



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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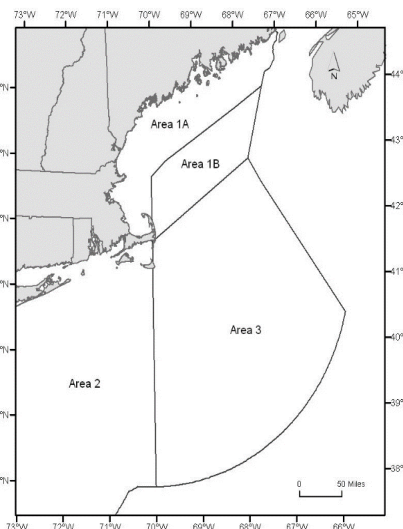
April 30, 2024

Marine Fisheries Advisory

Atlantic Sea Herring Area 1A Effort Controls for 2024; Fishery to Open June 30th

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Herring Management Board members from Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts approved the effort control measures enumerated below to manage the Area 1A quota of 3,666 mt for Season 1 (June 1 – September 30). To implement these controls, DMF will issue Statement of Permit Conditions to all permit holders who declared in the Area 1A fishery by June 1, 2024.

1. **Season Start Date.** The fishery shall open on June 30, 2024 at 6PM. From June 1, 2024 through 6PM on June 30, 2024, the directed fishery in Area 1A will remain closed. A reminder that, per federal regulations (50 CFR 648.202), the use of midwater trawl gear is prohibited in Area 1A from June 1 to September 30.
2. **Open Days.** Beginning at 6PM on June 30, 2024:
 - i. Federal Category A permit holders that have declared into the Area 1A fishery may land herring five consecutive days per week, one landing per 24-hour period. The week shall begin at 6PM on Sundays and conclude at 6PM on Fridays. Vessels are prohibited from landing or possessing herring taken from Area 1A during a day out of the fishery.
 - ii. Federal Category C/D Small-mesh bottom trawl (SMBT) permit holders that have declared into the differential SMBT Days Out program in Area 1A may land herring six consecutive days per week. The week shall begin at 6PM on Sundays and conclude at 6PM on Saturdays. Permit holders are subject to their permit category specific federal trip limit.
3. **Weekly Landing Limits.** Federal Category A permit holders that have declared into the Area 1A fishery may not harvest or land in excess of 320,000 pounds (eight trucks) of herring per harvester vessel per week starting June 30.
4. **At-Sea Transfers.** Federal Category A permit holders landing herring caught in Area 1A may transfer herring at-sea to another harvester vessel but may not make any at-sea transfers to a carrier vessel. Carrier vessels are prohibited from receiving any at-sea transfers from a harvester vessel of herring taken from Area 1A.
5. **Incidental Catch.** All fishermen are prohibited from landing more than 2,000 pounds of herring taken from Area 1A during any closed period or if they did not declare into the Area.



For more information regarding the management of Atlantic sea herring in Massachusetts, please visit www.mass.gov/marinefisheries and www.asmfc.org.