The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries

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MAURA T. HEALEY, Governor | KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL, Lt. Governor | REBECCA L. TEPPER, Secretary | THOMAS K. O'SHEA, Commissioner | DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN, Director

August 27, 2025

LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION AND STATEMENT OF PERMIT CONDITIONS:
POSSESSION AND LANDING LIMIT FOR LIMITED ENTRY REGULATED ATLANTIC MENHADEN PERMIT ENDORSEMENT HOLDERS DURING 2025 EPISODIC EVENT SET ASIDE PROGRAM

The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) closed the 2025 quota managed commercial menhaden fishery effective August 28, 2025. Concurrent with this action, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) approved Massachusetts' application to participate in the 2025 Episodic Event Set Aside (EESA) Program, as authorized under Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. Accordingly, pursuant to 322 CMR 6.43(6), Massachusetts commercial fishers may participate in the 2025 EESA Fishery beginning on August 28, 2025.

Pursuant to the authority at G.L. c. 130, §80 and 322 CMR §7.01(7) and 322 CMR 6.43(6)(b)(2), this Letter of Authorization and Statement of Permit Conditions establishes that commercial fishers with a limited entry regulated fishery permit endorsement participating in the 2025 EESA Fishery are hereby:

1. Exempt from the 6,000-pound menhaden trip limit established at 322 CMR 6.43(6)(b)(1) and instead subject to a 25,000-pound menhaden trip limit.
2. Exempt from the maximum purse seine size restriction at 322 CMR 6.43(6)(b)(5), provided the vessel adheres to the purse seine size restriction at 322 CMR 6.43(4)(b)(5)(c).
3. Exempt from the storage requirement at 322 CMR 6.43(6)(b)(6), provided the vessel in possession of the menhaden adheres to the vessel capacity requirements at 322 CMR 6.43(4)(b)(4).
4. Authorized to use carrier vessels consistent with the requirements set forth at 322 CMR 6.43(4)(b)(3).

Except where explicitly provided above, this Letter of Authorization and Statement of Permit Conditions does not exempt the permit holder from any marine fishery laws or regulations of the Commonwealth. Additionally, previously issued 2025 Letters of Authorization and Statement of Permit Conditions governing menhaden seining, the use of carrier vessels, and menhaden harvester partnerships remain valid during the 2025 EESA Fishery.

This written authorization and the applicable 2025 Massachusetts' commercial fishing permit and regulated fishery permit endorsement for menhaden shall be onboard the vessel at all times while participating in the 2025 EESA Fishery. This Statement of Permit Conditions shall remain

in effect until DMF and the ASMFC project 100% of the 2025 EESA is taken and the fishery is closed, unless otherwise notified or sooner revoked for cause. The Director may amend this Statement of Permit Conditions at any time. Any amendments shall become effective upon written notice. Violation(s) of any condition or restriction as contained herein shall result in an adjudicatory hearing to suspend or revoke the commercial fisherman permit, as well as any other fines and penalties provided in G.L. c.130.

Effective Date: August 28, 2025

By: Daniel J McKiernan

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director