



# 2021-2023 Atlantic Herring Specs



Atlantic Herring Management Board

February 2, 2021

# 2021-2023 Specs



- Council approved Framework 8 in Sept 2020
  - Contains 2021-2023 specifications for Atlantic herring
  - Proposes a lower catch limit for Area 1A sub-ACL for 2021 (**1,391 mt**) and 2022/2023 (**1,184 mt**)
    - 58% decrease from 2020 (3,334 mt) to 2021
  - 2023 specs may be revised following the 2022 management track assessment
  - NOAA Fisheries is still reviewing Framework 8, so a proposed rule has not been published yet



# 2021-2023 Specs



<b>Specification</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022/2023</b>
Overfishing Limit	23,423 mt	26,292 mt (2022) 44,600 mt (2023)
Acceptable Biological Catch	9,483 mt	8,767 mt
Management Uncertainty	4,669 mt	4,669 mt
Annual Catch Limit (ACL)	4,814* mt	4,098* mt
Domestic Annual Harvest	4,814 mt	4,098 mt
Border Transfer	0 mt	0 mt

*\*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.*

# 2021-2023 Specs Cont'd



<b>Specification</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022/2023</b>
Area 1A Sub-ACL (28.9%)	1,391 mt	1,184 mt
Area 1B Sub-ACL (4.3%)	207 mt	176 mt
Area 2 Sub-ACL (27.8%)	1,338 mt	1,139 mt
Area 3 Sub-ACL (39%)	1,877 mt	1,598 mt
Fixed Gear Set-Aside	30 mt	30 mt
Research Set-Aside as % of sub-ACLs	3%	0%

# Seasonal Quota Allocation



- In October, the Board set seasonal allocations for the 2021 Area 1A fishery with 72.8% available from June through September and 27.2% allocated from October through December.



# Board Action for Consideration



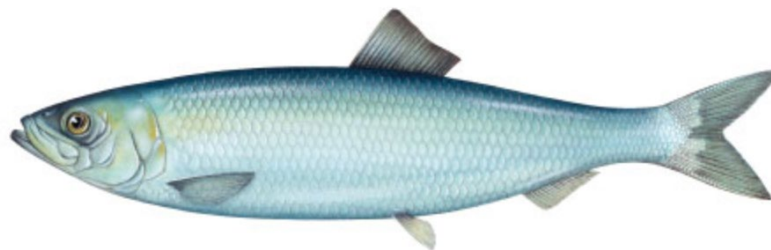
- Approve the Atlantic herring specifications for 2021-2023 as recommended by the New England Fishery Management Council contingent on the final rule being published by NOAA Fisheries.

# Questions?





# Amendment 8



Atlantic Herring Management Board

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# Background



- Amendment 8
  - Long-Term Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule
  - Address potential localized depletion and user group conflict (Inshore Midwater Trawl Restricted Area)
- September 2018
  - FEIS approved by NEFMC
- January 2021
  - Final Rule published by NOAA Fisheries
  - Effective February 10, 2021



