

The Horizon

FOR THE FUTURE OF FISHING

Pelagic Predators

Detangling the Future of Billfish from Industrial Fishing

By Theresa Labriola

Over fifty years ago, the seasoned, offshore recreational fishermen who chased swordfish, bluefin tuna, marlin and sailfish in the Atlantic noticed a change in the ocean. The largest fish were disappearing, and this shift coincided with an influx of foreign fishing vessels moving closer to shore. A pair of these big-game fishermen, Frank Carlton and Chris Weld, founded *Wild Oceans* to focus on reversing this trend. Carlton recognized, that “lacking more effective conservation and management, the future for billfishes could be one of depleted fisheries and lost opportunities.” They understood the need to limit destructive international fishing and to ensure that domestic fisheries were held to a higher standard of conservation. The future of fishing was on the line.

For fifty years, *Wild Oceans* has been asking: **where should we focus, why does it matter, and what is on the line?** With the support of our members, we focus on protecting pelagic predators, recognizing their importance as keystone species, which maintain balance and diversity in marine ecosystems. More specifically, we identify the opening—the major issue that hasn’t caught the headlines in the conservation and management of marine fish and their habitats. In these gaps, our small organization finds an opportunity to have a big impact, stop the overexploitation of billfish, tunas, and sharks, and avert lasting negative impacts on the open-ocean ecosystem.

Each year we refocus. This year, our advocacy targets the conservation of under-managed stocks such as billfish and specifically North Pacific striped marlin. Industrial longliners have depleted the striped marlin stock, and management measures meant to reduce catch and increase the spawning stock have failed. The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission adopted a new measure in 2024, but the U.S. has made no plans to reduce their catch which reached a 35 year high of 642 mt in 2025. Without intervention, the new measure likely fails and the striped marlin spawning stock continues to spiral into unrecoverable territory.

Too often, nations use one tool, catch limits, to curb overfishing. They seem to abandon any hope of minimizing the catch of secondary target species such as marlins or sharks. We are giving them the means. We are building partnerships with scientists to improve our understanding of spawning grounds, juvenile habits and bycatch hotspots. Through these partnerships we aim to detangle the future of billfish from industrial fishing and give managers tools to meet their obligations and ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory species.

Our initial work on the Kona Project resulted in the identification and cataloging of larval billfish samples and a novel oceanographic circulation model to estimate patterns of larval dispersal and connectivity. This year, we will uncover larval billfish habitat characteris-

tics off West Hawaii. This baseline will provide more accurate spawning and recruitment data that leads to improved stock assessments and modeling. Ultimately, this will help us better understand the impacts of changing ocean conditions on preferred larval habitat and predict billfish spawning conditions.

We are also collaborating with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution to identify and characterize billfish habitat utilization in the Pacific. This project will identify bycatch risk “hotspots” for billfish where they experience the greatest susceptibility to catch by the industrial longline fleets. This information will help us to advocate for protection of spawning grounds and the spatial management of longline fisheries to minimize billfish catch.

Beyond billfish, we will continue to press for sustainable, long-term management of Atlantic and Pacific bluefin and the adoption of harvest strategies and more sustainable gear, such as circle-hooks. Decades of experience has taught us that our success is never final, and we must protect every conservation victory. Your support and our persistence prevents the plunder of our public commons.

Our blueprint for protecting pelagic predators will always echo the plan laid out by our founders more than fifty years ago: to adopt effective conservation and management to ensure a future for billfishes and tunas. With every step we take to rebuild striped marlin, we uncover a clearer path that ensures billfish stocks don’t falter. Every habitat secret we uncover is a challenge to regulatory inaction. We build on our success year after year, taking the lessons we learn in the Pacific and applying them in the Atlantic and the Gulf to ensure fishing opportunities for future generations. The recreational fishermen of fifty years ago understood that fishing in wild oceans, where sharks, marlins and tunas roam, requires us to fish conservatively, to avoid indiscriminate gears that harm other species, and to preserve open-ocean habitat and the prey base they need to survive.

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Forage for the Future: Comparing Atlantic Tuna and Forage Fishing Trends

By Zane Ruzicka



As I prepared to attend the bi-annual meeting of the NGO Tuna Forum, a coalition that advocates for more sustainable management of industrial tuna fisheries, I recalled a story I was told by a Cape Cod fisherman two years ago. The story goes that the world once envied the large, fatty Atlantic bluefin tuna from the cold waters of Cape Cod through the Gulf of Maine. However, with declining prey abundance, our tuna not only became less plentiful, but also skinny and misshapen. The world no longer wanted our tuna and looked for other, “higher quality” sources, including farm-raised tunas.

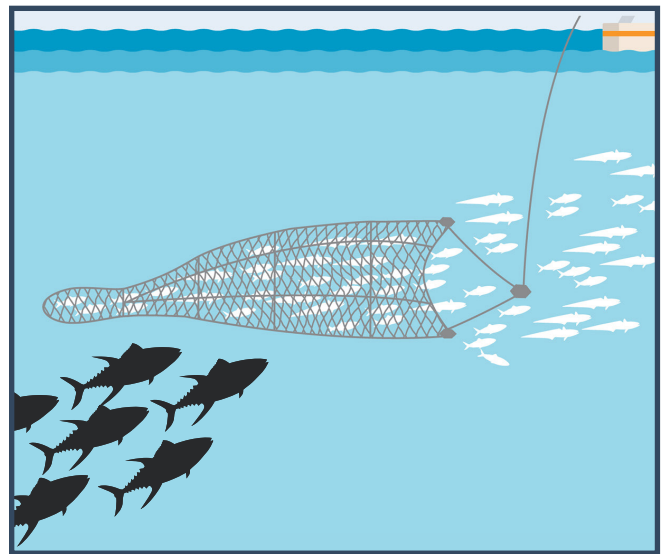
Indeed, a study conducted in 2007 (Golet et al.) looking at the quality grades of Atlantic bluefin tuna from 1991 to 2004 found fewer New England tuna graded better than a C+. Declines in grades during these fourteen years were due to highly significant decreases in the fat and oil content and shape of bluefin tuna, corroborating the observations of fishermen.

Migrating bluefin tuna are relatively skinny when they arrive in New England and then add bulk while feeding on nutrient-dense forage fish, including herring. The authors stated that “given that northern bluefin tuna spend up to five months on the feeding grounds, a decline in somatic condition intuitively points to changes in the forage base and energy transfer within the Gulf of Maine.” However, the authors turned away from a prey abundance explanation, citing historically high Atlantic herring abundance.

I was interested in learning more about this “intuitive” cause and the authors’ counterpoint, so I graphed scaled Atlantic forage fish landings (Atlantic herring and Atlantic mackerel) vs Atlantic bluefin tuna landings. I scaled the values because, by weight (metric tons), forage fish landings are more than ten times larger than tuna landings, and I was interested in a visual comparison of trends. I included Atlantic mackerel because the authors identified this species as another critical component of the tuna diet, and mackerel are caught in the same manner as Atlantic herring (primarily midwater trawls). I was also interested in understanding how the real dollar value of tuna would change during this time, which I assumed would be a proxy for the gradings that the researchers in 2007 had used to evaluate the fat content of tunas. Lastly, I graphed the retrospective trends in Atlantic herring and Atlantic bluefin tuna spawning stock biomass, which the researchers at the time may not have been able to access.

These graphs showed relatively unremarkable and unsustainable Atlantic herring abundance (though a local maximum

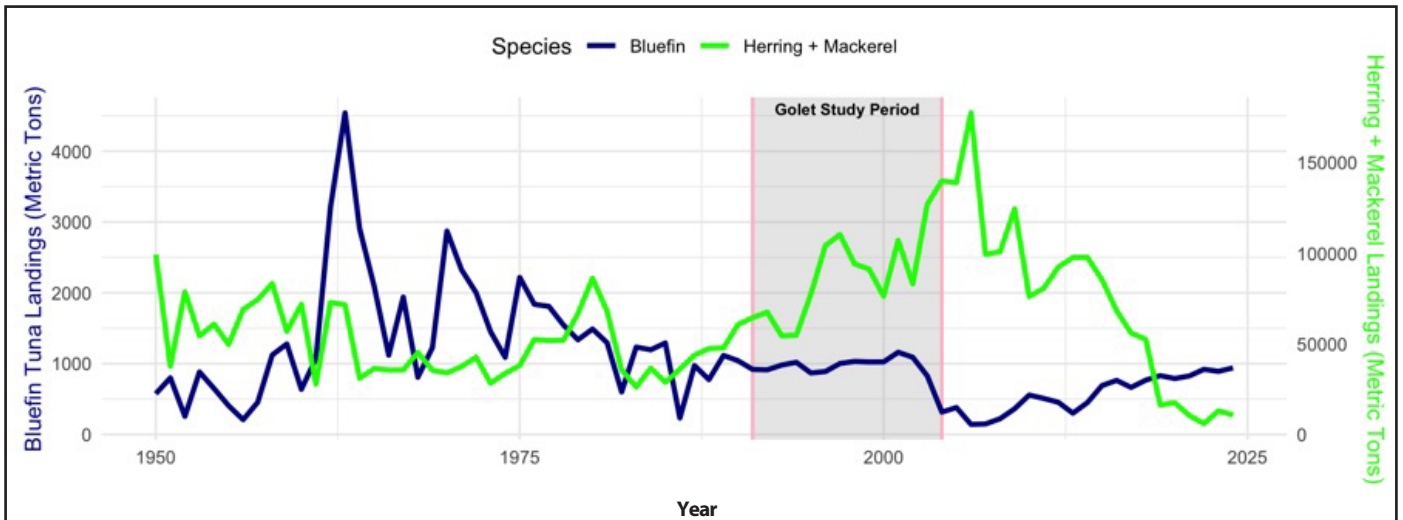
was achieved during the study period), strongly aligned trend lines of bluefin tuna and herring abundance, an inverse relationship between Atlantic forage fish landings and Atlantic bluefin tuna landings, and an inverse relationship between Atlantic forage fish landings and bluefin tuna value. In fact, during the study period, Atlantic forage fish landings were at historic highs. Moreover, just after the study period concluded, Atlantic forage fish landings reached a record high while bluefin tuna landings hit record lows, coupled with a continually falling dollar value.



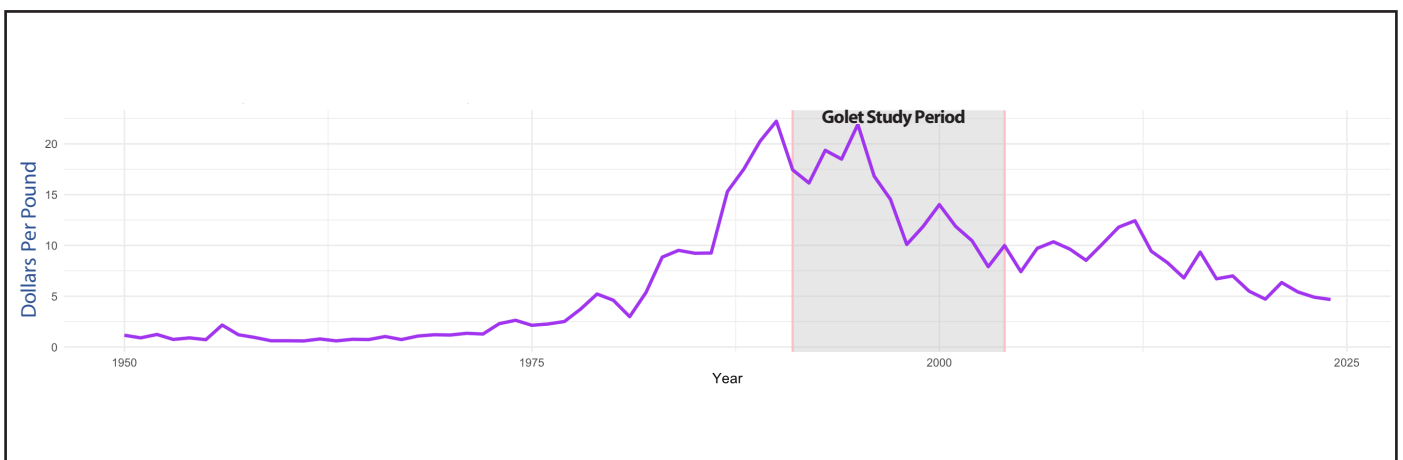
This could indicate that the large extraction of forage fish in the Gulf of Maine and George’s Bank represents a more significant factor in the decline of quality and landings of Atlantic bluefin tuna than previously defined. The massive increase of forage fish fisheries led by midwater trawl vessels from the mid 90s to early 2000s may have outcompeted Atlantic bluefin tuna. Notably, other factors, such as the emergence of the farm-raised tuna supply or a decline in the quality of Atlantic forage, could impact tuna value and quality.

These trends demonstrate the need for ecosystem approaches in fishery management. Accounting for forage fish in the management of culturally, ecologically, and economically valuable ocean predators should be the norm, not the exception. Unfortunately, we have seen several steps backwards in this area as the New England and Mid-Atlantic Councils and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission approve higher quotas for forage fish fisheries, even in the

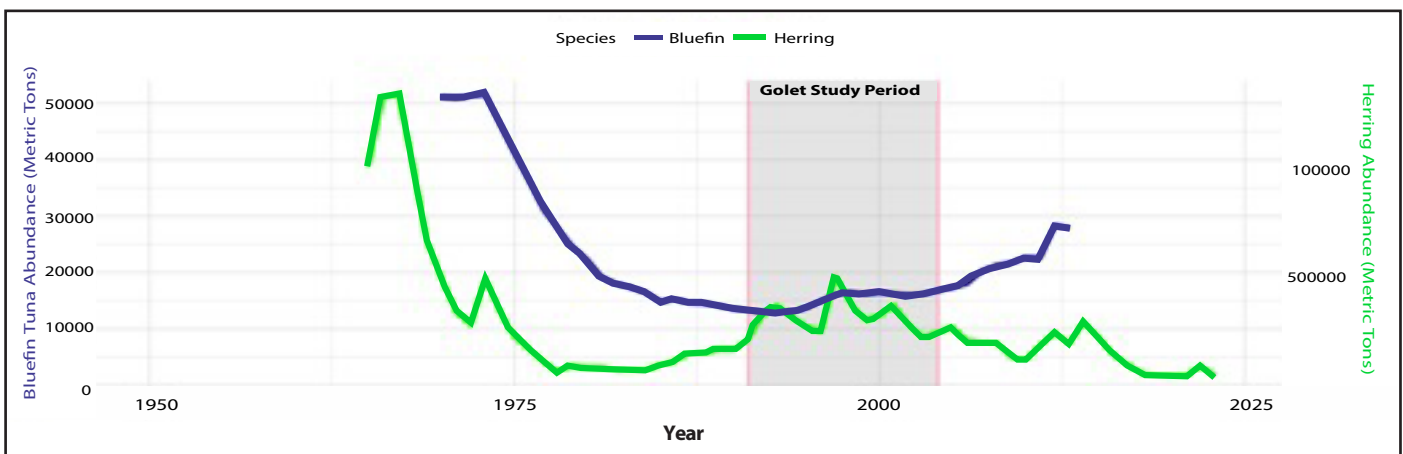
Atlantic Bluefin Tuna vs Combined Herring and Mackerel Landings



Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (2025 Real Dollars Per Pound)



Atlantic Bluefin Tuna vs Atlantic Herring Abundance



face of dire on-the-water realities and concerning science. Management processes and decisions must begin to reflect that protecting fishing communities is synonymous with forage fish conservation.

The first step to this is eliminating industrial fishing gear, such as midwater trawl, and fish uses, such as reduction, which will never be compatible with an ecosystem approach due to their high bycatch, large localized depletion, and massive extraction of ocean nutrients from domestic waters. Simultaneously, we must learn about and present the ecological and economic ties between forage fish and ocean predators, like billfishes, tunas, sharks, whales, striped bass,

and cod, that resonate with the broader public.

In recent years, we have seen the modest return of Atlantic bluefin tuna as both the Atlantic mackerel and herring midwater trawl fleets have not been fishing. These gains will evaporate if we don't take immediate steps to curb the industrial scale catch of Atlantic forage. It is time for fishery management decision makers to conserve forage species for the future of fishing.

Golet et al., "Decline in condition of Thunnus thynnus in the Gulf of Maine", Fishery Bulletin, 105(3), 2007, 390-395.

Data sourced from NOAA Fisheries StockSMART and NOAA Fisheries Landings Database.

Ocean Honor Roll

Wild Oceans recognizes the enduring commitment of the foundations, companies, groups, and individuals who support our work. Your generosity allows us to continue our work to keep the oceans wild and to achieve a vibrant future for fishing. THANK YOU!

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DALE SCHROEDER
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SKIP SMITH
ALIX THORNE
WILL TOMLINSON
PETER & ANDREA TRUSLOW
WEST PALM BEACH FISHING CLUB



A Changing Seascape

New Leadership Reaffirms a Steady Course

By Theresa Labriola

This winter, Rob Kramer, *Wild Oceans'* President, stepped down from the role he held for the past six years to pursue a new opportunity with a familiar face, *Fish Florida*. Rob has reassumed the role of Executive Director, a position he held from 1998-2003 after co-founding the nonprofit organization. The work of *Fish Florida*, to promote public awareness and encourage the protection of marine fisheries and coastal habitat, echoes that of *Wild Oceans*, with a focus on education.

The *Wild Oceans'* Board has entrusted me with the helm and remains steadfast in its mission to achieve a vibrant future for fishing by building coalitions and engaging in marine fisheries management using science, law and ecosystem-based solutions.

My early on-the-water experiences fishing in Rhode Island sparked a conservation ethic that led me to *Wild Oceans* and has guided my career protecting our shared oceans, the top predators and their smallest prey. I gathered inspiration from Susan Albright Reed, Rachel Carson, and Dr. Jane Goodall who understood, "You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

As the seascape changes, I began to reflect on my thirteen years with *Wild Oceans* and *Wild Oceans'* fifty-three year commitment to preserving a thriving

marine ecosystem and to consider what kind of difference I want *Wild Oceans* to make. I realized that *Wild Oceans* has made a history of deciding this by actively considering where to focus, why it matters, and what is on the line? In other words, the what, the why and the consequences.

Wild Oceans' first President, Ken Hinman, led our pioneering work that focused on protecting tunas, sharks and billfish, the lions and tigers of the sea. He then widened *Wild Oceans'* view to include forage fish. "Conserving an abundant reserve of forage fish, and with it the predator fish and associated commercial and recreational fisheries that depend on them, is sound environmental and economic policy. It's a win-win for all of us." He understood that forage mattered and the future of fishing depended on conserving the ocean's prey base.

Rob Kramer shined a spotlight on billfish research and sought to improve the understanding of billfish nursery grounds, specifically our understanding of the Kona Gyre eddy system. "By researching and understanding gaps in our knowledge of billfish history, we



Wild Oceans' former Pacific Programs Director and new President, Theresa Labriola.

can advance more successful domestic and international management strategies to protect and rebuild marlins." He understood that knowledge generates new opportunities and without this knowledge we are likely to repeat mistakes of the past. (continued on pg. 6)

"The sea, which has no country of its own, belongs to all who listen to it, here and there where the sun rises and sets." - Giovanni Verga (translated from Italian).

