



David E. Pierce, PhD.  
*Director*

# *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

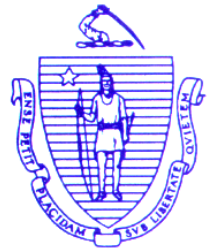
## **Division of Marine Fisheries**

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August 7, 2017

*Marine Fisheries Advisory*

**EFFECTIVE AUGUST 8, 2017:**

**COMMERCIAL LIMITED ACCESS MENHADEN FISHERY**

**TRIP LIMIT REDUCED TO 25,000 POUNDS**

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The Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that 85% of the 2017 commercial menhaden quota will be landed by Monday, August 7, 2017. Accordingly, the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries has declared that the commercial limited access menhaden trip limit will be reduced from 125,000 pounds to 25,000 pounds, effective at 0001 hours on Tuesday, August 8, 2017 ([Declaration Notice](#)). This trip limit shall apply to any commercial fisherman with a limited entry menhaden commercial permit endorsement. The open access fishery trip limit remains at 6,000 pounds.

This 25,000-pound limited access fishery trip limit will remain in effect until 95% of the 2017 commercial quota is taken, at which time it will be reduced to 6,000 pounds. Once 100% of the quota is taken, a bycatch allowance will be implemented for both the limited and open access fisheries. This bycatch allowance authorizes any commercial fisherman to possess and land up to 1,000 pounds of menhaden per trip, provided the weight of menhaden does not exceed 5% the overall weight of the catch. Menhaden trip limits are possession and landing limits and apply per calendar day or per trip, whichever period is longer.

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 2018. Blank forms and instructions were mailed out prior to the beginning of the 2017 fishing season; additional copies can be obtained on the [Trip Level Reporting website](#).

For more information about the management of menhaden in Massachusetts, contact DMF at 617-626-1520 or visit our website at [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries).