



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

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April 5, 2023

### Marine Fisheries Advisory

## **Deadline for Federal Category A Permit Holders to Declare into Area 1A Atlantic Sea Herring Fishery and Information on April 27<sup>th</sup> ASMFC Effort Controls Meeting**

### April 15<sup>th</sup> Declaration Deadline for Federal Herring Permit Holders:

The Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Sea Herring requires federal Category A permit holders to notify states of their intent to fish in Management Area 1A (Inshore Gulf of Maine). This declaration process allows the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Herring Management Board to set weekly landing limits that optimize utilization of the Trimester 2 quota (June – September). Federal Category A herring permit holders must complete this [Declaration Form](#) and return it to the Division of Marine Fisheries via e-mail to Julia Kaplan ([julia.kaplan@mass.gov](mailto:julia.kaplan@mass.gov)) prior to 5PM on Saturday April 15, 2023.

### April 27<sup>th</sup> Days-Out Meeting

The ASMFC Atlantic Herring Management Board members from Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts will meet via [webinar](#) at 9:00AM on Thursday, April 27, 2023. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss effort control measures for the 2023 Area 1A (Inshore Gulf of Maine) Atlantic herring fishery. Effort control measures may include landing days, weekly limits, and restrictions on at-sea-transfers.

The 2023 Area 1A sub-annual catch limit (sub-ACL) is 3,050 metric tons (mt). This accounts for a 247 mt catch overage in Area 1A in 2021, a 30 mt fixed gear set-aside, and an 8% buffer (Area 1A closes at 92% of the sub-ACL).

### State-Only Commercial Atlantic Sea Herring Fishing

State-only permit holders are those commercial fishers who do not hold a federal category permit. These permit holders are authorized to fish year-round for Atlantic sea herring and retain, possess, and land up to 2,000 pounds under the incidental catch and small-scale fishery trip limit. Accordingly, state-only permit holders do not need to submit a form to DMF, nor obtain a LOA from DMF to participate in this fishery.

For more information regarding the management of Atlantic sea herring in Massachusetts, please visit [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries).