completion of this plan, please ensure the Council continues to demonstrate their commitment and support of meaningful reform of the Atlantic herring fishery by approving for public comment the full range of management options developed in Amendment 5, including:

- 100% at-sea monitoring on all midwater trawl fishing trips (i.e., one observer per vessel to sample all catch) in order to provide reliable estimates of herring catch and bycatch of river herring, shad, groundfish and other non-target species.
- No herring fishing in areas designated as river herring bycatch "hotspots" to protect river herring and the predators that depend on their coastal migrations.
- No herring midwater trawling in areas established to protect rebuilding groundfish populations.
- A prohibition on the release or dumping of unsampled catch except under exceptional circumstances, such as mechanical failure or when safety is a concern.
- A set of consequences to discourage the wasteful dumping of catch, including an accountability system to ensure the exceptions are not abused (a fleetwide allowance of ten dumping events for each herring management area, after which any dumping event would require a return to port)

Thank you for your consideration of my comments as you finalize these much-needed and long-awaited reforms to the industrialized Atlantic herring fishery.

Sincerely,

Ms. Skylin Baestlein  
PO Box 906  
North Chatham, NY 12132-0906



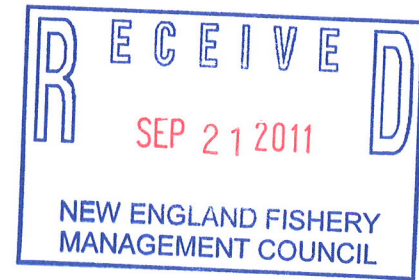


**New England  
Aquarium**

*Protecting the blue planet*

September 20, 2011

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



Re: Support for management options contained in Amendment 5 of the Atlantic herring FMP.

Dear Mr. Howard:

The New England Aquarium is writing in support of proposed changes to the Atlantic herring fish management plan (FMP) through management options developed in Amendment 5.

The New England Aquarium is one of the most prominent and popular aquariums in the United States, with more than 1.3 million people visiting our exhibits annually. We are a global leader in ocean exploration and marine conservation with research scientists working around the world for the preservation and sustainable use of aquatic resources. In New England, we have been actively working to protect marine and coastal ecosystems from adverse human impacts, and to conserve threatened animals and habitats, for more than thirty years.

Of particular concern to the New England Aquarium are the depletion and lack of recovery of alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*) and blueback herring (*A. aestivalis*) populations (collectively known as "river herring") throughout New England and elsewhere on the Atlantic coast. River herring have historically served an important ecological role in coastal habitats, and their recovery is essential to the conservation and restoration of these habitats, as well as the animals that depend on them.

The New England Aquarium supports and applauds many of the reforms to the Atlantic herring FMP being considered by the Council. As the plan nears completion, we implore the Council to continue to demonstrate its commitment and support of meaningful reform of the Atlantic herring fishery by approving for public comment the full range of management options developed in Amendment 5, including:

- Increased at-sea monitoring on all midwater trawl fishing trips in order to provide reliable estimates of herring catch and bycatch of river herring, shad, groundfish and other non-target species.
- A prohibition on herring fishing in areas and times identified for river herring protection (e.g., river herring bycatch "hotspots") to protect river herring and the predators that depend on their coastal migrations.
- A prohibition on herring midwater trawling in areas established to protect rebuilding groundfish populations
- A requirement to bring all catch aboard fishing vessels to ensure accurate sampling by an independent observer.
- Continued support for collaborative research on river herring bycatch avoidance.

We believe this effort to establish more accountability from the Atlantic herring fishery is an important step in the recovery of river herring. Thank you for consideration of this request and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need more information.

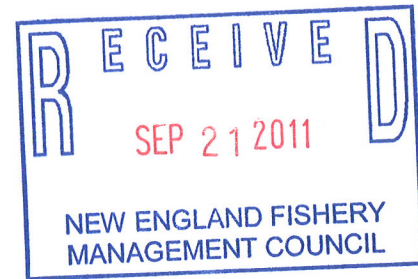
Sincerely,

Bud Ris  
President and Chief Executive Officer



September 20, 2011

His Excellency Deval Patrick  
Massachusetts State House  
Office of the Governor  
Room 280  
Boston, MA 02133



Dear Governor Patrick:

We, the undersigned – representing a wide range of watershed associations, environmental groups and concerned citizens of the Commonwealth – are deeply concerned about the status of river herring in New England. Historically, nearly every river in Massachusetts and along the Atlantic coast supported immense annual migrations of these fish. But today, river herring have plummeted to record low levels with population declines estimated at 99 percent or more.

Communities throughout Massachusetts have worked tirelessly to clean rivers, remove dams and restore habitat to promote the recovery of river herring runs. However, we are concerned these efforts are being compromised because these fish are not provided effective protections from at-sea bycatch in federal waters. Recent evidence show that over three million river herring are caught unintentionally each year by vessels fishing for Atlantic herring. In fact, data shows that hundreds of thousands of river herring can be caught in one tow of a herring midwater trawler's net – more fish than are recorded in many of the state's largest river herring runs.

