

**Wild
Oceans**
For the future of fishing

The Horizon

Born to be wild

by Ken Hinman

‘Like a true nature’s child,’ as Steppenwolf would say, salmon were meant to swim free. Spawned in freshwater rivers far from the ocean, they spend most of their lives roaming great distances on the open seas before returning to their home waters to restart the cycle of life.

Salmon “farmed” in near-shore pens, on the other hand, are a different animal altogether, a creature of science, not nature. The science of breeding and raising ocean fish in captivity changes both the fish and their environment and our relationship with both.

We’ve known for some time that the ocean’s wild fisheries cannot feed a world population of nearly 8 billion people, much less the 10 billion hungry citizens projected by 2050. We hit the ceiling before the end of the last century and global catch has fluctuated around that level ever since.

“Even as we maintain and rebuild our wild fisheries,” says the National Marine Fisheries Service, “we cannot meet increasing domestic demand for seafood alone through wild-caught

fisheries.” That gap is being filled by marine aquaculture, i.e., farming at sea.

Fully 80 percent of the fresh salmon we eat is farmed. Forty percent of all the seafood we consume here in the U.S. is imported from overseas fish farms. NMFS is aggressively promoting expanded aquaculture operations, for both domestic markets and export.

But if aquaculture is the answer, what’s the question? Is it merely, How do we get the ocean to produce as much food as we can? Or is it, How do we farm the sea in ways that preserve wild fisheries and wild oceans?

The problems associated with farming salmon and other marine finfish in open systems are well documented: pollution from chemicals, antibiotics and nutrients (feces); disease outbreaks that spread to nearby waters; increased harvest of wild forage fish to feed farmed carnivorous species; operational demands for water and energy; escapement of genetically-modified fish into the wild gene pool; loss of coastal habitat and fishing grounds; and health concerns for consumers, e.g., high levels of PCBs.

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Our Mission

Wild Oceans was founded by anglers in 1973. Like the sportsmen before us who pioneered wildlife conservation on land, we are passionate protectors of fish and the wild world we share.

Our mission is to keep the oceans wild to preserve fishing opportunities for the future. To do this, we bring conservation-minded fishermen and pro-fishing environmentalists together to promote a broad, ecosystems approach to fisheries management that reflects our expanding circle of concern for all marine life and the future of fishing.

So much of what we love about the sea, about fish, about fishing, is in the wildness. But that wild world, and the future of fishing, now hangs in the balance. Everything we do, every decision we make, must be guided by a clear vision of the future we want for our oceans and of how the fishing public and responsible consumers will fit into that future.

Our better nature

Not every advance in technology means progress (p. 1). How we make use of these new technologies, for good or ill, is determined by human needs and the behaviors they provoke. These needs are conflicting, among us and within us.

Even though we often confuse what we need with what we want, satisfying our needs is part of human nature, a survival trait bred into us millions of years ago. It's served us well in our evolution to modern times, but today as often as not it works against us. As I wrote a few years ago in [Resource Sharing](#):

All creatures share an evolutionary drive to selfishly advance their own species. But in our case, a narrow view of sustainability, a lack of regard for sustaining other forms of life in the sea, and "a power over the natural world we can no longer afford to use" (George Monbiot), all work to our collective disadvantage, irreparably harming the environment that supports all of us.

And yet there are other traits in our nature just as much a product of evolution and just as important to our survival. In order to counteract negative behaviors such as our "insatiable consumption of natural resources...with little regard for the future", as George Addy describes it in *Solving the Human Predicament*, we have to appeal to our better nature.

Addy argues that to make progress in protecting our natural environment, our "plan" must focus on the positive attributes of human nature. He singles out three: (1) Our proven ability to cooperate; (2) Our innate desire to protect our children; and (3) Our empathy for other creatures that share the earth with us.

As I read this, it struck me that here was the *Wild Oceans* mission statement: "...we bring together conservation-minded fishermen and pro-fishing environmentalists (1) to promote a broad, ecosystems approach...that reflects our expanding concern for all marine life (3) and the future of fishing (2)."

"Conservation is a gift to my children and to theirs."

— Tim Choate, Wild Oceans Chair

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The effectiveness of this plan has been tested throughout our 45 year history (p. 7). And right here in this issue of *The Horizon* there are several good examples. On page 3, Theresa Labriola writes about the diverse community that is making significant progress in getting rid of drift nets on the west coast. Pam Lyons Gromen describes on page 8 how we've taken another big step toward "sharing herring" among New England fishermen and a long list of ocean wildlife. And as we report on page 4, the Take Marlin Off the Menu campaign is on the brink of a major victory for the future of billfish and billfishing.

The future is uncertain, but we can be sure that the innate needs that drive us will not change. It is and will always be up to us to balance them for our own good and the good of the planet.

— Ken Hinman, President

For the Future of Fishing

Wild Oceans is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to keeping the oceans wild to preserve fishing opportunities for the future.

Our Goals:

- preventing overfishing and restoring depleted fish populations to healthy levels
- promoting sustainable use policies that balance commercial, recreational and ecological values
- modifying or eliminating wasteful fishing practices
- improving our understanding of fish and their role in the marine environment
- preserving fish habitat and water quality

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California senate advances bill to end drift gillnets



© Paul Nicklen

by Theresa Labriola,
Pacific Programs Director

California is on track to eliminate an out-of-date and indiscriminate commercial fishing gear. In late May, the California Senate passed a bill (SB 1017) sponsored by Senator Ben Allen. The bill seeks to phase out the use of drift gillnets by 2023 and provide California drift gillnet fishermen a fair market value for their permit and net.

Sportfishermen, ocean conservationists and animal rights activists gathered in Sacramento before the Senate vote, rallied on the north steps of the state capitol and met with legislative leaders to demonstrate the diverse community support for the bill. *Wild Oceans* along with our sportfishing colleagues at the International Game Fish Association, American Sportfishing Association, and Coastal Conservation Association of California carried the sportfishing voice. The Senate passed the Bill with a vote of 33-0.

With this vote, California is set to retake the lead in ocean conservation. California is the only state that allows the use of drift gillnets. Drift gillnet gear catches everything in its path, leaving fishermen no choice but to discard over half the catch, including important recreational species, sharks, mola mola and marine mammals. However, alternative fishing gears exist. Deep-set buoy gear was developed to target swordfish at depth and is proving able to catch higher quality swordfish with almost no by-



catch. Swordfish make up more than 90 percent of the buoy gear catch. By eliminating drift gillnets and providing fishermen with transition funds to purchase 21st century gear, California is promoting sustainable fishing and healthy ocean ecosystems.

Drift gillnets were first permitted in the 1980s by the California legislature and over the objection of the sportfishing community and the California Fish and Game Commission. After years of deadly encounters with sea turtles and marine mammals, the Pacific Fishery Management Council began to impose time and area closures on the fishery, reducing the location and season when and where fishermen could deploy drift gillnets. Recently, the Council voted to impose an annual limit, or hard cap, on the number of turtles, whales and species of concern killed by drift gillnets. But, NOAA Fisheries rejected the action, leaving meaningful management in the hands of the legislature.

In late June, the California Assembly's Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife approved SB1017. It now heads to the Assembly's Committee on Appropriations before an August vote on the Assembly floor. Senator Feinstein (D-CA), Senator Harris (D-CA) and Senator Capito (R-WV) introduced a companion bill (S.2772) in the US Senate and Representative Lieu (D-CA) and Representative Fitzpatrick (R-PA) followed with an identical bill in the house (HR 5638). Together, the state and federal legislation can resolve a decades long fight to end the use of drift gillnets in California. Now it's time to back our elected officials as they overturn their faulty decision years ago that allowed the fishery to take hold. Let your representative know that sportfishermen and ocean conservationists support state and federal legislation to end drift gillnets (details are available at www.wild-oceans.org/action-center). ■



BILL NOW READY FOR TRUMP'S SIGNATURE

Billfish conservation, act II, passes congress

On June 25th, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously approved HR 4528, legislation to amend the Billfish Conservation Act to clarify that Pacific billfish exempted from the law's federal no-sale provision must be sold locally in Hawaii and Pacific island territories (Guam, Samoa, etc.). In effect, it would achieve the original BCA's intent to outlaw the sale of marlin, spearfish and sailfish anywhere within the mainland United States.

Because the language in the House bill, introduced by Rep. Darren Soto of Florida, is identical to S 396, approved

by the Senate last fall, the bill could be signed into law by President Trump as soon as this summer.

"Wild Oceans and IGFA began the *Take Marlin Off the Menu* campaign 10 years ago because we believe the future of these magnificent fish is not for sale," said Tim Choate, Chairman of *Wild Oceans*. "This simple 'technical amendment' ensures that billfish receive the full protection from commercial exploitation that the Billfish Conservation Act intended."

The BCA of 2012 halted all importation and sales of billfish in the U.S., providing a limited exemption for traditional fisheries and markets in Hawaii and

nearby territories. The administration's failure to issue a rulemaking to stop Hawaiian-caught billfish from entering mainland markets forced Wild Oceans and IGFA, along with the Center for Sportfishing Policy to go back to Congress to close this loophole.

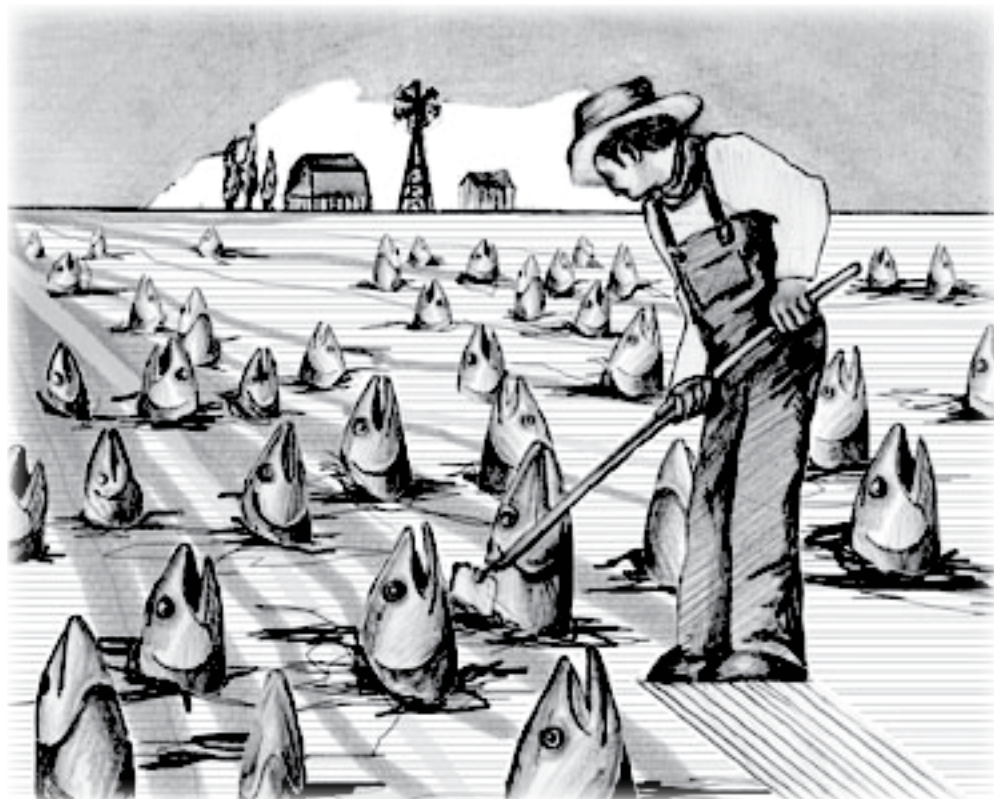
The BCA stopped an estimated 30,000 Pacific marlin from being imported into the U.S. every year and sold in markets on the mainland, where commercial fishing for billfish is prohibited. Now billfish caught and landed in Hawaii, where there are no limits on how many striped marlin, blue marlin and spearfish can be caught, cannot be sold in any of the other 49 states. ■

Born to be Wild, cont'd from page 1

Aside from adding a new source of seafood, a big selling point for aquaculture is taking pressure off wild populations. But that's unlikely to happen. Advances in science have always been, and always will be, used to serve human needs, which are themselves conflicting and, if history is a guide, as often as not destructive of other creatures and the environment. It is human needs that will determine how we use this new technology and what, if any, restraint we show toward wild fish stocks because of it. (see page 2)

Does this mean we shouldn't farm the sea? Perhaps not. But if we do – and we already are, albeit in a limited way here in the U.S. – it means we should have our eyes wide open and understand that our problem hasn't been solved. In fact, it hasn't changed at all. The problem is still that of managing human behavior. And there is no reason to think that behavior will change.

So it would be wise for us to imagine the worst in order to avoid it. To ac-



cept that ocean aquaculture will benefit wild oceans and wild fisheries, both commercial and recreational, would be a serious mistake. As John Gray warns, "A world that has been

rebuilt into a factory producing the things humans need or want will be a world without wilderness and from which many of the species with which we share the planet will disappear." ■

No going back

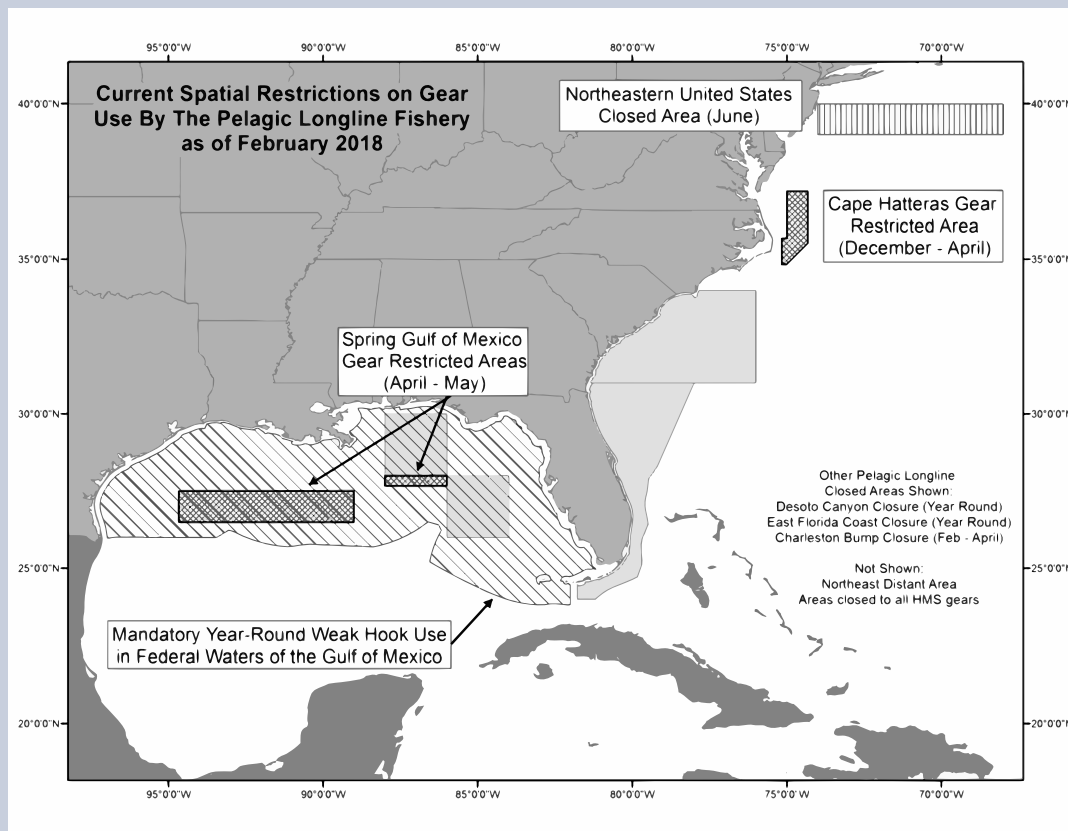
by Ken Hinman

The National Marine Fisheries Service is questioning whether long-standing measures to minimize longline bycatch, such as time-area closures, are still needed. The answer is most emphatically yes.

The first meaningful action taken to reduce bycatch in the U.S. pelagic longline fisheries occurred in the year 2000 – the closure of 133,000 square miles of coastal waters in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico to all pelagic longlining, an indiscriminately destructive way of fishing. These area closures were the result of a lawsuit filed by *Wild Oceans* in 1999 and were based on recommendations from our study, [Ocean Roulette](#), published the year before. (see *Looking Back*, page 7)

Under separate actions, smaller areas off New Jersey and Cape Hatteras were subsequently put off-limits to longlining for certain parts of the year and, most recently, two new Gear Restricted Areas were added in the Gulf of Mexico to protect spawning bluefin tuna from industrial-scale longlining for other tunas and swordfish.

