

HOUSE No. 700

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Peter V. Kocot

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to inshore resource depletion.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Peter V. Kocot

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

1st Hampshire

HOUSE No. 700

By Mr. Kocot of Northampton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 700) of Peter V. Kocot for legislation to establish rules and regulations for the fishing of herring within the waters of the Commonwealth. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 738 OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act relative to inshore resource depletion.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 130 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 95 the following section:-

3 "Section 95A. The director shall promulgate regulations and rules, including a system of
4 fines, prohibiting the use of all midwater trawl and pair trawling for herring in Massachusetts
5 waters, shall establish herring fishery rules and regulations that are compatible with regional
6 efforts to rebuild valuable groundfish resources, including, but not limited to maximum vessel
7 size permitted to fish within coastal waters, shall establish rules and regulations creating coastal
8 herring fishing buffer zones, shall establish rules and regulations minimizing by catch mortality
9 of groundfish, bluefin tuna and striped bass, shall establish mandatory observer coverage on all

- 10 commercial fishing vessels targeting herring and shall establish a weight-based landing
- 11 accounting system for all vessels targeting herring."