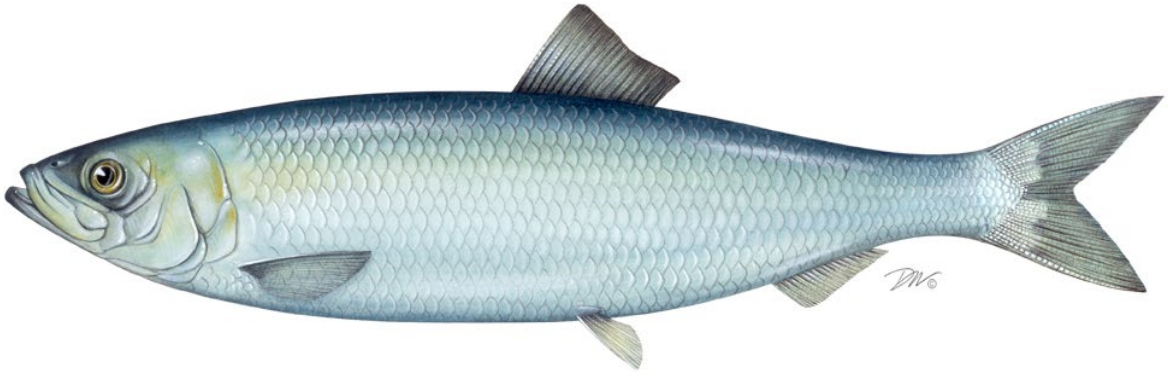
ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

REVIEW OF THE INTERSTATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOR ATLANTIC HERRING
(Clupea harengus)

2024 FISHING YEAR



Prepared by the Atlantic Herring Plan Review Team
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Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

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I. Status of Fishery Management Plan

Date of FMP Approval	November 1993
Amendments	Amendment 1 (February 1999) Amendment 2 (March 2006) Amendment 3 (February 2016)
Addenda	Addendum I to Amendment 1 (July 2000) Technical Addendum #1A to Amendment I (October 2001) Addendum II to Amendment I (February 2002) Technical Addendum 1 to Amendment 2 (August 2006) Addendum I to Amendment 2 (March 2009) Addendum II to Amendment 2 (December 2010) Addendum V to Amendment 2 (October 2012) Addendum VI to Amendment 2 (August 2013) Addendum I to Amendment 3 (May 2017) Addendum II to Amendment 3 (May 2019)
Management Unit	US waters of the northwest Atlantic Ocean from the shoreline to the seaward boundary of the Exclusive Economic Zone (East Coast of Maine), and from the US/Canadian border to the southern end of the species range (Cape Hatteras, North Carolina).
States With Declared Interest	Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey
Active Boards/Committees	Atlantic Herring Management Board (Since August 2018; previously Section), Advisory Panel, Technical Committee, Stock Assessment Subcommittee, and Plan Review Team

Atlantic herring (*Clupea harengus*), also known as sea herring, are an oceanic fish that occur in large schools and undergo seasonal inshore-offshore migrations. Herring are important to the Northwest Atlantic ecosystem as a forage species and to the fishing industry as bait for lobster, blue crab, and tuna. To a lesser degree this resource also serves as a food, typically canned, pickled, or smoked. The U.S. Atlantic herring fishery is currently managed as a single stock through complementary plans by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) and the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC).

The stockwide annual catch limit (ACL) is divided amongst four distinct management areas (Figure 1): inshore Gulf of Maine (Area 1A), offshore Gulf of Maine (Area 1B), Southern New England/Mid- Atlantic (Area 2), and Georges Bank (Area 3). The Area 1A fishery is managed by ASMFC's Atlantic Herring Management Board (Board), which includes representatives from Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey.

Amendment 1 (February 1999) was developed in order to maintain consistency between the ASMFC and NEFMC FMPs. This amendment establishes the same overfishing definition and biological reference points as the NEFMC, which were created under guidelines stipulated in the revised Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act prior to the 2006 re-authorization. The overfishing and biological reference points are based on an estimate of maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for the entire stock complex.

Amendment 1 also establishes "days out" control measures which prohibit directed fishing on Friday and Saturday when 50% of the TAC is projected to be harvested, Friday through Sunday when 75% of the TAC is projected to be harvested, and Thursday through Sunday when 90% of the TAC is projected to be harvested.

Addendum I (July 2000)
The Section developed Addendum I (to Amendment 1) to re-address the protection of spawning areas because NOAA Fisheries rejected the spawning closures in federal waters for Management Area 1A (inshore Gulf of Maine). Specifically, Addendum I redefines the state waters spawning areas outlined in Amendment I. This addendum also changed the due date for annual state compliance reports to February 1st.

Technical Addendum 1a (October 2001)
The Section approved Technical Addendum #1a (to Amendment 1) to change the delineation of the Eastern Maine spawning boundary because the spawning aggregations were not adequately protected in 2000.

Addendum II (February 2002)
Addendum II (to Amendment 1) was developed in conjunction with the NEFMC's Framework Adjustment I to allocate the Management Area 1A Total Allowable Catch (TAC) on a seasonal basis. Addendum II also specifies the procedures for allocating the annual Internal Waters Processing (IWP) quota.

Amendment 2 (March 2006)
Amendment 2 was developed in close coordination with the NEFMC as they developed Amendment 1 to the Federal Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Herring. The NEFMC's Amendment 1 is complementary to ASMFC Amendment 2 in that both documents' goal is optimum yield through coordinated management between state and federal waters. Amendment 2 altered the management boundaries, set biological reference points, expanded on the TAC specification setting process, established research set-asides, altered days out measures, removed any allowance for fishing during spawning closures, and granted exemptions for east of Cutler fixed gear fishermen.

Changes to the management boundaries were based on recommendations from the 2003 TRAC to better reflect spawning distributions and minimize reporting errors. The new boundaries result in a larger boundary for Area 3.

The biological reference points, based on MSY = 220,000 metric tons (mt), give a measurable criteria for overfishing and overfished and allow management to determine if rebuilding efforts are necessary. The TAC process only changed slightly with Amendment 2. Amendment 2 allows analytical approaches other than those defined in Amendment 1 to establish area-specific TACs. These changes allow the TC to use the best available science when recommending TACs rather than binding them to methods that were the best when Amendment 1 was created. Another change to the TAC process under Amendment 2 is that the Section will set the TACs for three years with the flexibility to adjust in interim years.

Research set asides were established under Amendment 2 allowing up to 3% of an area to be designated for and allocated to research.

In addition to establishing a number of new management measures, Amendment 2 altered several measures enacted in Amendment 1. Default percentages for setting days out were removed to allow states adjacent to an area to meet and agree on which days to take out as best meets the needs of the fishery for that given year. The 20% spawning tolerance for directed fishing during spawning closures was removed and a "Zero-Tolerance" measure was enacted. Amendment 2 also granted exemptions for east of Cutler fixed gear fishermen from days out and spawning closure restrictions established in Amendment 1. These exemptions were granted because the east of Cutler landings are part of a New Brunswick stock and have been insignificantly small historically. These herring do not often migrate inshore until after the Area 1A TAC is harvested making exemptions the only way to protect this historical fishery. These landings are counted against the overall Area 1A TAC.

Technical Addendum I (August 2006)

Technical Addendum I was developed to clarify the intent of the "Zero Tolerance" spawning provision of Amendment 2. Some states were interpreting the zero tolerance to mean that you could still fish in an area closed to spawning as long as no spawn herring were present in the area. This addendum makes it clear that *any vessel is prohibited to fish for, take, land, or possess herring from or within a restricted spawning area.*

Addendum I (February 2009)

Addendum I (to Amendment 2) was developed to control effort in Area 1A using a combination of quotas, additional days out restrictions, and weekly state reporting requirements to effectively manage quota. Specifically, Addendum I allows states adjacent to Area 1A to select bimonthly, trimester, or seasonal quotas as best meets the needs of the fishery. States also have the flexibility to save quota from January – May and distribute it to later in the year when price and demand are often higher. Fishermen are restricted to one landing per day and state-only fishermen must report weekly in order to effectively manage quota.

Addendum II (December 2010)

Addendum II was designed to mirror the NEFMC Amendment 4 and changes the specifications' definitions (and associated acronyms), modifies the process to set specifications, and establishes accountability measure (AM) paybacks. Under Addendum II, the overall quota is

now called an annual catch limit (ACL) and the quota allocated to each management area (Area 1A, 1B, 2, 3) is called a sub-ACL (previously TAC). In addition, if harvest in any area is exceeded, the sub-ACL will be reduced by an amount equal to the overage the first year after final landings are available.

NEFMC's Amendment 4 includes provisions to bring the Herring FMP into compliance with provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006. It changes the specification setting process and definitions to include an overfishing limit, acceptable biological catch, annual catch limits, and accountability measures, as well as involvement of a Science and Statistical Committee.

Addendum V (August 2012)
Addendum V refines and clarifies current spawning regulations without making significant changes. Specifically, Addendum V establishes when closures are triggered based on the percent of stage III – V spawn herring that are greater than or equal to 23 cm and increased the number of samples states are required to collect from 50 to 100 (states are currently sampling at this level). The Addendum replaces all spawning regulations in previous management documents to provide a single, clear document for states to use when complying with ASMFC spawning regulations.

Addendum VI (August 2013)
The Addendum improves alignment between state and federal Atlantic herring management by allowing the use of consistent tools across all four management areas of the species range. The Addendum's measures include (1) seasonal splitting of the annual catch limit sub-components (sub-ACLs) for Areas 1B, 2, and 3; (2) up to 10% carryover of a sub-ACL for all management areas; (3) the establishment of triggers to initiate the closing of directed fisheries; and (4) the use of the annual specification process to set triggers.

Amendment 3 (February 2016)
Amendment 3 refines the spawning closure system, modifies the fixed gear set-aside, and includes an empty fish hold provision contingent on federal adoption. The Amendment allows for the use of a modified GSI-based spawning monitoring system to track reproductive maturity in an effort to better align the timing of spawning area closures with the onset of spawning, which was tested and evaluated for effectiveness during the 2016 fishing season. Additionally, the fixed gear set-aside that was previously available to fixed gear fishermen exclusively only through November 1, is now accessible to them as long as the directed fishery is open. Amendment 3 consolidates prior amendments (and associated addenda) and recent management decisions into a single document; it is now the comprehensive document for Atlantic herring management in state waters.

Addendum I (May 2017)
Addendum I includes management measures intended to stabilize the rate of catch in the Area 1A fishery and distribute the seasonal quota throughout Trimester 2 (June through September), which has 72.8% of the season's allocation. For the 2017 fishing season, the addendum

established that the Section would separately address days out provisions for federal herring Category A vessels and small-mesh bottom trawl vessels with a federal herring Category C or D permit. In addition to landing restrictions associated with the days out program, Category A vessels are now prohibited from possessing herring caught from Area 1A during a day out of the fishery. Small-mesh bottom trawl vessels with a Category C or D permit must notify states of their intent to fish in Area 1A prior to June 1st. The addendum also implements a weekly harvester landing limit for vessels with a Category A permit for the 2017 fishing season. Forty-five days prior to the start of the fishing season, Category A vessels will notify states of their intent to fish in Area 1A, including a specification of gear type, to provide states with an estimate of effort to calculate the weekly landing limit. States may also either implement measures that herring caught in Area 1A can only be landed by the respective harvester vessel (i.e. no carrier vessels) or that herring carrier vessels are limited to receiving at-sea transfers from one harvester vessel per week and landing once per 24-hour period. Through the addendum, NOAA Fisheries granted access to vessel monitoring system-submitted daily catch report data for select staff in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts to provide real-time data for the states to implement a weekly landing limit. The Section also approved continuing the use of the GSI30-based forecast system to determine spawning closures in Area 1A.

Addendum II (May 2019)

Addendum II strengthens spawning protections in Area 1A (inshore Gulf of Maine) by initiating a closure when a lower percentage of the population is spawning (from approximately 25% to 20%), and extending the closure for a longer time (from four to six weeks). The Addendum also modifies the trigger level necessary to reclose the fishery, with the fishery reclosing when 20% or more of the sampled herring are mature but have not yet spawned. These changes to spawning protections are in response to the results of the 2018 Benchmark Stock Assessment which showed reduced levels of recruitment and spawning stock biomass over the past five years, with 2016 recruitment levels the lowest on record.

II. Status of the Stock

A 2024 Management Track Assessment (i.e., assessment update) for Atlantic herring was completed by NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) and is an update to the 2022 Management Track Assessment which was peer reviewed in June 2022 (NEFSC 2024; Miller et al. 2022; NEFSC 2022). No significant changes were made to the methods in the 2024 assessment as compared to the 2022 assessment. The 2024 assessment updated fishery catch data, survey indices, life history parameters (e.g., weights-at-age), and the age-structured model (ASAP) and biological reference points (BRPs) with data through 2023. The 2024 assessment was a Level 1 Direct Delivery assessment per NOAA Fisheries' defined peer review levels. A Level 1 assessment can only include minor changes to previously approved assessment methods, does not require external peer review, and is delivered directly to the fishery management body, which in this case is the NEFMC and ASMFC Atlantic Herring Management Board.

The 2024 assessment update indicates the Atlantic herring stock is overfished but not experiencing overfishing based on the biological reference points for spawning stock biomass

(SSB) and fishing mortality (F). This is the same stock status as determined by the 2022 assessment. SSB has been declining since 2014 and was estimated to be 47,955 metric tons in 2023, which is 26% of the SSB target of 186,367 metric tons (Figure 2). F was estimated to be 0.263 in 2023, which is 58% of the overfishing threshold of 0.45. Both the 2022 and 2024 assessments noted poor recruitment, and the difficulty of identifying a causal mechanism for this recruitment trend.

A research track assessment was completed and underwent peer review in March 2025. The peer review determined that all terms of reference were adequately addressed (McManus et al. 2025). Notably, the research track assessment transitioned the stock to the Woods Hole Assessment Model (WHAM), a state space modeling approach, to allow for future consideration of environmental covariates and to estimate additional uncertainty for the stock. Stock status recommendations are not part of the research track Terms of Reference and the results from this 2025 research track assessment will not be used directly in management. Instead, this research track assessment will inform a management track assessment scheduled for June 2026. The 2026 management track assessment will provide updated estimates of stock status using data through 2025 and will be used to inform management measures for 2027-2028.

The Atlantic herring stock is currently under a rebuilding plan in response to the overfished finding of the 2020 management track assessment (NEFSC 2020). The final rule implementing Framework Adjustment 9 to the federal Atlantic Herring FMP established a rebuilding plan for herring that became effective in August 2022 (87 FR 42962; July 19, 2022). The rebuilding plan applies the acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rule implemented for Atlantic herring.

