

## BARNSTABLE COUNTY

In the Year Two Thousand and Seventeen

### RESOLUTION 17-06

**Whereas**, two species of herring (river and ocean) school together in waters surrounding Cape Cod, and

**Whereas**, herring are an intermediate “link” in the ocean’s web of life; they eat plankton and in turn serve as “forage fish” sought by larger ones like codfish, bluefish, striped bass, tuna and others, and

**Whereas**, river herring fisheries have been depleted causing the Commonwealth to prohibit the taking of a single herring from Cape Cod’s waterways, and

**Whereas**, large commercial fishing vessels called mid-water trawlers scoop millions of pounds of river herring unintentionally as they trawl for *ocean* herring, leaving the river herring dead, and

**Whereas**, mid-water trawlers may currently trawl as close as three miles from shore, and

**Whereas**, when these trawlers remove entire schools of herring from near-shore areas, cod, tuna and other large fish must move farther offshore to search for food, and

**Whereas**, the movement of the larger fish farther offshore disrupts the entire marine food-chain and leaves small-boat fishermen challenged to find sufficient catch, and

**Whereas**, this disruption due to herring depletion has environmental, economic and recreational fishing consequences, and

**Whereas**, a commercial trawling buffer zone could be implemented that would require mid-water trawlers to operate farther offshore, and

**Whereas**, the Cape Cod Commercial Fisherman’s Alliance and the Association to Preserve Cape Cod are advocating for implementation of a buffer zone, and

**Whereas**, there is historical precedent for such action; when foreign commercial fleets were decimating local fisheries in the 1960s and 1970s, the U.S. Congress passed the Magnuson-Stevens Act banning foreign fishing fleets from operating within 200 miles of the U.S. coast, and

**Whereas**, the New England Fishery Management Council is the regional council charged by Federal law with conserving and managing fishery resources from three to 200 miles off the coast of Massachusetts and the other New England states, and

**Whereas**, the Council is weighing implementation of a buffer zone and will take action on the matter in December 2017,

*NOW, THEREFORE,*

***BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED*** that the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates:

Supports the establishment of a Federally-designated buffer zone around Cape Cod that would prohibit mid-water trawlers from operating near the Cape’s shores.

**The foregoing Resolution 17-06 was adopted by the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates, by a roll call vote of 73.93% voting “yes”, 18.73 % voting “no”, 7.34% “absent” at the regular meeting held on November 15, 2017.**

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E. Suzanne McAuliffe, Speaker, Yarmouth Delegate

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Mary Chaffee, Brewster Delegate

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Christopher Kanaga, Orleans Delegate

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James Killion, Sandwich Delegate

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Edward McManus, Harwich Delegate

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Susan Moran, Falmouth Delegate

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Thomas O’Hara, Mashpee Delegate

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John Ohman, Dennis Delegate

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Brian O’Malley, Provincetown Delegate

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Patrick Princi, Barnstable Delegate

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Linda Zuern, Bourne Delegate

Absent: Edward Atwood, Eastham Delegate  
Ronald Bergstrom, Chatham Delegate  
Lilli-Ann Green, Wellfleet Delegate  
Deborah McCutcheon, Truro Delegate