



**David E. Pierce**  
*Director*

# *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

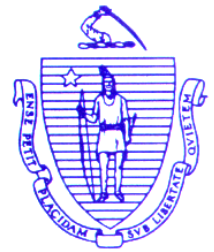
## **Division of Marine Fisheries**

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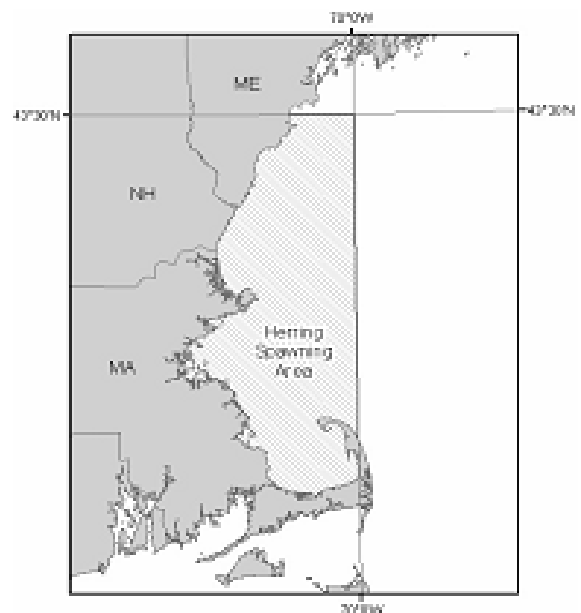
October 20, 2015

### Marine Fisheries Advisory

## **EXTENSION OF ATLANTIC SEA HERRING SPAWNING CLOSURE**

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries is extending the closure of the Massachusetts/New Hampshire Atlantic Sea Herring Spawning Area ([Closure Notice](#)). This extended closure will begin at 0001 hours on Wednesday, October 21, 2015 and remain in effect through 2400 hours on Tuesday, November 3, 2015. The default closure was initially in effect from September 31 – October 18, 2015. During this closure extension, it shall be unlawful for any commercial fishing vessel to possess or land more 2,000 pounds of sea herring taken from within the boundaries of the Spawning Area.

The Director is authorized to extend the Sea Herring Spawning Closure if commercial fishery sampling - conducted cooperatively by the states of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts – indicates that herring landings from the Spawning Area comprise more than 25% spawn herring. Massachusetts sampling of mid-water trawl landings of herring from October 19, 2015 showed 47% spawning fish. Therefore, the closure will be extended for an additional two-week period. It may be further extended if commercial fishery sampling continues to indicate that the 25% threshold for spawning sea herring is being exceeded.



### Spawning Area Boundaries:

Begin at the intersection of 43°30' N latitude and the Maine coast, then in a SW direction along the coast to the intersection of 70°00' W longitude with the Cape Cod shoreline, then north along 70°00' W to its intersection with 43°30' N latitude, then along the 43°30' N line back to the coast.