



# Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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## **River Herring and Shad Catch Caps** **for the Atlantic Herring Fishery** *Effective Date: December 4, 2014*

The Atlantic herring fishery now has caps on the amount of river herring and shad it can catch. There are caps for specific areas and gears. When the fishery catches 95 percent of a cap, a 2,000-lb herring possession limit will become effective for that gear and area. Please see below for details.

Contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at 978-281-9315 if you have any questions.

### **What species count against the river herring and shad catch caps?**

River herring is alewife and blueback herring, and shad is American shad and hickory shad.

All catch of the four species of river herring and shad, including fish that are kept and fish that are discarded, count against the caps.

### **What herring fishing activity has a river herring and shad cap?**

The river herring and shad caps apply to specific areas and gears. See table below. “No cap” means that the fishery is not limited by a river herring and shad cap. River herring and shad catch on trips that land more than 6,600 lb of Atlantic herring count against the caps.

### **2014-2015 River Herring and Shad Catch Caps in the Atlantic Herring Fishery**

<b>River Herring and Shad Cap Area *</b>	<b>Midwater Trawl Cap</b>	<b>Bottom Trawl Cap</b>
Gulf of Maine	86 mt	No Cap
Cape Cod	13 mt	No Cap
Georges Bank	No Cap	No Cap
Southern New England	124 mt	89 mt

\* We have included a map and coordinates for the cap and closure areas on pages 3 through 6 of this letter.

*For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Greater Atlantic Region.*

### **Are there any new reporting requirements?**

Not yet. For now, we will use vessel trip reports, dealer data, and observer data to estimate total river herring and shad catch that we will apply to the areas and gears. We are working on changing the vessel monitoring system catch reporting and will let you know when that is ready to be used.

### **What happens when the herring fishery reaches the river herring and shad catch cap?**

When river herring and shad catch reaches 95 percent of the river herring and shad cap for a specific gear and area, we will implement a 2,000-lb herring possession limit for that gear and area for the remainder of the fishing year.

Vessels not using that specific gear in that specific cap area will be unaffected by the 2,000-lb herring possession limit.

### **How can a vessel owner or operator, or anyone else interested, monitor the status of the river herring and shad cap?**

We will update the status of river herring and shad catch for each river herring and shad cap area on this web page:

<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/aps/monitoring/riverherringshad.html>

Please call the number listed on the front of this letter if you do not have internet access or if you have any questions about the status of the river herring and shad caps.

