



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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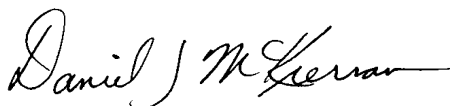
NOTICE OF ENTRY INTO 2025 EPISODIC EVENT SET ASIDE PROGRAM FOR COMMERCIAL MENHADEN FISHERY

Pursuant to 322 CMR 6.43(6)(a), the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is providing notice that effective Thursday, August 28, 2025, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will enter into the Episodic Event Set Aside Program for the commercial menhaden fishery. This action follows DMF's August 27, 2025 determination that 100% of the Commonwealth's annual menhaden quota would be taken on August 27, 2025 resulting in a closure of the 2025 quota managed commercial menhaden fishery on August 28, 2025, as well as approval by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to participate in the Episodic Event Set Aside Program, as required by the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden.

Commercial fishermen may participate in the 2025 Episodic Event Set Aside Program in accordance with the restrictions set forth at 322 CMR 6.43(6). Except that, pursuant to G.L. c. 130, §80 and 322 CMR 7.01(7), the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries has issued a [Letter of Authorization and Statement of Permit Conditions](#) to authorize commercial fishers who hold a regulated Atlantic menhaden fishery permit endorsement to retain, possess, and land up to 25,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden taken from the waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth per trip or calendar day, whichever duration is longer.

The 2025 Episodic Event Set Aside has been set at 5,148,896 pounds. Once the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission determines the 2025 Episodic Event Set Aside is exhausted, the DMF shall close the Commonwealth's Episodic Event Set Aside Fishery in accordance with the process set forth at 322 CMR 6.41(2)(c). Unless otherwise notified, upon the closure of the Episodic Event Set Aside Fishery, commercial fishermen may possess and land menhaden in accordance with the Post Quota Incidental Catch and Small-Scale Fishery rules set forth at 322 CMR 6.43(5).

Dated: August 27, 2025

By: 

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director