



# 2023-2025 Specifications for the Atlantic Herring Fishery



Atlantic Herring Management Board

January 31, 2023

# 2023-2025 Specifications



- In September 2022 the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) voted on a 2023-2025 specifications package for Atlantic herring
- Specifications based on:
  - 2022 stock assessment, includes projections with updated recruitment methodology
  - Recommendations from the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee consistent with the biomass-based ABC control rule
  - Atlantic herring rebuilding plan in Framework 9
- Overall, 2023-2025 annual catch limits (ACLs) are low, but are an increase relative to recent years



# 2023-2025 Specifications Timeline



- **September 2022:** New England Council selects a 2023-2025 specifications package which was later submitted to NOAA Fisheries for review and approval
- **January 31, 2023:** ASMFC Atlantic Herring Board considers action to set 2023-2025 specifications, contingent on rule being published by NOAA Fisheries
- **February 2023:** NOAA Fisheries expects to publish rule to implement 2023-2025 specifications



# 2023-2025 NEFMC Specifications



## *Metric Tons*

NEFMC Specification	2023	2024	2025
Overfishing Limit (OFL)	29,138	32,233	40,727
Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)	16,649	23,409	28,181
Management Uncertainty*	4,220	4,220	4,220
Annual Catch Limit (ACL)	12,429	19,189	23,961
Border Transfer	0	0	0
Domestic Annual Harvest	12,429	19,189	23,961

*\*If the New Brunswick weir fishery catch through October 1 is less than the associated “trigger” of 2,722 mt, then 1,000 mt of the management uncertainty buffer will be added to the Area 1A sub-ACL and the ACL.*

# 2023-2025 NEFMC Specifications



## *Metric Tons*

NEFMC Specification	2023	2024	2025
Area 1A Sub-ACL* (28.9%)	3,592	5,546	6,925
Area 1B Sub-ACL (4.3%)	534	825	1,030
Area 2 Sub-ACL (27.8%)	3,455	5,335	6,661
Area 3 Sub-ACL (39%)	4,847	7,484	9,345
Fixed Gear Set-Aside	30	30	30
Research Set-Aside as % of sub-ACLs	0%	0%	0%

*\*If the New Brunswick weir fishery catch through October 1 is less than the associated “trigger” of 2,722 mt, then 1,000 mt of the management uncertainty buffer will be added to the Area 1A sub-ACL and the ACL.*

# 2023-2025 Comparison to 2022



## *Metric Tons*

NEFMC Specification	Initial 2022	2023	2024	2025
Total ACL	4,098	12,429	19,189	23,961
Area 1A Sub-ACL (28.9%)	1,184	3,592	5,546	6,925
Area 1B Sub-ACL (4.3%)	176	534	825	1,030
Area 2 Sub-ACL (27.8%)	1,139	3,455	5,335	6,661
Area 3 Sub-ACL (39%)	1,598	4,847	7,484	9,345



# Questions?

***Board action for consideration: Set 2023-2025 specifications contingent on the rule being published by NOAA Fisheries.***