



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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November 7, 2025

Marine Fisheries Advisory

2025 Menhaden Episodic Event Set Aside Closure

Effective November 7, 2025, the Commonwealth's participation in the 2025 Atlantic Menhaden Episodic Event Set-aside has concluded ([Legal Notice](#)), and all commercial menhaden fishing activity must conform to the Post Quota Incidental Catch and Small-scale Fishery regulations for the remainder of the year. During this period, purse seining for menhaden is prohibited, a trip limit of 6,000 pounds applies, landings are restricted to state waters catch, and all retained fish must be immediately stored in barrels or fish totes.

The Episodic Event Set Aside (EESA) is a provision of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan that sets aside 1% of the annual coastwide commercial quota for the northeast states' shared use should they utilize their available state-specific quota and high abundances of menhaden remain available in state waters prior to September 1. Access to the set aside requires prior approval from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Massachusetts entered the 2025 EESA Fishery on August 28 after closing its Quota Managed Fishery on August 27. Although the 2025 set aside has not yet been exhausted, the Interstate Fishery Management Plan sets an October 31 cessation date for states to land menhaden attributable to the EESA, after which the remaining amount is redistributed to all states according to their percent shares. No menhaden landings have occurred in Massachusetts since mid-October, consequently this closure notice effectively formalizes the natural end of the directed fishery based on the seasonal migrations of menhaden.

For more information regarding the management of marine fisheries in the Commonwealth, please visit our website: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.