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Marine Fisheries Advisory

Effective October 3: Menhaden Commercial Trip Limit Reduced to 25,000 pounds

The Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries has declared that 75% of the Commonwealth's 2016 menhaden commercial quota of roughly 3.44 million pounds has been landed. Accordingly, the commercial trip limit for regulated Atlantic menhaden fishery permit endorsement holders is reduced to 25,000 pounds effective 0001 hours on Monday, October 3. Menhaden commercial trip limits are per trip or calendar day, whichever duration is longer.

This 25,000-pound trip limit will be further reduced to 6,000 pounds once the Director declares that 95% of the Commonwealth's 2016 menhaden commercial quota is taken. Commercial fishermen who have not been issued a regulated Atlantic menhaden fishery permit endorsement are held to a year-round 6,000-pound trip limit, until 100% of the annual quota is taken. At 100%, the directed menhaden fishery will be closed, and a bycatch tolerance of 1,000 pounds applies to all commercial fishermen. During the period when a bycatch tolerance is in effect, the weight of menhaden bycatch must not exceed 5% of the weight of the entire catch being landed.

Atlantic menhaden permit endorsement holders are reminded of the requirement to also hold a bait dealer permit and report their landings of menhaden in the Commonwealth on a daily basis.

Contact the Division of Marine Fisheries at 617-626-1520 for more information or refer to our website: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.