



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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## MEMORANDUM

September 28, 2018

**To:** Atlantic Herring Section, Advisory Panel, Interested Parties  
**From:** Toni Kerns, ISFMP Director *TK*  
**Subject:** Atlantic Herring Western Maine Spawning Closure in Effect October 4, 2018 through October 31, 2018

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. However, if sufficient samples are not available then closures will begin on predetermined dates.

There is currently no samples for the Western Maine spawning area to determine spawning condition. Therefore, the Western Maine spawning area will be closed starting at 12:00 a.m. on October 4, 2018 and extending through 11:59 p.m. on October 31, 2018. 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 Megan Ware, Atlantic Herring FMP Coordinator, at 703.842.0740 or [mware@asmfc.org](mailto:mware@asmfc.org) for more information.

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