

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

CHAPTER 36 - HERRING

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36.01 Herring Management Plan

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36.01 Herring Management Plan

A. Definitions

(1) Herring.

Herring means Atlantic Sea Herring, particularly the *Clupea Harengus harengus*.

(2) ICNAF gonad stages.

ICNAF gonad stages are the official stages adopted by the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries in 1964.

Excerpt from ICNAF, 1964, Table 2 definitions:

Stage V. Gonads fill body cavity. Eggs large, round; some transparent. Ovaries yellowish; testes milkwhite. Eggs and sperm do not flow, but sperm can be extruded by pressure.

Stage VI. Ripe gonads. Eggs transparent; testes white; eggs and sperm flow freely.

(3) Spawn herring.

Spawn herring is a sexually mature herring (male or female) in ICNAF gonad stages V or VI.

(4) Herring harvester.

Any person or vessel operator in command of any type of gear used to harvest herring.

(5) Management Area 1.

Management Area 1 is all U.S. waters of the Gulf of Maine encompassed by the shoreline and an imaginary line beginning at the intersection of the 41° 35' N parallel with the eastern shore of Monomoy Island; thence along a straight line in a northeast direction to its intersection with the U.S.-Canada boundary at the point 42° 53' 14" N parallel of latitude and 67° 44' 35" W meridian of longitude; thence in a northerly direction along the U.S.-Canada boundary.

Management Area 1 is subdivided into Area 1A (inshore) and Area 1B (offshore). The line dividing these areas is described by the following coordinates:

Beginning at	70° 00' W Longitude on the Cape Cod shoreline; thence due north to
42° 38.4' N Latitude,	70° 00' W Longitude; thence due northeasterly to
42° 53.0' N Latitude,	69° 40' W Longitude; thence due northeasterly to
43° 12.0' N Latitude,	69° 00' W Longitude; thence due northeasterly to
43° 40.0' N Latitude,	68° 00' W Longitude; thence due northeasterly to
43° 58.0' N Latitude,	67° 22' W Longitude at the U.S.-Canada boundary; thence northerly
	along the irregular U.S.-Canada boundary.

(6) Management Area 2.

South Coastal Area: All waters west of 70° 00' W Longitude and south of 41° 35' N Latitude, to include state and Federal waters adjacent to the states of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina.

(7) Management Area 3.

Georges Bank: All U.S. waters east of 70° 00' W Longitude and southeast of the line that runs from a point at 70° 00' W Longitude and 41° 35' N Latitude, northeasterly to the Hague Line at 67° 44' 35" W Longitude and 42° 53' 14" N Latitude.

(8) Herring Dealer.

Any person who purchases herring directly from a herring harvester for other than their own use and then sells the herring as a wholesale or retail product, and a herring harvester who sells herring to an individual(s) for personal use.

(9) "GSI" means the gonadosomatic index calculated by the following formula:

$(\text{Gonad Weight} / \text{Total Body Weight} - \text{Gonad Weight}) \times 100$ percent.

(10) Spawning Sample

Sample means a batch of 100 adult herring taken randomly from commercial catch or fish surveys.

B. Permits and reporting

(1) Dealer Permit.

All herring dealers shall obtain a herring dealers permit as part of the Wholesale Seafood License issued by the Department of Marine Resources. There will be no additional charge for this permit. The Commissioner may require that dealer permit holders report volumes of herring bought and sold and other information as required.

(2) IVR Herring Harvester Permit

All harvesters who catch 2,000 pounds or more Atlantic herring in any given week must possess an IVR Herring Harvester Permit on their Commercial Pelagic and Anadromous Fishing License issued by the Department of Marine Resources. For purposes of this section only, a week is defined as beginning on Sunday at 0001 hrs (12:01 am) and ending Saturday at 2400 hrs (midnight). There will be no additional charge for this permit.

(3) Reporting of catch

Harvesters: See Chapter 8.20(Q) and 8.20(R)

Dealers: See Chapter 8.10(F) Landings Program

C. Gear and vessel restrictions.

(1) Gear Type Prohibition.

It shall be unlawful to use otter trawls, beam trawls, pair trawls, or midwater trawls to fish for herring within the territorial waters of Maine.

(2) Vessel Size and Shaft Horsepower.

