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August 15, 2019

Marine Fisheries Advisory

EFFECTIVE AUGUST 16TH COMMERCIAL LIMITED ACCESS MENHADEN FISHERY TRIP LIMIT REDUCED TO 6,000 POUNDS

The Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that 95% of the 6,045,252-pound 2019 commercial menhaden quota will be landed by Thursday, August 15, 2019. Accordingly, the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries has declared that the commercial limited access menhaden trip limit will be reduced from 25,000 pounds to 6,000 pounds, effective at 0001 hours on Friday, August 16, 2019 ([Declaration Notice](#)). This trip limit shall apply to any commercial fisherman fishing for menhaden.

This 6,000-pound trip limit will remain in effect until 100% of the 2019 commercial quota is taken, at which time a 1,000-pound bycatch allowance will be implemented. 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; seines may not exceed 150 fathoms length or 8 fathoms depth. 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 2020. Blank forms and instructions were mailed out prior to the beginning of the 2019 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.