



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

(617) 626-1520 | [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)



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September 17, 2024

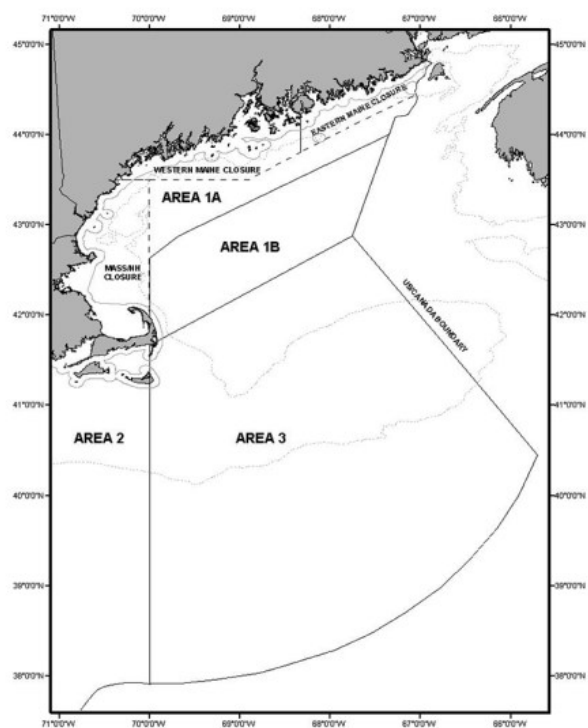
### Marine Fisheries Advisory

## Sea Herring Fishery to Close in Management Area 1A on September 18<sup>th</sup> ASMFC Area 1A Season 2 Days-out Call on September 19<sup>th</sup> MA/NH Spawning Closure September 23<sup>rd</sup> – November 3<sup>rd</sup>

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has projected that the Management Area 1A Atlantic herring fishery will have harvested 92% of its Season I (June 1 – September 30) quota allocation by September 17, 2024 (see [Notice](#)). Accordingly, effective at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 the directed Atlantic sea herring fishery in Management Area 1A will close through September 30, 2024.

Additionally, the MA/NH Spawning Area Closure is set to close on the default date of September 23, 2024 through November 3, 2024. The Massachusetts/New Hampshire spawning area includes all waters bounded by the Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine coasts, and 43° 30' N and 70° 00' W. This closure is forecasted based on certain protocols involving the sampling of sea herring catch from the area, and if there are not sufficient samples then the closures begin on certain predetermined dates.

During these closure periods, directed fishing for sea herring is prohibited. However, non-directed fisheries may continue to occur in the closure areas. Vessels participating in these non-directed fisheries may retain an incidental bycatch allowance of up to 2,000 pounds of Atlantic herring per day or per trip, whichever period is longer. All vessels may transit the closure areas in excess of this 2,000 pound non-directed trip limit provided the fish was taken from outside the closure areas, no fishing activity is occurring, and all gear is stowed.



The Atlantic Herring Management Board members from the states of Maine, New Hampshire and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will meet via webinar on September 19, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., to discuss Season 2 (October 1 – December 31) days out measures for the 2024 Area 1A fishery (inshore Gulf of Maine). Days out measures include consecutive landings days for Season 2. The webinar and call information is included below and more information may be found in the [ASMFC's meeting notice](#).

**Atlantic Herring Days Out Meeting**

Thursday, September 19, 2024

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

[Virtual Meeting Link](#)

For more information about the management of marine fisheries in Massachusetts, please visit our website at [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries) or e-mail us at [marine.fish@mass.gov](mailto:marine.fish@mass.gov).