Like Ken and Rob, I was drawn to conserving the charismatic life of the ocean and to protecting the ocean commons that belongs to all of us. I focus on connecting the dots between science and management, between our ever-expanding understanding of marine fish habitat, spawning and nursery grounds and new opportunities to maximize the long-term integrity of our open ocean ecosystems. I am always pursuing a more sustainable solution because opportunities to change the industrial fishing status quo that seemed impossible just a few years ago, can now minimize the impact of industrial fishing on our vulnerable ocean predators. In the 20th century, humanity demonstrated we can dominate and indeed overfish the ocean as the apex predator. Our challenge in the 21st century is to prove we can co-exist as a predator in the ocean ecosystem and restore balance with innovation and restraint.



Wild Oceans' small but nimble staff including (right to left) former president Rob Kramer, Theresa Labriola, and Zane Ruzicka.

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.

Officers and Staff:

- Stephanie Choate, Co-Chair
- Peter Truslow, Co-Chair
- Tim Ervin, Vice Chairman
- Theresa Labriola, President
- Zane Ruzicka, Atlantic Policy Director

Board of Directors:

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- Peter Truslow (St. Petersburg, FL)
- Will Tomlinson (Nassau, Bahamas)

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- Stanley Arkin (New York, NY)
- John Heyer (Sedona, AZ)



I am Wild Oceans

Why Marine Policy?

By Zane Ruzicka



By the time I was in the 5th grade, I had already moved six times due to my dad's military service. When we relocated from Atlanta, Georgia to a small town called Seaford in Virginia, I thought I had already learned not to get too attached to any given place. However, while my family unload-

ed all our boxes into our new house, the creek peaking from my backyard caught my 10-year-old brain's attention. That summer while I waited for school to start, I spent hours wading in the shallow creek waters with a butterfly net, catching all the little fish and crustaceans that were taking refuge in the brackish waters between the York River and Chesapeake Bay. I could not help but fall in love with the marine ecosystem in my backyard.

I quickly found community in Scouting America with others who had a similar interest in exploring our local wilderness. My troop camped nearly every other weekend, exposing me to activities like backpacking and fishing as well as service like forestry management and beach cleanups. On one outing, while camping near a lake, some other Scouts and I put together makeshift rods with wire and nylon string and used our hotdogs as bait. We had a keen interest in the bass that lurked just where the water got dark. The vast majority of our hotdog bait fell off our un-barbed hooks, but that day we swear we caught and released a 15-pound largemouth bass. As always, on the way out from camp, we ensured everything looked ex-

actly as we left it so the next campers could enjoy the nature and camaraderie built within it, just as we had.

While the bass story may (or may not) be true, the values of environmental stewardship, service to community, and leadership in the face of hard problems I learned while scouting ring just as true today as when I was first exposed to them. That is why I decided to pursue an education and experiences tackling environmental policy problems with a people-centered, resource-informed, and evidenced-based approach.

At *Wild Oceans*, I saw an organization that was serving others by funding needed research to fill science gaps, while also providing coastal communities with advocacy leadership at the local, national, and international levels. Graciously, former *Wild Oceans* President Rob Kramer answered my cold email and gave me a shot to get involved. Now as a part of *Wild Oceans*, I help empower coastal community leaders in fishery management issues by educating about the web of fishery laws, organizing for management meetings, and sorting through the best available science. In this work, I help ensure the voices of conservation-minded users of marine resources are provided the proper weight in a system geared towards commerce.

Within my efforts, I am not just looking at a single species or the short-term consequences of a quota. Rather, I am working to push the entire marine sector towards an ecosystem-based approach – one which looks to the long-term, considering the intricate levers between humans, resources, and the environment. In this way, we can have balance between food supply, recreation, and ecosystem longevity within our management regimes. I hope my work demonstrates that an empowered and engaged public brings about the best decisions in the face of hard problems. United, we can collaborate and innovate, understand all needs and perspectives, and rise-up to overcome challenges.

The continued existence of marine constituents for the betterment of our communities, governance, and ecosystems is why I support the future of fishing.

I am Wild Oceans.

OCEAN TRIVIA

Question 1

True or False, 407 Lincoln Rd. Suite 6H, PMB 7216, Miami Beach, Florida, 33139 is *Wild Oceans'* new mailing address?

