



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

June 5, 2026
MarineFisheries Advisory

Limited Access Menhaden Trip Limit Reduced to 25,000 Pounds Effective June 9

The Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that 50% of the state's 8.67 million pound 2026 Atlantic menhaden quota will be landed by the end of Monday, June 8, 2026. Accordingly, the commercial limited access trip limit will be reduced from 120,000 pounds to 25,000 pounds effective Tuesday, June 9. This trip limit applies to any commercial fisher with a limited entry menhaden endorsement and shall remain in effect until the quota is taken unless two additional quota-use triggers apply. If 98% of the quota is taken on or after September 1, the trip limit will be reduced to 6,000 pounds. Alternatively, if 10% of the quota remains on October 15, the trip limit will be increased to 360,000 pounds. The open access trip limit remains at 6,000 pounds.

At the 25,000-pound trip limit, purse seiners may fish for menhaden on Fridays (in addition to Mondays – Thursdays), except within the waters of Beverly Harbor which remains closed to purse seining on Fridays. In addition to Saturdays and Sundays, purse seining is prohibited statewide on the 4th of July (a Saturday this year) and on Labor Day (Monday, September 7). The use of authorized carrier vessels may continue until the quota is taken — unless the limited access trip limit is reduced to 6,000 pounds. Reminder, carrier vessels are not allowed within Boston Harbor.

Should 100% of the state's menhaden quota be taken prior to September 1, 2026, DMF anticipates applying to participate in the Episodic Event Set-Aside (EESA) program if available. The EESA is a 1% set-aside of the coastwide quota that is accessible to certain northeast states under qualifying conditions established by the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. Additional notices will advise as to the status of the state's participation in the EESA program, including (if applicable) the trip limit(s) and other fishery restrictions.

For more information about the management of marine fisheries in Massachusetts, please visit www.mass.gov/marinefisheries