



Atlantic Herring 2016-2018 Specifications

Presented to the ASMFC Atlantic Herring Section
November 2, 2015



2016-2018 Specifications

- Stock remains rebuilt (above biomass target); overfishing not occurring (below F threshold)
- SSC recommended Atlantic herring ABC of 111,000 mt
- Probability of overfishing is 50% in Year 3, but the probability of stock becoming overfished remains 0% in all years



NEFMC Selected Alternative

Specifications	NEFMC Selection
OFL	2016 – 138,000 2017 – 117,000 2018 – 111,000
ABC	111,000
Management Uncertainty	6,200 (Value in 2015)
ACL/OY	104,800 ¹
DAH	104,800
DAP	100,800
USAP	0
BT	4,000
Area 1A Sub-ACL (28.9%)	30,300
Area 1B Sub-ACL (4.3%)	4,500
Area 2 Sub-ACL (27.8%)	29,100
Area 3 Sub-ACL (39%)	40,900
RSA	3%
FGSA	295



NB Weir Fishery Payback

- If, by considering landings through October 1, NMFS determines that less than 4,000 mt has been caught in the NB weir fishery, NMFS will allocate an additional 1,000 mt to the Area 1A sub-ACL to be made available to the directed herring fishery as soon as possible, through the remainder of the fishing year (or until the AM is triggered). If this occurs, the stockwide ACL would increase to **105,800 mt.**



2015 Area 1A Seasonal Allocation

- *Trimester 1*: January 1 – May 31; 0%
- *Trimester 2*: June 1 – September 30; 72.8%
- *Trimester 3*: October 1 – December 31; 27.2%
- Area 1 will close when 92 percent of the total sub-ACL has been harvested



Questions



Atlantic Herring Issues and Options for Draft Amendment 3

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Guidance Received in August 2015

Develop options to protect spawning fish by prohibiting landing of Atlantic Herring caught within specific spawning areas



Overview

- Issue 1: Spawning Area Efficacy
(includes revised options)
- Issue 2: Fixed Gear Set-Aside Provision
Adjustment
(no revisions)
- Issue 3: Empty Fish Hold Provision
(includes revised options)



2.1 Spawning Area Closure Monitoring System

- **Option A: Status Quo**

Two commercial catch samples (taken within 7 days) and above size class triggers initiates a spawning area closure

- **Option B: Status Quo with Adjustments**

Samples from fishery independent or dependent sources; fishery will remain open if sufficient samples are available, but they do not contain ripe female herring

- **Option C: GSI30-Based Forecast System**

At least three samples to assess GSI30 and forecast a closure date; standardized to a large size class (30 cm)

