



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

Notice of Fishery Closure:

2025 Atlantic Menhaden Episodic Event Set Aside Fishery

Pursuant to the notice and public comment requirements at G.L. c. 30A, §3 and under the authority of G.L. c. 130, §§ 17A, 21, and 80, and 322 CMR §§ 6.41(2)(c), 6.43(6), and 322 CMR 7.01(7), the Commonwealth's 2025 Atlantic Menhaden Episodic Event Set Aside Fishery, as established at 322 CMR §6.43(2), is closed effective 0001 hours on November 7, 2025. This action is being taken in accordance with the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden, which establishes an October 31 cessation date for jurisdictions to land Atlantic menhaden attributable to the Episodic Event Set Aside.

Whereas the Commonwealth's 2025 Quota Managed Atlantic Menhaden Fishery has been closed since August 28, 2025, the regulations for the Post Quota Incidental Catch and Small-scale Fishery, as established at 322 CMR § 6.43(5) shall apply effective 0001 hours on November 7, 2025. Unless otherwise notified, the Quota Managed Atlantic Menhaden Fishery will remain closed until 2026.

Additionally, during this quota closure, 322 CMR 7.07(5)(b) prohibits bait dealers from purchasing any menhaden from commercial fishermen in quantities that do not conform to the limits authorized under the Post Quota Incidental Catch and Small-scale Fishery as set forth at 322 CMR § 6.43(5). Bait dealers are those entities permitted in accordance with G.L. c. 130, §80 and 322 CMR 7.01(3) to purchase bait species, such as menhaden, directly from commercial fishermen and possess this bait for sale to the general public.

Dated: November 7, 2025

By: 

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director