



# Quota Periods for the 2024 Area 1A Fishery



Atlantic Herring Management Board  
October 2023

# Outline



- Review Amendment 3 quota period systems
- **Board action for consideration today:  
Set quota periods for the 2024 Area 1A fishery**



# Area 1A Quota Periods



- Per Amendment 3, quota periods shall be determined annually for Area 1A
- The Board can distribute the Area 1A sub-ACL to meet the needs of the fishery using quota periods:
  - Bi-monthly
  - Trimester
  - Seasonal
- The Board can also decide whether quota from Jan 1 – May 31 will be allocated to later in the fishing season
- Underages may be rolled from one period to the next within the same year



# Area 1A Quota Periods



## Bi-Monthly Quotas

January – December			No Landings Prior to June 1 (with June as a one-month period)			No Landings Prior to June 1 (with December as a one-month period)		
Period	Months	%	Period	Months	%	Period	Months	%
1	Jan/Feb	1.5%	1	June	16.4%	1	June/July	36.8%
2	Mar/Apr	2.3%	2	July/Aug	40.1%	2	Aug/Sep	36.0%
3	May/June	24.0%	3	Sep/Oct	34.0%	3	Oct/Nov	27.1%
4	July/Aug	34.6%	4	Nov/Dec	9.5%	4	Dec	0.2%
5	Sep/Oct	29.4%						
6	Nov/Dec	8.2%						

## Trimesters

January – December			Seasonal Quotas					
January – December			January - December			No Landings Prior to June 1		
Trimester	Months	%	Season	Months	%	Season	Season	%
1	Jan - May	13.7%	1	Jan - Sep	76.5%	1	Jun - Sep	72.8%
2	Jun - Sept	62.8%	2	Oct - Dec	23.5%	2	Oct - Dec	27.2%
3	Oct - Dec	23.5%						



# Quota Periods in Recent Years



- **2019:** bimonthly quota periods with no landings prior to June 1 (with June as a 1-month period)

- Underages rolled to next period

June	16.4%
July/Aug	40.1%
Sep/Oct	34.0%
Nov/Dec	9.5%

- **2020, 2021, 2022, 2023:** seasonal quota periods with no landings prior to June 1

- Underages rolled to next period

June-Sep	72.8%
Oct-Dec	27.2%



# Today



- **Board action for consideration:**  
**Set quota periods for the 2024 Area 1A fishery**

