

**Wild  
Oceans**  
For the future of fishing

# The Horizon

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BIODIVERSITY GOAL MUST NOT DISENFRANCHISE OCEAN'S MOST PASSIONATE ADVOCATES

## Citizens of the Sea

by Theresa Labriola  
Pacific Program Director

A thirty-year quest to preserve ocean biodiversity from anthropogenic forces such as climate change has reached a crescendo with a call to conserve 30% of the oceans by 2030. Rich biodiversity is synonymous with a healthy ecosystem and allows a marine community to endure change without buckling.

Wild Oceans' work initially only focused on rebuilding stocks of tunas, billfish and swordfish, but soon turned towards protecting the open ocean ecosystem, making the ocean safe for a diversity of life. Apex predators couldn't return without plenty of forage fish or robust habitats. Conservation organizations and recreational fishermen agree in principle that it's a good idea to strengthen the fabric of our ocean ecosystem while minimizing damage caused by industrial development and exploitation. However, the proposed practice to safeguard biodiversity through strict area protections that eliminate all fishing is controversial.

It is shortsighted to think that excluding humans from 30% of our waters will not degrade, diminish or devalue the consensus to protect biodiversity. Marine protected areas or marine parks can play a vital role in safeguarding biodiversity. However, blanket policies that forbid fishing disconnect communities from the wild world we share and that we seek to preserve. By driving a wedge between citizens and the sea, we jeopardize a conservation ethic gained from direct experience in lieu of an ethic built on an intangible moral or intel-



lectual basis. We risk raising a generation disconnected from marine life, without a personal investment in that which we seek to preserve. We risk endangering our cultural connection to the oceans.

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## Building on MSA for a resilient fisheries future

Few organizations involved in marine fisheries management in the United States can say that they have been there from the beginning. But that is indeed the case with *Wild Oceans*.

*Wild Oceans* was founded in 1973 in response to the drafting of the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. *Wild Oceans* (then NCMC) officers and directors engaged with scientists and managers and testified before Congressional committees. We brought the ethic of conservation-minded recreational fishermen to the table and advocated for many provisions that would eventually become part of the nation's first law establishing a framework to manage domestic marine fisheries.

As it is now known, the Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) has been amended a number of times since its original passage in 1976. At each turn, we were there to provide our input. We helped shape this legislation not by razing and rebuilding the entire house as some advocated, but by making renovations based on modern fisheries science and proven management strategies.

During this evolution, our national investment in science-based management has yielded great gains. We've reduced bycatch, made overfishing the exception, not the rule, and increased quotas on rebuilt stocks while protecting essential fish habitat. As MSA turns 45, we are focused on maintaining these gains while building more resilient fisheries that support healthy ecosystems and fishing communities.

Legislation introduced this past July by Congressmen Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) and Ed Case (D-Honolulu) does just that by shifting us further away from traditional single-species management to make sure the needs of other wildlife and other fisheries are met. Sustaining America's Fisheries for the Future Act of 2021 would update, reauthorize and strengthen the MSA for the first time since 2006. It recognizes that oceans are warming, fish are moving, and managers do not have the adequate tools to address the consequences. However, as is the case with any legislative effort, it is imperative to remain engaged as it moves through Congress to ensure positive provisions are retained and detrimental language

is not inserted. This is a tall task with a bill nearly 200 pages in length.

*Wild Oceans* priorities will focus on:

- Incorporating climate science and associated adaptation strategies into management decisions;
- Making sure that necessary checks are in place to prevent the development of new fisheries that could be harmful to existing fisheries;
- Creating new tools and procedures for attending to shifting stocks;
- Strengthening essential fish habitat protection; and,
- Accounting for predator-prey relationships and addressing gaps in forage fish management.

By investing in science that supports ecosystem-based fishery management and giving managers the tools they need to act with precaution in the face of climate change, the Huffman-Case bill would help preserve the integrity of our ocean ecosystems and sustain fishing opportunities for future generations.

– Rob Kramer, 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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# Meeting the Challenge of a Shifting Prey Base

by Pam Lyons Gromen,  
Executive Director

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Unmanaged Forage Omnibus Amendment (UFOA) stands as a testament to the value of stakeholder engagement in our fishery management process. The amendment "prohibits the development of new and expansion of existing directed commercial fisheries on unmanaged forage species in mid-Atlantic federal waters until the Council has had an adequate opportunity to assess the scientific information relating to any new or expanded directed fisheries and consider potential impacts to existing fisheries, fishing communities, and the marine ecosystem." Sixteen taxa of forage species are conserved through a 1,700 pound combined possession limit.

