MEMORANDUM

May 11, 2015

To: Atlantic Herring Section, Atlantic Herring Interested

From: Toni Kerns, ISFMP Director

RE: Landing Days in Area 1A’s Trimester 2 and Next “Days Out” Meeting Notice

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s (Commission) Atlantic Herring Section members from Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts set the “days out” effort control measures for the 2015 Area 1A Trimester 2 (June 1 through September 30) as follows:

- June 1 through July 5: Vessels may land herring five (5) days a week starting on 12:01 AM on Mondays up to midnight on Fridays. Please note a state may implement different start and finish times for the five consecutive landings days.
- July 6 through September 30: Vessels may land seven (7) days a week until further notice.

Area 1A has a 30,290 metric ton (mt) annual catch limit after adjusting for a carryover from 2013, 295 mt fixed gear set-aside, and 3% research set-aside awarded in 2015. The Section allocated 72.8 percent of the quota to Trimester 2.

Fishermen are prohibited from landing more than 2,000 pounds of Atlantic herring per trip from Area 1A until June 1, 2015.

By starting with five landings days per week and then adjusting to seven days during Trimester 2, the quota is projected to be caught close to the end of the trimester. Landings will be monitored closely and the directed fishery will be closed when the trimester’s quota is projected to be reached. The Atlantic Herring Section members from Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts are scheduled to reconvene via conference calls to review the fishing effort and adjust landing days as necessary on the following days:

- Monday, June 29 at 10:00 AM
  To join the call, please dial 888.394.8197 and enter passcode 499811 as prompted.
- Thursday, July 30 (time to be determined)

Please contact Toni Kerns at 703.842.0740 for more information.
Notice to Atlantic Herring Harvesters

Atlantic Herring Management Plan
Effort Reduction Provisions

One of the provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Atlantic herring Fishery Management Plan addresses the need to control effort in the fishery to prevent exceeding the total allowable catch for each management area and to prevent the early closure of a management area. Management Area 1A is of particular concern because in recent years the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) has been harvested before peak market demands abate in the autumn. Effort controls to extend the fishery may be implemented by states involved in the herring fishery through landing restrictions.

In accordance with Fis 603.07, the State of New Hampshire is implementing the following provision:

NH Landing Restrictions:

Effective Monday, June 1, 2015 through Sunday, July 5, 2015, commercial fishermen will be prohibited from landing Atlantic herring taken from Management Area 1A on Saturdays and Sundays. The restriction applies from 12:01 a.m. on Saturday to midnight on Sundays.

Effective Monday, July 6, 2015, commercial fishermen will be allowed to land Atlantic herring taken from Management Area 1A seven days a week. There will be zero ‘days out’ of the fishery.

The restrictions shall remain in effect until 92% of the Total Allowable Catch for the period June through September in Area 1A is projected to be exceeded, or until further amended.

Exemptions:

An exception to the rule is that any vessel may land herring taken as an incidental catch in ASMFC Management Area 1A, up to a maximum of 2,000 pounds.

The Atlantic Herring Section will meet again via conference call on June 29 and July 30, 2015, to review and adjust “days out” measures if necessary. Times and details will be released at a later date.

Glenn Normandeau
Executive Director