



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

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### NOTICE OF FISHERY CLOSURE

#### **2020 COMMERCIAL ATLANTIC SEA HERRING FISHERY IN MANAGEMENT AREA 1A**

The directed Atlantic sea herring fishery in Management Area 1A is projected to have harvested its 2020 Atlantic sea herring quota allocation, as established at 322 CMR § 9.01. Accordingly, pursuant to the notice and public comment requirements of G.L. c. 30A §3 and under the authority of G.L. c.130 §§17A, 21 and 80, and 322 CMR §§ 6.41(2)(c), 7.01(7) and 9.03(3), the Atlantic sea herring fishery in Management Area 1A is closed effective 2100 hours on Monday, November 9, 2020. The directed sea herring fishery in Management Area 1A will remain closed through the remainder the calendar year.

This closure shall not impact any fishing activity conducted under the Research Set-Aside and in accordance with a Letter of Authorization from the Division of Marine Fisheries issued pursuant to 322 CMR §7.01(7). Additionally, the incidental catch and small-scale fishery allowance during closed periods, as established at 322 CMR § 9.05(4), allows vessels to retain, possess, and land up to 2,000 pounds of sea herring taken from Management Area 1A during a quota closure. This allowance applies per calendar day or per fishing trip, whichever duration of time is longer. Vessels may transit Management Area 1A during this closure in possession of non-conforming quantities of Atlantic sea herring, provided that the fish was lawfully caught outside of Management Area 1A and all gear is stowed in a manner that it is unavailable for immediate use.

This quota closure also applies to seafood and bait dealers, authorized in accordance with G.L. c. 130 § 80 and 322 CMR §§ 7.01(3) and 7.07(3) to purchase Atlantic sea herring directly from commercial fishermen. In accordance with 322 CMR §§ 7.01(7), 7.07(5)(b) and 9.05, and except as otherwise authorized, these dealers are prohibited from purchasing or receiving more than 2,000 pounds of Atlantic sea herring per vessel during any calendar day from a fishing trip that occurred within Management Area 1A.

Dated: November 9, 2020

By: 

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director