Within the UFOA, the public is credited for bringing the issue of forage fish conservation to the Council's attention during a 2011 visioning initiative that involved extensive stakeholder outreach and identified management of forage fisheries as a key concern. Public support during the UFOA's development from 2015-2017 was no less remarkable. Over 21,000 petition signatures and 150 written letters from individuals and organizations, representing anglers, watershed stewards, scientists and environmentalists, were received along with over 600 poems, drawings and pledges from young ocean advocates.

Now the will of the Council and its constituents is being tested. NOAA's Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) is considering whether to green light an exempted fishing permit (EFP) to explore the development of a new high-volume fishery for Atlantic thread herring (*Opisthonema oglinum*), one of the species currently safeguarded by the UFOA possession limit.

Atlantic thread herring were included in the amendment because they, along with other herrings, are eaten by council-managed monkfish, bluefish, summer flounder, black sea bass and spiny dogfish as well as by protected whales, dolphins,

porpoises, seals and seabirds. Despite their ecological importance, very little is known about Atlantic thread herring in U.S. waters, and the status of the stock is uncertain.

When creating the UFOA, the Mid-Atlantic Council made it clear that fishery prohibitions for unmanaged forage fish were not indefinite. EFPs were chosen as the method by which the Council would consider allowing new fisheries or the expansion of existing fisheries. However, no specific criteria were outlined to evaluate EFP applications for consistency with the UFOA objective and with the Council's long-standing ecosystem policy, "to support the maintenance of an adequate forage base in the Mid-Atlantic to ensure ecosystem productivity, structure and function and to support sustainable fishing communities."

The EFP application filed by Lund's Fisheries out of Cape May, New Jersey calls for trip limits up to 100,000 pounds (nearly a 60-fold increase from the current possession limit) using purse seines that are 2,000 feet long and 180 feet high (roughly twice the size of a purse seine deployed by the Atlantic menhaden fishery) in federal waters from New York to Virginia. No at-sea monitoring of bycatch is proposed.

Alarmed by the scope of the requested Atlantic thread herring EFP, the potential for bycatch of feeding predators and other small pelagic fish (depleted river herring and shad among them), and the damaging precedent approval of the EFP would set, *Wild Oceans* was joined by the American Sportfishing Association, Coastal Conservation Association, Conservation Law Foundation, Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association, Gotham Whale, International Game Fish Association, Menhaden Defenders, National Audubon Society, Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association, Riverkeeper, Inc., Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership and the Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association in submitting a letter to the Mid-Atlantic Council's Ecosystem and Ocean Planning (EOP) Committee ahead of an October 4 meeting to review the EFP ap-

plication. In the letter, we opposed advancing the EFP application for further consideration and recommended the Committee turn its attention to developing standards for endorsing EFP applications for new or expanding forage fisheries. While committee members expressed mixed views about the merit of the Lund's Fisheries EFP, they did agree on the need to develop an EFP review policy/process, and that initiative is being considered as a potential 2022 priority. Ultimately, authority to approve or deny an EFP application resides with GARFO's Regional Administrator, who must determine that the purpose, design, and administration of the EFP are consistent with management objectives and the Magnuson-Stevens Act. A clear EFP policy would help ensure rigor and transparency when EFP applications are reviewed.

When creating the UFOA, the Mid-Atlantic Council, along with the thousands of stakeholders who weighed in, recognized that a pathway to ecologically-sustainable new fisheries must include strategies to improve our understanding of ecosystem impacts. This includes recognizing that climate change affects prey populations and their availability to predators.

Just 10 years ago, the Atlantic herring and Atlantic mackerel quotas were 91,200 mt and 46,779 mt, respectively. This year, the Atlantic herring quota was just 4,651 mt, and the mackerel fishery closed after landing 5,200 mt to avoid continued overfishing. Because of unexpectedly low productivity, rebuilding these overfished stocks will take time. It's possible that quotas will never reach the peak years of the past.

As fishermen seek opportunities to shift to new target species, like Atlantic thread herring, our fishery management programs must take into account that the changing composition of the forage base is affecting predators as well as existing forage fisheries. This is the forward-thinking, ecosystem approach to fisheries management that laid the foundation for the Unmanaged Forage Omnibus Amendment, an approach that should be upheld by NOAA Fisheries. ■

The current effort to protect biodiversity found the international spotlight in 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit. Government leaders signed the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and adopted the goal of conserving biological diversity and recognized that human activity is part of our ecosystems. Acknowledging that natural resources are not finite, they endorsed the philosophy of sustainable use guided by the precautionary principle.

