

CORRESPONDENCE



NEW ENGLAND/MID-ATLANTIC

January 8, 2026

NOAA Fisheries Announces Atlantic Herring Management Area 1B Possession Limit Adjustment

Effective January 9, 2026

Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan regulations require NOAA Fisheries to implement a 2,000-lb possession limit for herring for Area 1B beginning on the date that catch is projected to reach 92 percent of the sub-annual catch limit (ACL) for that area (Figure 1). We have projected that 92 percent of the Area 1B sub-ACL will be harvested as of January 9, 2026. As a result, we are implementing a 2,000-lb herring possession limit for Area 1B through the remainder of 2026.

Effective 12:00 hr local time on January 9, 2026 through 24:00 local time, December 31, 2026, 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 1B. Vessels that enter port before 12:00 local time on January 9, 2026 may land and sell more than 2,000 lb of herring from Area 1B from that trip, provided that catch is landed in accordance with state management measures.

Also effective 12:00 hr local time on January 9, 2026 federally permitted dealers may not attempt or do any of the following: Purchase, receive, possess, have custody or control of, sell, barter, trade, or transfer more than 2,000 lb of herring per trip or calendar day from Area 1B, unless it is from a vessel that enters port before 12:00 hr local time on January 9, 2026 and catch is landed in accordance with state management measures.

