



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations for all Atlantic coast fish species, or successful restoration well in progress by the year 2015

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ASMFC Atlantic Herring Section Sets Specifications for 2010 – 2012

Alexandria, VA – The Commission’s Atlantic Herring Section has set optimal yield (OY) for the 2010 – 2012 fishing seasons at 91,200 metric tons (mt). For all three years, the OY will be distributed to the three Atlantic herring management areas and two sub-areas as follows: Area 1A = 26,546 mt, Area 1B = 4,362 mt, Area 2 = 22,146 mt, and Area 3 = 38,146 mt. In addition, the three year specifications allow for the allocation of 3,000 mt to Area 1A in November and December if landings in the New Brunswick fishery are below 9,000 mt by October 15. The Area 1A TAC will be distributed seasonally for the 2010 fishing season with 72.8% (19,325 mt) available from June 1 – September 30 and 27.2 % (7,220 mt) available from October 1 – December 31.

Optimal yield was reduced by 53,800 mt below the 2008 and 2009 amount (145,000 mt) because of a retrospective pattern that has overestimated biomass on average of 40% over the last several years. The specifications are consistent with those sent to NOAA’s Northeast Regional Administrator by the New England Fishery Management Council. The table below outlines the Commission’s final herring specifications for 2010-2012, as well as those sent to the Regional Administrator.

Summary of ASMFC and NEFMC Atlantic Herring Specifications for 2010-2012. Specifications are for 2010 – 2012 with the exception of allowable biological catch. Values are provided in metric tons.

SPECIFICATIONS	ASMFC	NEFMC Recommended
Allowable Biological Catch (May become OFL in ASMFC Addendum II and NEFMC Amendment 4)	145,000 – 2010	145,000 – 2010
	134,000 – 2011	134,000 – 2011
	127,000 - 2012	127,000 – 2012
U.S. Optimal Yield	91,200	91,200
Border Transfer (BT)	4,000	4,000
TAC Area 1A	26,546	26,546
TAC Area 1B	4,362	4,362
TAC Area 2	22,146	22,146
TAC Area 3	38,146	38,146
Research Set-Aside	None	None
Fixed Gear Set-Aside (1A)	295	295

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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.

The Section also approved Draft Addendum II and III for public comment. Draft Addendum II proposes changes to the specification definitions, administrative process and annual paybacks for overages in a management area. Draft Addendum III proposes exemptions from 'days out' for small mesh bottom trawl vessels fishing in Area 1A. Both Draft Addenda will be released for public comment in early March 2010 and public hearings will be held in March and April 2010. Press releases on the addenda's availability and public hearing schedule will be released once the hearings have been finalized.

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