To me, this represented a sea change in a philosophy from consumption to co-existence, from ignoring the impact of our actions to measuring our footprint. I naively thought the agreement represented the solution to protecting biodiversity, that countries would incorporate this goal wholesale into their resource management systems. Instead, species diversity continued to decline.

Nearly twenty years later, the parties to the CBD adopted specific targets to achieve the purpose of the Rio Earth Summit. “By 2020, at least ... 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved.”

Now, thirty years later, having missed our global goal again, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity released a draft 10-year strategy to halt and reverse species decline, and restore ecosystem services that are critical to humanity’s survival by protecting sites of particular importance for biodiversity and at least 30 percent of the sea. A 2021 Executive Order issued by President Biden echoes this sentiment with a “goal of conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030.”

Against the backdrop of missed opportunities to protect biodiversity, narrowly-focused and heavy-handed measures to strictly protect 30% of our oceans are gaining popularity.

This is reigniting a confusion about the meaning of the words “protect” and “conserve” that began nearly a century ago when preservation was interpreted as excluding human activity while conservation allowed latitude for human exploitation. But that’s far too rigid. Humans can benefit from preservation and preservation can benefit from humans.

**"If we start the conversation by calling for strict protections that exclude recreational fishermen and small-scale commercial fishermen, we close the door on creative solutions to preserve diverse ocean landscapes, to build biodiversity and foster values of stewardship in ordinary citizens who want to feel like they are making a real, tangible change."**

Strict preservation is not a silver bullet that will protect biodiversity. Guarding ocean areas from humans, including recreational fishing, can seem to offer great promise and an invitingly simple solution, but we need more than rules of exclusion. We need solutions that encourage and engage human involvement to identify and protect areas particularly important for biodiversity.

Some argue that the answer lies in laws such as the Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). Yet, our domestic fisheries law was not designed to build biodiversity. Its limitations are real and apparent. It relies on the concept of maximum sustainable yield which is a human invention meant to enable fisheries, not to bolster ecosystem resiliency. Even protections for essential fish habitat are limited in scope.

In order to meet not merely the letter, but the spirit of conserv-

ing 30% of our oceans by 2030, we should start at the landscape scale to further preserve the integrity of an ecosystem and build resilience in the face of climate change. We must identify ecologically diverse areas that are significant. For example the Northeast canyons and seamounts are unique and distinct, but equally important as Atlantic bluefin tuna spawning grounds in the Gulf of Mexico or the kelp forests of California. We can develop innovative, durable solutions to our most challenging ocean issues. Conservation decisions based on shared values will gain stakeholder support and stand a better chance of enduring into the future.

In marine conservation, we often shy away from talking about our values. However, recognizing our own values and societal values plays an important role in actions and decisions that lead to long-lasting ocean protection. When we focus on solving the problem, we often ignore what makes us care enough to take risk and sacrifice to solve the problem. Many recreational fishermen have a naturalistic value, a satisfaction, fascination, wonder and awe derived from direct contact with nature. The mental and physical appreciation associated with this heightened awareness and contact with nature is an ancient motivational force in the human relationship to the natural world. By incorporating this value into ocean protection plans, we deepen our bench of advocates willing to defend conservation.

If we consider humans as part of nature and not separate from it, our strategy to protect 30% of our oceans by 2030 can bend beyond the limitations of MSA and promote greater biodiversity. Consider this. If we allow sustainable commercial gear compatible with protected areas, we can tip the scales in favor of small-scale fisheries that target



## Ken Hinman Inducted into IGFA Hall of Fame

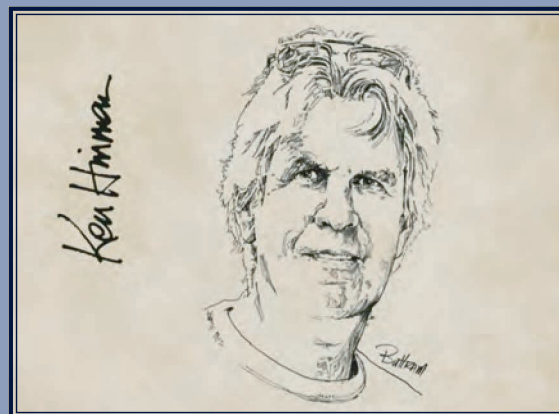
On September 11<sup>th</sup>, the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) held its 2021 Hall of Fame induction ceremony at the Johnny Morris Wonders of Wildlife National Museum & Aquarium in Springfield, Missouri. *Wild Oceans* staff, board members and friends cheered as Ken Hinman, our former president of 25 years and current member of our Board of Directors, was honored for a lifetime of achievements in the field of marine fisheries conservation.

