

2014/2015 Atlantic Herring RSASA Award

NA14NMF4540006

University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth/School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST)
“Characterizing and Reducing River Herring Incidental Catch I the Atlantic Herring Mid-Water Trawl Fishery”

Principal Investigators: Kevin Stokesbury & Dave Bethony

\$296,040 Research Project/\$750,120 Compensation/\$1,046,160 Total Value for 2 Years

Awarded: 01/14/14

This project will 1) portside sample at least 50% of mid-water trawl landings in Massachusetts, 2) estimate the total amount of river herring taken by mid-water trawl vessels in 2014 and 2015, 4) describe the length, number, and maturity and of river herring incidental catch by location and time 5) continue near-real time river herring avoidance mid-water trawl fleet communication systems 6.) place net sensors on gear of mid-water trawl vessels.

It will increase the accuracy and precision of river herring incidental catch estimates by sampling mid-water trawl vessels at a high rate. This information could be used to inform NEFMC decisions related to river herring incidental catch. The project also hopes to reduce river herring incidental catch and provide fishermen with a tool to fully harvest target species Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) when river herring ACLs are created.