



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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MEMORANDUM

September 13, 2016

To: Atlantic Herring Section, Advisory Panel, Interested Parties, Technical Committee
From: Toni Kerns, ISFMP Director *TMK*
Subject: Atlantic Herring Western Maine Spawning Closure in Effect Starting September 18, 2016 through October 15, 2016

The Atlantic Herring Area 1A (inshore Gulf of Maine) fishery regulations include seasonal spawning closures for portions of state and federal waters in Eastern Maine, Western Maine and Massachusetts/New Hampshire. In 2016, the Commission's Atlantic Herring Section approved a one-year pilot of a new forecasting method that relies upon at least three samples, each containing at least 25 female herring in gonadal stages III-V, to trigger a spawning closure.

Sampling in the Western Maine spawning area began on August 7, 2016; five samples totaling 216 female herring were collected to evaluate spawning condition. Based on the analysis of the samples, the **Western Maine spawning area will be closed starting at 12:00 a.m. on September 18, 2016 extending through 11:59 p.m. on October 15, 2016.** Vessels in the directed Atlantic herring fishery cannot take, land or possess Atlantic herring caught within the Western Maine spawning area during this time and must have all fishing gear stowed when transiting through the area. An incidental bycatch allowance of up to 2,000 pounds of Atlantic herring per trip per calendar day applies to vessels in non-directed fisheries that are fishing within the Western Maine spawning area (Figure 1).

Please contact Ashton Harp, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at 703.842.0740 or aharp@asmfc.org for more information

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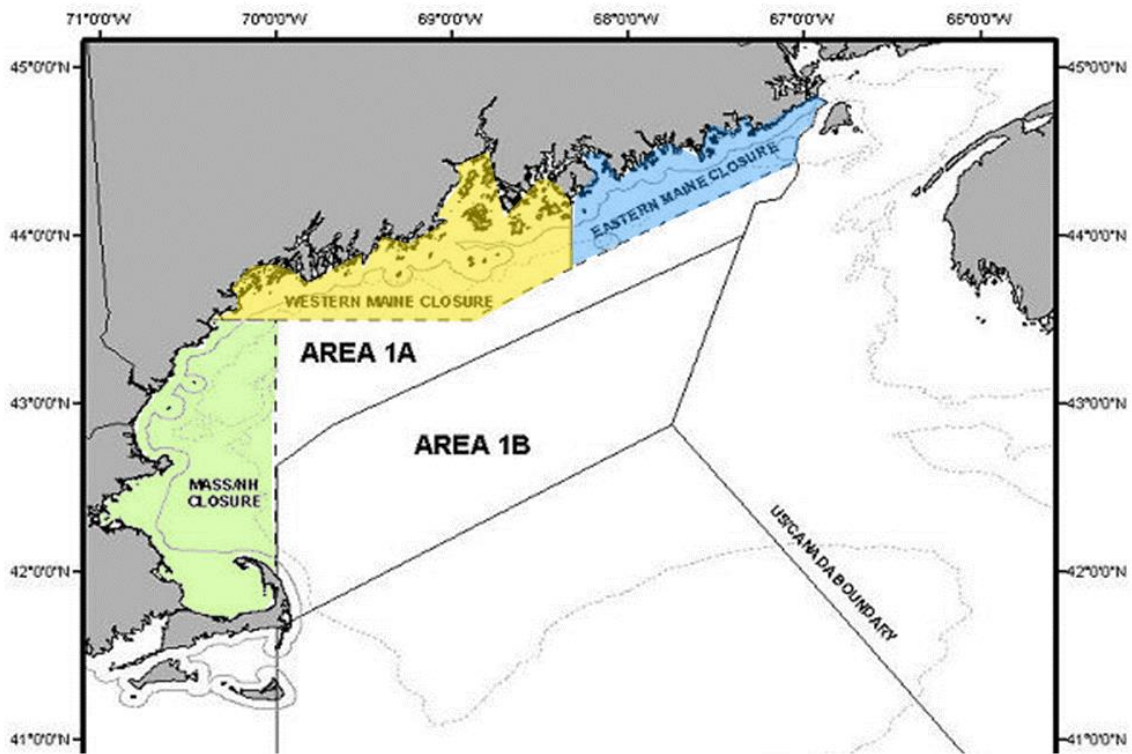


Figure 1. Area 1A Atlantic Herring Spawning Area Boundaries

The Western Maine spawning area includes all waters bounded by the following coordinates, also shown in Figure 1:

- 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