



# 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](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)



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### Marine Fisheries Advisory

## **Quota Managed Commercial Menhaden Fishery to Close Effective Wednesday, August 11, 2021**

The commercial menhaden fishery is projected to harvest 100% of its 2021 commercial quota on Tuesday, August 10, 2021. Accordingly, the quota managed commercial menhaden fishery will close effective at 12:01am on Wednesday, August 11, 2021 ([Closure Notice](#)). Unless otherwise notified, this closure will remain in effect until 2022.

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 limits. This allows any commercial fishermen to continue to retain, possess, land and sell up to 6,000 pounds of menhaden per trip or calendar day, whichever period of time is longer. All vessels participating in this fishery are required to store all menhaden brought onboard and retained in level filled containers, either 55-gallon barrels or standard fish totes. A level filled fish tote has the volumetric equivalency of 117 pounds on menhaden and a level filled barrel has the volumetric equivalency of 350 pounds on menhaden. Moreover, all vessels participating in this fishery are required to use a purse seine that does not exceed 450 feet length by 48 feet depth.

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 2022. Blank forms and instructions were mailed out prior to the beginning of the 2021 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).