

Jeanne A. Fuller
PO Box 385
Boothbay, Maine 04537
harborbait@outlook.com
(207)462-3411

October 29, 2022

ASMFC Atlantic Herring Board

Dear Board Members,

I would like to request that a meeting of the Atlantic Herring Advisory Panel be scheduled in the near future. There are a few important topics that I believe should be addressed.

1. In regard to Area 1A – During trimester 3 (October – December), current rules do not allow for limits on the number of trucks of herring caught per day nor on the number of fishing days before scheduled landing days. This means that vessels can fill up without technically declaring their catch until the first landing day. It is a recipe for disaster – especially with such a tiny available quota and boats participating that can hold close to a third each of the available quota. Additionally, because the fishery is not restricted to purse seiners during the 3rd trimester, the larger, mid-water trawling vessels exponentially increase the likelihood that the catch will exceed the available quota. This year, trimester 3 quota totals approximately 69 trucks. The active herring fleet can land up to about 138 trucks (if all vessels opt in).

These seem to be policies that were instituted during times of large quotas and do not align with the current state of the fishery. The rules that apply during trimester 2 should also have the option to be applied to trimester 3 – fishing days instead of landing days and daily/weekly catch limits.

2. Because there are currently different rules and fishing methods between trimester 2 and trimester 3 in Area 1A, any overages should be deducted from the same trimester in subsequent years - not deducted from the entire Area1A TAC.
3. It is my understanding that NEMFC is working to institute spawning restrictions on Georges Bank. This is extremely important to the long-term health of the herring fishery and should be supported by ASMFC.

We need more flexible rules with options that can easily manage the changing fishery and quotas.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Fuller
ASMFC Advisory Panel