



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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July 27, 2022

Marine Fisheries Advisory

Quota Managed Commercial Menhaden Fishery to Close Effective Thursday, July 28, 2022

The commercial menhaden fishery is projected to harvest 100% of its 2022 commercial quota on Wednesday, July 27, 2022. Accordingly, the quota managed commercial menhaden fishery will close effective at 12:01am on Thursday, July 28, 2022 ([Closure Notice](#)). Unless otherwise notified, this closure will remain in effect until 2023.

Once the quota managed commercial menhaden fishery is closed, industrial scale fishing for menhaden is prohibited. However, commercial fishing for menhaden may continue under the state's incidental catch and small-scale fishery limit. This allows commercial harvesters to retain, possess, land and sell up to 6,000 pounds of menhaden per trip or calendar day, whichever period of time is longer. Purse seines used in this fishery must not exceed 450 feet in length by 48 feet in depth. All menhaden shall be brought aboard the vessel, and upon retention, be immediately stored in level filled containers, either 55-gallon barrels or standard fish totes. A level filled fish tote has the volumetric equivalency of 117 pounds of menhaden and a level filled barrel has the volumetric equivalency of 350 pounds of menhaden. 51 level filled fish totes or 17 barrels of menhaden are equivalent to the 6,000 pound trip limit.

Limited entry menhaden permit holders are required to report as both bait dealers and commercial fishermen. As bait dealers, they are required to report their catch nightly into the SAFIS dealer database. All commercial fishermen are to submit monthly trip-level reports by the fifteenth of the following month, even if their permit is not fished. Reports should be sent to DMF Statistics Project, 30 Emerson Avenue, Gloucester, MA 01930. Failure to submit these reports for all months of the year in a timely manner may result in the non-renewal of a commercial permit and its endorsements in 2023. Blank forms and instructions were mailed out prior to the beginning of the 2022 fishing season; additional copies can be obtained on the [Trip Level Reporting](#) website.

For more information regarding the management of marine fisheries in Massachusetts, visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.