

## **Response to Item 118-Impact on commercial and /or recreational fishing**

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Pilgrim Station operations do not have any impact on commercial fishing. Larval transport studies have shown that our operations impact less than 1% of the larval populations in the vicinity of the station. The commercial fishing industry in Massachusetts has declined as a result of dwindling populations of fish due to over fishing. In response the federal government has enacted mandatory restrictions such as firm annual limits on the catch. The declining fish populations are not just local but are occurring in Massachusetts Bay and the Gulf of Maine.

Prior to September 11, 2001, Pilgrim operations enhance recreational fishing, as striped bass and blue fish were attracted to the thermal discharge, and the public was allowed to fish off the discharge jetty. After the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, NRC-imposed security requirements have mandated that the public be denied access to this area for fishing. However, Pilgrim employees and their families are still allowed to fish off the discharge jetty.