



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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October 23, 2020

Marine Fisheries Advisory

Limited Access Commercial Menhaden Fishery to Close Effective Saturday, October 24, 2020

The 2020 limited access commercial menhaden fishery is projected to have harvested 100% of its 2020 commercial quota on Friday, October 23, 2020. Accordingly, the directed fishery will close effective at 12:01am on Saturday, October 24, 2020 ([Closure Notice](#)). This closure will remain in effect until 2021, unless Massachusetts obtains a transfer of menhaden quota from another Atlantic coastal state.

Once the limited access 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.

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 2021. Blank forms and instructions were mailed out prior to the beginning of the 2020 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.