*2024 Area 1A sub-ACL is 5,546 metric tons*



# Questions?





# New England Fishery Management Council Atlantic Herring Update

**Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission**

**Atlantic Herring Management Board**

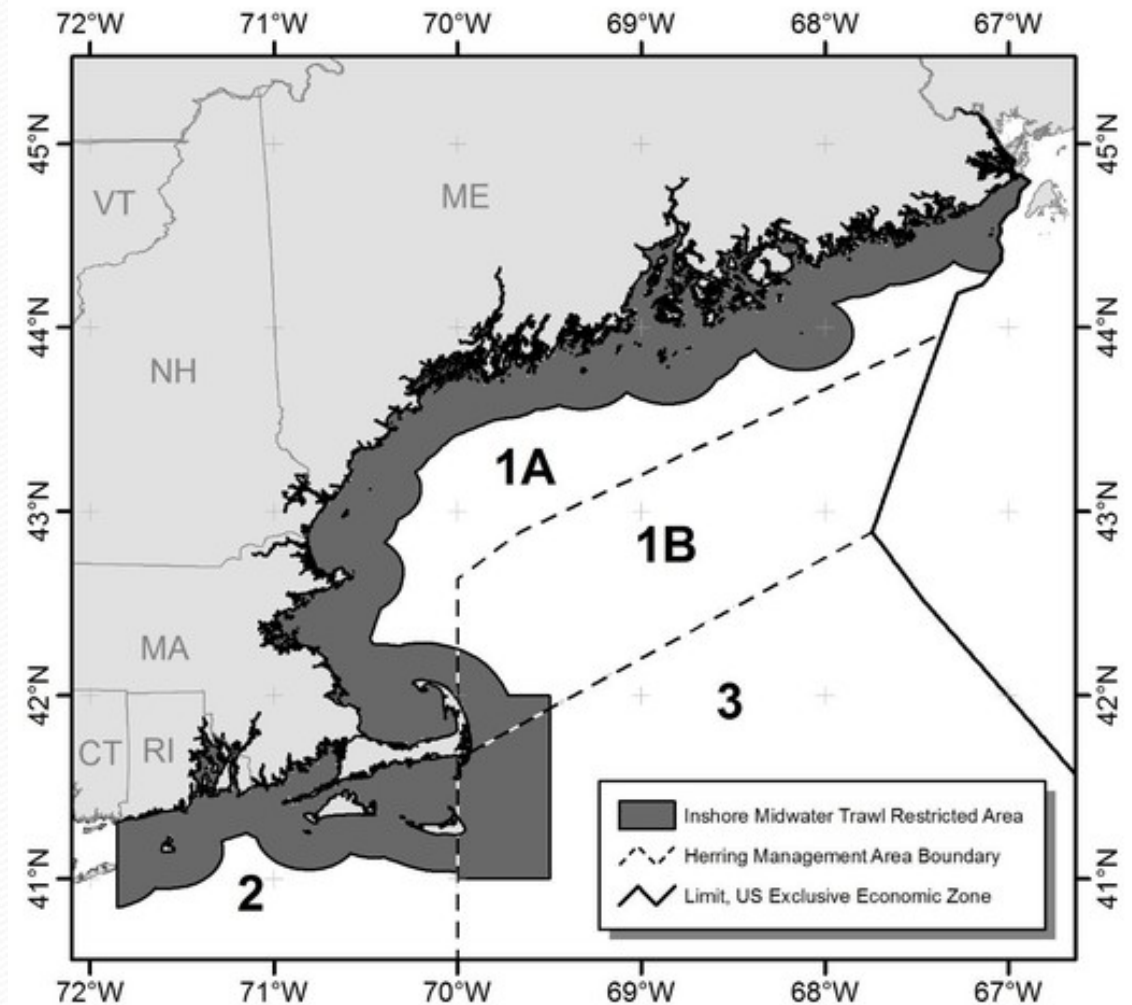
**Beaufort, NC and by Webinar**

**October 16, 2023**



# Former A8 Inshore Midwater Trawl Closure

- 12-mile buffer zone from RI to US/Canada border; 20-mile buffer east of Cape Cod
- Prohibits vessels from "using, deploying, or fishing with midwater trawl gear" within restricted area
  - Short-duration, high volume herring removals
  - MWT are more mobile/capable of fishing further offshore than other gear types
- Addressed concerns that concentrated, intense commercial fishing efforts would negatively impact other user groups (commercial, recreational, tourism) dependent on herring as forage
- In addition to seasonal MWT closure in Area 1A (June 1-September 30, annually)



# Problem Statement – June 27 Council Meeting

That the Council adopt the following Atlantic Herring Action Problem Statement:

The purpose of this action is to develop and implement management actions designed to attain optimum yield and improve the conservation status of Atlantic herring by accounting for its critically important role as a forage species in the ecosystem and minimizing user conflicts created by competing interests on the herring resource between the directed herring fishery and other important user groups, including commercial and recreational fisheries, whale watching, and tourism.

This Council will explore a range of management alternatives to minimize user conflicts, including spatially and temporally explicit gear restrictions, area closures, and possession limits. The geographic scope of potential management measures will consider, but not be limited to, the spatial extent of the Midwater Trawl Restricted Area approved by the Council in Amendment 8, with a particular focus on areas not already subject to seasonal closures to midwater trawling.

Analyses conducted to support this action will also evaluate the changes in the incidental catch of shad and river herring that will likely result from the measures adopted to reduce spatial and temporal user conflicts.



# Changing Priorities– June 27 Council Meeting

## Council Motion:

To modify 2023 Council priorities for Herring to develop an action to address the Atlantic Herring Action Problem Statement adopted by the Council today.

*Rationale:* To move work forward in this year's current Atlantic herring priorities addressing through problem statement that will not preclude/disprove any gear types.

# Amendment 10 –September 28 Council Meeting

That the Council change the title for this action from “revisit Amendment 8 Inshore Midwater Trawl Closure” to “an action to minimize user conflicts related to the Atlantic herring fishery.”

That the Council task the Herring Committee and PDT to develop a scoping document and a schedule for hearings by the January 2024 Council meeting. There should be in-person scoping hearings and 1 virtual hearing, designed to solicit participation from all user groups with an interest in the herring resource. As part of its work, the Herring Committee and PDT should review and compile the records of user conflicts in the Atlantic herring fishery from prior analysis including hearings and other public comments during development of Amendment 8, or other Council actions.

That the Council develop Amendment 10 to the Atlantic Herring FMP to address spatial and temporal allocation and management of Atlantic herring at the management unit level to minimize user conflicts, contribute to optimum yield and support rebuilding of the resource.