NOTICE OF FISHERY CLOSURE:
2021 QUOTA MANAGED COMMERCIAL MENHADEN FISHERY

Pursuant to the notice and public comment requirements of 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) and 7.01(7), the Commonwealth's 2021 commercial menhaden quota, as established at 322 CMR §6.43(2), is projected to be taken on Thursday, June 17, 2021. In accordance with 322 CMR §6.43(4)(a)(3), the quota managed commercial menhaden fishery in Massachusetts will be closed effective Friday, June 18, 2021.

Unless otherwise notified, the quota managed commercial menhaden fishery will remain closed until 2022. Whereas the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has approved Massachusetts application to participate in the 2021 Episodic Event Set Aside Program, the commercial fishery for menhaden may continue to occur in accordance with the provisions set forth at 322 CMR 6.43(4)(c)(2), subject to any additional restrictions established by permit conditions pursuant to G.L. c. 130, §80 and 322 CMR 7.01(7).

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 Episodic Event Set Aside Program and set forth at 322 CMR 6.43(4)(c)(2) or otherwise established by permit conditions pursuant to G.L. c. 130, §80 and 322 CMR 7.01(7). 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: June 17, 2021

By: _Daniel J McKiernan_

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director