

CORRESPONDENCE

From: Tina Berger <TBerger@ASMFC.org>

Sent: Friday, August 21, 2026 10:02 AM

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

Subject: Atlantic Herring Eastern Maine Spawning Closure in Effect Starting August 28, 2026 through October 8, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, AUGUST 21, 2026

PRESS CONTACT, TINA BERGER, 70.842.0749

Atlantic Herring Eastern Maine Spawning Closure in Effect Starting August 28, 2026 through October 8, 2026

The Atlantic herring Area 1A (inshore Gulf of Maine) fishery regulations include seasonal spawning closures for portions of state and federal waters in Eastern Maine, Western Maine and Massachusetts/New Hampshire. The Commission's Atlantic Herring Management Board approved a forecasting method that relies upon at least three samples, each containing at least 25 female herring in gonadal stages III-V, to trigger a spawning closure. However, if sufficient samples are not available then closures will begin on predetermined dates.

There are currently no samples from the Eastern Maine spawning area to determine spawning condition. Therefore, per the Addendum II default closure dates, the Eastern Maine spawning area will be closed starting at 12:01 a.m. on August 28, 2026 extending through 11:59 p.m. on October 8, 2026. The Eastern Maine spawning area includes all waters bounded by the following coordinates:

Maine coast 68° 20' W
43° 48' N 68° 20' W
44° 25' N 67° 03' W
North along the US/Canada border

Vessels in the directed Atlantic herring fishery cannot take, land or possess Atlantic herring caught within the Eastern Maine spawning area during this time. The incidental bycatch allowance of up to 2,000 pounds of Atlantic herring per trip per day applies to vessels in non-directed fisheries that are fishing within the Eastern Maine spawning area. In addition, all vessels traveling through the Eastern Maine spawning area must have all seine and mid-water trawl gear stowed.

For more information, please contact Emilie Franke, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at 703.842.0740 or efranke@asmfc.org.

The press release can also be found at <https://asmfc.org/news/press-releases/atlantic-herring-eastern-maine-spawning-closure-in-effect-starting-august-28-2026-through-october-8-2026/>

Tina Berger Tberger@asmfc.org | asmfc.org

Director of Communications

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

Arlington, VA 22201

703.842.0749