



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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Director

NOTICE OF FISHERY CLOSURE: **2021 MA/NH ATLANTIC SEA HERRING SPAWNING CLOSURE**

Pursuant to the notice and public comment requirements at G.L. c. 30A, §3 and under the authority of G.L. c. 130, §§ 2, 17A, 21, and 80, and 322 CMR §§ 9.03 and 322 CMR 7.01(7), the Massachusetts/New Hampshire Sea Herring Spawning Area (“Area”) is closed directed sea herring fishing effective September 23, 2021 through November 3, 2021. The area consists of all marine waters north of Cape Cod bounded by 43° 30’ N latitude to the north and 70° 00’ W longitude to the east.

In accordance with 322 CMR 9.01(3)(1)(f), vessels are prohibited from taking, possessing, or landing more than 2,000 pounds of sea herring taken from the Area during this closure period. This incidental catch limit accommodates non-directed fisheries only and applies per calendar day or per trip, whichever period of time is longer. All vessels may transit the Area during the closure period in possession of more than 2,000 pounds of sea herring, provided the fish was taken from outside the Area, no fishing activity is occurring within the Area, and all gear is stowed.

This closure also applies to seafood dealers authorized to purchase sea herring directly from commercial fishermen, in accordance with G.L. c. 130, §80 and 322 CMR §§7.01(3) and 7.07(3). Pursuant to 322 CMR §§7.01(3) and 7.07(5)(b), such seafood dealers are prohibited from purchasing or receiving more than 2,000 pounds of Atlantic sea herring taken from the Area during any calendar day or trip, whichever period of time is longer

Dated: September 23, 2021

By: 

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director