This is a pressing and long unaddressed concern, but a plan to minimize the number of river herring caught at sea is undergoing the final stages of review in the coming months. In light of this, we respectfully request that you direct the New England Fishery Management Council members representing the Commonwealth's Division of Marine Fisheries to support the following measures in Amendment 5 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan to better monitor and reduce river herring bycatch:

- 100% at-sea catch monitoring on all industrial midwater trawl fishing trips.
- A prohibition on herring fishing in areas and times identified for river herring protection.
- A requirement to bring all catch aboard fishing vessels to ensure accurate sampling by an independent observer.

We hope you will agree that these provisions, which have been carefully developed and analyzed by the Council, will improve catch monitoring and reduce the Atlantic herring fishery's interactions with river herring.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Julia Blatt  
Executive Director  
Massachusetts Rivers Alliance

Ian Cooke  
Executive Director  
Neponset River Watershed Association

Arthur Benner  
President  
Alewives Anonymous

Maggie Geist  
Executive Director  
Association to Preserve Cape Cod

Peter Coffin  
Coordinator  
Blackstone River Coalition

Renata von Tscharnier  
President  
Charles River Conservancy

Robert Zimmerman, Jr.  
Executive Director  
Charles River Watershed Association

Mark Rasmussen  
President  
Coalition for Buzzards Bay

Peter Shelley  
Vice President  
Conservation Law Foundation

Michael Cole  
Director  
Deerfield River Watershed Association

Ken Pruitt  
Managing Director  
Environmental League of Massachusetts

Ellen Mass  
President  
Friends of Alewife Reservation

Judy Lehrer Jacobs  
Executive Director  
Friends of the Blue Hills

Don Palladino  
President  
Friends of Herring River

Pine duBois  
Executive Director  
Jones River Watershed Association

Kevin Galvin  
Executive Director  
Marston Mills River Watershed Association

Linda Orel  
Executive Director  
Massachusetts Association of Conservation  
Commissions

Ed Himlan  
Executive Director  
Massachusetts Watershed Coalition

EK Khalsa  
Executive Director  
Mystic River Watershed Association

Carol Carson  
President  
New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance

Samantha Woods  
Executive Director  
North and South Rivers Watershed Association

Rob Moir  
Executive Director  
Ocean River Institute

Alison Field-Juma  
Director  
Organization for the Assabet River

Marlene Schroeder  
President  
Parker River Clean Water Association

John Duane – on behalf of:  
Town of Wellfleet Natural Resources Advisory  
Board

David Glater  
President  
Trout Unlimited, Inc. – Greater Boston Chapter

Jeff Hughes  
Herring Warden  
Wellfleet, Mass.

Hillary Greenberg  
Health and Conservation Agent – Town of  
Wellfleet  
Wellfleet Conservation Commission

William Rose  
President  
Westfield River Watershed Association

Matthew C. Patrick  
Executive Director  
Westport River Watershed Alliance

CC: Secretary Rick Sullivan  
NEFMC Executive Director Paul J. Howard  
DMF Director Paul Diodati  
DMF Deputy Director David E. Pierce  
State Senate President Therese Murray  
Speaker Robert DeLeo





## Joan O'Leary

---

**From:** Conservation Law Foundation <e-info@clf.org> on behalf of Sarah Prud'homme <asp624@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 21, 2011 11:03 AM  
**To:** comment  
**Subject:** Advance Meaningful Herring Fishery Reform

Sep 21, 2011

New England Fishery Management Council

Dear Management Council,

Almost four years ago, the New England Fishery Management Council initiated a plan to improve catch monitoring and reduce bycatch in the Atlantic herring fishery a move that resulted in nearly 10,000 public comments calling for effective action to reform the industrial herring midwater trawl fleet.

While I heartily support and applaud many of the reforms being proposed, I am concerned there could be an eleventh hour move to eliminate some key monitoring and bycatch reduction measures before the public is given the opportunity to comment.

As we near completion of this plan, please ensure the Council continues to demonstrate their commitment and support of meaningful reform of the Atlantic herring fishery by approving for public comment the full range of management options developed in Amendment 5, including:

- 100% at-sea monitoring on all midwater trawl fishing trips (i.e., one observer per vessel to sample all catch) in order to provide reliable estimates of herring catch and bycatch of river herring, shad, groundfish and other non-target species.
- No herring fishing in areas designated as river herring bycatch "hotspots" to protect river herring and the predators that depend on their coastal migrations.
- No herring midwater trawling in areas established to protect rebuilding groundfish populations.
- A prohibition on the release or dumping of unsampled catch except under exceptional circumstances, such as mechanical failure or when safety is a concern.
- A set of consequences to discourage the wasteful dumping of catch, including an accountability system to ensure the exceptions are not abused (a fleetwide allowance of ten dumping events for each herring management area, after which any dumping event would require a return to port)

Thank you for your consideration of my comments as you finalize these much-needed and long-awaited reforms to the industrialized Atlantic herring fishery.

Sincerely,

Ms. Sarah Prud'homme  
219 Lincoln Rd  
Brooklyn, NY 11225-3422

