



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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## MEMORANDUM

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

**FROM:** Toni Kerns, Policy Director *TMK*

**DATE:** September 17, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Atlantic Herring Western Maine and Massachusetts/New Hampshire Spawning Closures in Effect Starting September 23, 2021 through November 3, 2021

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 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 no samples from either the Western Maine spawning area or 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, 2021 extending through 11:59 p.m. on November 3, 2021. 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.

For more information, please contact Emilie Franke, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at 703.842.0740 or [efranke@asmfc.org](mailto:efranke@asmfc.org).

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