

Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance
thinking globally; fishing locally



April 1, 2009

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Paul J. Howard, Executive Director
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950

Dear Mr. Howard:

The Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance (NAMA) continues to believe that industrial herring fishery – known to interact with recovery groundfish stocks, particularly juveniles – should be excluded from the groundfish closed areas. To that end, we would like to express our strong support for any Council action at its April 8, 2009 meeting that ensures this action. There is simply too much new evidence demonstrating significant amounts of groundfish bycatch in closed areas. This evidence cannot be ignored.

If we are serious about rebuilding the New England groundfish stocks we feel it is warranted to limit boats that can catch groundfish even further, we cannot and should not allow any fishing boats with potential to kill groundfish into those very same areas. It is simply good judgment.

The industrial herring fleet should be excluded from groundfish closed areas.

Thank you in advance for your attention and consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Niaz Dorry', enclosed within a simple, hand-drawn oval shape.

Niaz Dorry
Coordinating Director