



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

*Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations of all Atlantic coast fish species, or successful restoration
well in progress by the year 2015*

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PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger
703.842.0740

ASMFC Atlantic Herring Section Sets Specifications for 2013 – 2015

Alexandria, VA – The Commission’s Atlantic Herring Section has set the annual catch limit (ACL) for the 2013 – 2015 fishing seasons at 107,800 metric tons (mt), an 18% increase from 2010 – 2012 limits. For all three years, the ACL is further subdivided by Atlantic herring management areas as follows: Area 1A = 31,200 mt, Area 1B = 4,600 mt, Area 2 = 30,000 mt, and Area 3 = 42,000 mt. The Area 1A sub-ACL will be distributed seasonally with 72.8% available from June 1 – September 30 and 27.2 % available from October 1 – December 31. The specifications are the same as those adopted by the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC). The table below outlines the Commission’s herring specifications for 2013-2015.

**Summary of ASMFC Atlantic Herring Specifications for 2013-2015.
The ACL and sub-ACL values will be modified at a later date
to account for overages from the 2011 fishery.**

SPECIFICATIONS	Metric Tons
Overfishing Limit	169,000 – 2013 136,000 – 2014 114,000 – 2015
Allowable Biological Catch	114,000
Annual Catch Limit (ACL) /Optimal Yield	107,800
Sub-ACL Area 1A	31,200
Sub-ACL Area 1B	4,600
Sub-ACL Area 2	30,000
Sub-ACL Area 3	42,000
Research Set-Aside (2014 and 2015 only)	3% of each Sub-ACL
Fixed Gear Set-Aside (1A)	295

The Section also initiated the development of Draft Addendum VI to the Atlantic Herring FMP. The Draft Addendum will include options for seasonal splitting of the sub-ACLs and establishment of sub-ACL quota triggers through the specification process. The Draft Addendum will propose triggers for closing the directed fishery (1) in a management area when 92% of the sub-ACL is projected to be reached, and (2) in all management areas when 95% of the stock-wide ACL (107,800 mt) is projected to be reached. A 2,000 pound trip limit will continue after directed fisheries are closed. These triggers are intended to prevent quota overages of both the sub-ACLs and the total ACL. The Draft Addendum also proposes to allow for up to 10% carryover of unharvested sub-ACLs. The measures proposed in the Draft Addendum are consistent with NEFMC’s Framework 2. For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, ISFMP Director, at 703.842.0740 or tkerns@asmfc.org.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.