



# 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*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### 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  |
|--|--|
| <b>Overfishing Limit</b>                           | 169,000 – 2013<br>136,000 – 2014<br>114,000 – 2015 |
| <b>Allowable Biological Catch</b>                  | 114,000  |
| <b>Annual Catch Limit (ACL)<br/>/Optimal Yield</b> | 107,800  |
| <b>Sub-ACL Area 1A</b>                             | 31,200   |
| <b>Sub-ACL Area 1B</b>                             | 4,600  |
| <b>Sub-ACL Area 2</b>                              | 30,000   |
| <b>Sub-ACL Area 3</b>                              | 42,000   |
| <b>Research Set-Aside (2014 and 2015 only)</b>     | 3% of each Sub-ACL                                 |
| <b>Fixed Gear Set-Aside (1A)</b>                   | 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](mailto: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.