

Moving Midwater Trawlers Offshore



GIANT GEAR, GIANT CONSEQUENCES

Sea herring are an important source of food for whales, birds, and larger fish. The industrial midwater trawl fleet that targets herring often fishes close to shore. These ships are easily recognized because they usually fish in pairs, towing a small-mesh net the size of a football field between them that catches everything in its path.

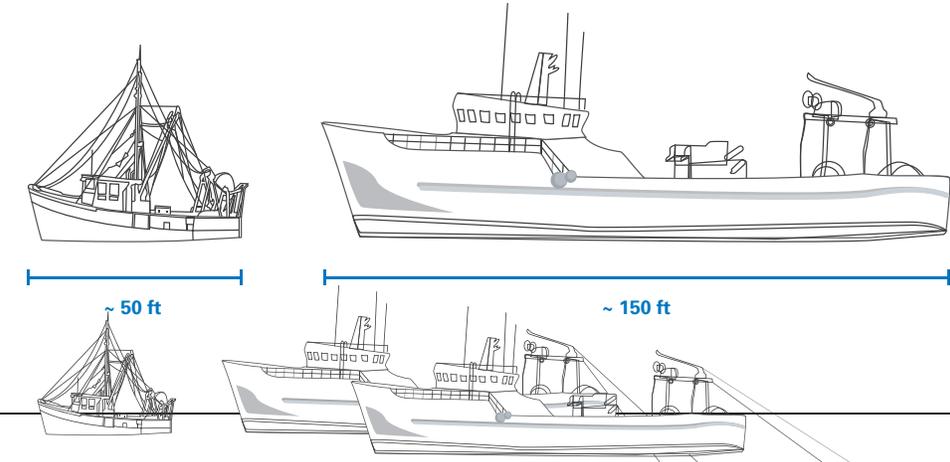
PROBLEM 1: BYCATCH

While these vessels fish for sea herring, they indiscriminately catch other fish, including striped bass, juvenile haddock, river herring and even marine mammals. This is called bycatch and it either gets dumped overboard dead, or mixed in with herring sold as bait.

PROBLEM 2: FISHERY IMPACTS

When midwater trawlers remove entire schools of herring from nearshore areas; cod, tuna, and other fish have to move offshore in search of food. Not only does this disrupt the entire marine food chain, but it leaves small-boat fishermen with nothing to bring to shore for our dinner plates.

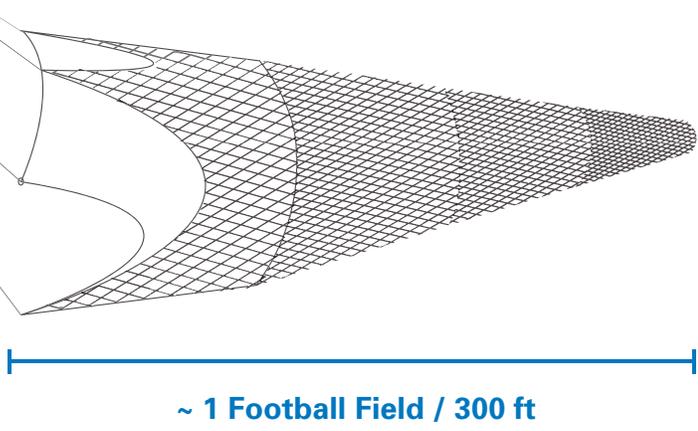
LOCAL TRAWLER VS. MIDWATER TRAWLER



“Letting a fishery of this magnitude into the inshore area to take that biomass of food out of the ecosystem when there are so many species that are in rebuilding stages is excessive.”

