



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

(617) 626-1520 | [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)



MAURA T. HEALEY  
Governor

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL  
Lt. Governor

REBECCA L. TEPPER  
Secretary

THOMAS K. O'SHEA  
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN  
Director

April 5 2024

### Marine Fisheries Advisory

#### **Atlantic Sea Herring Board to Meet on April 24 to Discuss Area 1A Effort Controls for 2024**

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Atlantic Herring Management Board members from Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts will meet via webinar on April 24, 2024 from 1 to 2:30 p.m., to discuss effort control measures for the 2024 Area 1A (inshore Gulf of Maine) fishing season. Potential measures include specifying the number of consecutive landings days, weekly landings limits, and restrictions on at-sea transfers. The ASMFC's webinar information is included below:

Wednesday, April 24

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Login: <https://meet.goto.com/405812685>

Call In: 1-571-317-3112

Access Code: 405-812-685

#### Quota Available for 2024

The 2024 Area 1A sub-annual catch limit (sub-ACL) is 5,504 metric tons (mt). The initial specification for the 2024 Area 1A sub-ACL of 5,546 mt was decreased by 42 mt due to the catch overage in Area 1A in 2022. After adjusting for the 30 mt fixed gear set-aside and the 8% buffer (Area 1A closes at 92% of the sub-ACL), the Area 1A sub-ACL is 5,036 mt. There is no research-set-aside for 2024.

In November 2023, the Board established the following seasonal allocations for the 2024 Area 1A sub-ACL: 72.8% available from June 1 – September 30 and 27.2% available from October 1 – December 31. Fishermen are prohibited from landing more than 2,000 pounds of Atlantic herring per day harvested from Area 1A until June 1, 2024.

#### Reminder of Deadline to Declare into Fishery

Federal Category A, C and D permit holders seeking to participate in the 2024 directed commercial Atlantic sea herring fishery in Management Area 1A are reminded to declare into the Area 1A fishery for 2024 at the state level. For Massachusetts, please complete this [declaration form](#) and return it to DMF via email ([jared.silva@mass.gov](mailto:jared.silva@mass.gov)) prior to 5PM on April 15, 2024. DMF will then send out Letters of Authorization to declared vessels prior to the start of the Area 1A directed fishery specifying the effort controls for the 2024 season. State-only permit holders do not need to declare into the fishery and may fish under the 2,000 pound incidental catch and small scale fishery trip limit.

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