Taken all together (see map), these time-area closures represent the single-most effective measures to minimize the incidental catch of numerous vulnerable species. The bycatch and discard of billfish, oceanic sharks, bluefin tuna and sea turtles is 30-75% lower than before the closures.¹ As a result, there has been a substantial gain in fishing opportunities, including



resurgence in recreational fishing success as well as development of a new and sustainable commercial buoy-gear fishery for swordfish.

The Same Experiment, Over and Over Again

Were these areas meant to be permanently off limits to longlining? In my view, the answer is most emphatically yes. If we're talking about multi-mile, multi-hook longlines, fished in a manner similar to the way they were being used at the time the gear was prohibited and as the gear continues to be deployed everywhere outside the closed areas, there should be no going back.

Unfortunately, that's precisely the kind of longline fishery the government, i.e., the National Marine Fisheries Service, wants to bring back. In 2017, against nearly unanimous opposition from the offshore fishing and environmental communities, NMFS ap-

proved an experimental fishing permit (EFP) to fish inside parts of the closed areas with typical longline fishing gear and methods; that is, mainlines up to 25 miles long, possibly more, with up to 750 hooks per set. A similarly designed experiment was permitted by NMFS to fish in 2008, and the results were predictable – unacceptable bycatch.

This year, beginning its promised 3-year review of the effectiveness of the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan, amended in 2014 to further reduce bycatch of bluefin tuna in the longline fisheries, NMFS is suggesting the amendment's new area closures may not be necessary to protect bluefin. The underlying motive is "revitalizing" (NMFS' word) the U.S. longline fishery for swordfish.

(Continued on page 6)

¹ NOAA Fisheries. 2015 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species. December 2015.

Twenty years ago, in *Ocean Roulette*, we said that “to encourage commercial fishing experimentation with gear modification or alternative fishing methods,” we could support limited exemptions for longline vessels engaged in bona fide “bycatch avoidance research.” We still do. But that’s a very different thing than simply letting multi-mile pelagic longlines return to closed areas to perform the same experiment over and over again while expecting a different result. Which is the definition of... well, you know.

In 1998 we recommended 1) the use of “breakaway gear” (e.g., weak hooks) to avoid capture of large bluefin tuna in areas where they concentrate (a measure subsequently implemented in 2011 and broadened in 2014), and 2) limiting the length of longlines and allowable soak time “to enhance survival of fish and other animals caught incidentally or that must be released according to regulation.” We also proposed that longline gear be retrieved in the order in which it is deployed.

Last year, in a *Federal Register* response to *Wild Oceans’* opposition to the aforementioned EFP and our recommendation that NMFS disapprove the longline application in favor of using the EFP process to test shorter sets and soak times, the agency agreed. “(R)esearch investigating shorter mainline lengths, soak times, and gear retrieval techniques would be valuable. In a document entitled ‘Atlantic HMS Management Based Research Needs and Priorities’ (2014), examining the feasibility of gear alternatives in Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean to reduce bycatch while maintaining target catch was identified as a high priority.”ⁱⁱ

But that research, which has been talked about for two decades now, must be taken off the to-do list and actually carried out on the water before we could ever consider letting “longlines” back into any of the areas closed for the specific purpose of minimizing their damage to a wide range of non-target sea life.

A Constructive Move into the Future

Incentivizing a transition to cleaner, more sustainable gears – like swordfish buoy-gear and tuna green-stick gear – should take precedence over “revitalizing” the pelagic longline fishery, when that means increasing effort with multi-mile longlines that remain in the water for up to 12 hours or more hook-

ⁱⁱ Notice of availability of a final environmental assessment to issue an exempted fishing permit. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce. *Federal Register*/ Vol. 82, No. 154 / Friday, August 11, 2017

Bring Back the Big Fish

By removing too many of the sea’s keystone predators, we weaken an entire tier at the top of the food chain. This may have dire biological consequences throughout the ecosystem, far beyond the social, economic and moral costs of depleted ocean fisheries.

Wild Oceans has a long record of accomplishments working to protect and restore marlin and sailfish, swordfish, bluefin and other tunas, and sharks. Our activities cover a broad range of issues critical to the future of large ocean fish, among them: implementing recovery plans for overfished species; reducing bycatch by promoting changes to more selective, sustainable fishing gears; and promoting catch-and-release fishing among sport anglers.

