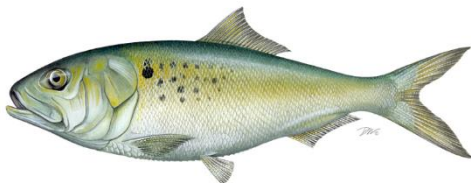


ASMFC Menhaden and Herring Management



ME Fishermen's Forum

March 3, 2017

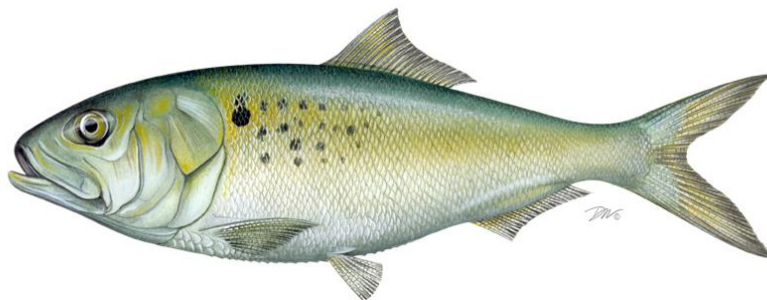
ASMFC Background



- 15 Member States
 - Menhaden Mgmt. Unit: Maine to Florida
 - Herring Mgmt. Unit: Maine to New Jersey
- Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Mgmt. Act
 - Regulatory authority in state waters
- Species Management Boards
 - One state, one vote
 - ME Commissioners: Terry Stockwell, Stephen Train, Sen. Brian Langley

Vision Statement: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3



Menhaden 101

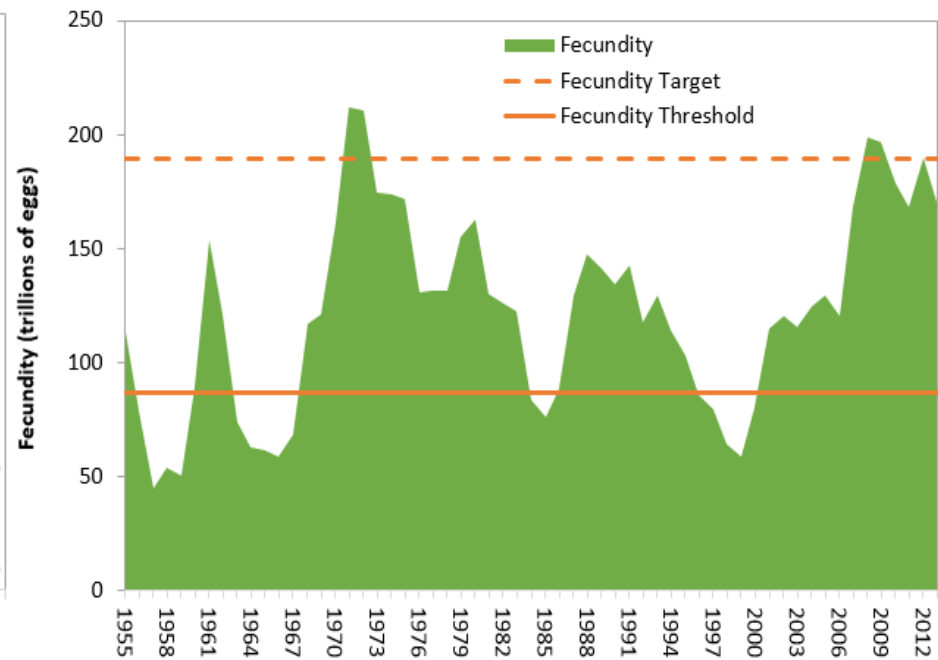
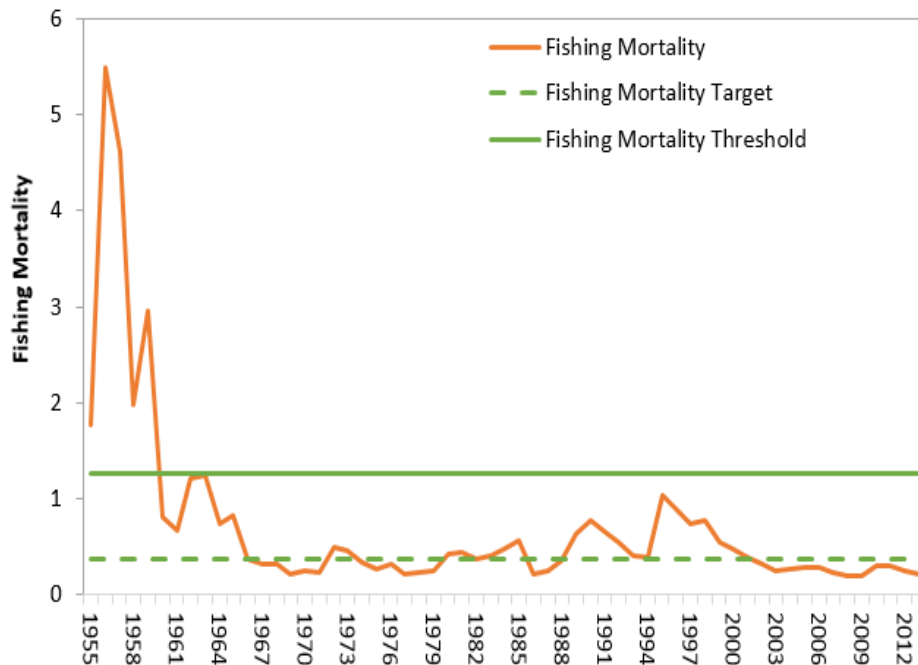


