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Marine Fisheries Advisory

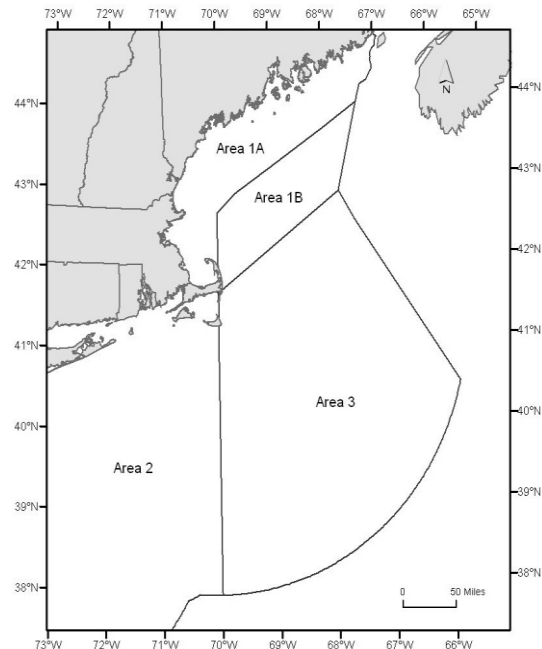
2016 TRIMESTER III ATLANTIC SEA HERRING FISHERY IN MANAGEMENT AREA IA CLOSED EFFECTIVE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18

The directed Atlantic sea herring fishery in Management Area 1A is projected to land its Trimester III (October – December) quota allocation by Monday, October 17, 2016. Accordingly, effective Tuesday, October 18, 2016 (at 0001 hours) the directed sea herring fishery in Management Area 1A is closed until further notice ([Closure Notice](#)).

During this closed period commercial fishing vessels may continue to land an incidental catch of Atlantic sea herring not to exceed 2,000 pounds. This 2,000 pound incidental limit applies per calendar day or per trip, whichever is longer. Additionally, vessels may transit Management Area 1A in possession of non-conforming quantities of Atlantic sea herring, provided the herring were lawfully caught and all gear is stowed.

Dealers acting as primary buyers of Atlantic sea herring are similarly prohibited from purchasing or receiving more than 2,000 pounds of Atlantic sea herring harvested from Management Area 1A by any vessel during any trip or calendar day.

There is an ongoing research set-aside (RSA) program for the commercial sea herring fishery. Commercial fishing vessels that hold RSA, as well as a valid Letter of Authorization from the Division of Marine Fisheries to participate in the RSA fishery may continue to fish and land non-conforming quantities of Atlantic sea herring taken from Management Area 1A. However, vessels participating in the RSA fishery are not lawfully authorized to fish within the [MA/NH Spawning Closure](#) while it remains in effect. At present, this spawning closure is in effect through October 29, 2016 within all waters west (shoreward) of 70°00', from 43°30' N latitude to the Cape Cod shoreline. Additionally, dealers may purchase non-conforming quantities of Atlantic sea herring taken from Management Area 1A from vessels lawfully participating in the RSA fishery.



This closure is consistent with the provisions of law set forth at G.L. c. 130 §§17A, 21 and 80 and 322 CMR §§6.41, 7.01 and 9.00, as well as actions taken by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Sea Herring Section (comprised of the states of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts).

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