



Northeast Region Bulletin

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<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/>
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ATLANTIC HERRING FISHERY

Preliminary 2013 Specifications

Reduction in Area 1A Quota

Effective Date: March 27, 2013

Due to an overage in herring management Area 1A in 2011, we have adjusted the 2013 sub-ACL (annual catch limit/quota) in Area 1A. These sub-ACLs will be revised later in the year with the new 2013 sub-ACLs currently being developed by the New England Fishery Management Council.

Herring Management Area	2013 Herring Quotas (mt)
Area 1A	24,826*
Area 1B	4,362
Area 2	22,146
Area 3	38,146
* This quota excludes 295 mt set-aside for fixed gear fisheries west of Cutler, ME until November 1, 2013.	

2013-2015 Herring Specifications Currently in Development:

The 2013-2015 herring specifications are currently being developed by the Council and will not be effective prior to January 1, 2013. Therefore, the 2012 herring specifications will remain in place on January 1, 2013, until the 2013-2015 specifications are finalized. When the 2013 specifications are finalized, we will deduct the 1,425 mt, the 2011 Area 1A catch overage, from the final 2013 Area 1A sub-ACL.

For More Information on Herring Catch and Quotas:

We post the most recent information on herring catch and how much of the herring quota has been taken weekly on the Northeast Regional Office website (<http://www.nero.noaa.gov>) under "Quotas, Landings". Please refer to this webpage when determining how much herring quota is available in a particular management area for the rest of the fishing year.

We will close the directed herring fishery in a management area when 95 percent of that area's quota 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 trip or calendar day from that management area for the rest of the fishing year.

For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Region.

Reporting Reminder:

To minimize reporting errors that lead to early closures, please be sure to double check the herring catch information reported through the vessel monitoring system (VMS). If no herring were landed in a 24-hour period, you must still report zero catch each day of a declared herring trip. In addition, if all herring catch was landed on one vessel in a pair trawling operation, that vessel should report zero catch while the other vessel should report the catch amount for that 24-hour period.

You can also access your catch data and verify that it is correct by logging onto Fish-on-Line. Fish-On-Line currently allows you to view landings information for your vessel reported through VMS, on 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. 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.

Observer Notification Reminder:

As a reminder, if your vessel is issued an All Areas (Category A) or Areas 2/3 (Category B) Limited Access Atlantic Herring Permit and is fishing with midwater trawl gear, or an Incidental limited access herring permit (Category C) and is fishing with midwater trawl gear in Areas 1A, 1B, or 3, you must notify the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (774-392-2735) at least 72 hrs prior to beginning any trip.

For More Information on herring reporting requirements, latest closures, or rulemaking documents, please visit the NOAA Fisheries Northeast Region Atlantic herring webpage at: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdher.html>