



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

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Director

## NOTICE OF FISHERY CLOSURE:

### 2023 MANAGEMENT AREA 1A COMMERCIAL SEA HERRING CLOSURE NOTICE FOR SEASON I

The quota allocation for Season I (June 1 – September 30) for the Management Area 1A Atlantic sea herring fishery, as established at 322 CMR §§ 9.01 and 9.02, is projected to be fully taken after Friday, August 25, 2023. 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 9.05(3)(a), the Atlantic sea herring fishery in Management Area 1A is closed effective 1201 hours on Saturday, August 26, 2023 through September 30, 2023.

Pursuant to G.L. c. 130, §80 and 322 CMR §7.01(7), all Letters of Authorization setting effort controls for the Season I fishery are rescinded upon the closure of this fishery. From 1201 hours on August 26, 2023 through September 30, 2023 there shall be no landing days in the Management Area 1A Atlantic sea herring fishery. During this closure period, and in accordance with 322 CMR § 9.05(4), vessels with a regulated fishery permit endorsement for sea herring may continue to take and land a bycatch of Atlantic sea herring of up to 2,000 pounds. This limit applies per calendar day or per fishing trip, whichever duration of time is longer. Also, 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 and all gear is stowed in a manner that it is unavailable for immediate use.

This closures also applies to 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 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, except as otherwise authorized.

Dated: August 25, 2023

By: 

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director