- “Pogies”, “Bunker”
- Coastal waters from Nova Scotia to Florida
 - Seasonal movement along coast with older and bigger fish moving farther north
- Bait fishery
 - Supply lobster, crab, and recreational fisheries
- Reduction fishery
 - Produce fish meal and oil
 - Historically, 20+ reduction plants along coast
 - Today, 1 plant in Reedville, VA
- Maine menhaden fishery
 - Large landings in late 1980s/early 1990s
 - Recently, landings sporadic and dependent on abundance

Current Menhaden Mgmt.



- Managed with single-species reference points
 - Measure fishing mortality and spawning stock biomass to determine overfished/overfishing status
 - Intended to provide a better measure of sustainability



Current Menhaden Mgmt.



- Total Allowable Catch (TAC)
 - Implemented in 2013
 - Set by the Menhaden Board
 - How big is the pie?

Year	TAC (MT)
2013	170,800
2014	170,800
2015	187,880
2016	187,880
2017	200,000

Current Menhaden Mgmt.



Jurisdiction	TAC Percentage (%)
Maine	0.04
New Hampshire	0
Massachusetts	0.84
Rhode Island	0.02
Connecticut	0.02
New York	0.06
New Jersey	11.19
Delaware	0.01
Maryland	1.37
PRFC	0.62
Virginia	85.32
North Carolina	0.49
South Carolina	0
Georgia	0
Florida	0.02

Allocation

- How is the pie divided?
- State-by-state allocation
- Based on average landings from 2009-2011

Current Menhaden Mgmt.



- Episodic Events Program
 - 1% of TAC set aside for episodic events
 - States declare into program if reach quota by September 1 and can prove presence of unusually large amounts of menhaden in state waters

Year	Set Aside (lbs)	Landed (lbs)	% Used	Participating States
2013	3,765,491			
2014	3,765,491	295,000	8%	RI
2015	4,142,040	1,883,292	45%	RI
2016	4,142,040	3,810,145	92%	ME , RI, NY

Concerns with Mgmt. Program



1. Single species reference points may not fully account for ecological role of menhaden
 - Menhaden are an important forage species
 - Assess status of species in regard to status of other prey and predator species
2. Allocation may not be fair and equitable
 - Need to balance harvest among various gear types and regions
 - Need to balance current and future harvest opportunities

Amendment 3



Concerns have prompted Board to pursue Amendment 3 in order to consider ecosystem reference points and other allocation methods

- Reference points
- Allocation method
- Allocation timeframe
- Quota transfers
- Quota rollovers
- Incidental catch
- Episodic Event Set Aside
- Ches. Bay. Reduction Fishery Cap

Amendment 3



Reference Points

1. Single species reference points
2. Menhaden-specific ecosystem reference points
3. Ecosystem reference points for forage fish species

Allocation Method

1. State quotas	5. Regional quotas
2. State quotas with fixed min.	6. Bait vs. reduction quotas
3. Coastwide quota	7. Fleet capacity quotas
4. Seasonal quotas	8. Allocation strategy based on TAC

Amendment 3



Allocation Timeframe

1. 1985-1995	4. 2012-2016
2. 1985-2016	5. Weighted 1985-1995 (50%), 2012-2016 (50%)
3. 2009-2011	

Episodic Events Program

- Who should be allowed to participate?
- What percentage of TAC should be set aside?
- How do states prove an episodic event is occurring?

Amendment 3



Amendment Process	Timeline
Approval of PID for public comment	October 2016
Public comment and hearings on PID	November 2016-January 2017
Board review public comment; provide direction on what to include in Draft Amendment 3	February 2017
Prepare Draft Amendment 3	February-July 2017
Approval of Draft Amendment 3 for public comment	August 2017
Public comment and hearings on Draft Amendment 3	August –October 2017
Final Action	November 2017

ME Menhaden Fishery in 2017



- ME's preliminary quota is 171,882 pounds
 - Finalized once states submit 2016 landings and any overages or transfers calculated
- 4.4 million pounds set aside for episodic events
- Quota can be transferred between states

ME Menhaden Fishery in 2018



- TAC for fishery may depend on whether ecosystem reference points are implemented
- Quota available to ME fishermen will depend on allocation method and timeframe chosen by Board
- Could see changes to episodic events program
 - % of set aside, state participation

How To Get Involved



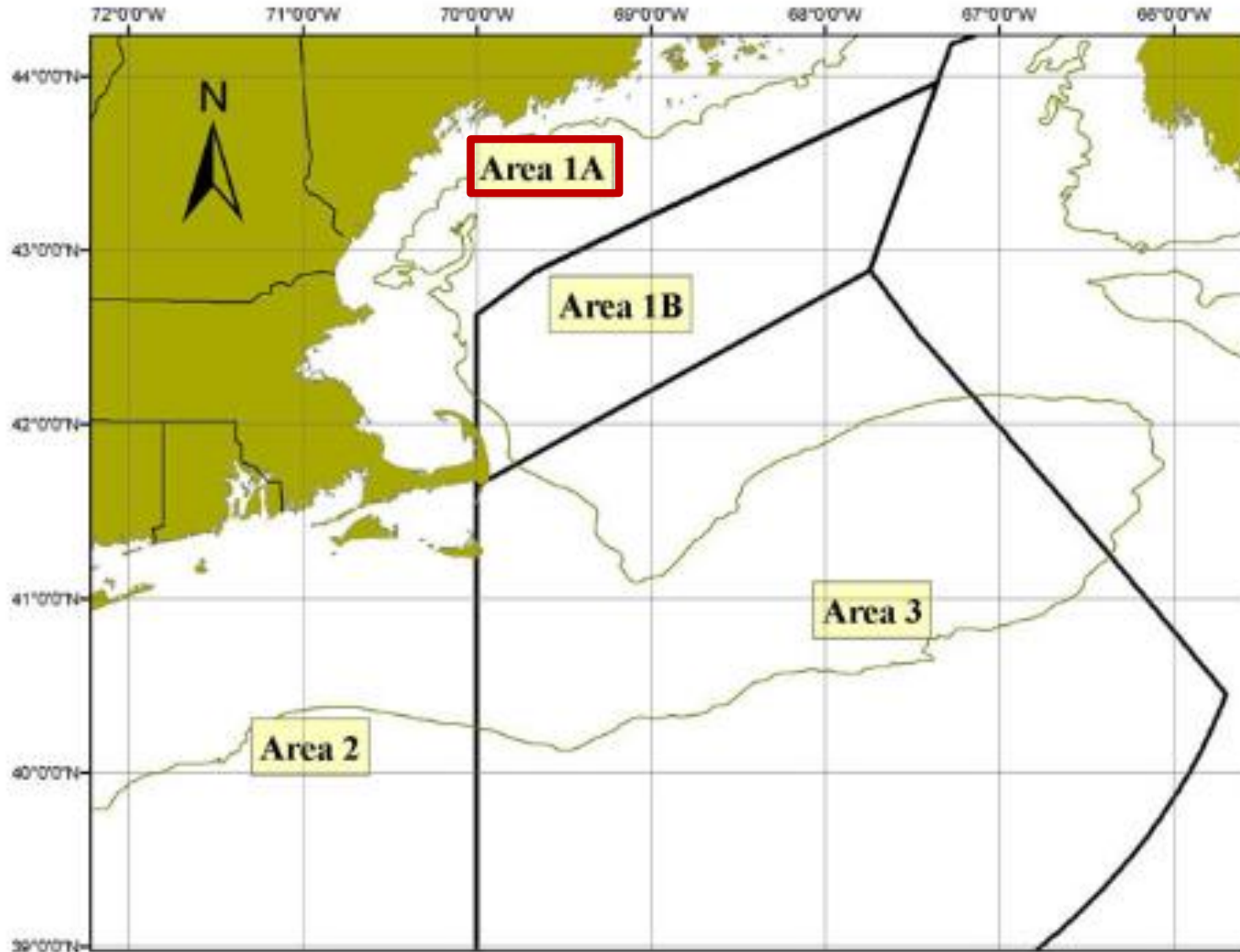
- Public comment period on Draft Amendment 3 expected from late August to early October
 - Written comments
 - Public hearings
- Write a letter to the Board (comments@asmfc.org)
- Attend a Board meeting



