



New England Fishery Management Council

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E.F. "Terry" Stockwell III, *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

Amendment 8 to the Atlantic Herring FMP
Scoping Hearing Summary

Samoset Hotel, Rockland, ME

March 6, 2015

Hearing Officer: Doug Grout, Herring Committee Chairman

Other Council Members: Terry Stockwell, Mary Beth Tooley, Jeff Kaelin (MAFMC)

Council Staff: Lori Steele, Rachel Feeney, Tom Nies, Jamie Cournane, Jonathon Peros

Attendance: Approximately 50 audience

Mr. Grout provided some opening comments about Amendment 8 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP), which proposes to establish a control rule for specifying acceptable biological catch in the Atlantic herring fishery (ABC control rule). He introduced Ms. Steele, Herring FMP Coordinator. Ms. Steele briefed the audience on the Amendment 8 scoping document and summarized the process and timeline for developing the amendment. After an opportunity to ask questions for clarification, scoping comments were taken from the audience regarding the scope of issues to be addressed in the amendment.

Mary Beth Tooley, O’Hara Corporation (two vessels in the Atlantic herring fishery): I think the Scoping document has laid out the issue well. My comments only reiterate some of the information in the scoping document. I think it’s really important for the Council to have an ecosystem-based approach. The words are in the document, but forage seems to be the one that is highlighted by most people. But when you take an ecosystem approach, you consider herring’s role as forage, as a predator, as a competitor in a system. I think that is something that should be equally-balanced. And I think it’s extremely important to fully consider impacts to the fishery and most importantly, particularly when we are here in Maine, the impacts to the lobster fishery as users of the resource.

Dave Linney, tuna fisherman, Cape Nettick ME: In general, I’m very glad to see you are working ecosystem management into this. For a long time, ecosystem management hasn’t been used, and it looks like we are starting to use it legitimately. I take my hat off to that. It is obvious that herring is probably the largest biomass of prey material out there other than plankton and that sort of thing. I think it’s very important to show how all of the components work together so that all the fisheries that have something to do with herring get their fair share out of it.