




# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 N. Highland Street • Suite 200A-N • Arlington, VA 22201  
703.842.0740 • 703.842.0741 (fax) • [www.asmf.org](http://www.asmf.org)

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Atlantic Herring Section, Technical Committee, Advisory Panel, Interested Parties

**FROM:** Toni Kerns, ISFMP Director 

**DATE:** September 21, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Atlantic Herring Western Maine Spawning Closure in Effect Starting September 26, 2017 through October 24, 2017

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. The Commission's Atlantic Herring Section approved a forecasting method that relies upon at least three samples, each containing at least 25 female herring in gonadal states III-V, to trigger a spawning closure.

Sampling in the Western Maine spawning area began on July 31, 2017; four samples of 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 26, 2017 extending through 11:59 p.m. on October 24, 2017.** 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/calendar day applies to vessels in non-directed fisheries that are fishing within the Western Maine spawning area.

Western Maine spawning area includes 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

Please contact Toni Kerns at 703.842.0740 or [tkerns@asmfc.org](mailto:tkerns@asmfc.org) for more information.