



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries
(617) 626-1520 | mass.gov/MarineFisheries



Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberly Driscoll
Lt. Governor

Rebecca L. Tepper
Secretary

Thomas K. O'Shea
Commissioner

Daniel J. McKiernan
Director

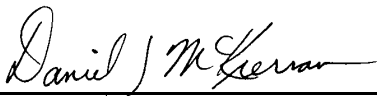
**Notice of Entry Into 2026 Episodic Event Set Aside Program
For the Commercial Menhaden Fishery**

Pursuant to 322 CMR 6.43(6)(a), the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is providing notice that effective Tuesday, July 28, 2026, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will enter into the Episodic Event Set Aside Program for the commercial menhaden fishery. This action follows DMF's July 27, 2026 determination that 100% of the Commonwealth's annual menhaden quota would be taken on July 27, 2026 resulting in a closure of the 2026 quota managed commercial menhaden fishery on July 28, 2026, 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 fishers may participate in the 2026 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 2026 Episodic Event Set Aside has been set at 4,119,117 pounds. Once the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission determines the 2026 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: July 27, 2026

By: 
Daniel J. McKiernan, Director