ATLANTIC HERRING

Area 1A Fishery Performance +
Alternative Management Measures
(Draft Addendum I)

Management Areas



Area 1A Effort Controls



Seasonal Quotas (2016)

Trimester 1 (Jan-May)	0%
Trimester 2 (June-Sept)	72.8%
Trimester 3 (Oct-Dec)	27.2%

Days Out of the Fishery (2016)

Trimester 2	Landing Days/Week
June 1 – 30	3
July 1-14	4
July 15-23	5
July 24 – Sept 17 (reactionary)	2
Sept 18 – Sept 30 (reactionary)	0

2015 Fishing Season



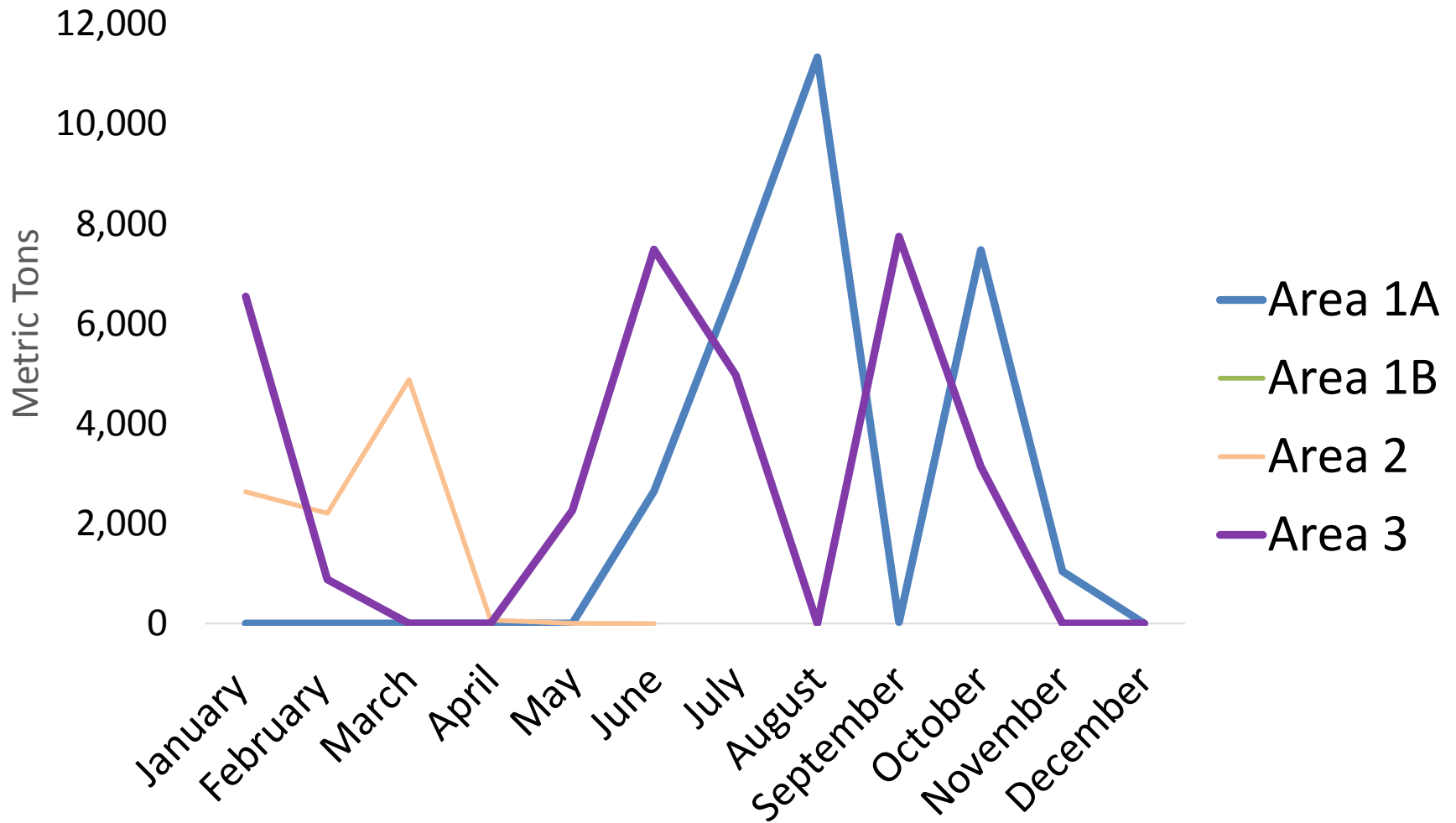
Concern: In Area 1A the rate of landings accelerated in August such that the seasonal quota was exceeded on August 28; triggering a zero landing day scenario for all of September.

