

NOTICE OF AGENCY EMERGENCY RULE-MAKING

AGENCY: Department of Marine Resources

CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE: Chapter 36 Atlantic Herring; Period 2 Closes; Open Date Period 3

ADOPTED RULE NUMBER: (LEAVE BLANK - ASSIGNED BY SECRETARY OF STATE)

CONCISE SUMMARY:

As of August 13, 2019, the Herring Management Area (HMA) 1A fishery has harvested 92% of the Period 2 (July – August) allocation. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) has designated zero landing days for the remainder of Period 2, starting Sunday, August 18 through August 31, 2019.

Period 3 (September – October) Atlantic herring fishery will commence on Sunday, September 1, 2019. At the Days Out meeting on April 3, 2019, the Commissioners designated four consecutive landing days, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Sunday to 6:00 p.m. Thursday for vessels issued an Atlantic Herring Limited Access Category A Permit with a weekly landing limit of 160,000 lbs (4 trucks). The Commissioners designated five consecutive landing days, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Sunday to 6:00 p.m. Friday for vessels issued an Atlantic Herring Limited Access Category C Permit. Limited access harvester vessels may transfer Atlantic herring at-sea to other limited access harvester vessels. All harvester vessels are prohibited from at-sea transfers of Atlantic herring to carrier vessels. All vessels landing herring caught in Management Area 1A in any Maine port are limited to one landing per 24 hour period (6:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.). The Commissioner has determined that it is necessary to take emergency action to implement these limitations to prevent the imminent depletion of the supply of Atlantic herring and to comply with the changes to the interstate management of the Atlantic herring resource. The Commissioner hereby adopts this emergency regulation as authorized by 12 M.R.S. §6171(3).

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 17, 2019

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DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Chapter 36 Atlantic Herring

36.01 Herring Management Plan

D. Catch restrictions.

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

(3) Effort Restrictions

(a) Management Area 1A, January 1 – May 31

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). ASMFC designates zero landing days between January 1 and May 31, annually.

(b) Management Area 1A, June 1 – December 31

For 2019, Area 1A sub-ACL will be monitored and managed in bimonthly periods as described in ASMFC's Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan. Atlantic herring may only be landed from Management Area 1A on days that have been designated landing days by the ASMFC. All vessels landing herring caught in Management Area 1A in any Maine port will be limited to fishing for and landing herring on days that have been designated landings days by the ASMFC.

All vessels landing herring caught in Management Area 1A in any Maine port are limited to one landing per 24 hour period (6 pm to 6 pm).

i. For the purpose of this subsection, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

“At-Sea Transfer”: to transfer herring from a vessel to another vessel before the harvester vessel has landed.

“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 is not required to report that catch as its own on its Federal Vessel Trip Report; and, not rigged as a purse seine vessel.

“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, but not limited to, a hydraulically-driven block, roller gear, and/or skiff.

“Truck”: a truck, as a unit of measurement, is equal to 40,000 lbs.

ii. Harvester vessels:

For the remainder of Period 2 (July – August), ASMFC designates zero landing days beginning on Sunday, August 18 through Saturday, August 31, 2019. All vessels targeting Atlantic herring may commence harvest on Sunday, September 1, 2019 Sunday, July 14, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. All harvester vessels are prohibited from transferring Atlantic herring at-sea to a carrier vessel. All harvester vessels landing herring caught in waters within Management

Area 1A in any Maine port are limited to making one landing per 24-hour period (6 pm to 6 pm).

(A) For all vessels issued a state Commercial Pelagic and Anadromous license that do not possess a Federal Limited Access Herring Permit:

All harvester vessels may possess and land Atlantic herring four days a week, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Sunday to 6:00 p.m. Thursday. No vessel may land more than 25,000 lbs per week.

Exception: Fishing weirs, stop seines, and pound nets are not subject to the harvest schedule detailed above. Weekly landing limits apply.

(B) For all vessels issued a Federal Limited Access Atlantic Herring Permit Category A:

The permit holder must have declared into the Atlantic Herring fishery by April 15th, annually, to be eligible to harvest. Designated landing days for all vessels issued a Federal Limited Access Atlantic Herring Category A Permit shall be four consecutive days, beginning on 6:00 p.m. Sunday to 6:00 p.m. Thursday and are limited to landing 160,000 lbs (4 trucks) weekly.

(C) For all vessels issued a Federal Limited Access Atlantic Herring Permit Category C:

Designated landing days for all vessels issued a Federal Limited Access Atlantic Herring Category C Permit shall be five consecutive days, beginning on 6:00 p.m. Sunday to 6:00 p.m. Friday. Daily trip limit shall not exceed 55,000 lbs per day.

(D) For all vessels issued a Federal Limited Access Atlantic Herring Permit Category D:

Designated landing days for all vessels issued a Federal Limited Access Atlantic Herring Category D Permit shall be five consecutive days, beginning on 6:00 p.m. Sunday to 6:00 p.m. Friday. Daily trip limit shall not exceed 6,600 lbs per day.

iii. Carrier Vessels:

Carrier vessels shall not operate as a harvester vessel on the same trip when operating as a carrier vessel.

(c) 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.

Basis Statement

As of August 13, 2019, the Herring Management Area (HMA) 1A fishery has harvested 92% of the Period 2 (July – August) allocation. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) has designated zero landing days for the remainder of Period 2, starting Sunday, August 18 through August 31, 2019.

Period 3 (September – October) Atlantic herring fishery will commence on Sunday, September 1, 2019. At the Days Out meeting on April 3, 2019, the Commissioners designated four consecutive landing days, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Sunday to 6:00 p.m. Thursday for vessels issued an Atlantic Herring Limited Access Category A Permit with a weekly landing limit of 160,000 lbs (4 trucks). The Commissioners designated five consecutive landing days, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Sunday to 6:00 p.m. Friday for vessels issued an Atlantic Herring Limited Access Category C Permit. Limited access harvester vessels may transfer Atlantic herring at-sea to other limited access harvester vessels. All harvester vessels are prohibited from at-sea transfers of Atlantic herring to carrier vessels. All vessels landing herring caught in Management Area 1A in any Maine port are limited to one landing per 24 hour period (6:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.). The Commissioner has determined that it is necessary to take emergency action to implement these limitations to prevent the imminent depletion of the supply of Atlantic herring and to comply with the changes to the interstate management of the Atlantic herring resource. The Commissioner hereby adopts this emergency regulation as authorized by 12 M.R.S. §6171(3).

Rule-Making Fact Sheet

(5 M.R.S., §8057-A)

AGENCY: 13-188- Department of Marine Resources

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CHAPTER NUMBER AND RULE: Chapter 36 Herring; Period 2 Closes; Open Date Period 3

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 12 M.R.S. § 6171

DATE AND PLACE OF PUBLIC HEARING(S): NA

COMMENT DEADLINE: NA

PRINCIPAL REASON(S) OR PURPOSE FOR PROPOSING THIS RULE: [see §8057-A(1)(A)&(C)]

This rule-making is intended to align State of Maine regulations with those set forth by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. The harvest control rules were determined by the Commissioners at the Days Out meeting held April 3, 2019.

IS MATERIAL INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE IN THE RULE? ___ YES ___ NO [§8056(1)(B)]

ANALYSIS AND EXPECTED OPERATION OF THE RULE: [see §8057-A(1)(B)&(D)]

This proposed rule is intended to conserve and protect the Atlantic herring resource during a low spawning stock biomass period by expanding on the existing seasonal spawning closures. T

BRIEF SUMMARY OF RELEVANT INFORMATION CONSIDERED DURING DEVELOPMENT OF THE RULE

Final action of effort control rules discussed during the Days Out meeting on April 3, 2019.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT OF THE RULE: [see §8057-A(1)(C)]

Enforcement of these proposed amendments will not require additional activity in this Agency. Existing enforcement personnel will monitor compliance during their routine patrols.

FOR EXISTING RULES WITH FISCAL IMPACT OF \$1 MILLION OR MORE, ALSO INCLUDE:

ECONOMIC IMPACT, WHETHER OR NOT QUANTIFIABLE IN MONETARY TERMS:

[see §8057-A(2)(A)]

INDIVIDUALS, MAJOR INTEREST GROUPS AND TYPES OF BUSINESSES AFFECTED AND HOW THEY WILL BE AFFECTED: [see §8057-A(2)(B)]

BENEFITS OF THE RULE: [see §8057-A(2)(C)]

Note: If necessary, additional pages may be used