It shall be unlawful for any vessel that exceeds 165 feet length overall (LOA) or no more than 750 gross registered tonnage (GRT) to fish for or take herring within Maine territorial waters or to land herring in any Maine port. It shall be unlawful for any vessel possessing more than 3000 shaft horsepower to fish for or take herring within Maine territorial waters or to land herring in any Maine port.

This rule does not prohibit the landing of herring that are lawfully imported from other countries, territories or states provided the origin of fish is documented.

D. Catch restrictions.

License holders shall be informed by public notice in a newspaper circulated in the area affected of any restrictions herein.

(1) Spawning herring protection.

It shall be unlawful to fish for, take, possess, transfer or land in any State of Maine port or facility, or to transfer at sea from any Maine registered vessel, any catch of herring harvested from the following described areas within Management Area 1A during a spawning area closure:

(a) Spawning Area Boundaries:

Eastern Maine Spawning Area means:

All waters bounded by the following coordinates:

Maine coast 68° 20.0' W,
 43° 48.0' N 68° 20.0' W,
 44° 25.0' N 67° 03.0' W,
 North along the U.S./Canada border.

Western Maine Spawning Area means:

All waters bounded by the following coordinates:

43° 30.0' N Maine coast,
 43° 30.0' N 68° 54.5' W,
 43° 48.0' N 68° 20.0' W,
 North to Maine coast at 68° 20.0' W.

Massachusetts/New Hampshire Spawning Area means:

All waters bounded by the Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine coasts, and
 43° 30.0' N 70° 00.0' W.

(b) Closure Timing. To protect spawning sea herring, the commissioner shall close the Eastern Maine, Western Maine, or Massachusetts/New Hampshire Spawning Areas to directed Atlantic herring fishing effort when it is determined that sea herring are in the later stages of maturity just prior to spawning. A closure date will be projected based on a formula and process set forth in the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Amendment 3 (Section 4.2.6) Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Herring.

- i. Closure Duration. Once the closure is enacted, it shall remain in effect for 28 days.
- ii. Closure Extension. Sampling of Atlantic herring taken from Eastern Maine, Western Maine, or Massachusetts/New Hampshire Spawning Areas shall begin during the last week of the initial closure period or at the end of the initial closure period. If one

sample taken from the Eastern Maine or Western Maine Spawning Areas is comprised of 25% or more spawn herring, then the closure may be extended for an additional 14 days.

- iii. Closure Prohibitions. During the Eastern Maine, Western Maine, or Massachusetts/New Hampshire Spawning Area Closure, or an extension thereof, it shall be unlawful for any vessel to possess or land more than 2,000 pounds of sea herring caught within the Eastern Maine, Western Maine, or Massachusetts/New Hampshire Spawning Area.
- iv. Closure Procedure. The initial closure date shall be announced 5-days prior to the closure being enacted and any closure extension shall be announced immediately to be enacted the day following the announcement.
- v. Default Closure Dates: If sufficient samples are not available, spawning area closures will begin on area specific dates as follows: Eastern Maine (August 28), Western Maine (October 4), or Massachusetts/New Hampshire (October 4).

(c) Exemptions.

- i. Transport. Any herring vessel having onboard herring, which were caught outside of a management area that is under a herring spawning closure, may transit the closed or restricted area and land at a Maine port, only if all of its fishing gear has been stowed.
- ii. Fixed gear. The fixed gear (stop seines and weirs) fishery east of Cutler is exempt from spawning area restrictions.

(2) Catch quota.

Fishing for herring in Management Areas 1A, 1B, 2 and 3 is subject to the sub-annual catch limit (ACL) and fishing effort restrictions specified by the ASMFC Atlantic Herring Section and the NEFMC in accordance with their respective Fisheries Management Plans (FMP). The ACL is established annually by July 1 for the following year by ASMFC and NEFMC. Any reduction in the harvest will be determined in consultation with the ASMFC and NEFMC. No person shall land herring taken from a management area when 92% of the area's seasonal or sub-annual catch limit will be exceeded or if 95% of the coastwide annual catch limit will be exceeded.

- (a) Exception. Up to 295 mt of the Area 1A sub-ACL is allocated for the fixed gear fisheries in Area 1A (weirs and stop seines). This set-aside is available for harvest by fixed gear within the fishing year until the fixed gear set-aside is fully utilized. No person shall land herring taken from Area 1A with fixed gear when 92% of the fixed gear set-aside portion of the Management Area 1A sub-ACL will be exceeded.

