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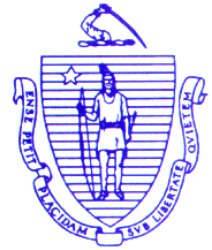
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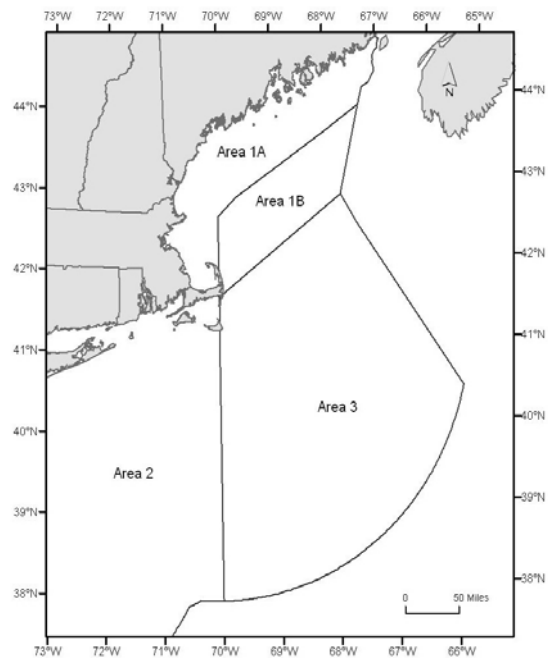
November 26, 2019

Marine Fisheries Advisory

Atlantic Herring Management Area 1A to Close Effective November 27, 2019

The 2019 directed Atlantic sea herring fishery in Management Area 1A is projected to have harvested 92% of its Period 4 (November 1 – December 31) allocation. Accordingly, the directed fishery will close effective at 12:01am on Wednesday November 27, 2019 ([Closure Notice](#)). At that time, the directed sea herring fishery in Area 1A will move to zero landing days through December 31, 2019. The Area 1A closure will remain in effect until June 1, when the 2020 directed fishery is expected to open.

When the Area 1A directed sea herring fishery is closed, the catch, retention, landing, and sale of sea herring taken from Management Area 1A is prohibited with limited exceptions. Authorized commercial fishing vessels may continue to retain, land and sell an incidental catch of Atlantic sea herring of up to 2,000 pounds. This 2,000 pound incidental limit applies per calendar day or per trip, whichever is longer. Dealers authorized as primary buyers may lawfully receive and purchase this 2,000 pound incidental catch from commercial fishermen. Vessels may transit Management Area 1A in possession of Atlantic sea herring, provided the herring were lawfully caught outside of the area and all gear is stowed.



Vessels participating in the ongoing research set-aside (RSA) project with the DMF may continue to fish for sea herring in Area 1A and retain and land sea herring in excess of the 2,000 pound incidental bycatch limit. All participating vessels must hold a Letter of Authorization from DMF and fish in accordance with the criteria established therein. This includes strict guidelines to reduce bycatch and discards, submit accurate and timely reporting, and avoid negative interactions with other fisheries. RSA effort and sampling updates are available through the [SMAST Bycatch Avoidance Program](#), and more information is available about the program on the [DMF website](#).

For more information regarding the management of sea herring in Area 1A, please contact Cate O'Keefe (Catherine.O'Keefe@mass.gov). For more information about the RSA Project please contact Brad Schondelmeier of DMF (brad.schondelmeier@state.ma.us)

