



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492

Daniel Salerno, *Chair* | Cate O'Keefe, PhD, *Executive Director*

May 11, 2026

Mr. Michael Pentony
Regional Administrator
NOAA Fishery Service
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

RE: Comments on MA DMF Herring Genomics EFP

Dear Mike:

The New England Fishery Management Council has no objection to continuation of the exempted fishing permit to support a study developing a genomic tool to evaluate the genomic population structure of Atlantic herring as published in the *Federal Register* on May 4, 2026.

Please contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cate O'Keefe". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Cate O'Keefe
Executive Director