



# Northeast Region Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For Information Contact:  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
(978) 281 -9315

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/>  
Date Issued: 9/30/2013

## **ATLANTIC HERRING FISHERY** 2013 through 2015 Specifications and Framework 2 Measures *Effective Date: September 30, 2013*

We have approved the final herring specifications for 2013 through 2015, as shown in the following table. We have also approved new management measures for the herring fishery, which we have described below, that will impact your fishing in the next 3 years.

**Please note that catches in Area 1A, 2, and 3 are approaching the management area closure thresholds. At current levels of fishing activity, and expected activity after October 1, 2013, please expect that these areas may close in the near future.**

<b>Atlantic Herring Specifications (mt) for 2013-2015</b>	
<b>Overfishing Limit</b>	2013 - 169,000
	2014 - 136,000
	2015 - 114,000
<b>Allowable Biological Catch</b>	114,000
<b>Optimum Yield/Annual Catch Limit</b>	107,800
<b>Domestic Annual Harvest</b>	107,800
<b>Border Transfer</b>	4,000
<b>Domestic Annual Processing</b>	103,800
<b>U.S. At-Sea Processing</b>	0
<b>Area 1A Sub-ACL</b>	29,775 *
<b>Area 1B Sub-ACL</b>	4,600
<b>Area 2 Sub-ACL</b>	30,000
<b>Area 3 Sub-ACL</b>	42,000
<b>Total Herring Fishery ACL</b>	106,375 *
<b>Fixed Gear Set-Aside</b>	295
<b>Research Set-Aside</b>	3 percent of each sub-ACL

\*These values include a 1,425-mt deduction to account for an overage in 2011. The original Area 1A sub-ACL was 31,200 mt, and the total herring fishery ACL (sum of sub-ACLs) was 107,800 mt.

*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.*

## Closures

We will close the directed herring fishery in a management area when we project that **92 percent** of that area's sub-ACL will 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.

We will also close the herring fishery in its entirety when we project that 95 percent of the total herring ACL will be harvested.

## 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.

## Management Area Seasons

We have implemented the following fishing seasons for Area 1A and Area 1B. Vessels may only fish for, possess, and retain Atlantic herring in the following seasons, subject to the sub-ACL for the area and possession limits applicable to your vessel.

Area 1A: June 1 through December 31.

Area 1B: May 1 through December 31.

Please note: If Area 1A or 1B closes prior to the end of the year due to harvest of the sub-ACL, it will not re-open until next year's season begins (June 1 for Area 1A, May 1 for Area 1B).

## Carryover of sub-ACLs

If catch in a management area is lower than the sub-ACL for the year, we will shift unharvested catch, up to 10 percent of the management area's sub-ACL, from that year to two years later. For example, if the catch in Area 2 is 28,000 mt at the end of 2013, leaving 2,000 mt unharvested, we will shift 2,000 mt to the 2015 fishing year (10 percent of the 30,000 mt sub-ACL, which is 3,000 mt, would be the maximum carryover for Area 2).

**For information on herring reporting and observer notification requirements, sub-ACL status, latest closures, or rulemaking documents, please visit the NOAA Fisheries Northeast Region Atlantic herring webpage at: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdher.html>**