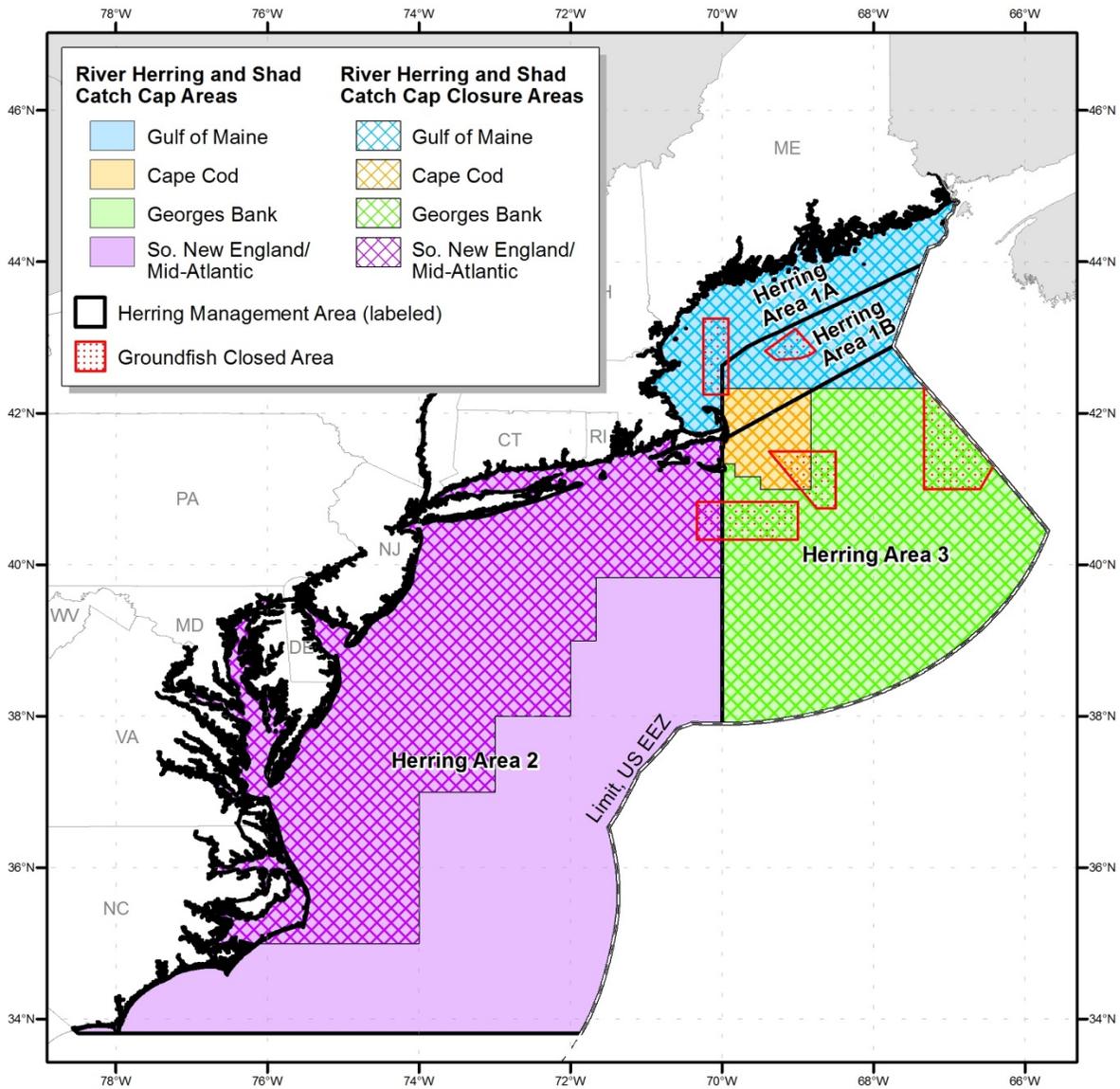
### **Will the caps change, or more areas and gears be subject to caps in the future?**

The New England Fishery Management Council will consider changes to the river herring and shad caps when it develops fishery specifications for each fishing year. The Council will consider the first change for the 2016 fishing year.

The Council may consider such changes as: (1) Revising the amount of the caps; (2) adding or removing caps for areas and gears; (3) creating separate caps for each species of river herring and shad; and (4) revising measures applicable to vessels after a cap has been reached.

The Council may coordinate with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council for caps that apply to both the Atlantic herring and mackerel fisheries, given the overlap in these fisheries, particularly in the Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic area.

We will update you on any changes that we approve and implement.



## Area Definitions and Coordinates

Please use the following area definitions and coordinates to plot these areas on your vessel's electronics and for reference at home.

### Gulf of Maine Catch Cap and Closure Area

The Gulf of Maine Catch Cap and Closure Area is the portions of Greater Atlantic Region Statistical Areas #464, #465, #467, #511, #512, #513, #514, and #515 in US waters, defined by its boundary on the west by the coastline of the United States; the east by the US-Canada Maritime Boundary; and on the south by the following coordinates connected by straight lines in the order listed:

Point	Latitude	Longitude
A	( <sup>1</sup> )	70°00'W
B	42°20'N	70°00'W
C	42°20'N	( <sup>2</sup> )

(<sup>1</sup>) The intersection of 70°00'W longitude and the northwest facing shoreline of Cape Cod, Massachusetts

(<sup>2</sup>) The intersection of 42°00'N latitude and the US-Canada Maritime Boundary

### **Cape Cod Catch Cap and Closure Area**

The Cape Cod Catch Cap and Closure Area is Greater Atlantic Region Statistical Area #521, defined by the following points connected in the order listed by straight lines unless otherwise noted:

Point	Latitude	Longitude	Note
A	(1)	70°00'W	
B	42°20'N	70°00'W	
C	42°20'N	68°50'W	
D	41°00'N	68°50'W	
E	41°00'N	69°30'W	
F	41°10'N	69°30'W	
G	41°10'N	69°50'W	
H	41°20'N	69°50'W	
I	41°20'N	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )
J	( <sup>4</sup> )	70°00'W	( <sup>3</sup> )
K	( <sup>5</sup> )	70°00'W	( <sup>6</sup> )
A	( <sup>1</sup> )	70°00'W	( <sup>6</sup> )

