



# New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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September 21, 2020

## Notice to Atlantic Herring Harvesters

### Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan Effort Reduction and Spawning Closure Provisions

One of the provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan addresses the need to control effort in the fishery to prevent exceeding the total allowable catch for each management area and to prevent the early closure of a management area. Management Area 1A is of particular concern because in recent years the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) has been harvested before peak market demands abate in the autumn. Effort controls to extend the fishery may be implemented by states involved in the herring fishery through landing restrictions.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Sea Herring also calls for annual area closures to fishing to protect spawning herring. The closure may be extended by the Executive Director if sampling of herring landings indicates that spawning is ongoing.

In accordance with Fis 603.07, the State of New Hampshire is implementing the following provision:

#### NH Landing Restrictions:

**Effective Wednesday, September 23, 2020, at 12:01 am commercial harvesters will be prohibited from fishing for, taking, or possessing unprocessed Atlantic herring within the jurisdiction of New Hampshire and possessing or landing Atlantic herring taken from the Massachusetts/New Hampshire Spawning Area. These restrictions shall remain in effect until 11:59 p.m. on November 3, 2020.**

**Effective Thursday, October 1, 2020, at 12:01 a.m. through Sunday, October 11, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. commercial harvesters will be prohibited from landing Atlantic herring taken from Management Area 1A.**

**Effective Monday, October 12, 2020, through Sunday, October 18, 2020, commercial harvesters will be prohibited from landing herring taken from Management Area 1A on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. The restriction applies from 12:01 a.m. on Thursdays to 11:59 p.m. on Sundays.**

**Effective Monday, October 19, 2020, commercial harvesters will be prohibited from landing herring taken from Management Area 1A on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. The restriction applies from 12:01 a.m. on Wednesdays to 11:59 p.m. on Sundays.**

**The restrictions shall remain in effect until 92% of the Total Allowable Catch in Area 1A is projected to be exceeded, or until further amended.**

#### REGION 1

629B Main Street  
Lancaster, NH 03584-3612  
(603) 788-3164  
FAX (603) 788-4823  
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#### REGION 2

PO Box 417  
New Hampton, NH 03256  
(603) 744-5470  
FAX (603) 744-6302  
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#### REGION 3

225 Main Street  
Durham, NH 03824-4732  
(603) 868-1095  
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#### REGION 4

15 Ash Brook Court  
Keene, NH 03431  
(603) 352-9669  
FAX (603) 352-8798  
email: [reg4@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:reg4@wildlife.nh.gov)

**Exemptions:**

**An exception to the rule is that any vessel may land Atlantic herring taken as an incidental catch in the Massachusetts/New Hampshire Spawning area or in Management Area 1A, up to a maximum of 2,000 pounds. Any person, firm or organization properly permitted may land herring from areas not under spawning closures provided they are equipped with a functional vessel monitoring system.**

The Management Board will reconvene via conference call to review fishing effort on Friday October 16, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. The public is invited to join the meeting by phone (571)317-3112 and entering access code 947-666-941 or by using the following link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/947666941>.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott R. Mason". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" and "M".

Scott R. Mason  
Executive Director