(3) Effort Restrictions

- (a) Management Area 1A, Sub-ACL Trimester 2 (June 1 – September 30)

Atlantic herring may only be landed from Management Area 1A on days that have been designated landing days by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). All vessels landing herring caught in Management Area 1A in any Maine port will be limited to fishing for herring on three days, beginning at 6 pm on Saturday and ending at 6 pm on Tuesday. All vessels landing herring caught in Management Area 1A in any Maine port will be limited to landing herring on two days, beginning at 6 pm on Sunday night and ending at 6 pm on Tuesday.

- i. For the purpose of this subsection, the following terms shall be defined as follows:
 - “Landing”: to come to shore, float, or a dock, and offload herring.
 - “At-Sea Transfer”: to transfer herring from a harvester vessel to a carrier vessel

“Harvester vessel”: a purse seine vessel that is required to report the catch it has aboard (along with effort data under a gear code other than CAR) as the harvesting vessel on its Federal Vessel Trip Report.

“Carrier vessel”: a vessel that has received herring from another vessel and will not report that catch as its own on its Federal Vessel Trip Report.

“Purse seine vessel”: a vessel currently rigged and capable of harvesting fish with an encircling net with floats on the top edge, weights and a purse line on the bottom edge, and associated gear to set, purse and haul such a net, which may include a hydraulically-driven block, roller gear, and/or skiff.

ii. Harvester vessels:

All harvester vessels landing herring caught in Management Area 1A in any Maine port are subject to a weekly landing limit of no more than 600,000 lbs (15 trucks). All harvester vessels landing herring caught in Management Area 1A in any Maine port are limited to making at-sea transfers to only one carrier vessel per week. All harvester vessels landing herring caught in Management Area 1A in any Maine port are limited to making one landing per 24-hour period (6 pm to 6 pm).

All harvester vessels shall send an email hail to DMR (herring.dmr@maine.gov) three hours prior to landing that includes the following information:

- Total catch retained (including all catch transferred to any vessel who will not report it as their own catch)
- Total amount of herring on board
- Date, time and location (dealer, city, state) of offload
- Estimated catch to be received, by weight, to each dealer (by dealer name and landings number)
- VTR number

iii. Carrier Vessels:

All carrier vessels landing herring caught in Management Area 1A in any Maine port are limited to receiving at-sea transfers from one vessel per week. All carrier vessels landing herring caught in Management Area 1A in any Maine port are limited to making one landing per 24 hour period (6 pm to 6 pm). Carrier vessels may not operate as a harvester vessel on the same trip when operating as a carrier vessel.

