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# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

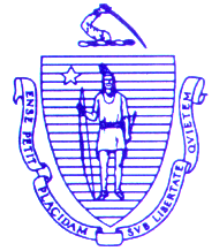
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May 26, 2017

### Marine Fisheries Advisory

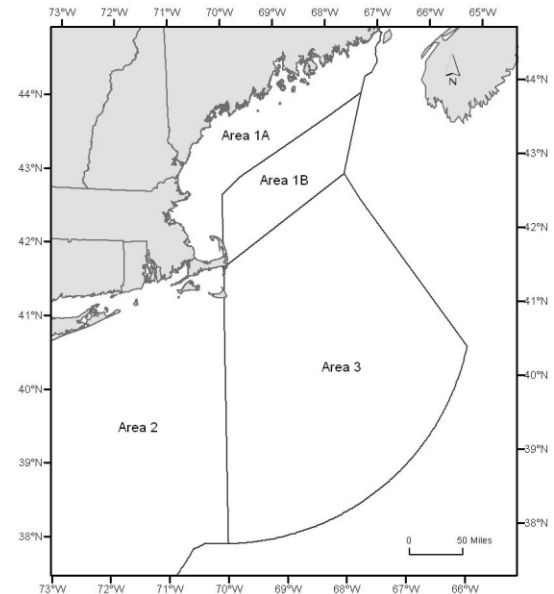
## **Corrected: Initial Management Measures for Trimester 2 Atlantic Sea Herring Fishery in Management Area 1A**

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Herring Section met on May 23, 2017 to adopt 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 ([see notice](#)) to DMF by noon on May 22. Vessels that have declared into the fishery will receive permit conditions from DMF establishing the limits adopted by the Section and described below:

- Beginning on June 1, 2017, 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 Wednesday. From Thursday 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 400,000 pounds (10 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. 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 will be combined with the harvester vessel, not to exceed a total of 400,000 pounds.** The at-sea transfer of sea herring between fishing vessels is prohibited. A carrier vessel is a vessel with no gear on board capable of catching or processing fish.

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.

Undeclared vessels, including federal Category C and D permit holders (e.g., small mesh bottom trawlers), 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 14<sup>th</sup> and then on a bi-weekly basis after that. 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 (617-626-1512) or by e-mail (catherine.o'keefe@state.ma.us).