- A. TRUE
- B. FALSE

Question 2

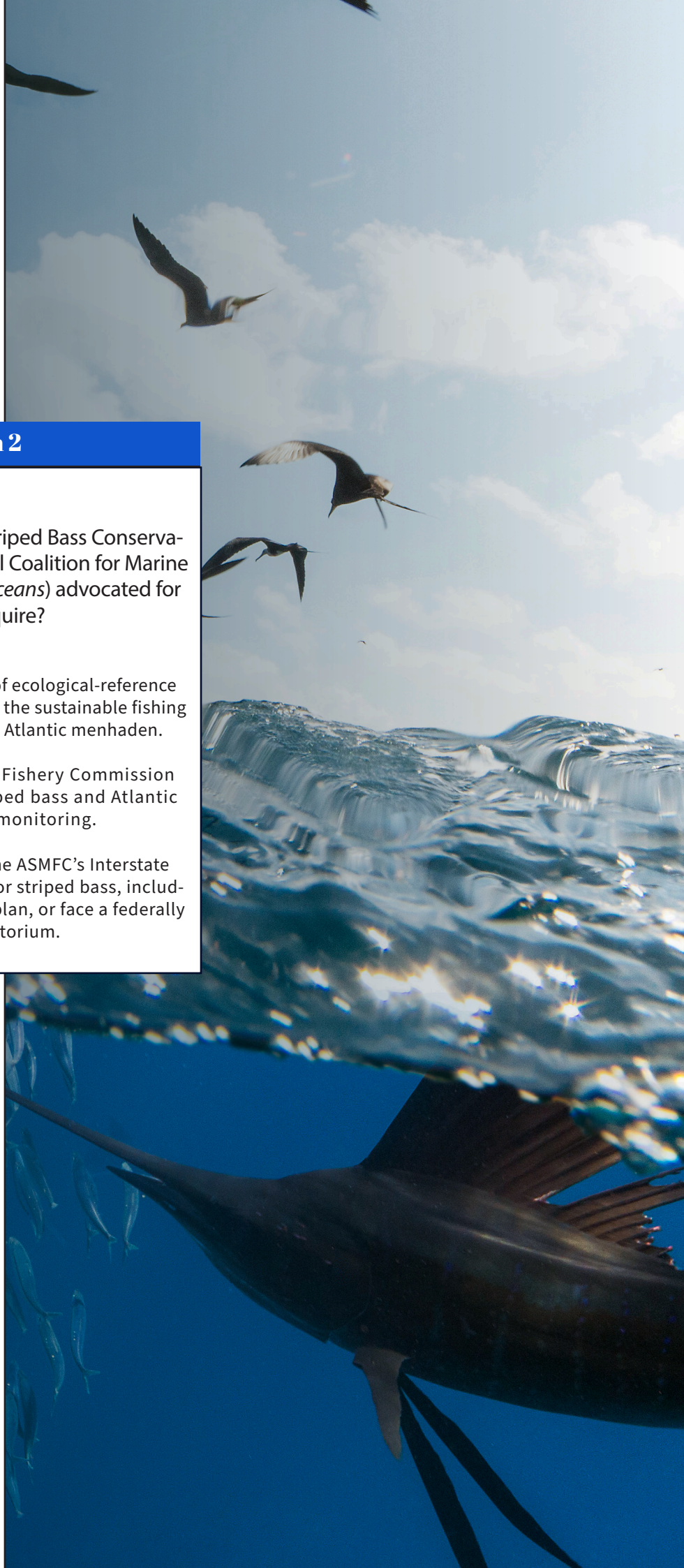
What did the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act, which the National Coalition for Marine Conservation (now *Wild Oceans*) advocated for in 1984, require?

- A. Creation of the system of ecological-reference points which is used to ensure the sustainable fishing of striped bass and its prey, Atlantic menhaden.
- B. Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission to publicly report both striped bass and Atlantic menhaden quota monitoring.
- C. States to implement the ASMFC's Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for striped bass, including the 55% catch reduction plan, or face a federally imposed moratorium.

Question 3

During the 2025 IGFA Great Marlin Race, how far did the winning satellite-tagged striped marlin travel?

- A. 2,955 NM
- B. 3,116 NW
- C. 1,833 NM
- D. 5,771 NM



Ocean Prey

Atlantic Herring

■ From September to December 2025, Atlantic Policy Director Zane Ruzicka and Roger Fleming from Blue Planet Strategies attended two full New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) meetings (Sept 23-25; Dec 2-4) and an Executive Committee meeting (Nov 13) as they advocated for prioritization of continued work on Atlantic herring Amendment 10 in 2026. *Wild Oceans* revived the Herring Alliance, a group of more than 50 representing commercial and recreational fishermen, charter boat captains, Herring Wardens, Indigenous Tribes, watershed alliances and councils, bird conservation organizations, and other conservation NGOs. Zane and Roger wrote a sign-on and *Wild Oceans*-specific public comment letter that outlined the importance of moving the Amendment forward to address compounding issues of user conflicts, achieve optimum yield, and reduce river herring and shad at-sea bycatch. Despite significant public support for continuing development of the full amendment, the Council decided to only move forward measures that would address river herring and shad bycatch.

Since then, Zane and Roger have attended one Herring Plan Development Team (PDT) meeting (Dec 15) and one additional full NEFMC Meeting (Jan 28-29, 2026) but little progress on the development of river herring and shad measures has been made. *Wild Oceans'* team will continue its advocacy during the alternative development process planned to take place from January to June. The Council indicated the final vote on these measures will occur during the Atlantic herring specifications process later this year, thus the Herring Committee and PDT must work quickly to prepare alternatives for the Council.

Atlantic Mackerel

■ From October to December 2025, Zane attended several meetings at the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) relating to Atlantic mackerel, including three mackerel, squid and butterfish and river herring and Shad Advisory Panel meetings (Oct 16, Nov 21, Nov 24), an Atlantic Mackerel Science and Statistical Committee meeting (Oct 23), and the December NEF-

MC Meeting (Dec 16-18). Zane worked with partners seeking to prevent the council from adopting an excessive increase in mackerel quota based on risky science alleging "excellent spawning" reported in a terminal year of a management track assessment.

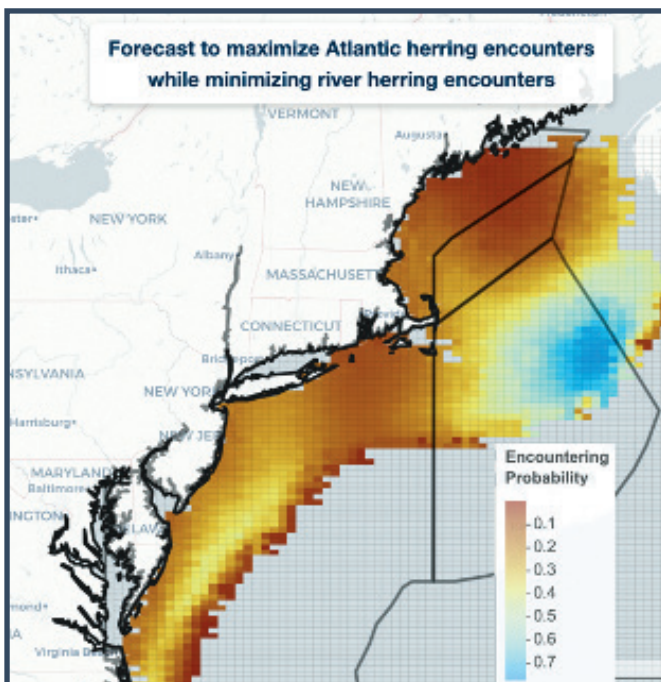
Zane coordinated with other conservation and recreational fishing groups to provide written and verbal public comments, including a *Wild Oceans* letter, public comments at the December Council meeting, and a recreational fishing sign-on letter co-written with the International Game Fish Association. Despite the expression of overwhelming public concerns about the uncertain science, the precarious state of the mackerel stock, and the bycatch impacts to river herring, the council voted to reduce the probability of Atlantic mackerel rebuilding from 61 percent to 51 percent and increase the acceptable biological catch from 3,200 mt to 15,134 mt. This is the council's third recent attempt at rebuilding mackerel, but is again similar to the first failed plan, which was also based on only a 51 percent chance of rebuilding Atlantic mackerel.

Atlantic Menhaden

■ Zane and Roger attended several of the Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission (ASMFC) meetings related to Atlantic menhaden. At the ASMFC's October annual meeting the Menhaden Management Board was forced to address results from the 2025 stock assessment indicating that menhaden biomass is one-third lower than previously estimated, and new Ecosystem Reference Point (ERP) analysis concluding that to rebuild overfished striped bass the Atlantic menhaden quota needed to be decreased by over 50 percent. Roger and Zane worked with recreational fishing and conservation partners, and *Wild Oceans* submitted public comments advocating for a 50 percent quota reduction and a prohibition on a menhaden reduction fishery to leave sufficient menhaden for bait fisheries. Despite the best available science indicating that at least a 50 percent quota cut was needed and widespread recreational fishing, conservation, and public support for this action, the Menhaden Board voted to only reduce catch by 20 percent. The result is effectively not a reduction at all since only 80 percent of the quota was caught last year. The Board will revisit the issue at its next annual meeting in 2026.

River Herring

■ At its February full Council Meeting, the MAF-MC unveiled new River herring bycatch maps funded through the Inflation Reduction Act. These weekly-updated maps forecast fishing areas that maximize the opportunity for catching target species (Atlantic herring or Atlantic mackerel), while minimizing the chance of encountering river herring. So far this year, the maps show that the risk of river herring bycatch increases significantly as vessels fish closer inshore. These maps should be used currently to promote voluntary actions to reduce river herring bycatch and provide important support for implementation of mandatory conservation measures. The website is live and can be found at www.rhapcast.org



The latest RHAPCAST model highlights key distribution patterns: blue areas indicate where Atlantic herring are likely present and river herring are predicted to be absent. In contrast, red and brown areas mark regions where river herring are likely present or Atlantic herring are predicted to be absent.

Pacific Sardine

■ In November, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) considered whether and how to change the stock definition for Pacific sardine. Theresa participated in the PFMC Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel as the conservation representative and supported a change in sardine management that fully considers the breadth of the sardine stock and the ecosystem impacts of fishing. At this meeting, the PFMC took an initial step towards managing sardine as one coastwide stock. They will make a final decision in April which will trigger revisions to the harvest control rule (HCR). While a coastwide regime may better represent the genetics of the stock, it comes with many challenges including localized depletion, regional

differences in life history including recruitment and distribution of age classes, ecosystem dynamics and the needs of dependent predators. *Wild Oceans* will ensure that the PFMC considers and incorporates best practices for managing forage stocks into the new HCR. We intend to do this by participating in PFMC science and policy meetings and rebuilding a coalition that supports a conservative approach to forage fish management.