III. Status of the Fishery

There is an Atlantic herring fishery in the United States and Canada (Figure 3). Herring in the US are primarily caught using mobile gear (e.g., purse seines and mid-water trawls). Herring in Canada and a small portion of US-caught herring are caught using fixed gear (e.g., weir fishery).

The U.S. Atlantic herring fishery is controlled by annual catch limits (ACL) set by NOAA Fisheries. The stockwide ACL is distributed among the four management areas. Specifications are set every three years and adjusted annually to account for overages or underages from the previous fishing season. Once 92% of the sub-ACL for an area is reached, the respective fishery is closed. The stockwide fishery closes when 95% of the total ACL is projected to be reached. Following a closure, there is a 2,000 lb. trip limit to allow for incidental bycatch of Atlantic herring for the remainder of the fishing year. In addition to quota-based closures, the “days out” and spawning closure programs in Area 1A provide additional measures to control fishing effort.

For the 2024 fishing season, the Council and the Commission set the ACL at 42.3 million pounds (19,189 mt), which was later adjusted to 42.2 million pounds (19,141 mt) to account for overages in 2022. The ACL is further subdivided into sub-ACLs by the Atlantic herring management areas as follows (accounting for adjustments due to 2022 catch

overages/underages): Area 1A = 12.1 million pounds (5,504 mt), Area 1B = 1.8 million pounds (819 mt), Area 2 = 12.0 million pounds (5,449 mt), and Area 3 = 16.5 million pounds (7,484 mt). After adjusting for the 30 mt fixed gear set-aside and the 8% buffer (Area 1A closes at 92% of the sub-ACL), the 2024 Area 1A sub-ACL was 5,036 mt. There was no research-set-aside for 2024. The Board established the following seasonal allocations for the 2024 Area 1A sub-ACL: 72.8% available from June 1 – September 30 and 27.2% available from October 1 – December 31.

The domestic Atlantic herring fishery is predominantly commercial; preliminary data indicate recreational harvest accounted for less than 1% of landings in 2024. For the past five years (2020-2024), recreational harvest has accounted for an average 1.7% of total landings each year. Since 2000, annual commercial landings by the United States Atlantic herring fleet averaged roughly 138.6 million pounds (62,869 mt) (ACCSP, Figure 4). Since 2013, commercial landings have generally decreased and reached the lowest levels the time series in 2021 and 2022 at below 11 million pounds (below 4,989 mt) each of those years (Figures 3-4).

The Interstate FMP implements specific effort control measures for Area 1A (inshore Gulf of Maine). Catch, in metric tons, from Area 1A is shown in Table 1a. Preliminary information for 2024 indicates that 5,987 mt were caught in Area 1A, representing 92% of the Area 1A sub-ACL. Since the directed fishery closes (i.e., 2,000 pound possession limit) when 92% of an area's sub-ACL is projected to be reached, the Area 1A fishery in state waters closed and landings were prohibited effective 9:00 p.m. on November 12, and the Area 1A fishery in federal waters closed effective 12:01 a.m. on November 14.

Table 1a: Area 1A catch, sub-ACL, and associated directed fishery closures from 2015-2024. 2024 data are preliminary. Source of catch information: NOAA Fisheries.

Year	Area 1A Sub-ACL (mt)	Area 1A Catch (mt)	% Utilized	Area 1A Sub-ACL Closure
2015	30,585	28,861	94%	Nov-2
2016	30,524^	27,806	91%	Oct-18
2017	32,115^	28,682	89%	NA
2018	28,038	24,861	89%	NA
2019	5,223^	4,916	94%	Nov-27
2020	4,244^	4,353	103%	Nov-11 Nov-7 state waters
2021	2,609^	2,856	109%	Nov-11 Nov-8 state waters
2022	2,075^	2,325	116%	Nov-8 Nov-7 state waters
2023	4,345	4,444	102%	Nov-8 Nov-6 state waters
2024	6,504^	5,987**	92%	Nov-14 Nov-12 state waters

^Area 1A sub-ACL increased by 1,000 mt from the management uncertainty buffer during the season as required when the New Brunswick weir fishery lands less than a specified amount through Oct 1.

For other areas in 2024, starting January 23, a 2,000 pound possession limit for midwater trawl vessels was implemented in the Cape Cod Catch Cap Closure Area (spanning parts of Area 1B and Area 3) due to projections reaching 95% of the catch cap for that area.

Catch, in metric tons, from all management areas is shown in Table 1b for the last five years (2024 data are preliminary).

Table 1b: Catch and sub-ACL for all management areas 1A, 1B, 2, and 3 from 2020-2024. 2024 data are preliminary. Source of catch information: NOAA Fisheries

Year	Area	Sub-ACL (mt)	Catch (mt)	% Utilized
2020	1A	4,244	4,353	103%
	1B	483	831	172%
	2	3,120	353	11%
	3	4,378	4,054	93%
	Overall	**12,224**	**9,591**	**78%**
2021	1A	2,609	2,856	109%
	1B	239	0	0%
	2	652	191	29%
	3	2,181	2,222	102%
	Overall	**5,128**	**5,268**	**103%**
2022	1A	2,075	2,325	112%
	1B	0	6	-
	2	1,300	79	6%
	3	1,824	1,825	100.1%
	Overall	**4,813**	**4,234**	**88%**
2023	1A	4,345	4,444	102%
	1B	555	199	36%
	2	3,589	465	13%
	3	4,806	5,120	107%
	Overall	**13,287**	**10,228**	**77%**
2024	1A	6,504	5,987**	92%**
	1B	819	82**	10%**
	2	5,449	67**	1%**
	3	7,484	4,179**	56%**
	Overall	**20,141**	**10,315****	**51%****

***Preliminary 2024 catch estimates from NOAA Fisheries*

2024 Fishing Season

Based on preliminary data provided in state compliance reports, coastwide landings in 2024 were approximately 21 million pounds, which is about the same as 2023 landings. Landings in 2023 and 2024 were more than double 2021-2022 landings, primarily due to more quota being available in 2023 and 2024.

Maine and Massachusetts accounted for the majority (>90%) of the commercial Atlantic herring landings in 2024 (Table 2), similar to previous years. Landings in Maine slightly decreased in 2024 from 2023 levels, while landings in Massachusetts slightly increased.

Rhode Island landings decreased substantially from the 2023 high of 1.6 million pounds back down to less than 150,000 pounds in 2024 (less than 1% of the coastwide total), similar to the 2022 landings. Landings in Connecticut and New York remain very low at less than 1% each of the coastwide total. Connecticut noted the very low landings in recent years and are substantially less than landings in the early 2000s, and noted the Atlantic herring fishery for bait component has diminished with the reduction in the number of active Connecticut commercial lobstermen in the last twenty years.

It is also important to note that some vessels regularly land herring in states outside of their homeport state (e.g., New Jersey vessels often land in Massachusetts).

The PRT noted that Atlantic herring landings can be variable in some states, particularly from Areas 2 and 3, dependent on the occurrence of mackerel trips. Additionally, Atlantic herring may overlap with other species in those areas in certain gears (e.g., small mesh bottom trawls and midwater trawls), which can be challenging for harvesters if possession limits are in place for some overlap species. For example, Atlantic mackerel trips limits have been restrictive to midwater trawl vessels targeting Atlantic herring.

A small portion of total Atlantic herring landings are from fixed gear, primarily in Maine state waters. Low fixed gear harvest in Maine in 2024 was primarily due to the early arrival of menhaden, which impeded clear transit of Atlantic herring into specific coves for stop seine harvest. Observations of adult Atlantic herring in late May 2024 in Maine waters indicated strong presence, but harvest of Atlantic herring was hampered by other species occupying the same inshore shallow waters. Over the past few years, anecdotal reports from Maine fixed gear harvesters indicate consistent sightings of adult Atlantic herring returning to state waters in early spring.