August 2015							1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31	Notes:					

September 2015						
		1	2	3	4	5
		—————				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
—————						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
—————						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
—————						
27	28	29	30	Notes:		
—————						

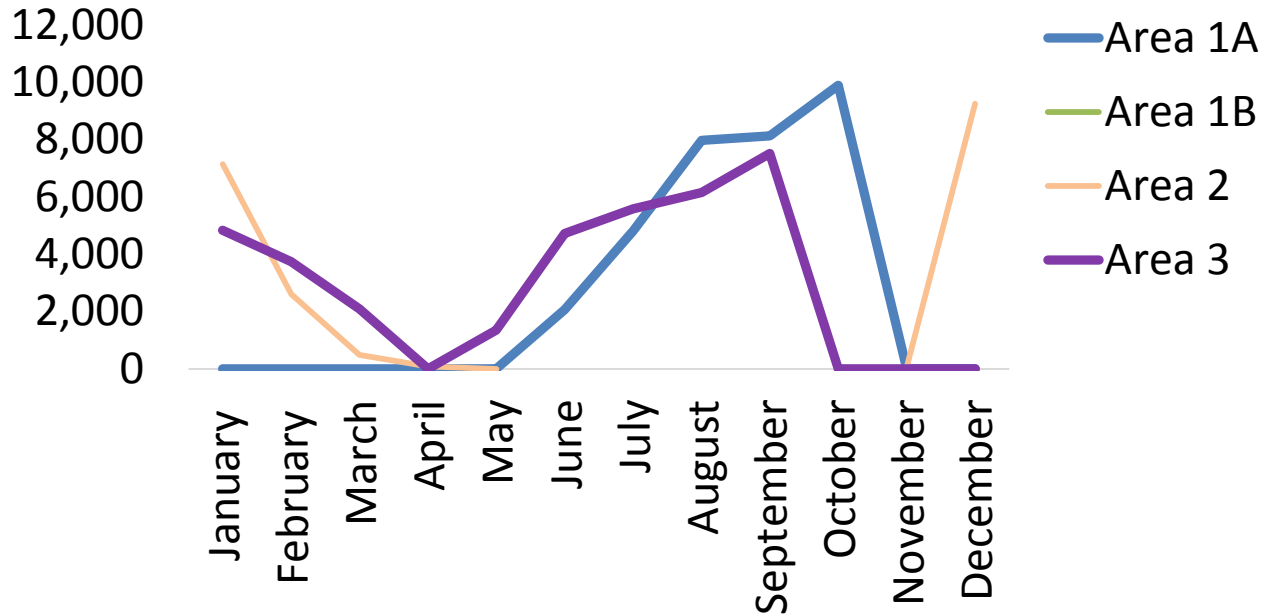
————— Zero landings days available

2015 Monthly Atlantic Herring Landings by Management Area. Area 1A and 3 were active in the summer/fall of 2015.

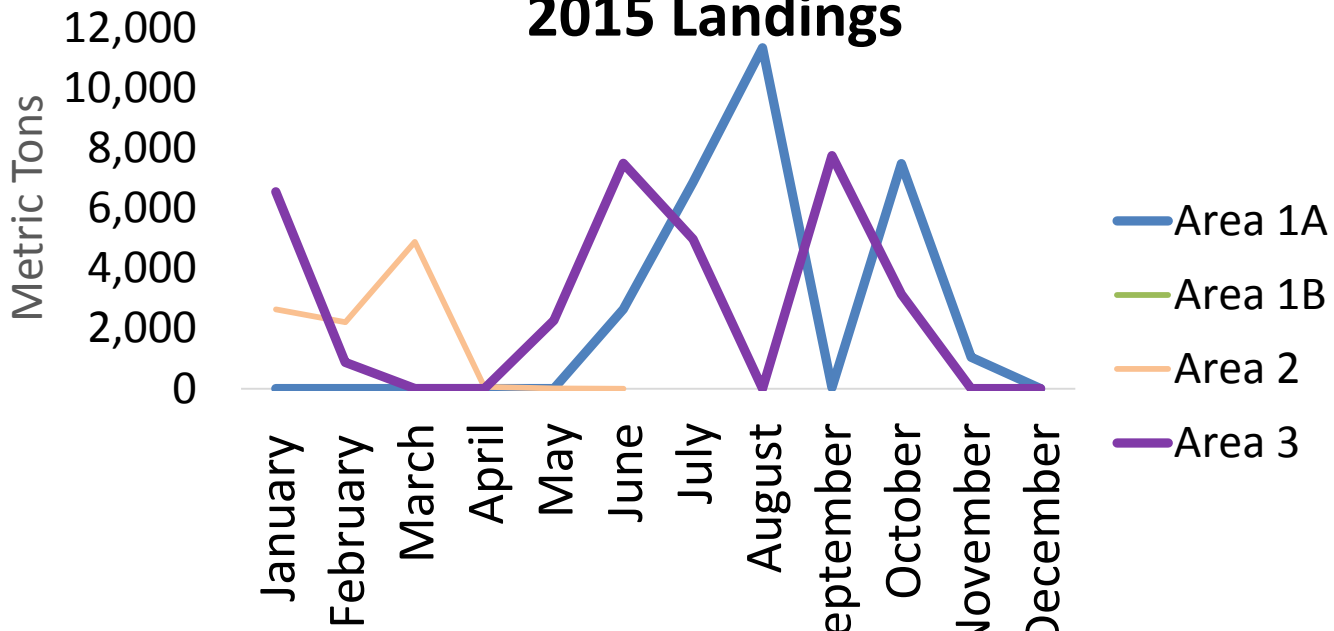


Source: NMFS. This is preliminary landings data, confidential data has been omitted

