MEMORANDUM

October 24, 2014

To: Atlantic Herring Section
Atlantic Herring Advisory Panel
Atlantic Herring Interested Parties

From: Toni Kerns, ISFMP Director

RE: Directed Atlantic Herring Fishery Closure for Management Area 1A

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) projected the Atlantic herring fishery has exceeded 92% of the total allowable catch (TAC) allocated to Management Area 1A (inshore Gulf of Maine) for Trimester 3 (October-December). The directed fishery will close effective 0001 hours October 26, 2014 and remain closed through May 31, 2015. During the closure, vessels issued federal permits for Atlantic herring may not retain or land more than 2,000 pounds of Atlantic herring from Area 1A per trip or calendar day. No vessel may offload and/or sell more than 2,000 pounds of herring from Area 1A unless that vessel entered port before 0001 hours on October 26, 2014.

During the directed fishery closure, vessels may transit through Area 1A with more than 2,000 pounds of herring on board, provided the vessel did not catch those herring in Area 1A and all fishing gear is properly stowed, making it unavailable for immediate use.

States are reminded that in accordance with Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Herring, once a closure has been announced by the Regional Administrator of NMFS Greater Atlantic Fisheries Regional Office, states must prohibit the landing of herring from a closed area and prohibit directed fishing for Atlantic herring in state waters of a closed area. During a closure, vessels participating in other fisheries may retain and land an incidental catch of herring from a closed area that does not exceed 2,000 pounds per trip.

If you have any questions please contact Melissa Yuen at myuen@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

M14-105
NMFS announces the closure of the directed fishery for Atlantic herring in Area 1A as of 0001 hours, October 26, 2014. Vessels issued Federal Atlantic herring permits may not fish for, catch, possess or land more than 2,000 lb of herring in or from Area 1A per trip or calendar day, beginning at 0001 hr on October 26, 2014, through 2400 hr on December 31, 2014. After the closure, no vessel may offload and/or sell more than 2,000 lb of herring from Area 1A unless that vessel entered port before 0001 hr on October 26, 2014. Vessels may not fish for herring in or from Area 1A from January 1, 2015, through May 31, 2015.

Federally permitted dealers may not receive more than 2,000 lb of herring per vessel harvested from Area 1A, per trip or calendar day, from 0001 hours, October 26, 2014, through December 31, 2014, unless it is from a trip landed by a vessel that entered port before 0001 hr on October 26, 2014. Federally permitted dealers may not receive any herring from a vessel that harvested fish from Area 1A between January 1, 2015, and May 31, 2015.

During the directed fishery closure, from October 26, 2014, through December 31, 2014, vessels may transit through Area 1A with more than 2,000 lb of herring on board, provided the vessel did not fish for or catch more than 2,000 lb of herring in Area 1A and stows all fishing gear aboard, making it unavailable for immediate use.