



October 22, 2019

Chairman Armstrong and River Herring and Shad Management Board Members
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Dear Mr. Armstrong and Board Members,

My name is Mike Thalhauser, Fisheries Biologist with the Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries and I would like to express my and Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries' full support of the Maine Department of Marine Resource's proposed addendum to the Maine Sustainable Fishery Management Plan for River Herring. In addition to my position at MCCF, I sit on the Shad and River Herring Advisory Panel.

This addendum will reduce the burden that towns currently have to take on in order to see any benefit from a local and sustainable commercial river herring fishery. In turn, it will incentivize more communities to participate in local restoration efforts and in data collection, that this board's technical committee has repeatedly indicated is needed to responsibly manage river herring at the state and federal level.

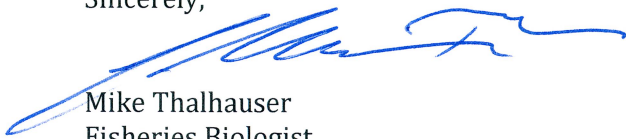
Federal and state government lack the capacity to collect these data and to support local fish restoration projects. The one common theme in river herring success stories is that local communities support the efforts and are actively participating. In Maine, these communities are fishing communities that have strong socio-economic ties to local river herring fisheries. In order to gain the support, Maine (with this addendum) will take advantage of these socio-economic connection that ASMFC encouraged in Amendment 2 of the Shad and River Herring IFMP where it states that:

"Considering the socioeconomic aspects of river herring management at the state and regional level should increase the likelihood of implementing or continuing those monitoring and research tasks."

Maine DMR staff members worked collaboratively with myself, stakeholders, and other support organizations to create this addendum that will allow communities to benefit from participating in monitoring and associated harvest/management. Because of this collaborative approach, this work will have full support of these sectors and a better chance for success.

This strategy should be encouraged in other states that support river herring populations, and the ASMFC should support more management that takes advantage of the capacity of fishermen and fishing communities.

Sincerely,



Mike Thalhauser
Fisheries Biologist



Paul Anderson
Executive Director

Paul Anderson, Executive Director

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