2014 Landings



2015 Landings



2016 Fishing Season

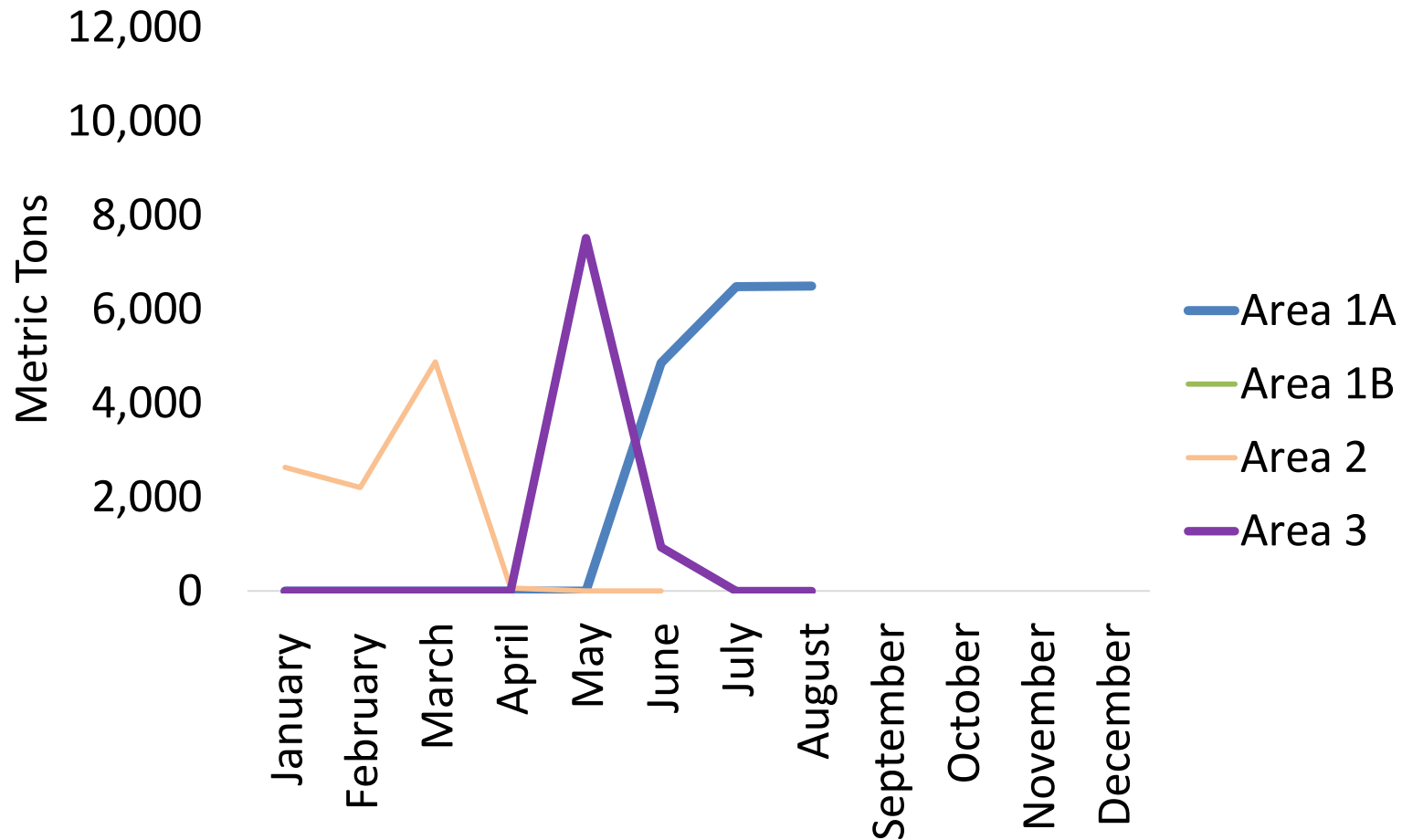


Concern: Above-average landings at the start of the season, and thereafter, led to emergency restrictions for vessels landing in Maine (on behalf of Maine DMR), which were more restrictive than those of the Commission.

September 2016				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

 Zero landings days available

2016 Monthly Atlantic Herring Landings by Management Area. Area 1A and 3 were active in the summer/fall of 2015.



Source: NMFS. This is preliminary landings data, confidential data has been omitted

Maine DMR Emergency Rule



The final measures, effective July 9, 2016, included:

- Weekly landing limit of 600,000 pounds (15 trucks)
- 3 consecutive fishing days
- 2 consecutive landing days
- Harvester vessels are limited to making one landing per 24-hour period
- Harvester vessels are limited to making at-sea transfers to only one carrier per week.
- All carrier vessels landing herring are limited to receiving at-sea transfers from one vessels per week.

DMR's measures only applied to vessels landing in Maine.

Draft Addendum I



In response to recent herring shortages for the bait market, the Atlantic Herring Management Section initiated Draft Addendum I.

Draft Addendum I



The intent of this addendum is to develop additional management measures to ensure the seasonal quota is spread throughout the entirety of each trimester, are consistent between the states, and address excessive capacity.