Fixed gear harvest in other states has been very low or zero in recent years. New Hampshire has had zero fixed gear landings for the past ten years. Massachusetts fixed gear landings have been less than 10,000 pounds each year for the past ten years; further, Massachusetts fixed gear landings have trended lower the past five years with zero landings in some years. Rhode Island fixed gear landings are less than 1,000 pounds per year.

Table 2. 2024 commercial landings by state and percent of total harvest. 2024 landings data are considered preliminary at this time. Source: State compliance reports.

	Commercial Landings (lbs.) Preliminary	Percent of Total
ME	13,240,761	<65%
NH	0	0%
MA	7,624,967	<35%
RI	132,325	<1%
CT	322	<1%
NY	5,236	<1%
NJ	Confidential	Confidential

Days Out Provisions for Area 1A

Table 3 outlines the 'days out' program and effort control measures which were implemented in Area 1A in 2024. The Board implemented seasonal allocations for the 2024 fishery which allocated the Area 1A sub-ACL between Season 1: June-September (72.8%) and Season 2: October-December (27.2%). Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts delayed the start of the fishery until June 30. Specifications for Season 1 established five (5) consecutive landing days a week for vessels with a Category A permit, and six (6) consecutive landing days a week for vessels with a Category C or D permit. Vessels with a Category A permit were also limited to a weekly landing limit of 320,000 pounds (8 trucks) per harvester vessel. The fishery moved to zero (0) landings days starting September 18 through September 30 as the harvest had reached 92% of the Season 1 allocation.

Landing days were set at zero for Season 2 from October 1 through October 9. Landing days were then set at two consecutive days for October 10-11, followed by a period of zero landing days from October 12 through November 4. Following the reallocation of 1,000 mt from the management uncertainty buffer to the Area 1A sub-ACL based on catch information from the Canadian New Brunswick weir fishery, the fishery moved to four consecutive landing days per week starting November 5 at 12:01 a.m. The Area 1A fishery in state waters closed and landings were prohibited effective November 12 at 9:00 p.m. and the Area 1A fishery in federal waters closed effective November 14 at 12:01 a.m. as NOAA had projected that 92% of the Area 1A sub-ACL to have been harvested.

Table 3: 2024 'days out' program for seasonal quota periods in Area 1A.

Seasonal quota periods	Date Effective	Consecutive Landing Days for Category A Permit	Weekly Landings Limit for Category A Permit	Consecutive Landing Days for Category C/D Permits	Poundage that can be Transferred to a Carrier Vessel
1	Jun 30*-Sep 18	5	320,000	6	0
	Sep 18-Sept 30	0	0	0	0
2	Oct 1-Oct 9	0	NA**	NA**	NA**
	Oct 10-11	2	NA**	NA**	NA**
	Oct 12-Nov 4	0	NA**	NA**	NA**
	Nov 5	4	NA**	NA**	NA**

**Zero landings days were specified for June 1 until the start of the fishery. Fishery did not begin until June 30 in all three Area 1A states (Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts)*

***Weekly Landing Limits, Landing Days for Category C/D Permits, and Carrier Vessel limits can only be specified through Sept 30*

Spawning Area Closures

The Atlantic Herring Area 1A (inshore Gulf of Maine) fishery regulations include seasonal spawning closures for portions of state and federal waters in Eastern Maine, Western Maine and Massachusetts/New Hampshire. In 2017, the Commission's Atlantic Herring Section permanently implemented the GSI_{30} Based Forecast System for spawning closures in Area 1A. This forecasting method relies upon at least three samples, each containing at least 25 female herring in gonadal stages III-V, to trigger a spawning closure. If sufficient samples are not available, the spawning closure occurs on the default dates outlined in Amendment 3. As noted in the Status of the Fishery Management Plan section, Addendum II to Amendment 3 further modified the trigger for initiating a closure as well as the length of closures.

In 2024, the Eastern Maine spawning area closed on the default date of August 28th through October 8th, given there were insufficient samples from the area at the time. The Western Maine and Massachusetts/New Hampshire spawning closed on the default date of September 23rd through November 3rd. For the Western Maine spawning area, samples were collected but due to unforeseen issues with data inputs to the forecast model, a GSI forecast was not available until mid-September. For the Massachusetts/New Hampshire spawning area, there were insufficient samples.

IV. Status of Research and Monitoring

Under Amendment 3, states are not required to conduct monitoring for Atlantic herring. However, state survey programs designed to catch other species may encounter herring regularly, so some states do collect biological information on Atlantic herring. A summary of these surveys results from the state compliance reports follows.

Maine and New Hampshire: These states jointly operate an inshore bottom trawl survey in the spring and fall that is designed to catch groundfish, but regularly encounters adult Atlantic herring. In 2024, the survey reported Atlantic herring observations during both the Spring and Fall surveys. In the Spring 2024 survey, Atlantic Herring were caught in 76 of the 100 tows, and a maximum of 7,412 were caught in one tow (a >50% decrease from the maximum tow in Spring 2023). In the Fall survey, Atlantic Herring were caught in 55 of the 85 tows, and a maximum of 20,026 were caught in one tow (an increase from the maximum tow in Fall 2023).

Maine Department of Marine Resources also conducts commercial portside catch sampling. In 2022, a total of 44 biological sampling events occurred, covering purse seine and single mid-water trawl trips. The collection of samples in 2024 was an increase from 2023 when 31 samples were collected. This reflects the moderate increase in management area sub-ACLs and fishing activity.

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department also conducts a juvenile finfish seine survey in the Great Bay, its tributaries, and other coastal harbors. In 2024, 9,045 Atlantic herring were observed during the months of June, July, and September. This is much higher than the low observations from 2022 and 2023 and higher than the 2021 survey when 2,410 Atlantic herring were observed during the months of June through November.

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries noted that along with Gloucester Marine Genomics Institute, Maine DMR, and Canada Department of Fisheries Oceans, were awarded a NOAA Saltonstall-Kennedy grant to investigate genetic stock structure of Atlantic herring. Collection of samples began in Sprin 2024 and will continue through 2025. Both fishery-dependent and fishery-independent samples will be collected. MADMF conducts the seasonal Resource Assessment Program trawl survey each spring and fall in Massachusetts waters. The spring survey operating for part of May caught 4,175 Atlantic herring on 38 out of 103 hauls (36.9%). The fall survey operating from mid-September through early October caught 78 Atlantic herring on 9 out of 95 hauls (9.5%).

Rhode Island Division of Marine Fisheries conducts a Seasonal Trawl Survey to develop abundance indices for Atlantic herring. The survey is conducted seasonally (spring/fall) in Rhode Island and Block Island Sound and monthly in Narragansett Bay. Fishery-independent monitoring for 2024 revealed significantly contrasting signals between monthly and seasonal surveys. There was higher monthly biomass (3.9 kg/tow) and abundance (527.17 fish/tow) in 2024 when compared with the five-year average (2019-2023) of 81.46 fish/tow and 0.41 kg/tow. The seasonal spring survey trawls had a higher number of fish than the five-year spring average with 290.1 fish/tow, and less total biomass of 1.0 kg/tow in 2024, as compared to 2019-2023 with 115.73 fish/tow, and 1.23 kg/tow. Overall, the number of individuals and biomass of herring per tow in the monthly surveys continues to trend upward for 2023-2024. Additionally, Rhode Island occasionally sees a few Atlantic herring in winter-set fyke nets in the south coast salt ponds, less than 20 per winter, which may mean there is some Atlantic herring

biomass staging in Rhode Island waters during winter, but not enough for small state vessels to target.

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection monitors Atlantic herring through the Long Island Sound Trawl Survey (LISTS), which is conducted each spring and fall since 1984. Over the last ten years, Atlantic herring abundance has been lower than the time-series average of 1.67 fish/tow. The 2024 spring index of 1.45 fish/tow increased substantially from the previous three years and from the 2015-2017 period of low catch (2017 at 0.11 fish/tow). Although more herring were observed in 2024, they were small herring—not the adults that were historically observed. Most of LISTS catches typically have occurred in the month of April, prior to herring leaving the Sound, however warming water temperatures in Long Island Sound particularly have affected the timing of Atlantic herring leaving, and this is likely one of the main drivers of recent low catches. Most Atlantic herring taken in LISTS spring survey are greater than 20 cm fork length, however, LISTS has seen numerous catches of smaller herring (<10cm) during the spring of 1997-1999 and 2004-2013 and again in the last two years. Typically few fish appear in the fall survey and those present are generally less than 15 cm.

New York has *de minimis* status and does not conduct directed monitoring of Atlantic herring.

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife monitors Atlantic herring through the New Jersey Ocean Trawl Survey, which collects samples during five surveys conducted throughout the year (January, April, June, August, October) between Sandy Hook, NJ and Cape Henlopen, Delaware. In 2024, due to vessel issues the October Ocean trawl survey was cancelled, but all other months were sampled. 2024 data were not available as of this report. In 2023, due to vessel issues the January Ocean trawl survey was cancelled, but all other months were sampled. The 2023 ocean trawl survey yielded 19.25 pounds (166 individuals) of Atlantic herring. This was much lower than the 2022 observations of 781.03 pounds (2,692 individuals) of Atlantic herring.

V. Status of Assessment Advice

Research recommendations from the 2025 Research Track Assessment are listed in the assessment report starting on p.31. The upcoming 2026 management track assessment will provide updated estimates of stock status using data through 2025 and will be used to inform management measures for 2027-2028.

VI. Management Measures and Issues

Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Herring lists the following state regulatory requirements:

1. Each jurisdiction shall prohibit the landing of herring when the management area sub-ACL has been attained.
2. Vessels are prohibited from landing more than 2,000 lbs. of Atlantic herring from Area 1A when the fishery is closed, during a ‘day out’ or during spawning closures.

3. Jurisdictions will close the directed fishery when 92% of a management area's sub-ACL is projected to be harvested.
4. Each jurisdiction must enact spawning area restrictions that are at least as restrictive as those in Section 4.2.6.
5. States adjacent to Area 1A will implement days out restrictions as identified in Section 4.2.4.1.
6. States are required to implement weekly reporting by all non-federally permitted fishermen on Atlantic herring (including mobile and fixed gear).
7. Any herring vessel transiting a management area that is under a herring spawning closure or a 'day out' must have all of its fishing gear stowed.
8. The harvest of herring for the primary purpose of reduction to meal or meal-like product is prohibited.
9. Internal Water Processing operations will be prohibited from processing herring caught in all state waters.

VII. PRT Recommendations

State Compliance

All states with a declared interest in the management of Atlantic herring have submitted compliance reports and have regulations in place that meet the requirements of the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Atlantic Herring as described in Amendment 3.

Request for *De Minimis* Status

A state may be eligible for *de minimis* status if its combined average of the last three years of commercial landings (by weight) constitute less than 1% of the coastwide commercial landings for the same three-year period. **New York has requested *de minimis* status and meets the requirements.** New York's 2022-2024 combined average commercial landings is 0.04%, which is less than 1% of coastwide commercial landings during the same three-year period.

Research and Monitoring Recommendations

The PRT recognizes the decreasing capacity for fishery-dependent data collection over the past few years, due largely to limited resources and low quota and catch levels. It is important for the Board to recognize this challenge and discuss how to move forward with sampling the fishery in a low-capacity scenario, especially with the low quota levels for 2025 and 2026.

One challenge for fishery-dependent data collection is the current lack of funding to continue the Maine Department of Marine Resources' (ME DMR) Atlantic herring portside commercial sampling program, which is currently funded through 2025. ME DMR has been sampling the commercial herring fishery since the 1960s, and the sampling includes age, length, maturity, sex, and other important biological attributes. Without funding, ME DMR would be unable to collect biological samples out of state and unable to conduct portside bycatch sampling. These samples have been and are being used in management for the inshore spawning closures and for documenting the effect of management action on the size and age of fish harvested. The commercial sampling program is a vital data source for the WHAM stock assessment model, which is fundamentally age structured. Without this sampling program, Atlantic herring would

likely revert to an index, or biomass-based method of assessment, increasing uncertainty. If commercial sampling were halted, it would negatively impact the ability to effectively monitor the rebuilding program for Atlantic herring and severely curtail the ability to provide projections for sustainable quota development using the current harvest control rule.

Short-Term: The PRT recommends the Board discuss potential long-term funding solutions for the ME DMR portside sampling program. The Board previously identified two potential approaches: (1) states can collect samples themselves and send to Maine DMR for processing, or (2) secure alternative funding source(s) for DMR data collection.

Another challenge is the insufficient number of samples to inform the three Area 1A spawning closures in some recent years, which may be due, in part, to the timing of Area 1A fishery operation. The Area 1A fishery was at zero landing days from mid-late August through September during 2021-2023 due to the June-September seasonal allocation being reached in early-mid August. Spawning in Area 1A typically occurs in late summer/early fall during this break in directed harvest, and along with reduced effort from small mesh bottom trawl vessels, these factors have contributed to very few samples available to inform spawning closures.

Medium-term: The PRT recommends the Atlantic Herring Technical Committee review the spawning closure protocol in Addendum II and determine if there are any concerns with prolonged periods of insufficient samples and implementation of the default closure dates. In addition, the TC should discuss any recent data on the timing of spawning. The PRT recommends the TC conduct this review within the next five years. In August 2024, the Board noted this should not be a near-term priority for the Technical Committee given the very low quotas and limited new spawning samples in recent years. The PRT recommends this review still occur within the next five years to investigate any potential change in spawning timing and potential overlap with future harvest in Area 1A.

Finally, the PRT also discussed current fixed gear landings and factors impacting fixed gear harvest in Maine where the majority of fixed gear landings occur. While Maine's fixed gear harvest was low in 2024 primarily due to spatial overlap of Atlantic herring and Atlantic menhaden in Maine's nearshore waters, Maine's fixed gear harvest was much higher this year in 2025 and the entire fixed gear set-aside (30 mt) was harvested by early June 2025. This is a departure from the previous few years when fixed gear harvest was well below the 30 mt set-aside level. Over the past few years, anecdotal reports from Maine fixed gear harvesters indicate consistent sightings of adult Atlantic herring returning to state waters in early spring. This indicates that the opportunity for fixed gear harvest could be changing, and the Board should continue to monitor fixed gear landings closely. From a management perspective, the PRT notes the Interstate FMP defines Atlantic herring fixed gear as only stop seines and fish weirs; however, there are other fixed gears being used to harvest Atlantic herring like pound nets and anchored gill nets.

Medium-term: The PRT recommends the Board consider which gears are defined in the FMP as 'fixed gear' during the next management action for Atlantic herring.

Regarding research recommendations, the 2025 Research Track Assessment includes the most current discussion of research recommendations listed in the assessment report starting on p.31.

IX. References

McManus, C., H. Sparholt, F. Berg, G. Melvin. 2025. Summary Report of the Atlantic Herring Research Track Stock Assessment Peer Review. 29p. Available at https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/event/atlantic-herring-2025-research-track-assessment-peer-review

Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC). 2025. 2025 Atlantic Herring Research Track Stock Assessment. 70 p. Available at https://d23h0vhsm26o6d.cloudfront.net/2c_2025_Herring_RT_assessment-report_final_508.pdf

NEFSC. 2020. Atlantic Herring 2020 Assessment Update Report (draft working paper for peer review only). US Dept Commer; 9p.

NEFSC. 2022. Atlantic Herring 2022 Management Track Assessment Report (draft working paper for peer review only). US Dept Commer; 10p.

NEFSC. 2024. Atlantic Herring 2024 Assessment Update Report (draft working paper for peer review only). US Dept Commer; 9p.

Wilberg, M., E. Houde, and F. Serchuk. 2020. 2020 Management Track Peer Review Committee Report. NOAA Fisheries. 17p.

X. Figures

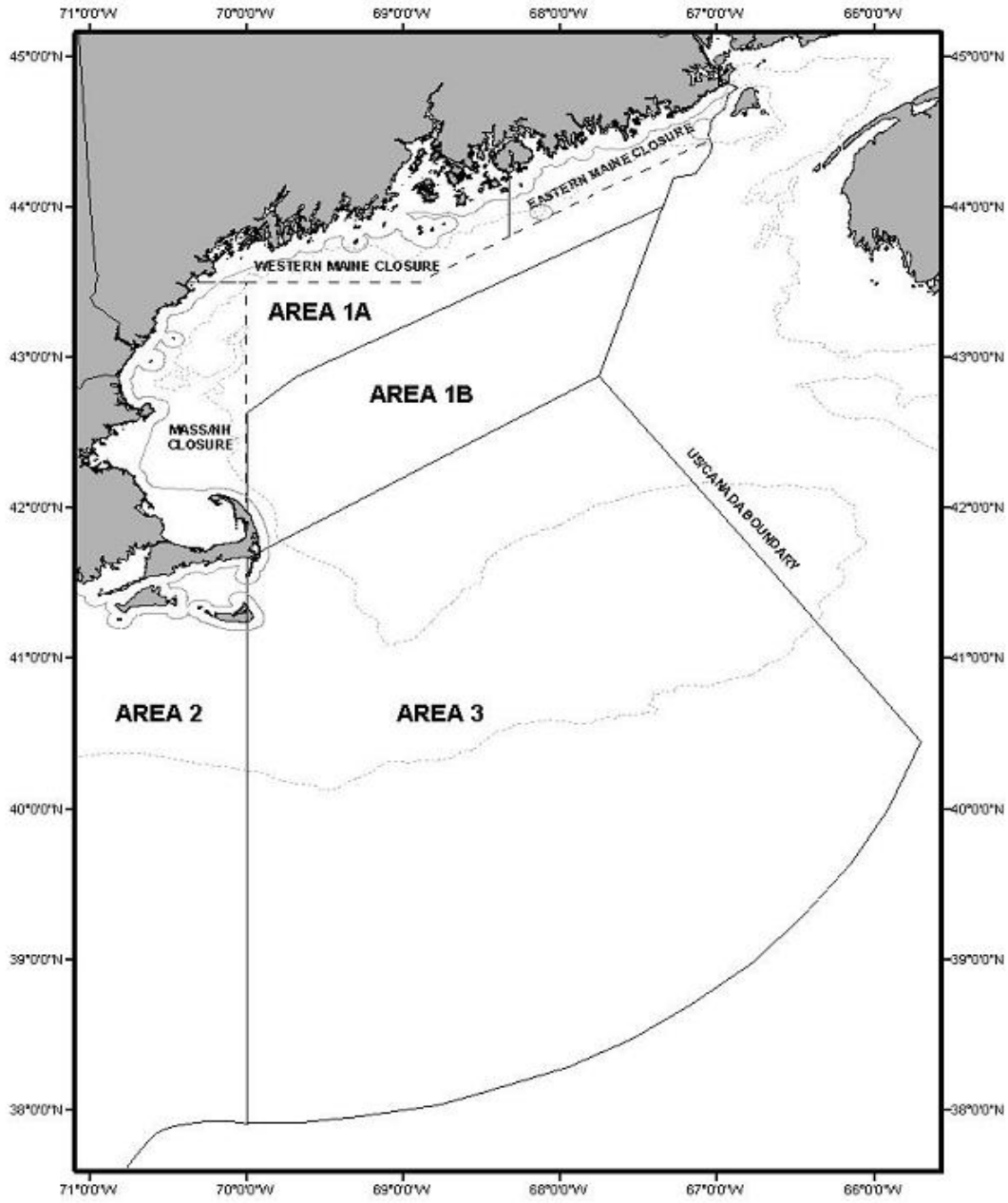

Figure 1. Map of Atlantic herring management areas with boundaries and the three spawning areas are within Area 1A, the inshore region of Gulf of Maine.

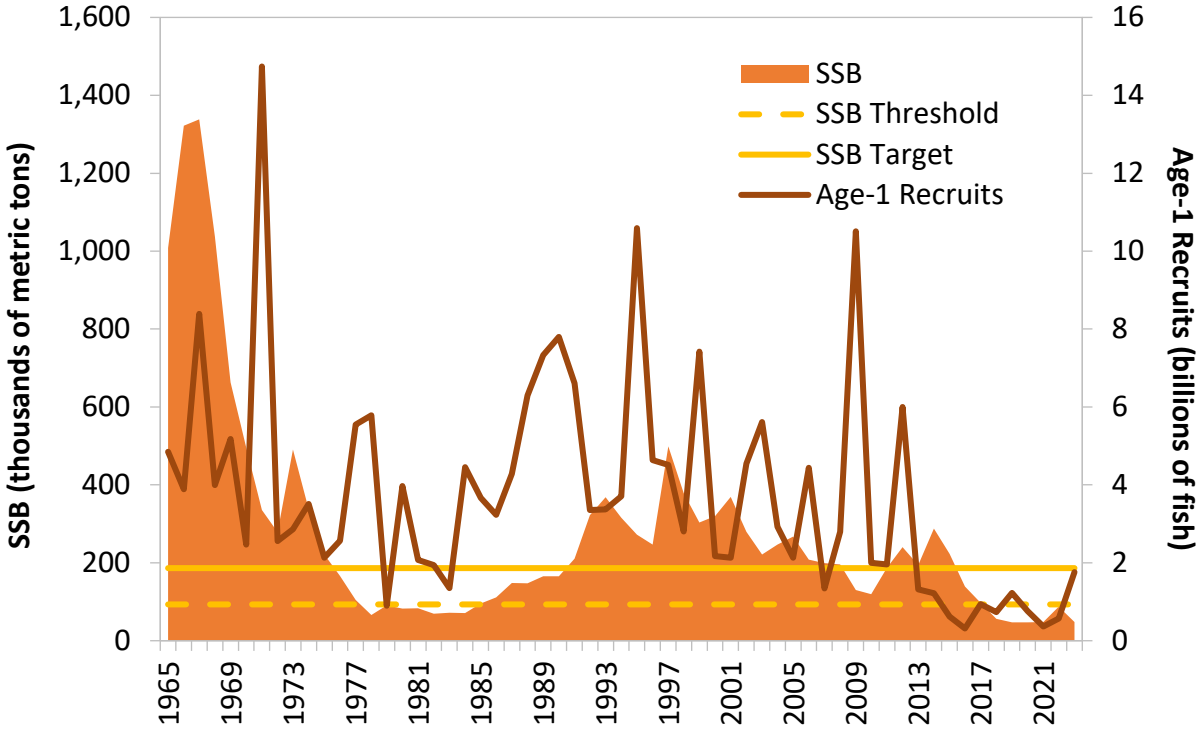

Figure 2. Spawning stock biomass and recruitment from 1965 to 2023. Source: 2024 Management Track Assessment

