



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

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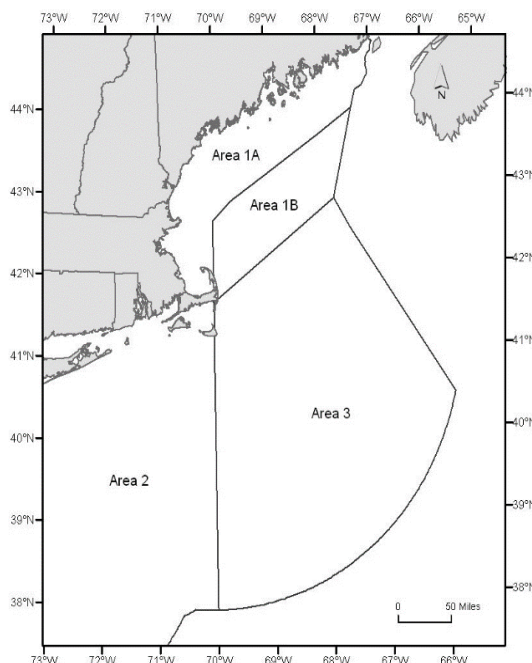
May 2, 2023

Marine Fisheries Advisory **Atlantic Sea Herring Area 1A Effort Controls for 2023 and Reminder of Category C/D Declaration Deadline**

Initial Effort Control Measures

On April 27, 2023, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Herring Management Board ("Board") met to set the initial effort control measures for the 2023 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 2,220 mt for Season 1, which DMF is now implementing by declaration (see [Notice](#)).

1. **Season Start Date.** The fishery shall open on July 16, 2023 at 6PM. From June 1, 2023 through 6PM on July 16, 2023, the directed fishery in Area 1A will remain closed.
2. **Open Days.** Beginning at 6PM on July 16, 2023:
 - i. Federal Category A permit holders that have declared into the Area 1A fishery may land herring five consecutive days per week, one landing per 24-hour period. The week shall begin at 6PM on Sundays and conclude at 6PM on Fridays. Vessels are prohibited from landing or possessing herring taken from Area 1A during a day out of the fishery.
 - ii. Federal Category C/D Small-mesh bottom trawl (SMBT) permit holders that have declared into the differential SMBT Days Out program in Area 1A may land herring six consecutive days per week. The week shall begin at 6PM on Sundays and conclude at 6PM on Saturdays.
3. **Weekly Landing Limits.** Category A permit holders that have declared into the Area 1A fishery may not harvest or land in excess of 320,000 pounds (eight trucks) of herring per harvester vessel per week starting July 16.
4. **At-Sea Transfers.** 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.

5. Incidental Catch. All fishermen are prohibited from landing more than 2,000 pounds of herring from Area 1A during any closed day or period.

Small-Mesh Bottom Trawl Days-out Declaration Process

Category C and D permit holders seeking to participate in the 2023 directed commercial Atlantic sea herring fishery in Management Area 1A using small-mesh bottom trawl gear must notify their state of their intent to fish in Area 1A by June 1. Vessels must also obtain a Letter of Authorization (LOA) from the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF). To declare intent and obtain this LOA, please complete the [embedded form](#) and return it to DMF via e-mail (julia.kaplan@mass.gov) prior to 5:00PM on May 31, 2023.

State-Only Fishermen

State-only permit holders do not 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 and www.asmfc.org.