

# Quota Periods for the 2026 Area 1A Fishery

Atlantic Herring Management Board  
October 27, 2025



- Review 2026 quota scenarios for Area 1A
- Review Amendment 3 quota period systems
- **Board action for consideration today: Set quota periods for the 2026 Area 1A fishery**

- May 2025: Board approved revised specifications for 2025-2027 fishing years as recommended by New England Fishery Management Council and contingent on final rule from NOAA Fisheries
- June 2025: NOAA Fisheries proposed rule for 2025-2027 specifications
- TBD: NOAA Fisheries final rule implementing 2025-2027 specifications

- 2026 Area 1A sub-ACL if NOAA Fisheries final rule is implemented in time for 2026 season: **2,640 metric tons**
- 2026 Area 1A sub-ACL if NOAA Fisheries final rule is not implemented in time for the 2026 season: **783 metric tons**
  - Federal FMP would roll over previous year specifications (current 2025 Area 1A sub-ACL is 783 mt)

# Area 1A Quota Periods

- Per Amendment 3, quota periods shall be determined annually for Area 1A
- 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



<b>Bi-Monthly Quotas</b>								
<b>January – December</b>			<b>No Landings Prior to June 1 (with June as a one-month period)</b>			<b>No Landings Prior to June 1 (with December as a one-month period)</b>		
<b>Period</b>	<b>Months</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Months</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Months</b>	<b>%</b>
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%						

<b>Trimesters</b>			<b>Seasonal Quotas</b>					
<b>January – December</b>			<b>January - December</b>			<b>No Landings Prior to June 1</b>		
<b>Trimester</b>	<b>Months</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Season</b>	<b>Months</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Season</b>	<b>Season</b>	<b>%</b>
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%						

# Area 1A Quota Periods

- **2019:** bimonthly quota periods with no landings prior to June 1 (with June as a 1-month period)
  - Underages rolled to next period
- **2020-2025:** seasonal quota periods with no landings prior to June 1
  - Underages rolled to next period

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

June-Sep	72.8%
Oct-Dec	27.2%



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# Questions?

# 2025 FMP Review for Atlantic Herring for Fishing Year 2024

Atlantic Herring Management Board  
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- Status of the FMP
- Status of the Stock
- Status of the Fishery
- PRT Comments and Recommendations

**Board action for consideration: Approve the FMP Review for the 2024 fishing year, state compliance reports, and de minimis requests.**

- Complementary management plans between the Commission and the New England Fishery Management Council
- Amendment 3 (2016) to the Interstate FMP
  - Addendum I (2017) Days Out Program
  - Addendum II (2019) Gulf of Maine Spawning Protections

- Currently under a rebuilding plan
- 2024 Management Track Assessment
  - Overfished but not experiencing overfishing
  - Poor recruitment
- 2025 Research Track Assessment
  - Peer reviewed in March 2025
  - Transitioned the stock to Woods Hole Assessment Model (WHAM)
- Scheduled: 2026 Management Track Assessment