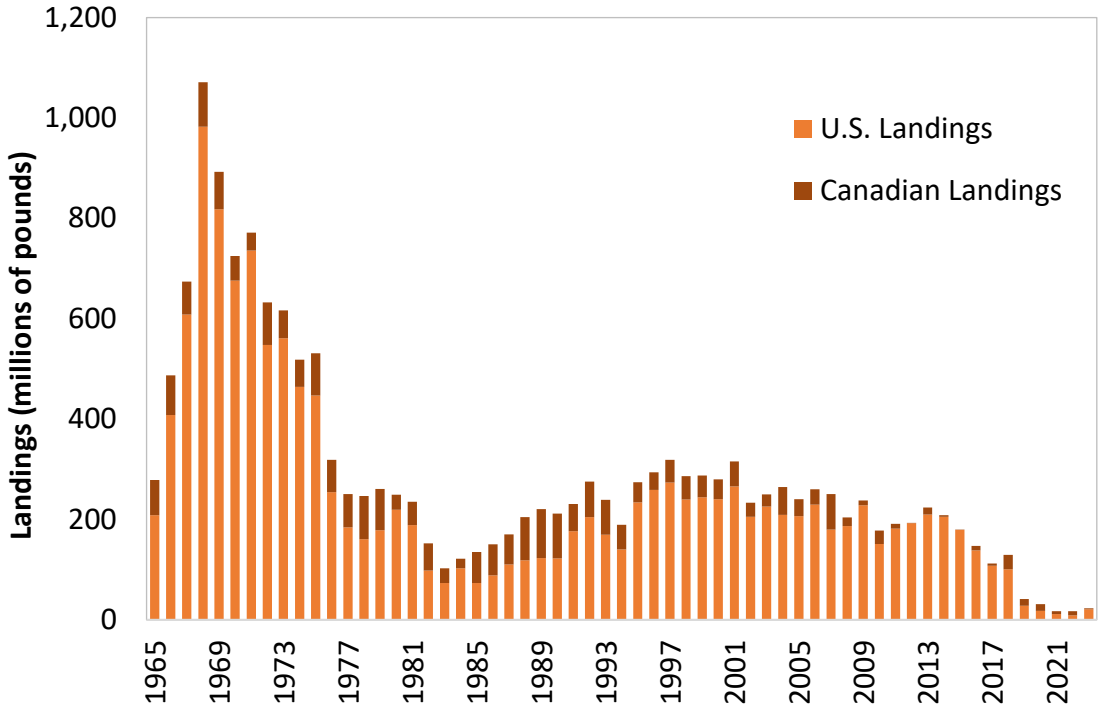

Figure 3. U.S. and Canadian commercial landings from 1965 to 2023. Source: 2024 Management Track Assessment

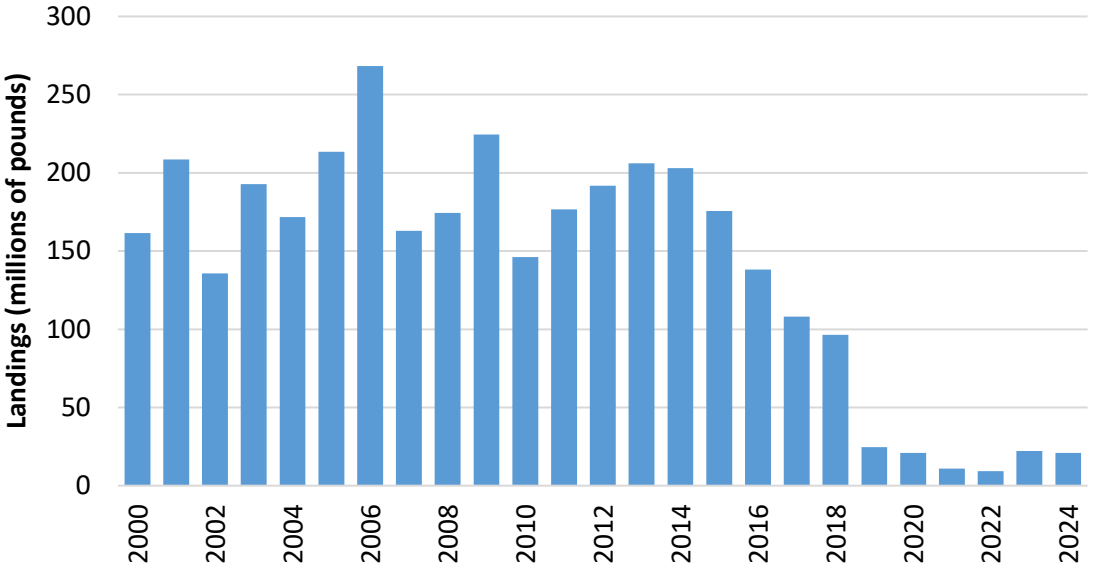

Figure 4. Commercial Atlantic herring landings (non-confidential landings only) by the U.S. fleet from 2000-2024. Source: ACCSP Data Warehouse for 2000-2023; State Compliance Reports for 2024.

Appendix. Days Out and Spawning Closure Notices from 2024

2024 days out and spawning closure notices are enclosed in the following pages.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 N. Highland Street • Suite 200A-N • Arlington, VA 22201
703.842.0740 • 703.842.0741 (fax) • www.asmfc.org

MEMORANDUM

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

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

DATE: **April 26, 2024**

SUBJECT: **Area 1A 2024 Effort Controls**

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Herring Management Board members from Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts set the effort control measures for the 2024 Area 1A (inshore Gulf of Maine) fishery for June 1 – September 30.

The Area 1A sub-annual catch limit (ACL) is 5,036 metric tons (mt) after adjusting for the overage from 2022, the 30 mt fixed gear set-aside, and the fact that Area 1A closes at 92% of the sub-ACL. In October 2023, the Board established the following seasonal allocations for the 2024 Area 1A sub-ACL: 72.8% available for season 1 (June 1 – September 30) and 27.2% available for season 2 (October 1 – December 31).

2024 Atlantic Herring 1A Quota Allocation by Season

Season	Area 1A Quota
1. June 1-September 30	3,666 mt
2. October 1-December 31	1,370 mt

Days Out of the Fishery

- Landing days will be set at zero (0) from June 1 until the start of the fishery on June 30 at 6:00 p.m.
- Landing days begin on Sunday of each week at 6:00 p.m. starting June 30.
- Vessels with an Atlantic herring Limited Access Category A permit that have declared into the Area 1A fishery may land herring five (5) consecutive days a week. The week shall begin at 6:00 p.m. on Sundays and conclude at 6:00 p.m. on Fridays. One landing per 24 hour period. Vessels are prohibited from landing or possessing herring caught from Area 1A during a day out of the fishery.
- Small mesh bottom trawl vessels with an Atlantic herring Limited Access Category C or Open Access D permit that have declared into the fishery may land herring six (6) consecutive days a week. The week shall begin at 6:00 p.m. on Sundays and conclude at 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Weekly Landing Limit

- Vessels with an Atlantic herring Category A permit may harvest up to 320,000 lbs. (8 trucks) per harvester vessel, per week starting June 30.

