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2012 Days Out Schedule for the Management Area 1A Atlantic Sea Herring Directed Fishery

Media Contact

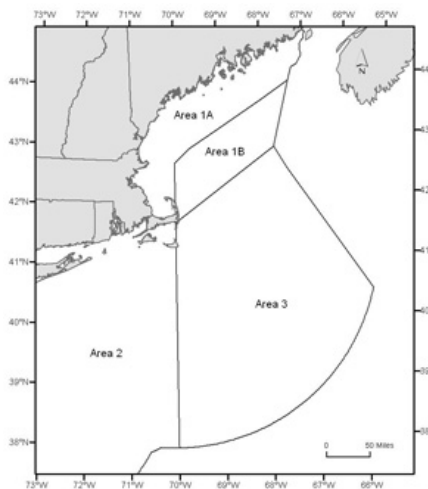
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 626-1520
Fax (617) 626-1509
Email: marine.fish@state.ma.us

On April 17, 2012 the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Atlantic Sea Herring Section (consisting of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts Commissioners) approved the following "days out" schedule for the directed commercial Atlantic sea herring fishery in Management Area 1A. Pursuant to 322 CMR 9.05, the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (MFAC) will review the 2012 days-out schedule and vote to authorize the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries to declare days-out specifications for the landing of Atlantic sea herring from Management Area 1A. The MFAC will vote through an electronic poll to be completed by 5:00 PM on Monday, May 14, 2012.



The ASMFC-approved days out schedule is as follows:

- June 1, 2012 – June 30, 2012
During this period, vessels in the directed fishery are authorized to land Atlantic sea herring only on Mondays and Tuesdays and will take 5 days out, Wednesdays-Sundays. Vessels may only land once per day on an authorized landing day and are prohibited from landing in excess of 2,000 pounds of Atlantic sea herring bycatch on any day out.



- July 1, 2012 – July 15, 2012
During this period, vessels in the directed fishery are authorized to land Atlantic sea herring only on Mondays through Thursdays and will take 3 days out, Fridays-Sundays. Vessels may only land once per day on an authorized landing day and are prohibited from landing in excess of 2,000 pounds of Atlantic sea herring bycatch on any day out.
- July 15, 2012 – Further Notification
During this period, vessels in the directed fishery are authorized to land Atlantic sea herring seven days per week; there are no days out. Vessels may only land once per day on an authorized landing day.

The ASMFC's Atlantic Sea Herring Section will meet on July 2, 2012 and July 25, 2012 to review catch rates and effort in Management Area 1A. Based on their findings, the previously approved days out schedule may be subject to change.

For further information regarding Atlantic sea herring management please visit the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission website (www.asmf.org) and our website at (www.mass.gov/marinefisheries).

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