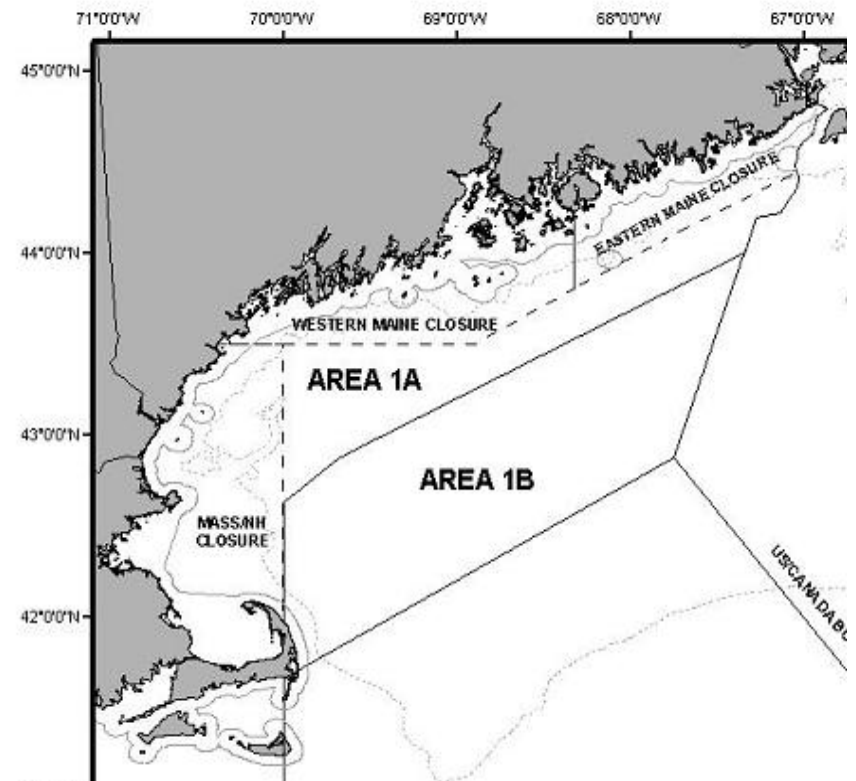


2.2 Default Closure Dates

- **Option A: Status Quo**
 - EM: August 15; WM: Sept 1; MA/NH: Sept 21
- **Option B: Associated with GSI30 Trigger Value**
 - **Sub-Option B1: 70th Percentile (GSI30 Trigger = 23)**
Closes the fishery at an earlier date to provide more protection for maturing fish
 - EM: August 28; WM: Sept. 25; MA/NH: Sept 25; Tri-State: Sept 25
 - **Sub-Option B2: 80th Percentile (GSI30 Trigger = 25)**
Closes the fishery in the later stages of maturity, but before spawning.
 - EM: August 28; WM: Oct 4; MA/NH: Oct 4; Tri-State: Oct 4
 - **Sub-Option B3: 90th Percentile (GSI30 Trigger = 28)**
Closes the fishery just prior to spawning
 - EM: August 28; WM: Oct 17; MA/NH: Oct 17; Tri-State: Oct 17

2.3 Spawning Area Boundaries

- **Option A: Status Quo**
- **Option B: Combine the WM and MA/NH spawning areas**
GSI analysis suggests WM and MA/NH do not have significantly different spawning times





2.4 Spawning Closure Period

- **Option A: Status Quo: Four weeks**

- **Option B: Six weeks**

Literature review suggests the typical duration of herring spawning is approximately 40 days



2.4 Spawning Closure Period

Re-Closure

- **Option A: Status Quo**

Sampling for two weeks after an area is re-opened; 25% or more mature herring initiates a re-closure

- **Option B: Defined Protocol**

One sample in the last week or after an area is re-opened; minimum of 100 adult sized fish and 25% or more mature herring initiates a re-closure

- **Option C: No Re-Closure Protocol**

This option would only be suggested if linked with the 6 week initial closure timeframe



3.0 Fixed Gear Set Aside Provision

- Option A: Status Quo
- Option B: Remove the rollover provision

Year	Sub-ACL Closure Date	Area 1A Sub-ACL (mt)	Cumulative Catch (mt) by Dec 31	Fixed Gear Landings (mt)	
				Jan-Oct	Nov-Dec
2004	11/19/2004	60,000	60,071	49	0
2005	12/2/2005	60,000	61,570	53	0
2006	10/21/2006	50,000	59,980	528	0
2007	10/25/2007	50,000	49,992	392	0
2008	11/14/2008	43,650	42,257	24	0
2009	11/26/2009	43,650	44,088	81	0
2010	11/17/2010	26,546	27,741	823	0
2011	10/27/2011	29,251	29,359	23	0
2012	11/5/2012	27,668	25,057	0	0
2013	10/15/2013	29,775	29,820	C	C
2014	10/26/2014	33,031	33,428	C	C



4.0 Empty Fish Hold Provision

- **Option A: Status Quo**
- **Option B:** Mirror federal plan, contingent on federal adoption
- **Option C:** Similar to federal plan, contingent on federal adoption
Only applies to vessels with the ability to pump fish
- **Option D:** Mirror federal plan, not contingent on federal adoption
- **Option E:** Similar to federal plan, not contingent on federal adoption
Only applies to vessels with the ability to pump fish



Questions