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## Commission/Council Leadership Discussion Atlantic Herring Management May 21, 2020

Leadership of the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) met via webinar to discuss coordination of Atlantic herring management, focusing primarily on the Exclusive Economic Zone.

### *Participants:*

ASMFC: Mr. Patrick Keliher (Chair), Mr. Spud Woodward (Vice-Chair), Mr. Robert Beal (Executive Director)

NEFMC: Dr. John Quinn (Chair), Mr. Eric Reid (Vice-Chair), and Mr. Tom Nies (Executive Director)

### *Issue:*

Participants briefly reviewed the history of Atlantic herring management and the interactions between the NEFMC Fishery Management Plan and the ASMFC's Interstate Fishery Management Plan since 1999. Council representatives appreciated ASMFC management of the days out program and spawning closures in the Gulf of Maine after NMFS did not implement similar elements that were proposed in the FMP. The group discussed concerns that in recent years some management alternatives considered by ASMFC may have been inconsistent with the federal FMP. There was agreement that resolution should be sought between the two management organizations to minimize potential future conflicts. Care needs to be taken, however, so that the benefits of involving both bodies in management are not forfeited. Several ideas were discussed before the solution below was identified.

### *Resolution:*

The group agreed to define the roles of each management body by identifying the measures that would be addressed by each. A sub-group of ASMFC Plan Review Team and NEFMC Plan Development Team members, led by the ASMFC Herring Board and NEFMC Herring Committee chairs, will be formed to prepare a proposed list of responsibilities. This list will be provided to the leadership team for review and approval by mid-July. This will facilitate discussion at the ASMFC's summer meeting and the NEFMC's September meeting. Once finalized, the leadership group will consider ways to adopt these provisions, such as through an exchange of letters, Memorandum of Understanding, or other documentation.