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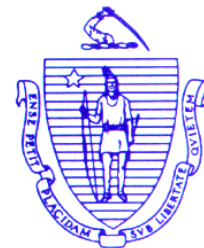
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October 29, 2015

Marine Fisheries Advisory

ATLANTIC SEA HERRING CLOSURE FOR MANAGEMENT AREA 1A, TRIMESTER III

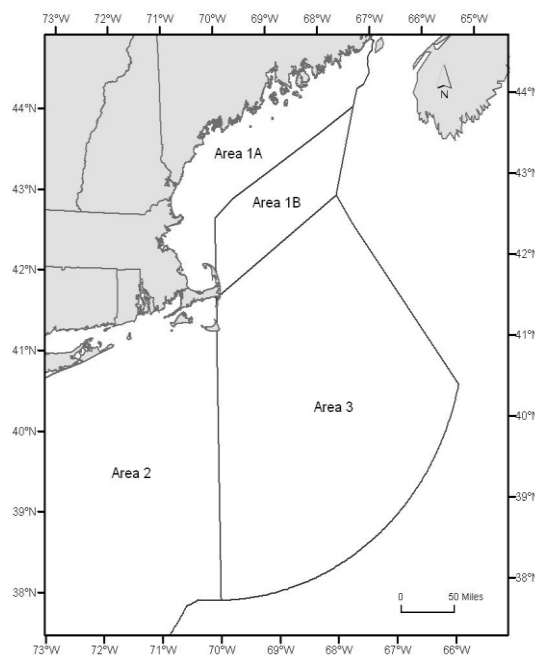
The directed Atlantic sea herring fishery in Management Area 1A is projected to land its Trimester III (October – December) quota allocation and is therefore closed effective Monday, November 2, 2015 at 1200 hours (noon). This closure will remain in effect until further notice. During the quota closure, the landing of sea herring taken from Management Area 1A in excess of 2,000 pounds is prohibited ([Closure Notice](#)). For the purpose of this closure, landing means to transfer sea herring from any vessel onto any land, dock, pier, wharf or other artificial structure. As a reminder, Management Area 1A is currently subject to no-landings days of Thursday through Sunday.

Commercial fishing vessels may continue to land up to 2,000 pounds of Atlantic sea herring taken from Management Area 1A as bycatch during this closure.

This 2,000-pound incidental possession and landing limit applies per calendar day or per trip, whichever is longer. Vessels may transit Management Area 1A in possession of more than 2,000 pounds of sea herring, provided the herring were lawfully caught outside the area and all gear is stowed.

During the closure, dealers acting as primary buyers of Atlantic sea herring are prohibited from purchasing or receiving more than 2,000 pounds of 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 for and land non-conforming quantities of Atlantic sea herring taken from Management Area 1A. However, vessels participating in the RSA fishery are not authorized to possess or land more than 2,000 pounds of sea herring from within the [MA/NH Spawning Area](#) while it is closed through November 3, 2015. The Spawning Area includes all waters 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 §§ 7.01 and 9.00, as well as actions taken by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Sea Herring Section (composed of the states of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts).

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