



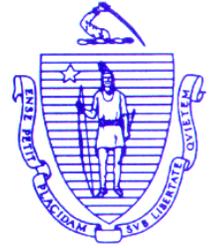
David E. Pierce, Ph.D
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

(617)626-1520
fax (617)626-1509



Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn E. Polito
Lieutenant Governor
Matthew A. Beaton
Secretary

George N. Peterson, Jr.
Commissioner

Mary-Lee King
Deputy Commissioner

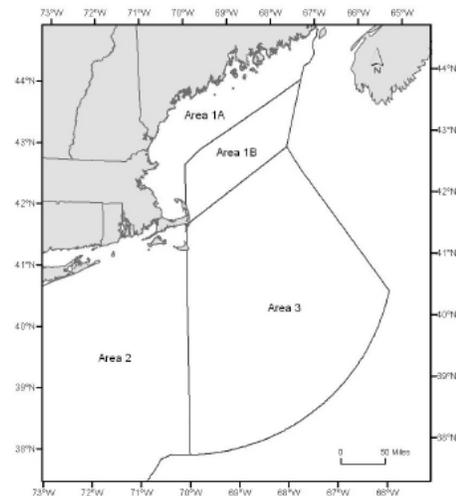
September 27, 2016
Marine Fisheries Advisory

Atlantic Sea Herring Management Area 1A Trimester 3 Landing Days and Massachusetts/New Hampshire Spawning Closure

Trimester 3 Days-Out Schedule

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Sea Herring Section (Section) – consisting of ASMFC Commissioners from Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts – recently approved a “days-out” schedule for the Trimester 3 period (October 1 – December 31) in the Management Area 1A (Area 1A) Atlantic sea herring directed fishery. This schedule is provided in the bullet below and will be implemented through permit conditions, in accordance with G.L. c. 130 §80 and 322 CMR §7.01(7).

- During Trimester 3, vessels in the directed sea herring fishery may land sea herring taken from Area 1A on Mondays through Thursdays. The first lawful landing day is October 3, 2016. All other calendar days (Fridays – Sundays) are days-out and landing sea herring taken from Area 1A is prohibited. During any day-out there is an exemption for incidental catch whereby vessels may land up to 2,000 pounds of sea herring taken from Area 1A, provided the vessel does not land more than once per day.

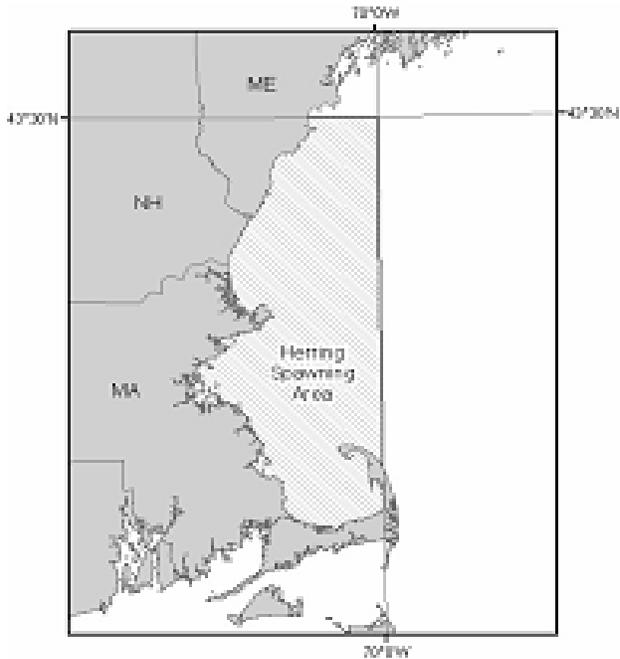


The Section will be actively monitoring Area 1A sea herring landings and this days-out schedule may be adjusted based on landings. Once 92% of Area 1A's Trimester 3 quota allocation is landed, the directed fishery will close.

Massachusetts/New Hampshire Spawning Closure

Sea herring sampling within the Massachusetts/New Hampshire (MA/NH) spawning area began on August 8, 2016. Nine samples, totaling 654 female herring, have been collected to evaluate the spawning condition of sea herring in this area. Based on an analysis of the samples, the

MA/NH spawning area will be closed from 0001 hours on Sunday, October 2, 2016 through 2359 hours on October 29, 2016 ([Closure Notice](#)) to protect spawning sea herring. The MA/NH closure area encompasses all waters north of Cape Cod bounded by 43°30' north latitude and 70°00' west longitude to the east. The closure may be extended for an additional 14-day period if sampling during the last week of the initial closure demonstrates that catch from this area is comprised of 25% or more of herring in spawning condition.



During the spawning closure, vessels in the directed Atlantic herring fishery cannot take, possess or land Atlantic sea herring from the MA/NH spawning area. During the spawning closure, there is an exemption for the incidental catch of sea herring, whereby vessels may land up to 2,000 pounds of sea herring taken from the MA/NH spawning area, provided the vessel does not land more than once per day. Vessels may transit this area in possession of more than 2,000 pounds of sea herring provided the fish was caught outside of the MA/NH spawning area, fishing activity is not occurring and all gear is stowed.

Due to landing day restrictions in Trimester 3, vessels will not be allowed to land prior to the onset of the MA/NH spawning closure on October 2. Therefore, if a vessel harvests sea herring from the MA/NH spawning area on October 1, it will be in violation of the days-out schedule and implementing laws and regulations at G.L. c. 130 §80 and 322 CMR §§7.01(7) and 9.05.

For more information regarding sea herring management in Massachusetts, please view our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries