



**David E. Pierce, Ph.D.**  
*Director*

# *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

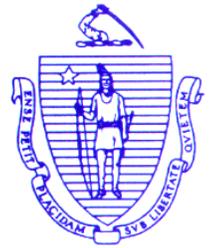
## **Division of Marine Fisheries**

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January 12, 2018

### **STATEMENT OF PERMIT CONDITIONS: PARTICIPATION IN THE 2018 ATLANTIC HERRING RESEARCH SET-ASIDE PROGRAM**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has approved the Research Set-Aside (RSA) Project: Sustaining, improving and evaluating portside sampling and river herring incidental catch reduction methods in the Atlantic herring mid-water trawl fishery. This project was submitted by the Division of Marine Fisheries, the UMASS Dartmouth School of Marine Science and Technology (SMASST) and members of the Atlantic herring mid-water trawl fishery to better characterize and thereby reduce river herring incidental catch in the Atlantic herring mid-water trawl fishery. Vessels authorized to fish in this program (“participating vessels”) will be fishing a federal Exempted Fishery Permit (EFP) for Project #17112.

The 2018 RSA program is effective from January 10, 2018 to December 31, 2018 and has been allocated 909 metric tons of Atlantic herring for Management Area 1A, 135 metric tons of Atlantic herring for Management Area 1B, 873 metric tons of Atlantic herring for Management Area 2 and 1,227 metric tons of Atlantic herring for Management Area 3. Participating vessels are authorized to fish for, possess and land during times, at places and in quantities that are otherwise unlawful. The Division of Marine Fisheries, SMASST and participating vessels are responsible for ensuring these RSA allocations are not exceeded.

To fish for or land Atlantic herring taken as part of the 2018 Atlantic Herring RSA Program in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, participating vessels have been issued Letters of Authorization from the Division of Marine Fisheries. In accordance with the authority set forth at M.G.L. c. 130, §80 and 322 CMR § 7.01(7), the following conditions have been attached to the commercial fisherman permits of vessels participating in this RSA program:

1. The commercial fisherman permit holder and named vessel must meet the requirements set forth in the Responsible Fishing Agreement, attached to this LOA, for allocation of RSA quota and responsible fishing while harvesting RSA quota.
2. The commercial fisherman permit holder and named vessel must meet the conditions and requirements set forth in the NOAA issued EFP for Project #17112 attached to this LOA.
3. The NMFS issued EFP for Project #17112, the Letter of Authorization for Participation in the 2018 Atlantic Herring Research Set Aside Program and the Responsible Fishing Agreement must be kept onboard the named vessel at all times.
4. The NMFS issued EFP for Project #17112, the Letter of Authorization for Participation in the 2018 Atlantic Herring Research Set Aside Program and the Responsible Fishing Agreement must be displayed to any Environmental Police Officer or Employee of the Division of Marine Fisheries upon request.
5. Unless otherwise exempted, the commercial fisherman permit holder and named vessel must be in compliance with all relevant laws and regulations of the Commonwealth, including but not limited to those laws and regulations found at M.G.L. c. 130 and 322 CMR.

**This Letter of Authorization is valid through December 31, 2018 or until the Atlantic herring RSA allocations for this program are landed, whichever occurs first. Any activities that do not comply with the conditions set forth in this Letter of Authorization or the appurtenant NMFS issued EFP for Project #17112 may result in the revocation the Letter of Authorization and the violator may be subject to applicable fines, penalties and permit sanctions.**

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter,



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David E. Pierce, PhD  
Director

January 10, 2018

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Effective Date