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New England Fishery Management Council

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John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

December 15, 2017

Mr. Robert Beal, Executive Director
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Beal:

Thank-you for your invitation for the New England Fishery Management Council to serve as a non-voting member of the Commission's Atlantic Herring Section. We also appreciate your offer to form a working group of Council and Commission members with the goal of improving communications between the two groups. While we agree that coordination of the federal fishery and state regulations could be improved, we have not yet made a decision on whether to accept these offers. Our Executive Committee will discuss these issues at its January, 2018 meeting.

As you know, the Commission accepted our invitation to serve as a voting member of our Habitat Committee during the development of our Deep-Sea Coral Amendment. We are considering whether to modify this position to a non-voting seat. We will notify you if that determination is made.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Nies
Executive Director

cc: John Bullard, GARFO
David Borden



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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James J. Gilmore, Jr. (NY), Chair

Patrick C. Keliher (ME), Vice-Chair

Robert E. Beal, Executive Director

Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

November 15, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Nies,

Recognizing the importance of coordinated state and federal management of the Atlantic herring fishery, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) invites the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) to serve as a non-voting member on the Commission's Atlantic Herring Section. Through your participation on the Section, we hope to improve the decision-making process by seeking Council input on proposed management actions, specifically, how potential changes in state regulations could impact the industry fishing in federal waters.

To further improve coordination and cooperation, we would also like to form a working group of Commission and Council representatives with the goal of improving communication between the two groups. The working group would consider issues beyond Atlantic herring such as winter flounder, offshore energy, and other issues of shared concern. Better communication and coordination can better align our management efforts, and send a consistent message to our stakeholders about our shared management activities.

If the Council agrees with the formation of a working group, we suggest Council and Commission leadership work together to decide on the best membership to provide an efficient and effective working group.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R E Beal".

Robert E. Beal

cc: ISFMP Policy Board
Atlantic Herring Section