Learn more about our
Bring Back the Big Fish
program at
WildOceans.org!



ing fish and other wildlife indiscriminately. The ecosystem level impact on a wide variety of vulnerable pelagic species – billfish, sharks, juvenile swordfish, breeding bluefin tuna, sea turtles, etc. – is too high a price to pay for increased landings of any single species, no matter how valuable.

Wild Oceans opposes changes that could diminish the effectiveness of existing measures to minimize bycatch in the pelagic longline fisheries and we are once again urging NMFS to begin research into the feasibility of shorter sets (e.g., < 10 nautical miles) and shorter soak times (< 6 hours). “Longlines” should not be allowed to return to any closed area until it can be demonstrated through such research that overall bycatch and bycatch mortality would be no greater than that currently achieved through the closures.

By combining such research with increased use of more selective, sustainable alternative gears with minimal bycatch, NMFS would be making a constructive move into the future of sustainable fishing for highly migratory species, rather than trying to justify the continued use of multi-mile longlines which are already proven to be damaging to multiple species and extremely difficult and costly to manage. ■



Looking Back...

45 years 1973-2018



In celebration of our 45th anniversary working for the future of fishing, we will be including a special feature in all 2018 editions of the *Wild Oceans* Horizon, and on our website, where we revisit stories from the past that are just as relevant today. Keeping our members informed of important developments in the world of ocean conservation has been a priority since our organization was founded as the National Coalition for Marine Conservation back in 1973.

The following article was written by Wild Oceans president Ken Hinman for the Nov/Dec 2000 issue of the Big Game Fishing Journal. The magazine asked him to recount for its readers the actions that led directly to the historic longline area closures enacted earlier that year.

A GIANT LEAP FOR FISHKIND

Mark this day. On August 1, 2000, the National Marine Fisheries Service enacted federal regulations closing approximately 133,000 square miles of U.S. coastal waters to commercial longlining. According to the agency's projections, pulling the multi-mile, multi-hook longlines out of the water in and around a number of bycatch "hot spots" in the south Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico will save thousands of juvenile swordfish, large coastal sharks and billfish from death in these underwater minefields.

These time-area closures are historic; the long-awaited first step toward reining in the widespread use of indiscriminate longline gear that has plagued our offshore fisheries for decades. Getting here has been a hard road, demanding dedicated work on

many fronts, and the National Coalition for Marine Conservation (now *Wild Oceans*) has been leading every step of the way. But, we're not finished yet, not by a long shot.

The chain of events leading to the new longline closures can be traced to 1993, when we cofounded the Marine Fish Conservation Network. The Network quickly grew to an alliance of over 100 fishing and conservation groups with one goal – putting real teeth into federal law to conserve ocean fish. We successfully passed the Sustainable Fisheries Act in 1996, requiring bona fide rebuilding plans for all overfished species and making bycatch reduction a new legal mandate.

As a direct result, NMFS, which heretofore had steadfastly resisted pressure to take on the longliners, was forced to put together new management plans for overfished Atlantic tunas, swordfish, sharks and marlins, including the first-ever measures to minimize bycatch mortality in the longline fisheries.

While NMFS set about developing the plans, we exhaustively researched various longline controls – culminating in our influential 1998 report, "Ocean Roulette: Conserving Swordfish, Sharks and Other Threatened Pelagic Fish in Longline-Infested Waters" –

and put forth specific recommendations for closing areas of the highest bycatch; areas that ultimately formed the basis for this summer's Final Rule.

We formed numerous alliances to achieve our goals. We joined with the Recreational Fishing Alliance and International Game Fish Association to produce a groundswell of public support urging NMFS to focus on the number one source of mortality for swordfish, billfish and sharks – longlines. We worked with our partners in the Ocean Wildlife Campaign, bringing the weight of major environmental groups to our common cause, and we acted as advisors to the national "Give Swordfish A Break" consumer campaign, attracting unprecedented media attention.

When, in June of 1999, NMFS continued to drag its feet, offering only a promise of enacting "large-and-effective" area closures sometime in the future, we filed suit in federal court, charging the agency with violating the SFA. As a result of our lawsuit, NMFS agreed to produce a Final Rule by a certain date – August 1, 2000. Meanwhile, we continued to analyze proposed area closures, make recommendations, and build support. Our efforts paid off. We call it a first step, but it's a giant leap, actually, one that will pay dividends for years to come. ■



NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL CONSIDERS DIVERSITY OF WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE RELIANT ON SEA HERRING

Sharing herring

by Pam Lyons Gromen,
Executive Director

The New England Fishery Management Council is poised to take groundbreaking action to better manage Atlantic sea herring for its ecological role as forage. Atlantic herring has been described as the linchpin holding together the food web in New England waters. Humpback whales, porpoises, seals, puffins, terns, tuna, striped bass, cod, pollock and haddock are just a few in the long list of ocean wildlife that feed on herring.

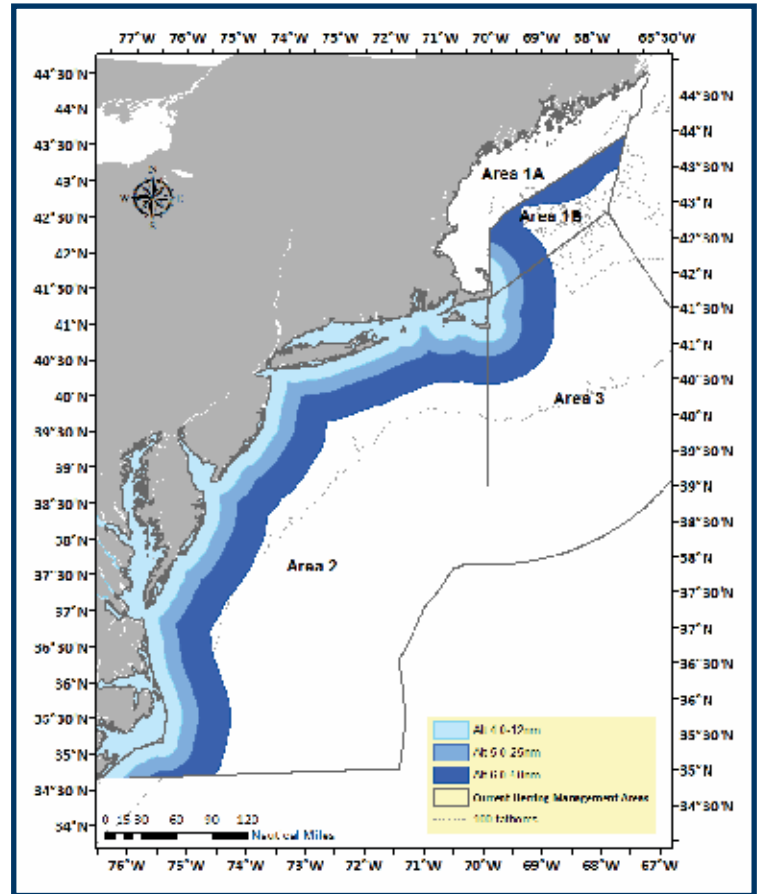
Three years in the making, Draft Amendment 8 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan responds to the calls of thousands of diverse stakeholders who urged the Council to consider the importance of herring to other users of the resource – the striped bass, tuna and cod fishermen who rely on a healthy forage base of herring to sustain their target predators and the eco-tourism businesses who count on the presence of herring schools to attract whales and seabirds. A healthy population of herring translates into healthy coastal communities.

Amendment 8 proposes major advances to the way herring are managed. Options in the plan, which will be voted on by the full Council in September, are designed to safeguard the herring forage base by preserving an abundance of herring in the water for predators and by protecting vulnerable inshore habitats and wildlife from concentrated industrial-scale fishing.

Mid-water trawl vessels are the largest vessels in the fishery, and they often work in pairs, towing a net, up to 200-feet long, between two vessels. Millions of herring can be quickly removed from a relatively small area, sweeping up other animals in the process. *Wild Oceans* testified and wrote in support of the most protective option for vulnerable river herring, shad, sharks and sea-birds, a buffer zone extending 50 nautical miles from shore in which mid-water trawling would be prohibited. (see map)

For safeguarding Atlantic herring's role as forage in the ecosystem, the most important element of Amendment 8 is the development of a catch control rule, a formulaic approach for setting annual catch levels. *Wild Oceans* is advocating for a control rule (Control Rule Alternative 2) that maintains biomass between 40% and 75% of an unfished population, ecological reference points that have been widely endorsed by the scientific community for managing forage fish stocks.


The status quo method of establish-





ing herring catch limits is proving too risky. An ongoing Atlantic herring assessment is painting a grim picture of a declining stock with poor recruitment, which could spell trouble well into the future for all who depend on an abundance of herring.


To conserve the prey base, fishery managers must shift their focus from maximizing yields to sharing the resource in a way that accounts for the vital ecological role of forage species. We are encouraged that the New England Council, through stakeholder outreach and through its management program, is moving in this direction. ■


Staff travel log


 Wild Oceans president Ken Hinman attended the Council Coordinating Committee on February 28th in **Washington, DC**. During the meeting, Ken talked with representatives of the Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic Councils about coordinating their efforts to protect bullet and frigate mackerel, an important prey fish for dolphin and wahoo among other highly migratory species, from increased commercial exploitation.

 On March 7th, *Wild Oceans* chair Tim Choate and Ken Hinman gave the Keynote Speech at the St. Mark's School Career Day in **Southborough, Massachusetts**. Afterward, they led two "classroom" sessions with a couple dozen students who signed up to talk about marine fish conservation, in particular future challenges in science and advocacy. Tim and Ken also met with faculty members to discuss integrating an ocean conservation component into the Southborough, Massachusetts high school's Sustainability Program, a curriculum that could serve as a model for other schools.


 The Pacific Fishery Management Council met in **Rohnert Park, California** from March 8-14. Our Pacific Program Director, Theresa Labriola provided the Council with input on ecosystem and highly migratory species topics. Specifically, she testified in support of developing a forage indicator and authorizing a deep-set buoy gear fishery.


 Theresa attended the Pacific Council meeting in **Portland, Oregon**, April 5-9, to participate in discussions on forage fish management and assessment.


 *Wild Oceans* Executive Director Pam Lyons Gromen traveled to **Montauk, New York** to attend a meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council from April 10-11. The Council initiated a rebuilding plan for Atlantic mackerel in response to a new stock assessment, which found Atlantic mackerel to be overfished with overfishing occurring. Pam asked for the Council to consider rebuilding options that safeguarded mackerel's role as prey and also spoke in opposition of increasing the river herring and shad catch cap in the mackerel fishery. Final decisions regarding mackerel rebuilding and the river herring and shad cap will occur at the August Council meeting in Virginia Beach.


 The Pacific Council's Highly Migratory Species Management Team held a meeting in **Long Beach, California**, April 25-27, and continued discussion on authorization of deep-set buoy gear (DSBG). Theresa expressed continued support for limiting access to the DSBG fishery and addressing potential conflict between DSBG boats and recreational boats in southern California.

 The Annual Meeting of the *Wild Oceans* Board of Directors was held April 28th in **San Diego, California**. The Sportfishing Association of California generously provided us meeting space at their headquarters. Board and staff reviewed progress in implementing the organization's Business Plan, adopted in 2017, including the establishment of a *Wild Oceans* Endowment. Director Tim Ervin gave a presentation on creating a Board-driven fund development plan. Following the meeting, *Wild Oceans* hosted a reception for our partners in southern California.

 From April 30 - May 3, Pam, as a Mackerel, Squid and Butterfish Advisory Panel member, participated in the Mid-Atlantic Council's Pelagics Workshop in **Gloucester, Massachusetts**. The workshop, held in collaboration with the European Union's Pelagic Advisory Council, was planned in order to share information and best management practices across U.S. and European pelagic and small-mesh fisheries. Ecosystem-based management and bycatch were the main topics of discussion.

 California Senator Ben Allen hosted a stakeholder meeting in **Long Beach, California** on May 16th to discuss his legislation, SB1017, to phase out drift gillnets. Theresa Labriola attended the meeting and conveyed our support for providing transition funds to drift gillnet fishermen and ending the permit program in 5 years.

 On May 29th, Theresa joined recreational fishermen and ocean conservationists on the steps of the California Capitol Building in **Sacramento** for a Rally to End Drift Gillnets. She subsequently met with Senators to share a message of broad support for Senate Bill (SB 1017) to end drift gillnets which the Senate passed 33-0.

 From June 8-12, Theresa attended the Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in **Spokane, Washington**. She participated in the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel as a substitute conservation member. She advocated for prioritization of research and authorization of low bycatch gear such as deep set buoy gear. ■



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