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Commonwealth of Massachusetts

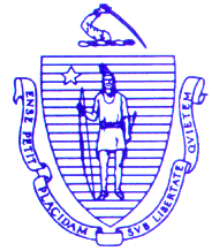
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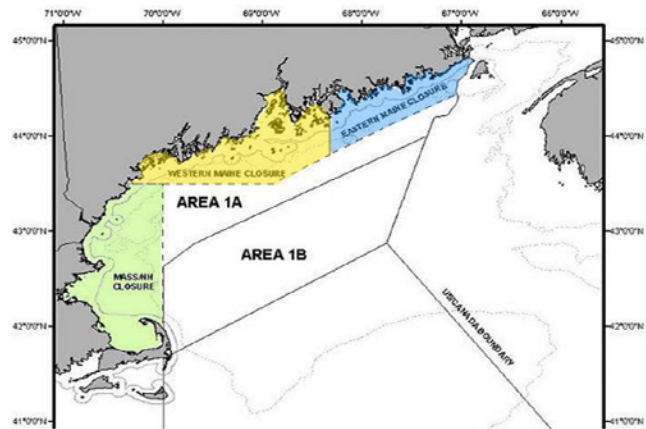
September 20, 2019

Marine Fisheries Advisory

MA/NH SEA HERRING SPAWNING CLOSURE EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 23, 2019 AND AREA 1A DAYS OUT CONFERENCE CALL SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 2, 2019

MA/NH Sea Herring Spawning Closure

Sea herring samples from the Massachusetts/New Hampshire (MA/NH) spawning closure area indicate that the herring in this area are approaching spawning condition. Accordingly, the MA/NH sea herring spawning area will be closed effective 0001 hours on Monday September 23, 2019 and will remain closed through 2359 hours on November 3, 2019 ([Closure Notice](#) and [Permit Conditions](#)). This closure shall be enforceable by regulations at 322 CMR 7.01(7) and 9.03 and permit condition. Any violations may result in the suspension or revocation of the commercial fishing permit, as well as the fines or penalties set forth at G.L. c. 21A §10H and G.L. c. 130.



The MA/NH closure area encompasses all waters north of Cape Cod bounded by 43°30' north latitude and 70°00' west longitude to the east. The closure may be extended for an additional 14-day period if sampling during the last week of the initial closure demonstrates that catch from this area is comprised of 20% or more of herring in spawning condition.

During the closure, vessels in the directed Atlantic herring fishery cannot take, land, or possess Atlantic herring caught within the MA/NH spawning area and must have all fishing gear stowed when transiting through the area. An incidental bycatch allowance of up to 2,000 pounds of Atlantic herring per trip/calendar day applies to vessels in non-directed fisheries that are fishing within the MA/NH spawning area.

Area 1A Days Out Conference Call

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Herring Management Board members from Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts set effort control measures for the Area 1A fishery via Days Out meetings/calls. The members are scheduled to convene via conference call to consider fishery specifications for Quota Period 4:

October 2, 2019

9:30 to 11:30 AM

Join the conference call:

Phone: 1-888-585-9008

Code: 853-657-937

Meeting webinar: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/239062933>

For more information regarding the management of Atlantic sea herring in Massachusetts, please visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.