



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Region
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276
www.nero.noaa.gov



Small Entity Compliance Guide for the 2011 Atlantic Herring Specifications January 5, 2011

The 2011 Atlantic Herring (herring) specifications are effective from January 1 to December 31, 2011.

2011 Specifications for Atlantic Herring	
Specifications	Allocation (mt)
MSY Fishing Level	134,000
Allowable Biological Catch	106,000
Optimum Yield	91,200
Domestic Annual Harvest	91,200
Border Transfer	4,000
Domestic Annual Processing	87,200
At-Sea Processing	0
Area 1A	26,546*
Area 1B	4,362
Area 2	22,146
Area 3	38,146
Research Set Aside	0
*If New Brunswick weir fishery landings through October 15 are less than 9,000 mt, then 3,000 mt will be added to the Area 1A allocation in November.	

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will summarize herring catch data from the interactive voice response (IVR) system and dealer reports by management area on a weekly basis and post these data on the Northeast Regional Office website (<http://www.nero.noaa.gov>).

NMFS must close the directed herring fishery in a management area when 95 percent of that area's allocation is projected to be harvested. During a closure of the directed herring fishery in a management area, vessels may not fish for, possess, catch, transfer, or land more than 2,000 lb of herring per day (defined as the 24-hour period beginning at 0001 hours and ending at 2400 hours) from that management area.

NMFS monitors herring catch data by management area using both the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system and dealer data. When there are reporting errors, it makes it more difficult for NMFS to effectively monitor herring catch. Some common reporting errors are: Vessels failing to report their catch by Tuesday for the previous week (Sunday-Saturday), dealers failing to report landings by Tuesday for the previous week, dealers attributing landings to the wrong vessel, incorrect amounts of herring being reported, and IVR data reported to incorrect management areas. Please be vigilant to prevent reporting errors.

As a reminder, NMFS has made vessel catch data available to permit holders via the internet through a tool called Fish-On-Line. You should have received instructions on how to access this tool in a letter dated April 1, 2010. Fish-On-Line currently allows you to view landings information for your vessel reported through IVR and in Vessel Trip Reports (VTR), and by federally permitted seafood dealers. We encourage you to use Fish-On-Line to verify the accuracy of your catch information. Improved data accuracy will help both state and Federal fishery managers better implement inseason measures. If you have questions on how to access your data, or if you discover missing data or inaccuracies in the herring data reported for your vessel, please contact NMFS immediately at (978) 281-9133 or by email at fso.data.requests@noaa.gov.

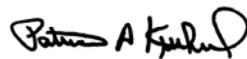
To ensure vessel owner/operators only sell to dealers with a Federal herring permit, and that correct dealer code information is included on all VTRs, please visit our website (<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/permits/data/>) to access a list of current federally permitted dealers and verify this information.

Additional Information

This permit holder letter summarizes herring specifications and reporting requirements for the 2011 fishing year, but is not a substitute for the actual regulations. The full text of the regulations is available by visiting our website (address provided above). If you have questions about the 2011 regulations, please phone 978-281-9315.

You may also receive permit holder letters by e-mail, including closure notices, by visiting our website and clicking on "Permit Holder Letters." This small entity compliance guide complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996.

Sincerely,



Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

NMFS requires catch information for the conservation and management of marine fishery resources in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The data reported will be used to develop, implement, and monitor fishery management strategies and for a variety of other uses. Submission is mandatory for those persons falling under the requirements of 50 CFR 648.7 (b). All data submitted will be handled as confidential material in accordance with NOAA regulations and Administrative Orders. Public reporting of burden is estimated to average 5 minutes for completion and submission of vessel trip reports and 4 minutes per IVR response, including 1 minute to summarize the information and 3 minutes to submit it by phone. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to NMFS, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

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