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ASMFC Atlantic Herring Board

Re: Area 1A

Dear Board Members,

I would like to request that a meeting of the Atlantic Herring Advisory Panel be scheduled in the near future. There are a few important topics that I believe should be discussed.

1. In regard to Area 1A – Period 2 (October – December), current rules do not allow for limits on the number of trucks of herring caught per day nor on the number of fishing days before scheduled landing days. This means that vessels can load without declaring their catch until the first landing day and this leads to over-catching the quota, especially when the available quota is small.

These policies were instituted during times of large quotas and do not align with the current state of the fishery. The same rules that apply during Period 1 should also be applied to Period 2 – fishing days instead of landing days and daily **and** weekly catch limits.

2. Because Period 1 and Period 2 **currently** have different fishing rules in Area 1A, any overages should be deducted from the same Period in subsequent years - not deducted from the entire Area1A TAC.

In 2022, the total percent quota caught in Season 1 was 75.3% (2.5% over the allowable 72.8%). Year-end total for Area 1A is 116%, which means that during Season 2 the catch was 13.5% over the allowable quota (116% less the 2.5% Season 1 overage). We need to also take into account that Season 1 quota was 700 mt and Season 2 quota was 1261 mt. *Note that 1,000 mt was added to Season 2 from the New Brunswick Weir Fishery.*

2.5% of 700 mt = 17.5 mt (Season 1 overage)

13.5% of 1261 mt = 170.1 mt (Season 2 overage)

3. The majority of herring is needed for lobster bait before winter. The regular quota should be harvested before October. This would coincide with the main lobster fishing season and help to avoid harvesting in spawning areas. The November/December season should open only upon the New Brunswick Weir fishery transfer of 1,000 mt.
4. It is my understanding that NEMFC is working to institute spawning restrictions on Georges Bank. This is extremely important to the long-term health of the herring fishery and should be supported by ASMFC.

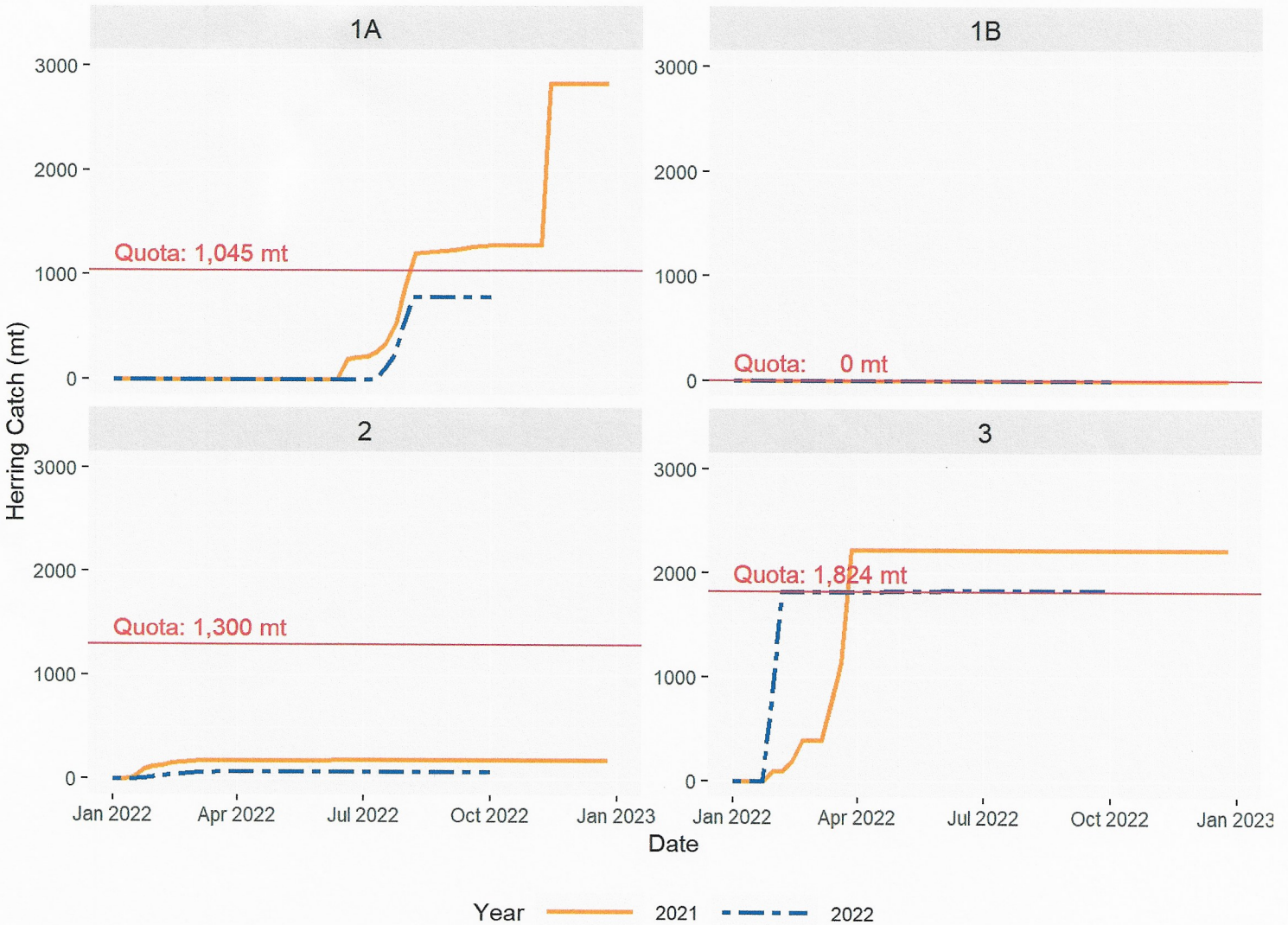
Currently (2023), the cumulative catch for Area 3 quota is at 113% or 206.5 mt over. No one likes to talk about the different fishing methods. However mid-water trawlers have huge capacity and it is impossible for them to stay within the small quotas. We need to get the overages under control with flexible rules and options that will allow for more efficient management of the resource and quotas. Please let me know when a meeting of the Advisory Panel can be held.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Fuller
ASMFC Advisory Panel

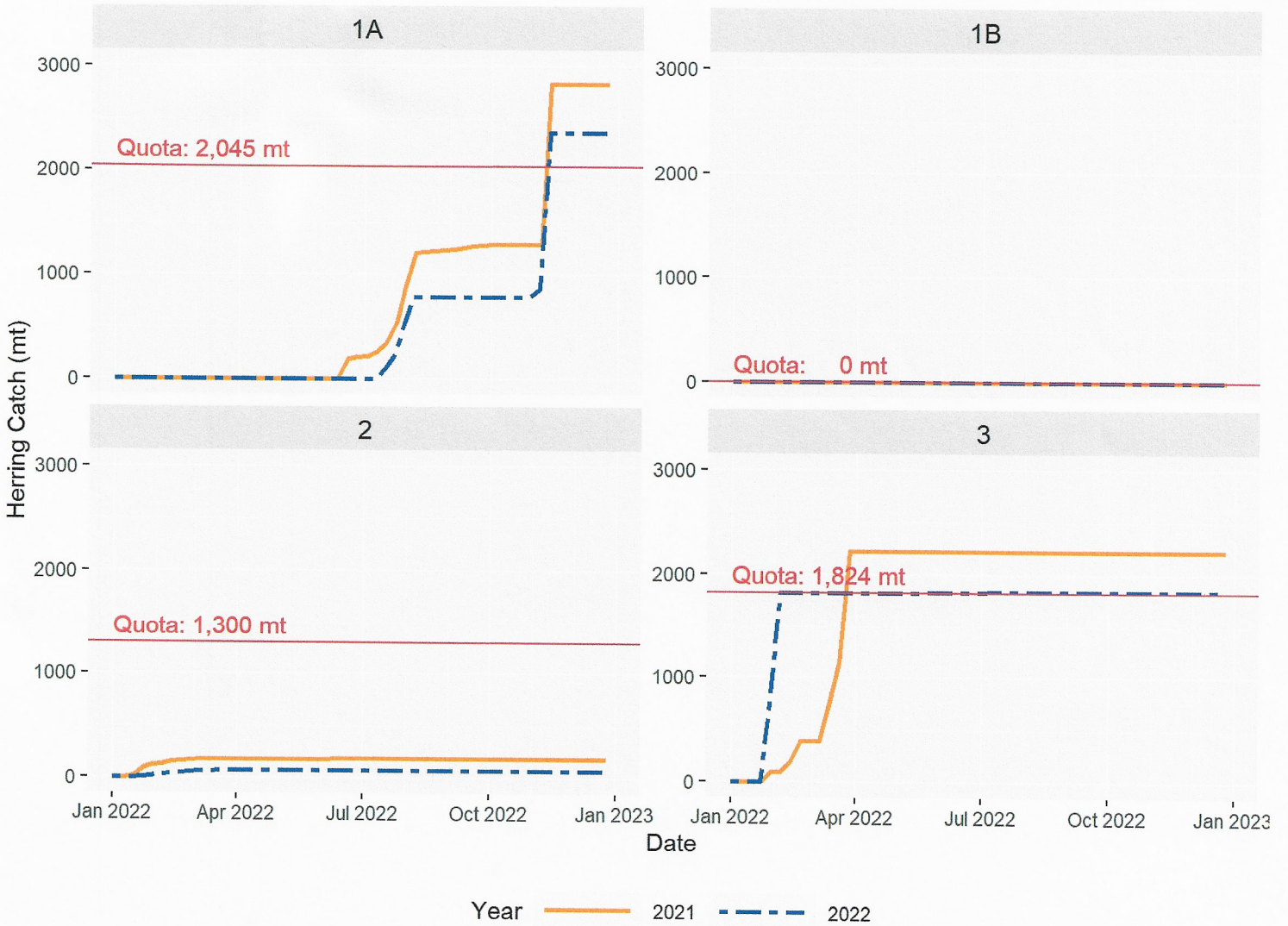
Area	Quota (mt)	Cumulative Catch (mt)	Percent Quota Caught
1A	1,045	787.0	75.3%
1B	0	0.3	-
2*	1,300	72.8	5.6%
3*	1,824	1,840.1	100.9%
ACL**	3,813	2,700.2	70.8%



NOTICE: Effective 17:00 hr local time on February 4, 2022, through December 31, 2022, no one may fish for, possess, transfer, purchase, receive, land, or sell more than 2,000 pounds of Atlantic herring per trip or more than once per calendar day in or from Area 3.

Atlantic herring specifications were adjusted for fishing year 2022 based on catch overages and underages in fishing year 2020 (effective January 4, 2022, 87 FR 887). The 1A sub-ACL above does not include the 30 metric tons for the fixed gear set aside. The Research Set Aside (RSA) program was cancelled for fishing years 2021 through 2023.

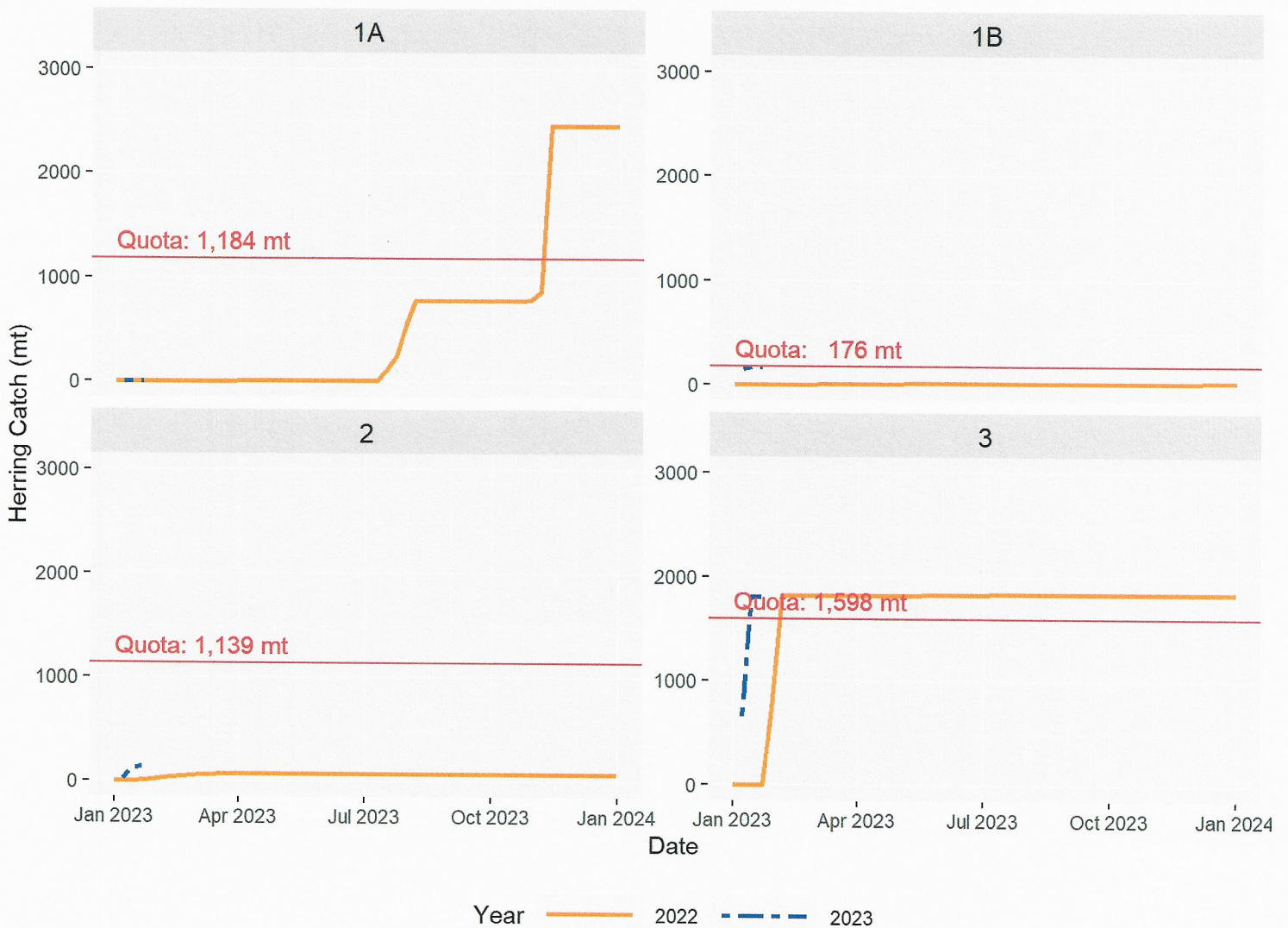
Area	Quota (mt)	Cumulative Catch (mt)	Percent Quota Caught
1A	2,045	2,370.7	116%
1B	0	6.5	-
2*	1,300	73.8	6%
3*	1,824	1,838.1	101%
ACL**	4,813	4,289.1	89%



NOTICE: Effective 00:01 hr local time on November 8, 2022, through December 31, 2022, a person may not attempt or do any of the following: Fish for, possess, transfer, purchase, receive, land, or sell more than 2,000 lb of herring per trip or more than once per calendar day in or from Area 1A.

NOTICE: Effective 17:00 hr local time on February 4, 2022, through December 31, 2022, no one may fish for, possess, transfer, purchase, receive, land, or sell more than 2,000 pounds of Atlantic herring per trip or more

Area	Quota (mt)	Cumulative Catch (mt)	Percent Quota Caught
1A	1,184	0.0	0%
1B	176	174.8	99%
2	1,139	137.3	12%
3	1,598	1,804.5	113%
ACL**	4,098	2,116.6	52%



The Atlantic herring fishery is operating under the default 2023 Framework 8 specifications until the NEFMC recommended 2023 specifications are finalized. The 1A sub-ACL above does not include the fixed gear set aside. The Research Set Aside (RSA) program was cancelled for fishing years 2021 through 2023.