In a special tribute video shown during the event, IGFA described Ken's gifted ability as a writer and passion for the ocean as a "potent combination that would later allow him to leave an indelible mark on fisheries conservation in the United States." Indeed, Ken's revelational, thought-provoking and well-researched publications shaped *Wild Oceans* mission and underpin the major conservation initiatives and victories in our 48-year history.

When invited to speak, Ken reflected on the work of fellow inductee Ernest Hemingway whose masterpiece, *The Old Man in the Sea*, was published in 1952, the year Ken was born. "Maybe that's why I spent a good part of my life writing about the ocean, about fish and about man's intimate struggle with the natural world, with nature and with his own nature, which is really what that great book is about and what conservation is about," Ken said.

IGFA Hall of Fame inductees are honored in a museum exhibit with a portrait (shown above) and a small collection of items that help tell the story of their achievements. For his display, Ken chose three of his groundbreaking publications to showcase alongside his *Wild Oceans* ball cap:

- *Conserving America's Fisheries* captures the proceedings of the 1993 symposium Ken organized on the



Magnuson-Stevens Act, which led to forming the Marine Fish Conservation Network and outlining its agenda for reforming the Act in 1996.

- *Ocean Roulette* (1998) is an in-depth study of the devastating impact of longlines on big fish (e.g., swordfish, tunas, billfish and sharks) and proposes remedies, including area closures that were eventually implemented by NOAA Fisheries.
- *Resource Sharing: The Berkeley Criterion* (2015) builds off two decades of work to protect the prey base by suggesting a more balanced, natural and far wiser approach to managing forage fisheries, an approach grounded in scientific consensus. ■

healthy stocks with selective gear. We need to break free of the barriers of MSA that prevent us from shifting commercial fisheries from industrial to sustainable.

For example, we support permanent protections of spawning grounds, including those for Atlantic bluefin tuna in the Gulf of Mexico. However, we also support allowing recreational fishing access as well as commercial access to use greenstick and buoy gear to avoid bluefin tuna, sea turtles, sharks, and other unintended catch while more efficiently targeting swordfish and other species of tuna. We can turn the tide on industrial gear. Protecting bluefin spawning grounds while allowing selective gear incentivizes fishermen to use this gear inside and outside of protected areas instead of relying on indiscriminate longline

gear. Similarly, protecting spawning grounds in the Gulf of Maine or the Kona Gyre or coastal California by allowing selective gear, like deep-set buoy gear, to target valuable species while excluding indiscriminate gear like longlines can encourage fishermen to invest in new gear.

If we start the conversation by calling for strict protections that exclude recreational fishermen and small-scale commercial fishermen, we close the door on creative solutions to preserve diverse ocean landscapes, to build biodiversity and foster values of stewardship in ordinary citizens who want to feel like they are making a real, tangible change.

*Wild Oceans* former president and current board member, Ken Hinman, often says that *Wild Oceans* was founded with the head of a conservationist and the heart of a fish-

erman. Indeed, I have a deep-seated commitment to ocean conservation guided by a lifelong connection to the ocean as a recreational fisherman that book learning cannot replace.

Excluding recreational fishermen from 30% of our oceans will strain connections for future generations and hinder the growth of conservation ethics from experience. Further restricting sustainable commercial gear will only grow our dependence on indiscriminate industrial gear that has caused the decline of many large marine predators, sea turtles and birds that are a symbol for the biodiversity we wish to preserve. I believe by taking an inclusionary approach we can find new common ground that yields enduring protections for ocean biodiversity. ■

# Turning the Tide

## Wild Oceans News and Activities

### Large Marine Fish Conservation: Strategies that Rebuild and Sustain Big Fish Populations

- *Wild Oceans* Pacific Program Director Theresa Labriola attended international scientific meetings to review stock assessments and conservation advice for Pacific bluefin tuna, north Pacific striped marlin and blue marlin. She provided comments on the expedited striped marlin assessment scheduled for 2022, asking scientists to consider adjusting the stock assessment and rebuilding plan to account for uncertainty in striped marlin catch and discards. Recent catch may be significantly above what is reported, and scientists should consider including the highest possible value of mortality that includes unreported catch and discards. Additionally, she highlighted the need for further research analyzing how well measures such as release of live marlin, use of circle hooks and other gear modifications can reduce catch and mortality and help achieve the rebuilding goal.
- Theresa participated as a member of the U.S. Delegation in a series of international management meetings focused on rebuilding Pacific bluefin tuna Pacific-wide. The stock is projected to have reached an initial international rebuilding target of 7% of its historic, unfished spawning biomass. Theresa encouraged the U.S. delegation to prioritize conservation over increasing catch limits in the east. Managers agreed to a 15% increase ocean-wide as well as a revised harvest strategy to increase spawning stock biomass to 20% in the next decade. These recommendations must be adopted by both the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the Inter American

Tropical Tuna Commission.

- Theresa was reappointed to the Permanent Advisory Committee (PAC) to advise the U.S. Commissioners for the WCPFC. She attended the PAC meeting from October 13-15 where she worked with other members of the PAC to advance recommendations on developing a rebuilding plan for north Pacific striped marlin. She voiced support for the Pacific bluefin tuna recommendations and for advancing protections for endangered oceanic whitetip shark.
- In September, *Wild Oceans* President Rob Kramer attended the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel meeting to hear how NOAA Fisheries would address the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee's request to re-close the bluefin tuna spawning ground Gear Restricted Areas (GRAs) to longline fishing in the Gulf of Mexico. NOAA fisheries is still reviewing public comment received over the summer, including comments from *Wild Oceans*. A public decision will be announced soon.
- Along with partners from IGFA, The Pew Charitable Trusts and the Ocean Foundation, Rob met with the new head of NOAA Fisheries, Janet Coit, to convince the agency to reverse their decision that reopened the bluefin tuna spawning grounds to longline fishing in the Gulf of Mexico. Also in attendance at the meeting were NOAA Fisheries Deputy Assistant Administrator Sam Rauch and the Division Chief for the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Management Division, Mr. Randy Blankinship. Despite compelling input from all four groups, NOAA Fisheries still does not seem inclined to re-close the areas.

### Sustainable Fishing Practices: Selective Gear that is Compatible with Ecosystem Health

- Theresa tracked two Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) applications to use short shallow set longlines in coastal California waters. She organized a coalition letter with IGFA, the American Sportfishing Association and Coastal Conservation Association California, asking the Council to oppose the applications as presented, and she called on the Council to impose restrictions that would protect endangered species and non-target species such as striped marlin. Ultimately, the Council forwarded the EFPs to NMFS for final consideration with restrictions on line length, soak time, hook depth and bycatch.
- As our oceans change in response to climate change, we expect EFPs will play a more common role in fisheries management as fishermen ask for permission to try new gear to target new species in new areas. Theresa has been advocating for the development of Gear Performance Indicators (GPIs) for highly migratory fishing gear. GPIs are one way to express our collective performance thresholds, requirements or expectations for a fishing gear. In order for the public to have confidence in management decisions based on EFP research, the precise aims and objectives against which those results will be assessed must be developed. The Council tentatively scheduled a discussion of GPIs in June 2022.

### Ecosystems: Food Webs, Habitat and Biodiversity

- *Wild Oceans* Executive Director Pam Lyons Gromen attended the August 2-5 and the October 18-21 webinar



meetings of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), where she continued to follow the actions of the Management Boards for Atlantic Striped Bass, Atlantic Menhaden and Shad & River Herring.

- ➔ The Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board has nearly completed a draft amendment for public comment. As we reported in the Spring Issue (No. 165), the amendment holds promise for strengthening conservation, not only for rebuilding the stock but for maintaining the stock at a healthy level once restored. Encouragingly, when the Board met in October, it added additional options to establish a formal plan to rebuild striped bass in the required 10-year time frame (by 2029) and options to protect strong year classes (2015, 2017 & 2018) in the Chesapeake Bay through a recreational maximum size or slot limit.
- ➔ After a 2020 stock assessment found that American shad remain depleted on a coastwide basis, the Shad & River Herring Management Board tasked its Technical Committee (TC) with identifying potential paths forward to improve shad stocks along the coast. At the October meeting, the TC reported on methods to evaluate bycatch in state coastal waters where shad stocks mix. Mixed stock catch has been documented in the Delaware Bay and includes shad from the neighboring Hudson River system where shad are depleted. A motion was approved to incorporate mixed-stock catch evaluation into the Delaware River Basin Coop Sustainable Fishery Management Plan. The revised plan will rely on genetic sampling and tagging to determine mixed stock catch composition and reduce impacts of out-of-basin harvest.
- Pam spearheaded a Herring Alliance letter supporting the new research partnership between ASMFC and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Eastern Ecological Science Center to create a genetic database of American shad, alewife and blueback herring stocks. Founded in 2007 by The Pew Charitable Trusts, the Herring Alliance includes over 100 organizations representing

