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Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

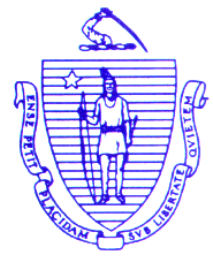
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August 15, 2019

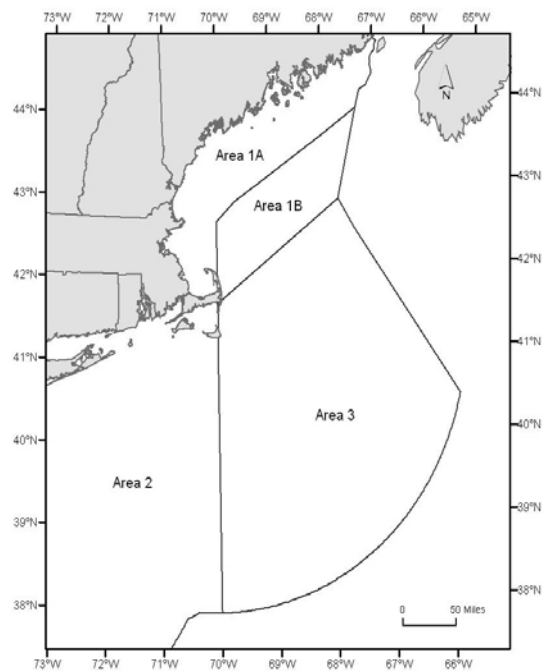
Marine Fisheries Advisory

Atlantic Herring Management Area 1A Closure for Period 2 and Management Measures Starting September 1, 2019 for Period 3

Area 1A – Period 2 Closure

The directed Atlantic sea herring fishery in Management Area 1A is projected to have harvested 92% of the Period 2 (June 1 – August 31) allocation by August 17, 2019 ([Closure Notice](#)). Accordingly, effective at 12:01am on Sunday August 18, 2019, the Area 1A sea herring fishery will move to zero landing days through August 31, 2019. During this closed period, the catch, landing and sale of sea herring taken from Management Area 1A is prohibited, with the following exceptions:

- Commercial fishing vessels that have declared into the fishery, and have been issued a Statement of Permit Conditions from the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, may continue to land an incidental catch of Atlantic sea herring of up to 2,000 pounds. This 2,000 pound incidental limit applies per calendar day or per trip, whichever is longer. For the purpose of this closure, landing means transfer of sea herring from any vessel onto any land, dock, pier, wharf or other artificial structure.
- Vessels may transit Management Area 1A in possession of Atlantic sea herring, provided the herring were lawfully caught outside of the area and all gear is stowed.
- Dealers acting as primary buyers of Atlantic sea herring are prohibited from purchasing or receiving more than 2,000 pounds of Atlantic sea herring harvested from Management Area 1A by any vessel during any trip or calendar day.



Area 1A – Period 3 Measures

Area 1A will re-open for Period 3 starting on September 1, 2019. The first landing day for Period 3 in MA will be Monday September 2, 2019. Vessels that have declared into the fishery and have been issued a Statement of Permit Conditions from the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries are subject to the following approved measures from September 1 – September 30, 2019:

- Federal Category A permits 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. Category A permitted vessels may land up to 160,000 pounds (4 trucks) of sea herring per week. A week is defined as Sunday – Saturday.
- Federal Category C and D permits and MA state-only permits may fish for, possess and land sea herring from Management Area 1A beginning at 0001 hours on Monday and continuing until 2359 hours on Friday. From Saturday at 0001 hours through Sunday at 2359 hours, fishing for, possessing or landing of sea herring taken from Management Area 1A is unlawful. Category C permitted vessels may land up to 55,000 pounds of sea herring per day; Category D permitted vessels may land up to 6,600 pounds of sea herring per day; and MA state-only permit holders may land up to 2,000 pounds of sea herring per day.
- The use of carrier vessels is prohibited. A harvester vessel can transfer herring at-sea to another harvester vessel. A harvester vessel may not make an at-sea transfer to a carrier vessel, and carrier vessels may not receive at-sea transfers from a harvester vessel. A carrier is a vessel with no gear on board capable of catching or processing fish. A harvester is a vessel that is required to report the catch it has aboard as the harvesting vessel on the Federal Vessel Trip Report.

For more information, please contact Cate O’Keefe (508-742-9744) (Catherine.O’Keefe@mass.gov).