



2025-2027 Specifications for the Atlantic Herring Fishery



Atlantic Herring Management Board

October 21, 2024

2025-2027 Specifications



- In September 2024 the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) took final action on a 2025-2027 specifications package for Atlantic herring to be submitted to NOAA Fisheries
- New 2025 Annual Catch Limit (ACL) would be the lowest in the history of the FMP
- Specifications based on the 2024 Management Track Stock Assessment and use the Council's ABC control rule
 - Overfished but overfishing not occurring; however, high possibility of overfishing if the full 2024 ABC is utilized
 - Recruitment remains very low
 - Rebuilding plan in place; projections indicate rebuilding by 2031



2025-2027 Specifications



- Council requested in-season adjustment to reduce default 2025 specifications to the revised 2025 specifications
 - Default specs for 2025 part of 2023-2025 specs package
 - Revised 2025 specs are much lower (revised 2025 ACL is 89% lower than default 2025 ACL)
 - If new specs package cannot be implemented by January 1, fishery could catch entire revised ACL or Area sub-ACLs before new specs are implemented
 - Seeking in-season adjustment to prevent overfishing in 2025



2025-2027 Specifications



- Council requested nullification of quota carryover from 2023 to 2025
 - 2023 underages in Area 1B and Area 2 (carryover up to 10% of each Area's sub-ACL)
 - Council concerned about scale of 2023 carryover given very low 2025 specs



2025-2027 NEFMC Specifications



| NEFMC Specification (mt) | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Overfishing Limit (OFL) | 18,273 | 21,659 | 21,659 |
| Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) | 6,741 | 10,885 | 10,885 |
| Management Uncertainty* | 4,031 | 4,031 | 4,031 |
| Annual Catch Limit (ACL) | 2,710 | 6,854 | 6,854 |
| Domestic Annual Harvest | 2,710 | 6,854 | 6,854 |
| Border Transfer | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**If the New Brunswick weir fishery catch through October 1 is less than the associated trigger, then 1,000 mt of the management uncertainty buffer will be added to the Area 1A sub-ACL and the ACL.*

2023-2025 NEFMC Specifications



| NEFMC Specification (mt) | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|
| Area 1A Sub-ACL* (28.9%) | 783 | 1,981 | 1,981 |
| Area 1B Sub-ACL (4.3%) | 117 | 295 | 295 |
| Area 2 Sub-ACL (27.8%) | 753 | 1,905 | 1,905 |
| Area 3 Sub-ACL (39%) | 1,057 | 2,673 | 2,673 |
| Fixed Gear Set-Aside | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| Research Set-Aside as % of sub-ACLs | 0% | 0% | 0% |

**If the New Brunswick weir fishery catch through October 1 is less than the associated trigger, then 1,000 mt of the management uncertainty buffer will be added to the Area 1A sub-ACL and the ACL.*

2025-2027 Specifications



- Maintain the current river herring and shad catch caps in 2025-2027



2025-2027 Specifications



- Council concerned about the magnitude of reduction for 2025 specs and the social and economic impacts
- New 2025 ACL would be the lowest in the history of the FMP
- New catch limits will not support a directed commercial fishery





Questions?

Board action for consideration:

Set 2025-2027 specifications contingent on the rule being published by NOAA Fisheries.



Quota Periods for the 2025 Area 1A Fishery



Atlantic Herring Management Board
October 2024

Outline



- Review Amendment 3 quota period systems
- **Board action for consideration today:
Set quota periods for the 2025 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

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 through 2024:** 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 2025 Area 1A fishery

2025 Area 1A sub-ACL = 783 metric tons (pending NOAA rule)

Questions?