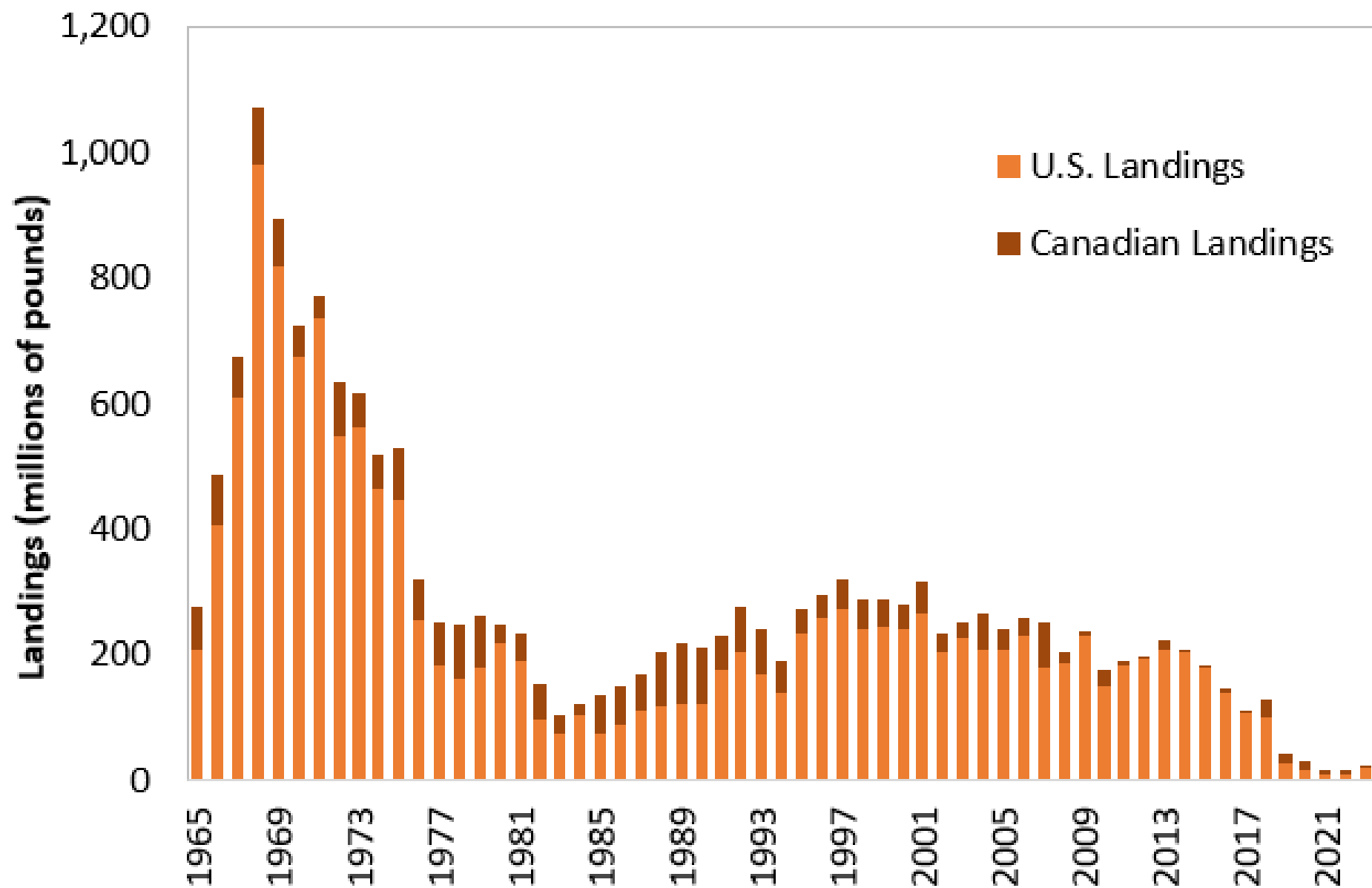


Figure 3. U.S. and Canadian commercial landings from 1965 to 2023. Source: 2024 Management Track Assessment

- Preliminary 2024 Landings from NOAA Fisheries Quota Monitoring

Year	Area	Sub-ACL (mt)	Catch (mt)	% Utilized
<b>2024</b>	1A	6,504	5,987*	92%*
	1B	819	82*	10%*
	2	5,449	67*	1%*
	3	7,484	4,179*	56%*
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>20,141</b>	<b>10,315*</b>	<b>51%*</b>

*\*PRELIMINARY*

- Landings in 2023 and 2024 more than double 2021 and 2022
  - More quota available
- ME and MA account for majority of landings (>90% of total)
- Note: Some vessels regularly land Atlantic herring outside homeport state

- Small portion of landings from fixed gear, primarily Maine
- Low fixed gear harvest in Maine in 2024 → due to early arrival of menhaden, which impeded clear transit of Atlantic herring into coves for stop seine harvest
- However, fixed gear harvesters report consistent sightings of adult herring returning to Maine waters in early spring the past few years

- PRT finds all states have regulations in place that meet the requirements of the FMP
- New York is requesting *de minimis* status and does meet the requirements
  - Average of last three years of commercial landings are <1% of coastwide total for same period

- **Short-Term Recommendation: Board discuss long-term funding solutions for MEDMR portside sampling program.**
  - Funding needed for MEDMR to collect biological samples from other states
  - Samples inform Area 1A spawning closures and documenting size/age of harvested fish
  - Important data for WHAM (age-structured model)

- **Medium-Term Recommendation: TC review Area 1A spawning closure protocol to determine if any concerns with prolonged periods of insufficient samples and default closure dates.**
  - Insufficient samples to forecast spawning closures in recent years  
→ timing of fishery and low quotas
  - Medium-term as the Board previously noted this should not be a near-term priority

- **Medium-Term Recommendation: Board consider FMP definition of ‘fixed gear’ in next management action.**
  - FMP defines ‘fixed gear’ as stop seines and fish weirs only
  - Other gears are being used like pound nets and gill nets
  - Maine’s 2025 fixed gear harvest was higher than prior years and harvested the entire fixed gear set-aside by June 2025
  - Continue to monitor fixed gear landings closely



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