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Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950
Fax (978) 465-3116

May 16, 2018

Subject: Amendment 8 to the Atlantic Herring FMP

Dear Mr. Nies,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment of the draft Environmental Impact Statement for Amendment 8 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery.

The mission of the Association to Preserve Cape Cod is to preserve, protect and enhance the natural resources of Cape Cod. As a regional organization, we have worked to adopt laws and policies that enhance Cape Cod's natural resources and quality of life. On the entire Cape, we know that our ponds, streams, marshes, sand and water are essential to our economy and way of life. Pressures to the ecosystem in nearby federal waters that could impact the health of our runs, lands and streams undermines years of effort from the people of our peninsula and our foundation.

Because of this, we offer comment on Amendment 8 and alternatives regarding the midwater trawl buffer zone (which addresses localized depletion) as well as the control rule. We support alternatives that would move midwater trawlers a minimum of 12 miles offshore, year-round (which is an important factor for prey species who rely on herring at different times of the year), and farther off the backside of Cape Cod (alternatives 4-7).

Additionally, we support the selection of alternatives 2, 4E, or 4F for the herring control rule. Each of these alternatives would provide the best outcome for the herring resource and ecosystem, a major benefit for our communities. We focus on these alternatives because it is imperative that we set a control rule which acknowledges the importance of herring in the ecosystem. It is vital that we do not remain with the status quo.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to continuing to support the Council in this important process.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Andrew Gottlieb', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Gottlieb
Executive Director
Association to Preserve Cape Cod