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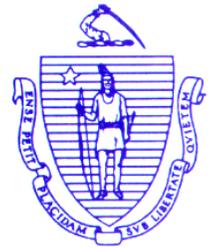
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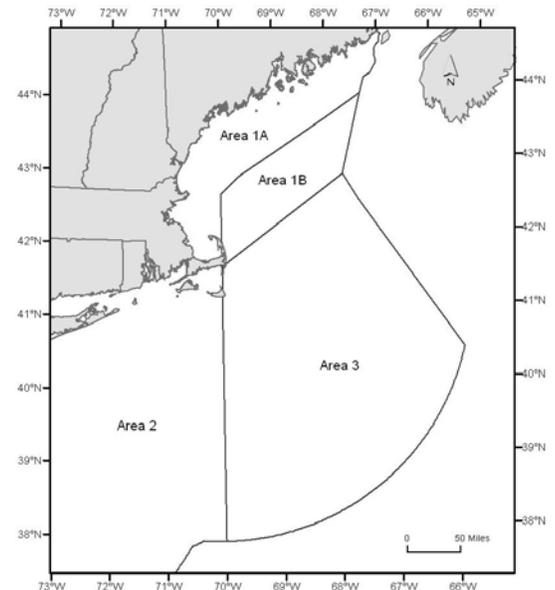
Marine Fisheries Advisory

Initial Management Measures for Trimester 2 Atlantic Sea Herring Fishery in Management Area 1A

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Herring Section met on April 25, 2018 to set days-out and landing limit measures for federal "Category A" permit holders during the Trimester 2 Atlantic Sea Herring Fishery in Management Area 1A.

To participate in this fishery, federal Category A permit holders were required to submit a declaration of intent to DMF by 5:00pm on April 13. Vessels that have declared into the fishery have received permit conditions from DMF establishing the limits adopted by the Section. These [permit conditions](#) are enforceable by law. The limits adopted are as follows:

- Beginning on June 1, 2018, vessels with federal Category A permits who have declared into the fishery may fish for, possess and land sea herring from Management Area 1A beginning at 0001 hours on Monday and continuing until 2359 hours on Thursday. From Friday at 0001 hours through Sunday at 2359 hours, fishing for, possessing or landing of sea herring taken from Management Area 1A is unlawful. Participating vessels may land up to 480,000 pounds (12 trucks) of sea herring per week. A week is defined as Sunday – Saturday.
- The use of carrier vessels is authorized. However, a fishing vessel may only utilize one carrier vessel per week. Carrier vessels are limited to landing up to 80,000 pounds (2 trucks) of sea herring per week. The carrier vessel's weekly landing limit is not in addition to the harvester vessel's weekly landing limit. The at-sea transfer of sea herring between fishing vessels is allowed. A carrier vessel is a vessel with no gear on board capable of catching or processing fish. A harvester vessel is a vessel that is required to report the catch it has aboard as the harvesting vessel on the Federal Vessel Trip Report.



- The start date and time for the Area 1A Trimester 2 fishery is Monday June 4th at 12:01 a.m. in Massachusetts.

Federal “Category A” permits are issued to large scale sea herring harvesters, including mid-water trawl and purse seine vessels. While “Category A” permits may be issued to mid-water trawl vessels, the use of this gear is prohibited during the Trimester 2 fishery. Federal regulations at 50 CFR §648.202 establish Management Area 1A as a purse seine and fixed gear only area from June 1 through September 30.

Federal “Category C” and “Category D” permit holders (e.g., small mesh bottom trawlers) must declare intent to fish in Area 1A by noon on May 31st. Declared “Category C” and “Category D” permit holders are authorized to participate in the Trimester 2 Management Area 1A fishery under the exempted sea herring limit [322 CMR 9.05(3)]. This allows these vessels to fish for, possess and land sea herring seven days per week.

The Section is scheduled to meet again on June 26th and then on a monthly basis thereafter. The purpose of these meetings will be to review landings data and determine if adjustments to fishing limits are necessary to optimize quota availability throughout the Trimester.

For more information, please contact Cate O’Keefe by phone (508-742-9744) or by e-mail (catherine.o’keefe@state.ma.us).