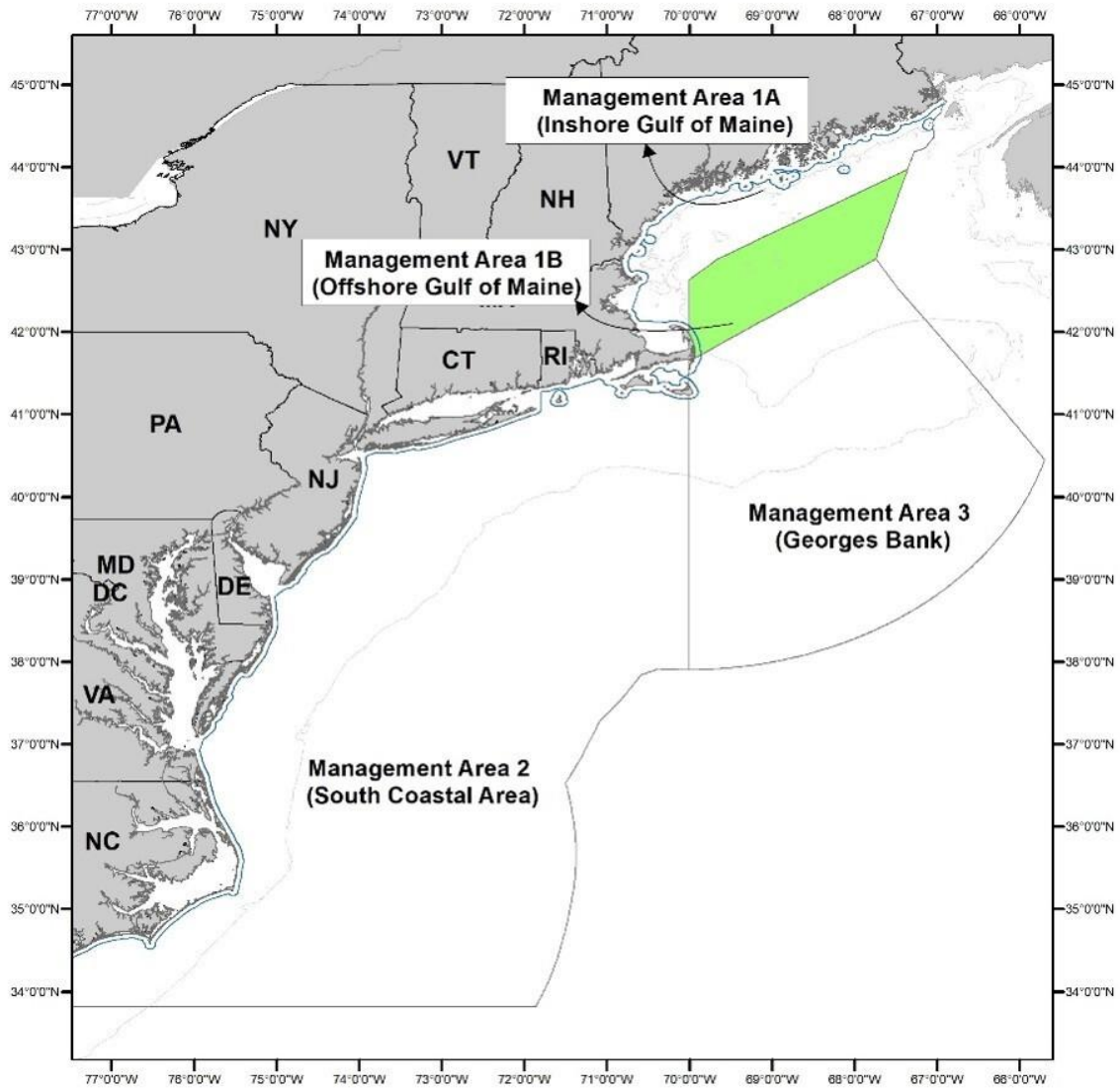


Figure 1. Map of Herring Management Areas Highlighting Area 1B.

Questions?

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Media: Contact [GARFO Public Affairs](#)

From: Tina Berger <TBerger@ASMFC.org>

Sent: Monday, March 30, 2026 11:12 AM

Cc: ISFMP Staff <ISFMPstaff@ASMFC.ORG>; Bob Beal <rbeal@asmfc.org>

Subject: Atlantic Herring Area 1A Days Out Meeting Scheduled for April 17, 1 - 2:30 PM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, MARCH 30, 2026

PRESS CONTACT, TINA BERGER, 703.842.0749

Atlantic Herring Area 1A Days Out Meeting Scheduled for April 17, 1 - 2:30 PM

Atlantic Herring Management Board members from the states of Maine, New Hampshire and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will meet via webinar on April 17, 2026 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., to discuss days out measures for the 2026 Area 1A (inshore Gulf of Maine) fishing season. Days out measures can include specification of the number of consecutive landings days, weekly landings limits, and restrictions on at-sea transfers. The webinar and call information are included below:

Atlantic Herring Days Out Meeting

Friday, April 17

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

You can join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone at the following link <https://v.ringcentral.com/join/979432908>. If you are new to RingCentral, you can join from a web browser or you can download the app ahead of time ([click here](#)). For audio, the meeting will be using the computer voice over internet (VoIP), but if you are joining the webinar from your phone only, you can dial in at +1 (650) 419-1505 and enter access code 979432908 when prompted. The webinar will start at 12:45 p.m., 15 minutes early, to troubleshoot audio as necessary.

Federally-permitted Herring Category A vessels must declare into the Area 1A fishery at least 45 days prior to the start of the fishing season. Small-mesh bottom trawl vessels with a federal Herring Category C or D permit must declare into the Area 1A fishery by June 1, 2026. Vessels should check with each state of landing regarding their notification procedures.

The 2026 Area 1A sub-annual catch limit (sub-ACL) is 2,640 metric tons (mt). After adjusting for the 30 mt fixed gear set-aside and the 8% buffer (Area 1A closes at 92% of the sub-ACL), the Area 1A sub-ACL is 2,401 mt. There is no research-set-aside for 2026.

In October 2025, the Board established the following seasonal allocations for the 2026 Area 1A sub-ACL: 72.8% available from June 1 – September 30 and 27.2% available from October 1 – December 31. Fishermen are prohibited from landing more than 2,000 pounds of Atlantic herring per day harvested from Area 1A until June 1, 2026.

For more information, please contact Caitlin Starks, Senior Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at 703.842.0740 or cstarks@asmfc.org.

The announcement can also be found at <https://asmfc.org/news/event/atlantic-herring-area-1a-days-out-meeting-scheduled-for-april-17/>

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Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries