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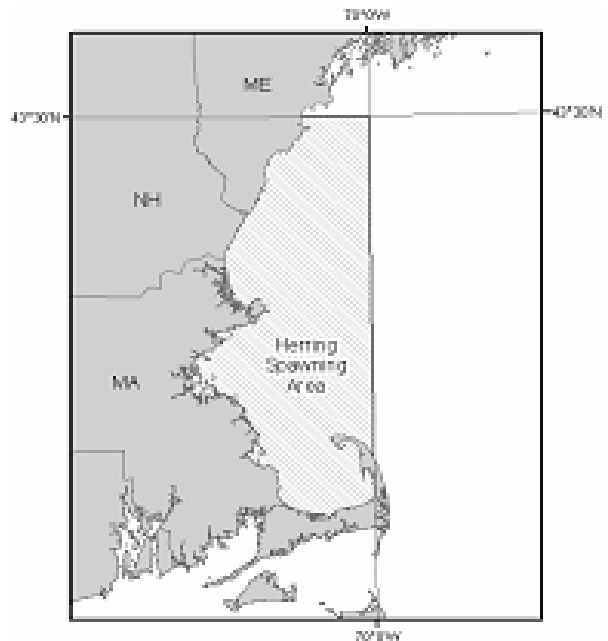
October 27, 2017

Marine Fisheries Advisory

MASSACHUSETTS/NEW HAMPSHIRE SEA HERRING SPAWNING CLOSURE EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 29, 2017

Coordinated sea herring sampling efforts by the states of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts during the final week of the initial closure period of the Massachusetts/New Hampshire (MA/NH) Sea Herring Spawning Area indicate that catch from this area is comprised of 25% or more of herring in spawning condition.

Accordingly, to protect spawning sea herring from harvest, the MA/NH Sea Herring Spawning Area will re-close for two weeks from Sunday, October 29, 2017 through Saturday, November 11, 2017 ([Closure Notice](#)). The MA/NH closure area encompasses all waters north of Cape Cod bounded by 43°30' north latitude to the north and 70°00' west longitude to the east.



During the spawning closure, vessels in the directed Atlantic herring fishery cannot take, possess or land Atlantic sea herring from the MA/NH spawning area. However, there is an exemption for the incidental catch of sea herring, whereby vessels may land up to 2,000 pounds of sea herring taken from the MA/NH spawning area, provided the vessel does not land more than once per day. Vessels may transit this area in possession of more than 2,000 pounds of sea herring provided the fish was caught outside of the MA/NH spawning area, fishing activity is not occurring and all gear is stowed.

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.

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