



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

RONALD S. AMIDON
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

August 27, 2020

Marine Fisheries Advisory

Menhaden Episodic Event Set Aside Fishery Closure; Quota Managed Fishery to Resume

Massachusetts' limited access commercial menhaden fishery is projected to have harvested 100% of the remaining Episodic Event Set Aside (EESA) quota on Thursday, August 27, 2020. Accordingly, the Commonwealth's Episodic Event Set Aside Fishery will close effective at 12:01am on Friday, August 28, 2020 ([Closure Notice](#)) and the previously issued [Statement of Permit Conditions](#) for participants in the EESA Fishery is rescinded. When Massachusetts' Episodic Event Set Aside Fishery was authorized to begin on August 17, roughly 425,000 pounds of the 4.76-million pound set aside remained available and DMF authorized harvest under a 25,000-pound trip limit (see prior [Advisory](#) for more details).

However, the state's quota managed menhaden fishery will resume on Friday, August 28, 2020 ([Re-Opening Notice](#)). This is because Massachusetts received transfers of unused quota from other states. These quota transfers allow the limited access fishery to continue operating at a 25,000-pound trip limit, as there will be less than 15% of the state's transfer-adjusted quota remaining. Open access commercial fishermen will be able to harvest under the 6,000-pound limit. The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) previously closed the state's quota managed menhaden fishery effective August 7.

These quota managed fishery trip limits shall remain in effect until DMF projects that 100% of the adjusted 2020 commercial menhaden quota is taken. At that time, commercial fishing for menhaden may continue under the state's incidental catch and small-scale fishery limit. This prohibits industrial scale fishing for menhaden while allowing 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.

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.