There are 6 Management Alternatives in Draft Addendum I

1. Implement State Vessel Landing Reports

2. Prohibit Landings of Herring Caught in Area 1A During a Day Out of the Fishery

3. Weekly Landing Limit Per Vessel

4. Landing Restrictions on Transfers At-Sea

5. Small Mesh Bottom Trawl Fleet Days Out

6. Clarify Days Out Procedure

Scoping: Tiered Weekly Landing Limit



- This Section is seeking public comment on scoping questions related to a tiered weekly landing limit.
- Public comment will be considered before any further action is taken on this issue.
- Would require a new management document.
- Draft Addendum I will not be affected by the input provided in this Section.

Addendum Timeline



October 2016	Atlantic Herring Section initiates Draft Addendum I
January 5	Working group meeting in NH
January 31	Section approves Draft Addendum I for public comment.
March-April 2017	Section solicits public comment on Draft Addendum I. States conduct public hearings.
May 2017	Section reviews public comment, selects management options and considers final approval of Addendum I.
Summer 2017	Provisions of Addendum I are implemented by states



Maine Public Hearing on Draft Addendum I Management Options

Monday, April 3, 2017

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Lincoln County Communications Conference Room
34 Bath Road Wiscasset, Maine

Draft Addendum I is available at www.asmfc.org

Questions

