



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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Marine Fisheries Advisory

MASSACHUSETTS/NEW HAMPSHIRE AND WESTERN MAINE SPAWNING CLOSURES FOR ATLANTIC SEA HERRING IN EFFECT

The Atlantic herring fishery in the inshore Gulf of Maine (Area 1A) is subject to seasonal spawning closures for portions of state and federal waters of Eastern Maine, Western Maine, and Massachusetts/New Hampshire. The closures are 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. There are currently no samples from Massachusetts/New Hampshire and Western Maine spawning area. Accordingly, these areas are now closed through November 3, 2021 to directed sea herring fishing ([Closure Notice](#)).

During the closure period, a directed fishing for sea herring is prohibited within these closure areas. 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 Massachusetts/New Hampshire spawning closure area includes all waters of the Gulf of Maine bounded by the coastline of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine, 43° 30' N latitude and 70° 00' W longitude. The Western Maine Spawning closure is bounded by: 43° 30' N latitude and the Maine Coast: thence to 43° 30' N latitude and 68° 54.5' W longitude; thence to 43° 48' N latitude and 68° 20' W longitude; and thence to the Maine Coast at 68° 20' W longitude.

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