



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

(617) 626-1520 | www.mass.gov/marinefisheries



MAURA T. HEALEY
Governor

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
Lt. Governor

REBECCA L. TEPPER
Secretary

THOMAS K. O'SHEA
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

September 18, 2025

Marine Fisheries Advisory

MA/NH Herring Spawning Closure in Effect Starting September 23rd & Days Out Measures for Season 2 of the 2025 Atlantic Herring Area 1A Fishery

MA/NH Spawning Area Closure

The Atlantic herring fishery in the inshore Gulf of Maine (Area 1A) is subject to seasonal spawning closures for portions of state and federal waters of Eastern Maine, Western Maine, and Massachusetts/New Hampshire. The closures are forecasted based on certain protocols involving the sampling of sea herring catch from the area, and if there are not sufficient samples then the closures begin on certain predetermined dates. For 2025, the default closure will go into effect. Accordingly, the Massachusetts/New Hampshire and Western Maine spawning areas will close September 23, 2025 through November 3, 2025 to directed sea herring fishing ([ASMFC closure notice](#)).

During the closure period, directed fishing for sea herring is prohibited within these closure areas. However, non-directed fisheries may continue to occur in the closure areas. Vessels participating in these non-directed fisheries may retain an incidental bycatch allowance of up to 2,000 pounds of Atlantic herring per day or per trip, whichever period is longer. All vessels may transit the closure areas in excess of this 2,000 pound non-directed trip limit provided the fish were taken from outside the closure areas, no fishing activity is occurring, and all gear is stowed.

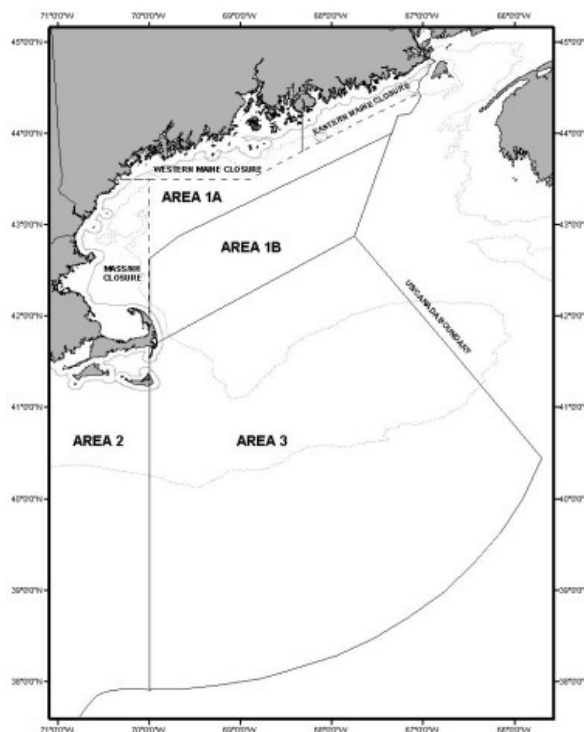
The Western Maine spawning area includes all waters bounded by the following coordinates:

43° 30' N Maine coast

43° 30' N 68° 54.5' W

43° 48' N 68° 20' W

North to Maine coast at 68° 20' W



The Massachusetts/New Hampshire spawning area includes all waters bounded by the Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine coasts, and 43° 30' N and 70° 00' W.

Landing Days for the 2025 Area 1A Fishery for Season 2

Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Sea Herring Management Board from Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts met virtually on September 18, 2025. The purpose of the meeting was to review the utilization of the 2025 Atlantic sea herring sub-ACL (or quota) for Management Area 1A (inshore Gulf of Maine) and set effort control measures for the remainder of the Season 2 fishery (October 1 – December 31).

The 2025 Area 1A sub-annual catch limit (sub-ACL) is 783 metric tons (mt). This does not take into account the possible reallocation of 1,000 mt to the Area 1A sub-ACL based on catch information from the Canadian New Brunswick weir fishery, nor does it take into account [revised quotas](#) approved by ASMFC and the New England Fishery Management Council that may be implemented by NOAA Fisheries.

Landings from Area 1A have exceeded the current sub-ACL and are at an estimated 937 mt as of mid-September and therefore the fishery is currently closed. Without a change in the quota from one of the mechanisms listed above, the Area 1A fishery will remain closed with a 2,000-pound possession limit.

The days out measures for Season 2 are as follows ([see ASMFC notice](#)):

- Landing days will be set at zero (0) from October 1 through November 4.
- If 1,000 mt is reallocated to Area 1A by October 31, the fishery will move to two (2) consecutive landing days starting at 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, November 5 until 92% of the Area 1A sub-ACL has been caught. Landing days would be Wednesdays from 12:01 a.m. through Thursdays at 11:59 p.m., weekly.
- If the revised higher quotas have been implemented by October 31 but there has not been a 1,000 mt reallocation, the fishery will move to one (1) landing day starting at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, November 5 until 92% of the Area 1A sub-ACL has been caught. The weekly landing day would be Wednesday.
- If the revised higher quotas have not been implemented and there has not been a 1,000 mt reallocation by October 31, landing days will remain at zero (0) from November 5 onward. If there is a subsequent change in available Area 1A quota, then another Days Out call will be scheduled.

While landing days are set at zero (0), harvesters are prohibited from landing more than 2,000 pounds of Atlantic herring per trip from Area 1A.

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