(<sup>1</sup>) The intersection of 70°00'W longitude and the northeast-facing shoreline of Cape Cod, Massachusetts

(<sup>2</sup>) The intersection of 41°20'N latitude and the northeast-facing shoreline of Nantucket Island

(<sup>3</sup>) From Point I to Point J along the northeast-facing shoreline of Nantucket Island

(<sup>4</sup>) The intersection of 70°00'W longitude and the northeast-facing shoreline of Nantucket Island

(<sup>5</sup>) The intersection of 70°00'W longitude and the south-facing shoreline of mainland Cape Cod, Massachusetts

(<sup>6</sup>) From Point K back to Point A along the east-facing shoreline of Cape Cod, Massachusetts

### **Georges Bank Catch Cap and Closure Area**

NOTE: There are no current caps for this area.

The Georges Bank Catch Cap and Closure Area is the portions of Greater Atlantic Region Statistical Areas #522, #525, #526, #541, #542, #543, #561, #562, and #640 in US waters, defined by the following points, connected in the order listed by straight lines unless otherwise noted:

Point	Latitude	Longitude	Note
A	( <sup>1</sup> )	70°00'W	
B	( <sup>2</sup> )	70°00'W	( <sup>3</sup> )
C	41°20'N	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )
D	41°20'N	69°50'W	
E	41°10'N	69°50'W	
F	41°10'N	69°30'W	
G	41°00'N	69°30'W	
H	41°00'N	68°50'W	
I	42°20'N	68°50'W	
J	42°20'N	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>6</sup> )
A	( <sup>1</sup> )	70°00'W	( <sup>6</sup> )

(<sup>1</sup>) The intersection of 70°00'W longitude and the outer limit of the US Exclusive Economic Zone

(<sup>2</sup>) The intersection of 70°00'W longitude and the south-facing shoreline of Nantucket Island

(<sup>3</sup>) From Point B to Point C along the south- and east-facing shorelines of Nantucket Island

(<sup>4</sup>) The intersection of 41°20'N latitude and the northeast-facing shoreline of Nantucket Island

(<sup>5</sup>) The intersection of 42°20'N latitude and the US-Canada Maritime Boundary

(<sup>6</sup>) From Point J back to Point A along the US-Canada Maritime Boundary and the outer limit of the US Exclusive Economic Zone

### **Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Catch Cap Area**

Note: The Southern New England river herring and shad catch cap area is different than the Southern New England river herring and shad closure area (see below)

All state and Federal waters inclusive of sounds and bays, bounded on the east by 70°00' W. longitude and the outer limit of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone;

Bounded on the north and west by the southern coastline of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and the coastlines of Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina; and

Bounded on the south by a line following the lateral seaward boundary between North Carolina and South Carolina from the coast to the Submerged Lands Act line, approximately 33° 48' 46.37" N. latitude 78° 29' 46.46" W. longitude, and then heading due east along 38°48' 46.37" N. latitude to the outer limit of the US Exclusive Economic Zone.

### **The Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Catch Cap Closure Area**

The Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Catch Cap Closure Area is the portions of Greater Atlantic Region Statistical Areas #537, #538, #539, #611, #612, #613, #614, #615, #616, #621, #622, #623, #625, #626, #627, #631, #632, #635, and #636 in US waters, defined by the following coordinates, connected by straight lines in the order listed unless otherwise noted:

Point	Latitude	Longitude	Note
A	35°00'N	( <sup>1</sup> )	
B	35°00'N	74°00'W	
C	37°00'N	74°00'W	
D	37°00'N	73°00'W	
E	38°00'N	73°00'W	
F	38°00'N	72°00'W	
G	39°00'N	72°00'W	
H	39°00'N	71°40'W	
I	39°50'N	71°40'W	
J	39°50'N	70°00'W	
K	( <sup>2</sup> )	70°00'W	( <sup>3</sup> )
A	35°00'N	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )

(<sup>1</sup>) The intersection of 35°00'N latitude and the mainland shoreline of North Carolina

(<sup>2</sup>) The intersection of 70°00'W longitude and the south-facing shoreline of mainland Cape Cod, Massachusetts

(<sup>3</sup>) From Point K back to Point A along the mainland shoreline of the United States