



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114
p: (617) 626-1520 | f: (617) 626-1509
www.mass.gov/marinefisheries



CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lt. Governor

KATHLEEN A. THEOHARIDES
Secretary

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Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

June 17, 2021

STATEMENT OF PERMIT CONDITIONS:

POSSESSION AND LANDING LIMIT FOR LIMITED ENTRY REGULATED ATLANTIC MENHADEN PERMIT ENDORSEMENT HOLDERS DURING 2021 EPISODIC EVENT SET ASIDE PROGRAM

On June 17, 2021, the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) closed the 2021 quota managed commercial menhaden fishery effective June 18, 2021. Concurrent with this action, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) approved Massachusetts application to participate in the 2021 Episodic Event Set Aside (EESA) Program, as authorized under Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. Accordingly, pursuant to 322 CMR 6.43(4)(c), Massachusetts commercial fishermen may participate in the 2021 EESA Fishery beginning on June 18, 2021.

This Statement of Permit Conditions establishes additional controls by which limited entry regulated fishery permit endorsement holders for menhaden may operate within the EESA Program. Specifically, whereas the regulations at 322 CMR 6.43(4)(c)(2)(a) establish a 120,000-pound trip limit for these permit holders under the EESA program, DMF is establishing a more restrictive 25,000-pound trip limit. This more conservative possession and landing limit is being implemented to utilize the 4,285,786-pound EESA in a manner that allows for the 2021 fishery to operate over a more extended duration of time.

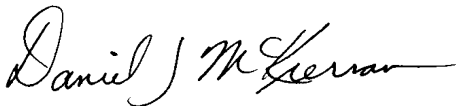
In accordance with the authority at G.L. c. 130, §80 and 322 CMR §7.01(7), this Statement of Permit Conditions applies to all 2021 Limited Entry Regulated Fishery Permit Endorsements for Atlantic Menhaden. Effective Friday, June 18, 2021 all Atlantic menhaden permit endorsement holders participating in the Episodic Event Set Aside Fishery are subject to the permit condition enumerated below:

- 1. All commercial fishermen fishing under the authority of a limited entry regulated fishery menhaden permit endorsement may retain, possess, and land up to 25,000 pounds of menhaden during any trip or 24-hour day, whichever period of time is longer, while participating in 2021 EESA fishery. The 120,000-pound limit as set forth at 322 CMR 6.43(4)(c)(2)(a) shall not apply.**

Except as explicitly provided herein, this Statement of Permit Conditions does not exempt the permit holder from any marine fishery laws or regulations of the Commonwealth or other existing permit conditions set forth by DMF. This written authorization and the applicable 2021 Massachusetts' commercial fishing permit and regulated fishery permit endorsement for

menhaden shall be onboard the vessel at all times while participating in the EESA Fishery. This Statement of Permit Conditions shall remain in effect until DMF and the ASMFC project 100% of the 2021 EESA is taken and the fishery is closed, unless otherwise notified or sooner revoked for cause. The Director may amend this Statement of Permit Conditions at any time. Any amendments shall become effective upon written notice. Violation(s) of any condition or restriction as contained herein shall result in an adjudicatory hearing to suspend or revoke the commercial fisherman permit, as well as any other fines and penalties provided in G.L. c.130.

Effective Date: June 18, 2021

By: 

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director