At-Sea Transfer and Carrier Restrictions

The following applies to harvester vessels with an Atlantic herring Category A permit and carrier vessels landing herring caught in Area 1A to a Maine, New Hampshire, or Massachusetts port.

- A harvester vessel may transfer herring at-sea to another harvester vessel.
- A harvester vessel may not make any at-sea transfers to a carrier vessel.
- Carrier vessels may not receive at-sea transfers from a harvester vessel.

Fishermen are prohibited from landing more than 2,000 pounds of Atlantic herring per trip from Area 1A until June 30, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Landings will be closely monitored and the fishery will be adjusted to zero landing days when the season 1 quota is projected to be reached.

Please contact Emilie Franke, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at efranke@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740 for more information.

Motions

Move to implement for the 2024 Area 1A Season 1:

- **For Category A vessels, 5 landing days and an 8 truck (320,000 pound) weekly landing limit;**
- **Zero landing days before Sunday, July 14 at 6:00pm;**
- **Allow harvester-to-harvester transfers but not allow transfers to carriers;**
- **For Category C/D SMBT vessels, 6 landing days.**

Motion by Ms. Ware, second by Ms. Zobel.

Motion to substitute July 14 for June 30.

Motion by Mr. Abbott, second by Mr. Kane.
Motion passes with unanimous consent.

Main Motion as Substituted

Move to implement for the 2024 Area 1A Season 1:

- **For Category A vessels, 5 landing days and an 8 truck (320,000 pound) weekly landing limit;**
- **Zero landing days before Sunday, June 30 at 6:00pm;**
- **Allow harvester-to-harvester transfers but not allow transfers to carriers;**
- **For Category C/D SMBT vessels, 6 landing days.**

Motion carries by unanimous consent.

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MEMORANDUM

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

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

DATE: **August 23, 2024**

SUBJECT: **Atlantic Herring Eastern Maine Spawning Closure in Effect Starting August 28, 2024 through October 8, 2024**

The Atlantic Herring Area 1A (inshore Gulf of Maine) 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 samples from the Eastern Maine spawning area to determine spawning condition. Therefore, per the Addendum II default closure dates, the Eastern Maine spawning area will be closed starting at 12:01 a.m. on August 28, 2024 extending through 11:59 p.m. on October 8, 2024. The Eastern Maine spawning area includes all waters bounded by the following coordinates:

Maine coast 68° 20' W
43° 48' N 68° 20' W
44° 25' N 67° 03' W
North along the US/Canada border

Vessels in the directed Atlantic herring fishery cannot take, land or possess Atlantic herring caught within the Eastern Maine spawning area during this time. 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 Eastern Maine spawning area. In addition, all vessels traveling through the Eastern Maine spawning area must have all seine and mid-water trawl gear stowed.

For more information, please contact Emilie Franke, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at 703.842.0740 or efranke@asmfc.org.

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MEMORANDUM

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

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

DATE: **September 17, 2024**

SUBJECT: **Atlantic Herring Area 1A Fishery Moves to Zero Landing Days for Season 1 on September 18 at 6:00 p.m.**

The Area 1A (inshore Gulf of Maine) Atlantic herring fishery is projected to have harvested 92% of the Season 1 (June 1 – September 30) allocation by September 17. Beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 18 the Area 1A fishery will move to zero landing days through September 30, 2024, as specified in Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Herring.

Vessels participating in other fisheries may not possess more than 2,000 pounds of Atlantic herring per trip per day harvested from Area 1A. In addition, all vessels traveling through Area 1A must have all seine and mid-water trawl gear stowed.

Atlantic Herring Management Board members from Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts will reconvene on Thursday, September 19 via conference call to set effort controls for the 2024 Area 1A fishery for Season 2 (October 1 – December 31).

For more information, please contact Emilie Franke, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at 703.842.0740 or efranke@asmfc.org.

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** TMK

DATE: **September 18, 2024**

SUBJECT: **Western Maine and Massachusetts/New Hampshire Spawning Closures in Effect Starting September 23, 2024 through November 3, 2024**

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.

For the Western Maine spawning area, samples were collected but due to unforeseen issues with data inputs to the forecast model, a GSI forecast was not available until this week. So, the Western Maine spawning area will be closed on the Addendum II default dates, starting at 12:01 a.m. on September 23, 2024 extending through 11:59 p.m. on November 3, 2024. For the Massachusetts/New Hampshire spawning area, there were insufficient samples. So, the Massachusetts/New Hampshire spawning area will also be closed on the Addendum II default dates, starting at 12:01 a.m. on September 23, 2024 extending through 11:59 p.m. on November 3, 2024.

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.

Please contact Emilie Franke, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at efranke@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740 for more information.

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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** TMK

DATE: **September 20, 2024**

SUBJECT: **Days Out Measures for Season 2 of the 2024 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 19 via webinar to set effort control measures for the 2024 Area 1A fishery for Season 2 (October 1 – December 31). The Season 2 quota is approximately 1,259 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 overage from Season 1, and an 8% buffer (since 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 through October 9.
- The fishery will move to two (2) landing days from 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, October 10 to 11:59 p.m. on Friday, October 11.
- The fishery will move to zero (0) landing days from October 12 through November 4.
- The fishery will move to four (4) consecutive landing days per week starting at 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, November 5, until 92% of the Area 1A sub-ACL is caught. Landing days are Tuesdays from 12:01 a.m. through Fridays at 11:59 p.m., weekly.

The fishery will only move to four (4) landing days on November 5 at 12:01 a.m. 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. Fishing for and possession of Atlantic herring may begin prior to landing days during Season 2, outside of the spawning closures.

Please contact Emilie Franke, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at efranke@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740 for more information.

Days Out Meeting Motions (September 19, 2024)

Move to set the following schedule for Area 1A landing days in Season 2:

- **Zero landing days from October 1- 9;**
- **Two landing days from 12:01am Thursday, October 10, to 11:59pm Friday, October 11;**
- **Zero landing days from October 12 – November 4;**
- **Starting on Tuesday, November 5 at 12:01am, move to four landing days per week until 92% of the Area 1A sub-ACL is caught. Landing days will be four days a week, Tuesday – Friday.**

Motion by Ms. Ware, second by Mr. Abbott.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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MEMORANDUM

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

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

DATE: **November 12, 2024**

SUBJECT: **Directed Atlantic Herring Fishery Closure for Management Area 1A**

NOAA Fisheries and the states of Maine and New Hampshire, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts project the Atlantic herring fishery will catch 92% of the Area 1A sub-ACL by November 12, 2024. The Area 1A directed fishery will close effective 9:00 p.m. on November 12, 2024 and remain closed until further notice. Vessels that have entered port before 9:00 p.m. on November 12, 2024 may land and sell, from that trip, greater than 2,000 pounds of herring from Area 1A.

During a closure, vessels participating in other fisheries may retain and land an incidental catch of herring that does not exceed 2,000 pounds per trip or calendar day. In addition, directed herring vessels traveling through Area 1A must have all fishing gear stowed.

In accordance with the Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Herring, the fixed gear set-aside of 30 metric tons will continue to be available to fixed gear fishermen operating in Area 1A west of Cutler, Maine through December 31, 2024.

Please contact Emilie Franke, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at 703.842.0716 or efranke@asmfc.org for more information.