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Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

# PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 26, 2009

PRESS CONTACT: Kathy Collins  
(302) 674-2331 x14

## **Council Passes Resolution Supporting Regional Ocean Initiative Council Requests Increased Observer Coverage to Address River Herring Bycatch**

At its June meeting in New York City, NY, the Council voted to send a resolution to each of the five governors who were signatories to the Mid-Atlantic Governors' Agreement on Ocean Conservation, expressing support for the Governors' highly significant step to improve regional collaboration on coastal ecosystem protection and ocean governance issues. The resolution commends the Governors of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia (David A. Paterson, Jon S. Corzine, Jack Markell, Martin O'Malley, and Timothy M. Kaine respectively) for their historic initiative to promote a coordinated regional approach to ocean conservation. The Council looks forward to working with the regional consortium regarding ecosystem issues that impact the conservation and management of living marine resources, consistent with our shared public trust responsibilities. A full text of the resolution is available at [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org) (see Latest News).

The Council also sent a letter (full text at: [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org) under Latest News) to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce requesting an immediate increase in observer coverage to monitor river herring bycatch in small-mesh trawl fisheries. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) has documented a precipitous decline in river herring abundance. The Council's letter responds the ASMFC's April 14, 2009 request for the Council to address the bycatch of river herring in small mesh fisheries and lends additional support to the ASMFC's May 27, 2009 emergency request of the Secretary of Commerce to implement monitoring measures and management programs to determine the bycatch of river herring in all small mesh fisheries.

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