

Title: **A Simple Matter of Herring Fishery Management**

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Abstract: In 1996, the US New England Fishery Management Council formed a technical team (PDT) to develop a new plan for Atlantic Herring (*Clupea harengus harengus*). The inshore stock was close to fully exploited while the offshore stock was underexploited. There were few full-time herring harvesters and very few processors. Fresh bait was in demand by the adjacent lobster industry. The industry had experienced a collapse in the late seventies and the original plan was withdrawn by the government in 1982. By 1992 conditions were ripe for rational federal management which would guide the redevelopment of the fishery while preventing over-harvest and the redevelopment of over-capacity.

Despite the proposal of several ideas for permits (described) which would allow for what might now be described as a core fishery (Pontecorvo and Schrank, 2009), an open access regime was adopted in 2001. Several possible reasons for this are examined. Subsequently the PDT examined and proposed variations on what has come to be known as sectors in the Northeast (Kitts, this meeting). Their rejection in Amendment #1 (2006) is discussed. The explication of the sector notion in the amendment process helped spread the mis-labeled idea to other fisheries and other fishermen, however.

Amendment #4 to the herring plan will revisit the sector options further. Other institutional complications to the application of secure privilege-based management in the US are discussed.