



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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June 9, 2025

Marine Fisheries Advisory

Limited Access Menhaden Trip Limit Reduced to 25,000 Pounds Effective June 10

The Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that 50% of the state's 10,838,902-pound 2025 Atlantic menhaden quota will have been landed by the end of today, Monday, June 9, 2025. Accordingly, the commercial limited access trip limit will be reduced from 120,000 pounds to 25,000 pounds effective Tuesday, June 10. 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 one of two additional quota-use triggers applies. 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 Friday this year) and on Labor Day (Monday, September 1 this year). 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. Carrier vessels are not allowed within Boston Harbor. Additionally, carrier vessels may not possess menhaden on any day closed to purse seining, receive menhaden from more than one harvester vessel during a day, land more than once per day, possess more than the trip limit, and if both the harvester vessel and the carrier vessel are in possession of menhaden, the aggregate weight of menhaden may not exceed the 25,000-pound trip limit.

Should 100% of the state's allocated quota be taken prior to September 1, 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, visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.