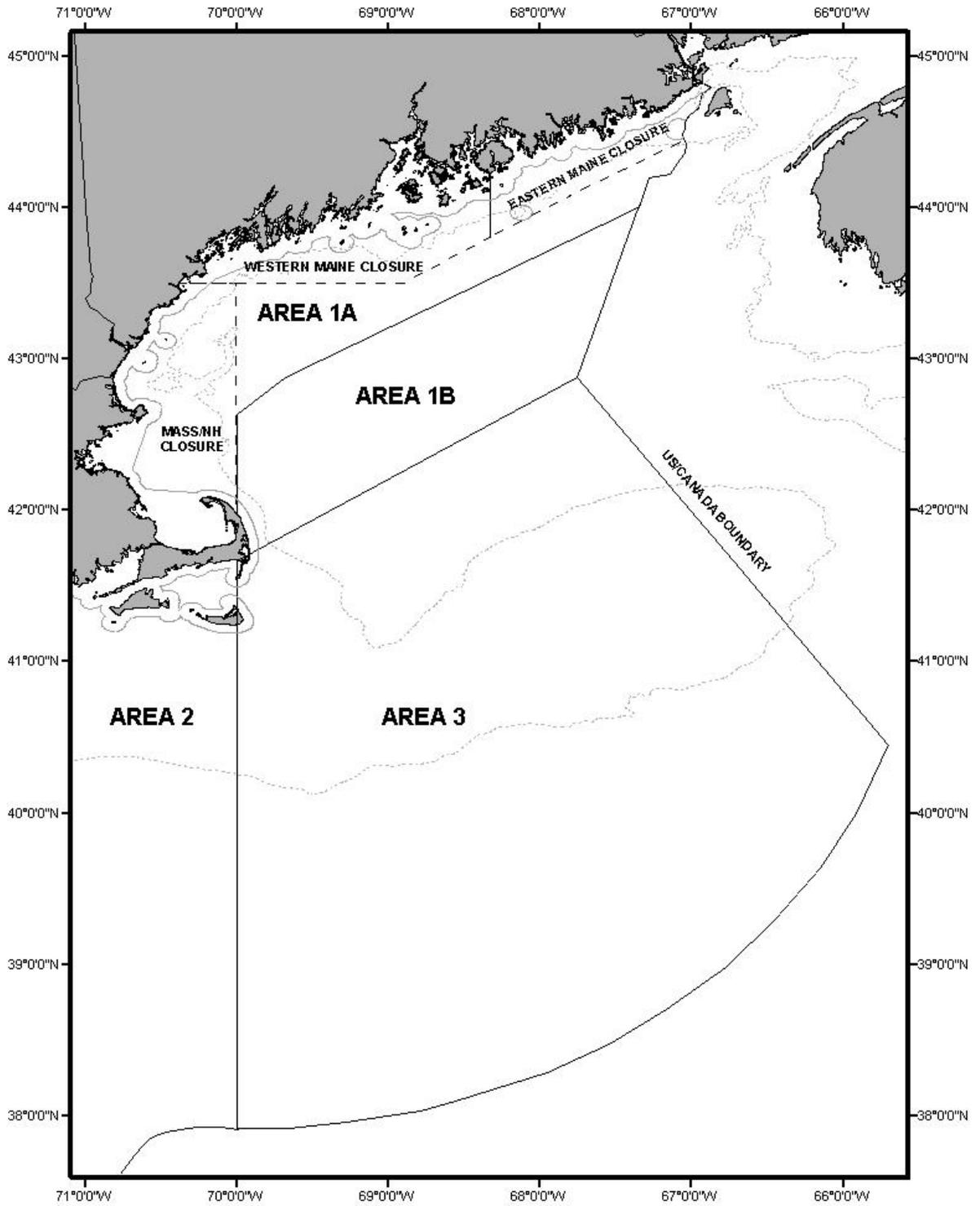
All carrier vessels shall send an email hail to DMR (herring.dmr@maine.gov) three hours prior to landing that includes the following information:

- Total amount of herring aboard
- Harvester vessel name from whom carrier received catch
- Date, time and location (dealer, city, state) of offload at port
- Estimated amount to be received by weight to each dealer (by dealer name and landings number)
- VTR number (and any VTR numbers for harvester vessels from whom carrier has received at-sea transfer)

(b) Exceptions.

Any vessel may possess herring as an incidental catch and land herring caught in Management Area 1A, 1B, 2 or 3, in any Maine port, as long as such herring do not comprise more than 10% of the total weight of the catch not to exceed 2000 lbs per trip.

Any license holder or vessels landing herring taken from Management Area 1A with fixed gear are not subject to effort restrictions imposed by this subsection.



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EFFECTIVE DATE:

July 27, 1979

AMENDED:

October 1, 1979 – Artificial lights exception
June 30, 1980
June 30, 1981
July 4, 1981 – Section 1
October 26, 1981
November 23, 1981 – Section 15
April 28, 1983 – Section 1
September 15, 1983 – Section 16 , EMERGENCY
October 1, 1983 – Section 1, EMERGENCY
August 13, 1984 – Section 01
September 21, 1995 – Section 01(B), EMERGENCY,
September 21, 1996
August 19, 1997 – Section 01(A)
September 16, 1997 – Section 01(B), map
November 19, 1997 – Section 1(C), renumbering
August 25, 1998 – Section 01, chart
August 28, 1999 – Section 01, 05(REPEALED), and 15(REPEALED)
July 29, 2000 – Section 01(A)(B)(C)(D)
August 15, 2001 – Section 01(D)(1)(a) EMERGENCY
November 25, 2001 - Section 01(D)(a)
December 17, 2003 – Section 01(B)(3)
January 1, 2005 – Section 01(D)(2)(a)
August 15, 2006 – Section 01(D)(1)
January 1, 2007 – Section 01(A)(5), (6) & (7)
September 24, 2007 – Section 01(D)(1), (3)
June 21, 2010 – Section 01(D)(2) EMERGENCY
August 23, 2010 – Section 01(D)(2)
October 26, 2010 – Section 01(B)(2) & (3)
June 22, 2016 – Section 01(D)(2) EMERGENCY
July 2, 2016 – Section 01(A)(5)(6)(7) & (10), 01(D)(1)(2)&(3)
July 9, 2016 – Section 01(D)(3)