

Quota Periods for the 2026 Area 1A Fishery

Atlantic Herring Management Board October 27, 2025





Outline

- 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



2026 Area 1A Quota

- 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 Quota

• 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 <u>not</u> 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



Nov/Dec

6

8.2%

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%						

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%						

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%



Questions?



2025 FMP Review for Atlantic Herring for Fishing Year 2024

Atlantic Herring Management Board October 27, 2025





Outline

- 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.



Status of the FMP

 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



Status of the Stock

- 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



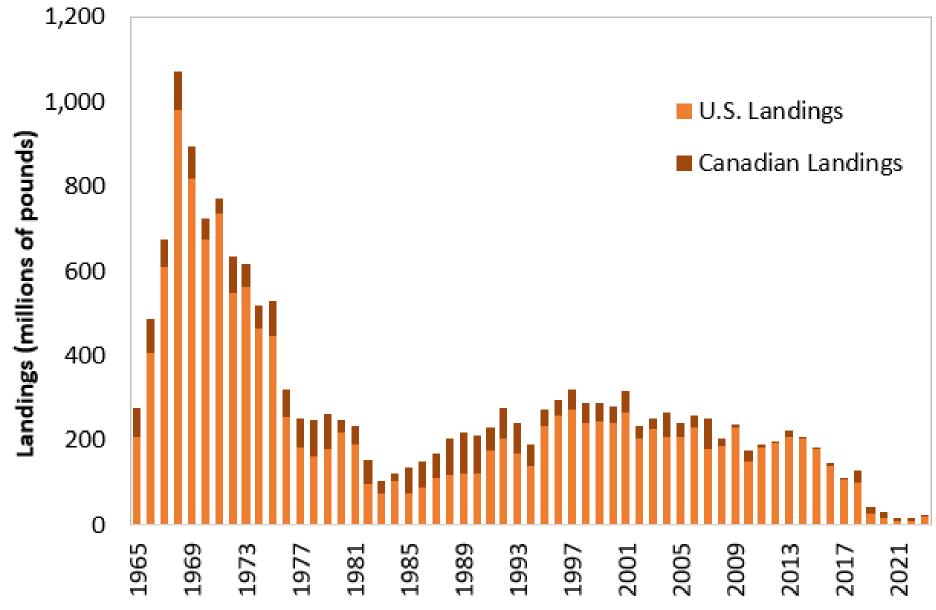


Figure 3. U.S. and Canadian commercial landings from 1965 to 2023. Source: 2024 Management Track Assessment



Status of the Fishery

 Preliminary 2024 Landings from NOAA Fisheries Quota Monitoring

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



Status of the Fishery

- 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



Status of the Fishery

- 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 Comments

- 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



PRT Recommendations

- 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)



PRT Recommendations

- 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



PRT Recommendations

- 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



Questions?