

Notice to Atlantic Herring Fishery: No Landing Days for the Area 1A Directed Fishery in State and Federal Waters, Effective September 17, 2016

AND

Western Maine Spawning Closure Effective September 18, 2016 through October 15, 2016

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has determined that the Trimester II allocation of Atlantic herring has been taken. Effective Saturday, September 17, 2016 at 00:01 hours there will be zero landings days and it shall be unlawful to fish for, take, possess, transfer, or land Atlantic Herring taken from Management Area 1A. This restriction shall be in place until Trimester III (October 1 to December 31).

In addition to the closure of Area 1A, herring spawning closure regulations affecting the capture of herring in state and federal waters in the Western Maine Spawning Area will be in effect September 18, through October 15, 2016. It shall be unlawful to fish for, take, possess, transfer, or land Atlantic herring taken from the following described area:

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	

Exemptions to closures:

- Any vessels may land or offload herring in the State of Maine as incidental catch as long as such herring do not comprise more than 10% of the total weight of the catch and do not exceed 2,000 lbs per trip per day.
- Herring taken legally outside Area 1A or outside the Western Maine Spawning Area may be transported through the area, only if all fishing gear has been stowed.
- Fixed gear fishermen (weirs and stop seines) are not subject to the 1A closure and fixed gear fishermen east of Cutler are not subject to the spawning closures.

For more information, please contact your local Marine Patrol Division Headquarters (Div I 633-9595, Div II 667-3373), or your local Marine Patrol officer.

Discussion of Days Out Measures for Trimester III: The ASMFC's Atlantic Herring Section (Section members from Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts are meeting via **conference call at 9 a.m. on September 16, 2016** to discuss days out measures for Trimester III. The members have deferred discussion of alternative management approaches for Area 1A until the Section meets in October at the Commission's Annual Meeting. This conference call replaces the previously scheduled in-person meeting in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Fishermen and other interested parties are welcome to listen in and participate at the Chair's discretion. Join via telephone by dialing 1-888-394-8197 and entering the passcode 499811.