



New England Fishery Management Council

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NOTICE OF RE-OPENING OF SCOPING PERIOD AMENDMENT 8 TO THE ATLANTIC HERRING FMP

The New England Fishery Management Council is re-opening the scoping period for Amendment 8 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

At its June 2015 meeting, the Council approved the following goals and objectives for Amendment 8:

- Goal 1. To account for the role of Atlantic herring within the ecosystem, including its role as forage;
 - Goal 2. To stabilize the fishery at a level designed to achieve OY;
 - Goal 3. To address localized depletion in inshore waters.
- Objective:* Develop and implement an ABC control rule that manages Atlantic herring within an ecosystem context and addresses the goals of Amendment 8.

With this notice, the Council is informing you of its intent to gather information necessary to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Amendment 8 to the Atlantic Herring FMP. Over the upcoming months, the Council will develop a range of management alternatives to address the Amendment 8 goals/objectives identified above. At this time, the Council is asking for your specific suggestions and input on the management alternatives that should be considered in Amendment 8.

The original Amendment 8 Scoping Document is available on the Council's website (<http://www.nefmc.org/management-plans/herring>) or may be obtained by contacting the Council office at (978) 465-0492.

There will be an opportunity for oral scoping comments to be provided during the Herring Committee meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2015, at the Hilton Garden Inn, Boston Logan Airport, 100 Boardman Street, Boston, MA 02128, Tel: 617-567-6789 (see meeting agenda for specific time).

Additional scoping comments for Amendment 8 must be received on or before 5 p.m. EST, Wednesday, September 30, 2015. Written comments should be sent to Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill #2, Newburyport, MA 01950; Fax: (978) 465-3116. You may also submit scoping comments by email to comments@nefmc.org.

Please note on your correspondence; "Atlantic Herring Amendment 8 Re-Scoping Comments."