nearly 2.5 million individuals working to protect and restore ocean wildlife and ecosystems along the Atlantic coast of the United States through precautionary and science-based management of forage fish. Tom O'Connell, Director of the USGS Eastern Ecological Science Center thanked the Herring Alliance for its support, which will help sustain the project's funding.

- The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened August 9-12 to review the results of a 2021 Atlantic mackerel stock assessment which found that the stock biomass is only 24% of rebuilding target despite rebuilding measures enacted in 2019. Because the stock will not rebuild by the original target date of 2023, a new rebuilding plan must be developed. On October 15<sup>th</sup>, NOAA Fisheries closed the mackerel fishery for the remainder of the year through Emergency Action, citing the need to reduce overfishing and avoid associated negative biological impacts. Mackerel productivity has been unexpectedly low in recent years, and the Council is considering 10-year rebuilding plan options, the maximum rebuilding period allowed under current law. Alternatives are under development and will be reviewed in April 2022 for final approval.
- The New England Fishery Management Council voted overwhelmingly (14-2) to maintain its harvest control rule in the rebuilding plan for Atlantic herring, which was finalized on September 28<sup>th</sup> as Framework Adjustment 9 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan. The control rule, which was developed over three years with extensive stakeholder input, sets fishing mortality according to biomass, reducing the rate of fishing when biomass declines in recognition of the importance of herring to the food web. Ahead of the meeting, a diverse group of scientists and organizations that included *Wild Oceans* distributed a letter to Council members, outlining a compelling case for selecting the control rule over other strategies for rebuilding the stock. Pam spoke at the Council meeting in support of the motion to select the control rule as the basis for the rebuilding plan.
- In our Spring 2020 newsletter (Issue No.

162), we reported on our efforts to help establish Florida's newest aquatic preserve, the first in 32 years. On September 28<sup>th</sup>, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection hosted the first of a series of meetings seeking recommendations on the management plan being developed for the new Nature Coast Aquatic Preserve, which holds the largest seagrass meadow in the entire Gulf of Mexico (about 400,000 acres). Rob attended the meeting and provided recommendations on management priorities, including establishing baseline data on habitat and fauna, thorough upstream water quality monitoring efforts on the significant freshwater flow into the reserve, and contingencies for climate-related impacts.

### Climate Change: Resilient Ecosystems and Fishing Communities

- On August 30<sup>th</sup>, Rob and Pam participated in the first kickoff webinar workshop for the East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning Initiative. Fishery managers and stakeholders attending the workshops were encouraged to think about the factors that could shape the world of East Coast fishing by 2040 in order to better prepare for the challenges and opportunities ahead. Partners collaborating in the initiative include NOAA Fisheries, the ASMFC and the New England, Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils. Following the workshop, *Wild Oceans* completed an online survey, providing a number of suggestions for initiative objectives, focus areas, actions, tools and strategies.
- The Pacific Fishery Management Council is finalizing the Climate and Communities Initiative to help the Council decide how to best protect fisheries and fishing communities in the face of climate change. Theresa has participated in the process for the past two and a half years. She attended the Pacific Council's September discussion of the Initiative and provided joint written comments to the Council on next steps that can be taken in the short term and the long term. The Council will consider a suite of next steps in the spring. ■



Wild Oceans Board of Directors Chairman Tim Choate proudly watches his grandson and future angler present a donation to president Rob Kramer.

## For the future of fishing...

It's our vision, our core belief, that future generations deserve to inherit a healthy ocean and experience the thrill of fishing. For nearly 50 years, we have been working to make sure our marine fishery resources are managed and fished responsibly.

By making a gift to *Wild Oceans*, you are contributing to a vibrant future for tomorrow's fishermen.



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

— Wild Oceans Chair  
Tim Choate

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