



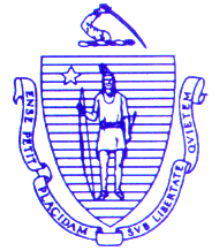
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September 6, 2018
Marine Fisheries Advisory

STATE-WATERS COMMERCIAL FISHERY FOR SEA HERRING IN THE GULF OF MAINE

On September 1, 2018 two seasonal small mesh raised footrope trawl exemption areas opened in Massachusetts state-waters. This first area, known as “Area 5”, includes certain waters off Rockport and Gloucester and is open to this small mesh fishing through September 30. The second area, known as the Upper Cape Cod Whiting Area, is off Provincetown and remains open through November 20. All vessels small mesh fishing must utilize raised footrope trawls that are designed to minimize by-catch of flounders and other bottom dwelling species and conform to the regulations set forth at 322 CMR 8.06.

With these areas opening, fishermen are reminded that they are limited to retaining, possessing and landing 2,000 pounds of sea herring per day when fishing in these exemption areas within the state-waters portion of the Gulf of Maine ([Permit Conditions](#)). Moreover, retention of river herring is prohibited. Vessels may transit state-waters and land sea herring in Massachusetts ports in excess of this limit if so authorized by a federal permit. This 2,000 lbs. sea herring limit does not apply to vessels who hold a federal “Category A” permit and have declared into the Management Area 1A fishery; these vessels are subject to closed fishing days but are allowed higher amounts in accordance with the permit conditions most recently issued to them and published on our [website](#).

For more information regarding the management of sea herring in Massachusetts, please visit our website (www.mass.gov/marinefisheries) or call DMF at 617-626-1520.