



David E. Pierce, PhD.
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

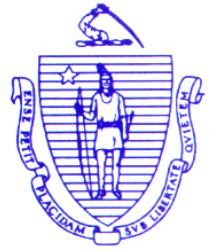
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**Letter of Authorization:
Exemption to Retain Sea Herring During Management Area 1A
Closure While Participating in Gulf of Maine Whiting EFP**

The purpose of this Letter of Authorization and Statement of Permit Conditions is to allow vessels, fishing under the federal 2019 Gloucester Fishery Commission's Exempted Fishery Permit for Gulf of Maine Whiting (EFP# 19050), to retain sea herring caught as bycatch in sea herring Management Area 1A prior to the opening of the directed sea herring fishery on July 15, 2019. Pursuant to the authority of G.L. c. 130 § 80 and 322 CMR § 7.01(7), the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries is issuing this Letter of Authorization to establish the **Statement of Conditions** enumerated below. These permit conditions shall apply to those vessels authorized to participate in this EFP who hold a regulated fishery permit endorsement for sea herring issued by the Division of Marine Fisheries. This letter does not exempt you from any existing laws or regulations governing the Atlantic sea herring fishery.

1. **Effective immediately, authorized vessels are exempt from the seasonal Management Area 1A sea herring closure promulgated in accordance with 322 CMR 9.05.**
2. **During the period of June 27 – July 14, 2019, authorized vessels may possess and land up to 2,000 pounds of sea herring taken from Management Area 1A while under the federal 2019 Gloucester Fishery Commission's Exempted Fishery Permit for Gulf of Maine Whiting (EFP# 19050).**

Violation(s) of any condition or restriction as contained herein or any provision of 322 CMR 9.00 may result in the suspension or revocation of the commercial fishing permit and any other fines and penalties as provided in G.L. c.130. This Letter of Authorization is valid through July 14, 2019. The Director may amend or revoke this Statement of Conditions at any time.

David E. Pierce, PhD
Director

June 27, 2019

Effective Date