–Fishermen’s Commentary from NEFMC Hearing

IMPACTED SPECIES INCLUDE

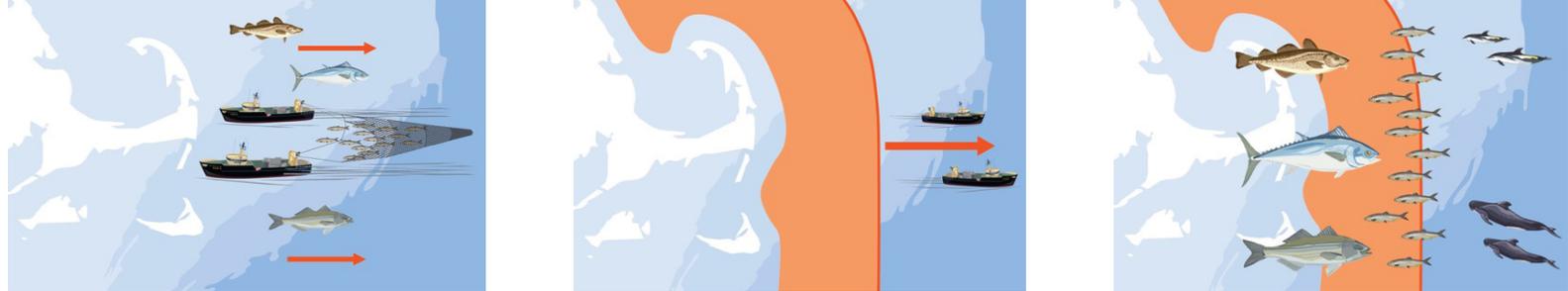


WE NEED TO STOP THIS

The Solution

ESTABLISH A HERRING BUFFER ZONE AS PART OF AMENDMENT 8

Create a zone that large scale industrial herring trawlers are prohibited from entering near Cape Cod. We want these boats to move farther offshore so that the region's fish, bird, and marine animal populations are protected. Once industrial herring trawlers are removed from the region, there will be abundant herring in our coastal waters for other fish and birds to eat and our small-boat, coastal fisheries can thrive.



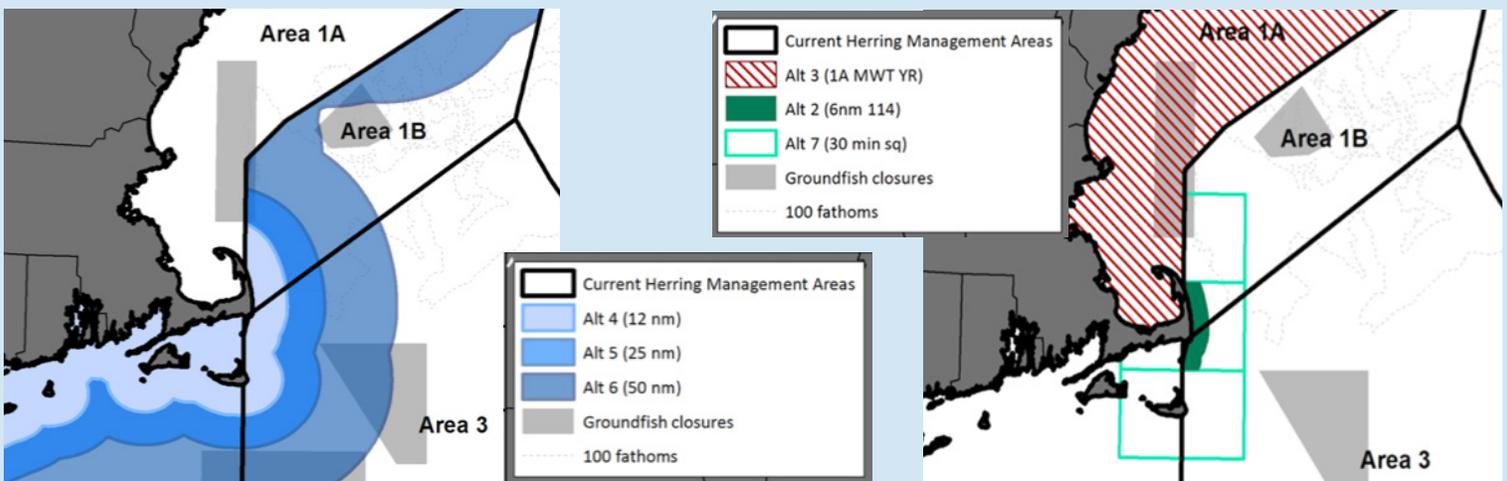
GET INVOLVED TODAY!

Join our fight to push the midwater trawl fleet offshore. This buffer zone is critical to the future of fisheries and the health of our ocean ecosystem. Tell the New England Fisheries Management Council and NOAA Fisheries to take action today!

Contact Amanda@capecodfishermen.org for more information or instructions for submitting public comment.

WHAT SOLUTION DO WE SUPPORT?

A year-round prohibition of mid-water trawlers at least 12 nautical mile (nm) from the shore. We believe the NEFMC suggested Alternatives 4 and 7 accomplish the goal.



ALTERNATIVE 4

A buffer zone proposal prohibiting midwater trawl gear inside the 12 nautical miles from the backside of Cape Cod to Long Island, NY.

ALTERNATIVE 7

A buffer zone proposal prohibiting midwater trawl gear within a 30 minute square area, in Areas 1B, 2, and 3. This Alternative could be combined with Alternative 4 to create protection in inshore areas throughout the Northeast.