



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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Marine Fisheries Advisory

MENHADEN TRIP LIMIT REDUCTION AND ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS TRIGGERED EFFECTIVE AUGUST 22

The Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that 90% of the state's 2024 Atlantic menhaden quota will have been landed on Wednesday, August 21, 2024. Accordingly, the commercial limited access trip limit will be reduced from 25,000 pounds to 6,000 pounds effective Thursday, August 22, 2024. The 6,000-pound trip limit now applies to both commercial fishers with a limited entry menhaden endorsement and the open access commercial menhaden fishery. Should 100% of the state's 2024 quota be taken, the directed fishery will close and purse seining will be prohibited.

With this trip limit reduction, several additional management measures are triggered. First, all commercial fishers are limited to using a purse seine that does not exceed 450 feet long by 48 feet deep. Additionally, all catch must be brought on board and stowed immediately upon retention in level-filled barrels or fish totes. To comply with the trip limit, a level-filled barrel is the equivalent of 350 pounds of menhaden and a level-filled tote is the equivalent of 117 pounds of menhaden. Lastly, the use of carrier vessels is prohibited and all previously issued authorizations to use carrier vessels are void until the start of the 2025 directed purse seine fishery. Purse seining remains prohibited on Saturdays and Sundays and on Labor Day (September 2).

For more information, please visit our website: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.