

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114 p: (617) 626-1520 | f: (617) 626-1509 www.mass.gov/marinefisheries



CHARLES D. BAKER Governor KARYN E. POLITO Lt. Governor KATHLEEN A. THEOHARIDES Secretary

RONALD S. AMIDON Commissioner DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN Director

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MarineFisheries Advisory

Atlantic Sea Herring Area 1A Effort Controls for 2021 and Declaration to Participate in the Directed Atlantic Sea Herring Fishery in Area 1A

Initial Effort Control Measures

On April 22, 2021, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Herring Management Board ("Board") set the initial effort control measures for the 2021 Area 1A directed fishery for June 1 to September 30 (Season 1). The Board approved the following effort control measures to managed the Area 1A quota of 1,058 mt for Season 1:

- 1. <u>Season Start Date</u>. The fishery shall open on June 13, 2021 at 6PM. From June 1, 2021 through 6PM on June 13, 2021, the directed fishery in Area 1A will remain closed.
- 2. Open Days. Beginning at 6PM on June 13, 2021, federal Category A permit holders declared into the Area 1A fishery may land herring five consecutive days per week with no more than one landing per 24 hour period. The fishing week shall begin at 6PM on Sundays and conclude at 5:59PM on Fridays.
- 3. <u>Days Out</u>. Category A permit holders declared into the Area 1A fishery are prohibited from landing or possessing herring taken from Area 1A beginning at 6PM on Fridays until 6PM on Sundays.
- 4. Weekly Landing Limits. Category A permit holders declared into the Area 1A fishery may not harvest or land in excess of 240,000 pounds (six trucks) of herring per harvester vessel per week.
- 44"N

 Area 1A

 Area 1B

 Area 3

 40"N

 Area 2

 39"N

 75"W

 72"W

 71"W

 70"W

 66"W

 68"W

 68
- 5. <u>At-Sea Transfers</u>. Category A permit holders landing herring caught in Area 1A may transfer herring at-sea to another harvester vessel, but may not make any at sea transfers to a carrier vessel. Carrier vessels are prohibited from receiving any at sea transfers from a harvester vessel of herring taken from Area 1A.
- 6. <u>Incidental Catch</u>. All fishermen are prohibited from retaining or landing more than 2,000 pounds of herring taken from Area 1A during any closed period or day out.

Declaration Process for Category A, C, and D Federal Permit Holders

Category A, C, and D permit holders seeking to participate in the 2021 directed commercial Atlantic sea herring fishery in Management Area 1A must obtain a Letter of Authorization (LOA) from the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF). To obtain this LOA, please complete the embedded form and return it to DMF via e-mail (jared.siva@mass.gov) prior to 5:00PM on May 15, 2021.

State-Only Fishermen

State-only permit holders <u>do not</u> need to submit a form to DMF. Nor do state only permit holders need to obtain a Letter of Authorization from DMF. Instead, these permit holders may fish under the 2,000 pound incidental catch and small scale fishery trip limit.

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