# ABC Control Rule



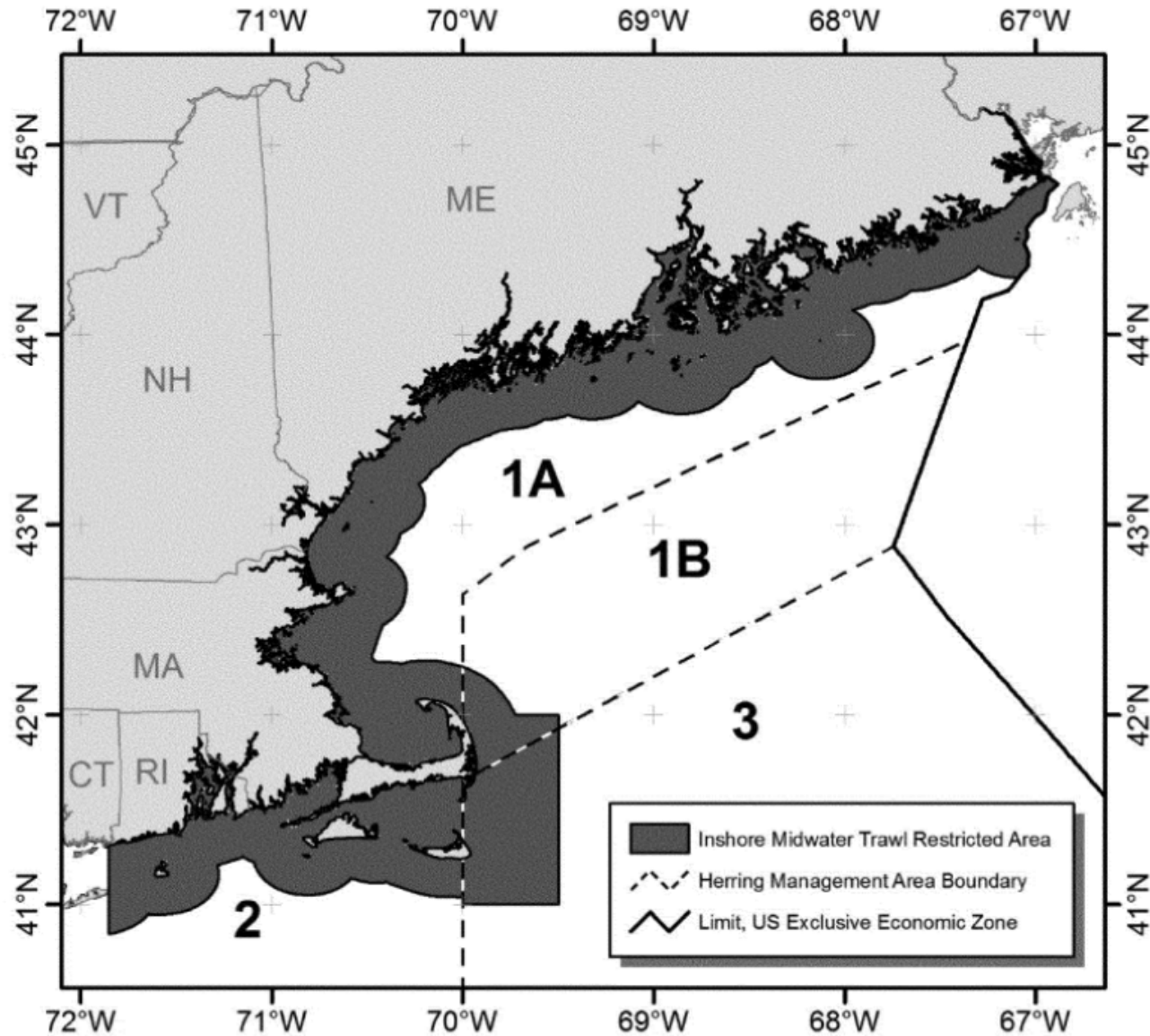
- When spawning stock biomass (SSB) is above 50% of  $SSB/SSB_{MSY}$  the maximum Fishing Mortality (F) level allowed is 80% of  $F_{MSY}$ 
  - 20% is left for herring predators
- When SSB is below 50% of  $SSB/SSB_{MSY}$ , F declines linearly
  - If below 10% of  $SSB/SSB_{MSY}$  (or proxy), ABC set at 0

# Inshore Midwater Trawl Restricted Area



- Prohibits midwater trawl fishing:
  - Inshore of 12 nautical miles U.S./Canada border to the Rhode Island/Connecticut border and;
  - Inshore of 20 nautical miles off east coast of Cape Cod
  - vessels can transit; gear must be stowed
- Exception
  - Permitted Vessels fishing under the Research Set-Aside with an Exempted fishing Permit
- Reminder: prohibition of midwater gear in Area 1A from June 1-September 30; access starts October 1

# Inshore Midwater Trawl Restricted Area



# Questions?



# 2021 NEFMC Herring Work Priorities

1. Continue development of Framework 7 – action to protect spawning of Atlantic herring on Georges Bank.
2. Develop rebuilding plan for Atlantic herring because it has been declared overfished.
3. Review and potentially adjust herring accountability measures (AMs) (i.e. potentially adjust how sub-ACL overages are accounted for and carryover provisions).
4. Coordinate with ASMFC and MAFMC (no specific action)

*Timing uncertain – issues can be combined into one large action or several separate actions.*

# Framework 7:

## Alternatives under consideration

- No Action – no closure on GB
- Spawning closure on GB
  - 2 area options
  - 2 season options (6 and 8 weeks)
  - options for which vessels restricted (still under development – may include other gear types)
- Required review of measures adopted to evaluate effectiveness
- Spawning tolerance – 10-30% allowance of landed herring in spawning condition – like the program used by ASMFC in early 2000s.