Pelagic Predators

Billfish

■ Theresa attended the 22nd Session of the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission from November 30 - December 5 as a member of the U.S. Delegation. The Commission did not consider any new measures for billfish. However, Theresa did advocate for calculating the total allowable catch for striped marlin by summing both landed catch and discarded catch. This is the only way to ensure that nations do not hinder the recovery of striped marlin by exceeding the fishing mortality levels outlined in the 2024 rebuilding plan.

We are partnering with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution to identify billfish bycatch hotspots in the Pacific Ocean. In January, Dr Martin Arostegui attended the Billfish Working Group meeting of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) and presented the outputs of a blue marlin distribution model. The ISC will complete their next Pacific blue marlin stock assessment this year and will directly and formally integrate the insight provided by Dr. Arostegui into the conceptual model underlying the structure of the blue marlin stock assessment.

■ From February 4–6, Zane attended the bi-annual NGO Tuna Forum in Miami, where he joined partners such as the International Game Fish Association to emphasize that billfish in longline tuna fisheries are a secondary target—not bycatch—and should be recognized as such by the Forum and RFMOs. During the meeting, Zane highlighted that true tuna fishery sustainability depends not only on stock status but also on gear impacts. Because billfish retention and sale is intentional it should not be treated as bycatch. For the first time, the NGO Tuna Forum's 2026 priorities include billfish as a secondary target species alongside swordfish and blue sharks. This recognition is key to driving improved data collection and management to better conserve billfish.

Pacific Bluefin Tuna

■ Theresa and Zane attended the Joint Working Group on Bluefin Tuna on March 11-13 as members of the U.S. Delegation. At this meeting, the U.S., Japan,



Delegations from the United States, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Chinese Taipei pose together in Los Angeles, California after 2 days of negotiations.

Korea, Mexico and Taiwan considered the adoption of a long-term harvest strategy, or management procedure, for Pacific bluefin tuna. A long-term harvest strategy shifts the perspective from short-term bargaining and reactive decision-making to long-term design and vision for the fish and the fishery. Without a harvest strategy, we can repeat the mistakes of over-exploitation. While no final strategy was agreed to, the delegations were able to eliminate some extreme options as well as devise a compromise harvest control rule. Notably, this compromise strategy option would have two control points, but may make it difficult for managers to change course due to a very low second reference point that is below a level that would allow for easy rebuilding. A final agreement should be made at the July meeting in Japan.

Gear Innovation

■ A cornerstone of our work is the adoption of innovative, sustainable fishing methods to reduce bycatch. We have attended PFMC meetings in September, November and March and provided input on their work to identify acceptable levels of bycatch or guardrails for exempted fishing permits. By establishing benchmarks, the PFMC provides fishermen with a clear set of standards for new gear. Without these benchmarks, the PFMC has only subjective criteria for evaluating exempted fishing permit applications and outcomes. We have advocated for establishing criteria consistent with low bycatch gear like deep set buoy year instead of expanding access to restricted fishing grounds or to reintroduce outdated, indiscriminate gear such as longlines under the guise of innovation.

What's Making Waves

- [Signs of a River Herring Resurgence in Connecticut Ignite Hope](#), Kevin Job, TRCP
- [Tim Choate: The Man Who Revolutionized Billfishing and Marine Conservation Worldwide](#), Jack Vitek, Marlin Magazine
- [Natal Origin and Trans-Pacific Migration of Pacific Bluefin Tuna \(Thunnus orientalis\) Inferred From Otolith Oxygen and Carbon Isotope Analysis](#), Chia-Cheng Ku et al., Fisheries Oceanography
- [Global Conservation Body Takes First Step to Protect Ocean's Twilight Zone](#), Elizabeth Claire Alberts, Mongabay
- [Commercial Fishing Returns to Marine National Monument](#), Amy Kolb Noyes, Cape and Islands

407 LINCOLN RD.
SUITE 6H, PMB 7216
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OFFICE: (954)278-9777
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GET INVOLVED The Ocean gives us all life. Help us give back. Any and every donation to our organization grants us the chance to continue effecting real change for the future of the ocean and our world.

VISIT: WildOceans.org



While President of *Wild Oceans*, formerly National Coalition for Marine Conservation (NCMC), Ken Himan oversaw the writing of more than 119 issues of the Marine Bulletin, NCMC's newsletter. Prior to his departure, Ken digitized every issue of Marine Bulletin, which he originally published using a typewriter. His detailed records of our historic work on everything from plastic pollution to forage fish and pelagic predators have been kept in a hard drive. Recently, we transformed Ken's scans into searchable, user-friendly documents.

At the same time, continuing our mission to keep the international scientific community informed of historic billfish science so research is not repeated, we contracted a highly specialized digitizer to bring the 2nd International Billfish Symposium Proceedings from 1988 into the digital age.

You can find our historic newsletters on our website's Newsletter Resource tab at wildoceans.org/newsletter (coming soon!). The 2nd International Billfish Symposium Proceedings are available for download from our Billfish Education page at wildoceans.org/2nd-international-billfish-symposium.

TRIVIA ANSWERS A, C, & D