MEMORANDUM

TO: Atlantic Herring Management Board, Atlantic Herring Technical Committee, Atlantic Herring Advisory Panel, Interested Parties

FROM: Toni Kerns, Policy Director

DATE: September 14, 2022

SUBJECT: Days Out Measures for Season 2 of the 2022 Atlantic Herring Area 1A Fishery; Western Maine and Massachusetts/New Hampshire Spawning Closures in Effect Starting September 23, 2022 through November 3, 2022

This memorandum announces days out measures for the 2022 Area 1A (inshore Gulf of Maine) Atlantic herring fishery for Season 2 (October 1 – December 31); and closure dates for the Western Maine and Massachusetts/New Hampshire spawning areas.

Landing Days for the 2022 Area 1A Fishery for Season 2

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s Atlantic Herring Management Board members from Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts met September 14 via conference call to set effort control measures for the 2022 Area 1A fishery for Season 2 (October 1 – December 31). The Season 2 quota is approximately 174 metric tons (mt), which is 27.2% of the Area 1A sub-annual catch limit (ACL) after adjusting for the 30 mt fixed gear set-aside, a slight overage from Season 1, and an 8% buffer (since the Area 1A closes at 92% of the sub-ACL). This does not take into account the possible reallocation of 1,000 mt to the Area 1A sub-ACL based on catch information from the Canadian New Brunswick weir fishery.

Due to the very low quota, the days out measures for Season 2 are as follows:

- Landing days will be set at zero (0) for Season 2.
- If 1,000 mt is reallocated from the Canadian weir fishery to the Area 1A sub-ACL, the fishery will move to four (4) consecutive landing days starting Sunday, November 6 at 6:00 p.m. Landing days would begin on Sunday of each week at 6:00 p.m. starting November 6.

If the quota reallocation from the Canadian weir fishery occurs prior to October 21 or after November 7, the states will schedule another days-out meeting.

While landing days are set at zero (0), harvesters are prohibited from landing more than 2,000 pounds of Atlantic herring per trip from Area 1A during Season 2.
Spawning Area Closures
The Atlantic herring Area 1A 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 Management Board approved a 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. However, if sufficient samples are not available then closures will begin on predetermined dates.

There are currently insufficient samples from both the Western Maine spawning area and the Massachusetts/New Hampshire spawning area. Therefore, per Addendum II default closure dates, the Western Maine and Massachusetts/New Hampshire spawning areas will be closed starting at 12:01 a.m. on September 23, 2022 extending through 11:59 p.m. on November 3, 2022. The 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

The Massachusetts/New Hampshire spawning area includes all waters bounded by the Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine coasts, and 43° 30’ N and 70° 00’ W.

Vessels in the directed Atlantic herring fishery cannot take, land or possess Atlantic herring caught in either the Western Maine or Massachusetts/New Hampshire spawning areas during this time and must have all fishing gear stowed when transiting through the area. The incidental bycatch allowance of up to 2,000 pounds of Atlantic herring per trip per day applies to vessels in non-directed fisheries that are fishing within the Western Maine or Massachusetts/ New Hampshire spawning areas.

Please contact Emilie Franke, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at efranke@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740 for more information.

Days Out Meeting Motions (September 14, 2022)
Move to set zero landing days for Season 2. If 1,000 mt is reallocated from the Canadian weir fishery to the US Area 1A sub-ACL, the fishery shall open at 6PM on Sunday, November 6 with four landing days (Monday thru Thursday). Should the reallocation of 1000mt happen prior to October 21 or after November 7, the states will schedule another days-out meeting.
Motion by Ms. Griffin, second by Mr. Abbott.
Motion passed by consent.