




# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Atlantic Herring Management Board, Atlantic Herring Technical Committee, Atlantic Herring Advisory Panel, Interested Parties

**FROM:** Toni Kerns, Fisheries Policy Director 

**DATE:** September 15, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Western Maine and Massachusetts/New Hampshire Spawning Closures in Effect Starting September 23, 2023 through November 3, 2023; Days Out Measures for Season 2 of the 2023 Atlantic Herring Area 1A Fishery

The Atlantic herring Area 1A fishery regulations include seasonal spawning closures for portions of state and federal waters in Eastern Maine, Western Maine and Massachusetts/New Hampshire. The Commission's Atlantic Herring Management Board approved a forecasting method that relies upon at least three samples, each containing at least 25 female herring in gonadal stages III-V, to trigger a spawning closure. However, if sufficient samples are not available then closures will begin on predetermined dates.

There are currently insufficient from both the Western Maine spawning area and the Massachusetts/New Hampshire spawning area. Therefore, per Addendum II default closure dates, the Western Maine and Massachusetts/New Hampshire spawning areas will be closed starting at 12:01 a.m. on September 23, 2023 extending through 11:59 p.m. on November 3, 2023. 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.

Vessels in the directed Atlantic herring fishery cannot take, land or possess Atlantic herring caught in either the Western Maine or Massachusetts/New Hampshire spawning areas during this time and must have all fishing gear stowed when transiting through the area. The incidental bycatch allowance of up to 2,000 pounds of Atlantic herring per trip per day applies to vessels in non-directed fisheries that are fishing within the Western Maine or Massachusetts/ New Hampshire spawning areas.

M23-77

### **Days Out Measures for Season 2 of the 2023 Atlantic Herring Area 1A Fishery**

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Herring Management Board members from Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts met September 14 via webinar to set effort control measures for the 2023 Area 1A fishery for Season 2 (October 1 – December 31). The Season 2 quota is approximately 955 metric tons (mt), which is 27.2% of the Area 1A sub-annual catch limit (ACL) after adjusting for the 30 mt fixed gear set-aside, a slight underage from Season 1, and an 8% buffer (since the Area 1A closes at 92% of the sub-ACL). 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.

The days out measures for Season 2 are as follows:

- Landing days will be set at zero (0) from October 1 to 9.
- The fishery will move to two (2) landing days from 12:01 am October 10 to 11:59 p.m. October 11.
- The fishery will move to zero (0) landing days from October 12 to November 4.
- The fishery will move to four (4) consecutive landing days per week starting on November 5 at 6:00 p.m. until 92% of the Area 1A sub-ACL is caught. Landing days are Sundays from 6:00 p.m. through Thursdays at 5:59 p.m., weekly.

The fishery will only move to four (4) landing days on November 5 at 6 pm if there is remaining Season 2 quota at that time. Quota availability will depend on how much is landed from October 10-11 and if the 1,000 mt reallocation from the Canadian weir fishery to the Area 1A sub-ACL occurs.

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 during Season 2.

Please contact Caitlin Starks, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at [cstarks@asmfc.org](mailto:cstarks@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740 for more information.

### **Days Out Meeting Motions (September 14, 2023)**

**Move to set the following schedule for Area 1A landing days in Trimester 3:**

- **Zero landing days from October 1- 9**
- **Two landing days from 12:01am October 10 to 11:59pm October 11**
- **Zero landing days from October 12 – November 4**
- **Starting on November 5 at 6pm, move to 4 landing days per week until 92% of the Area 1A sub-ACL is caught**

Motion by Ms. Ware.

Motion passed by consent.