



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

August 28, 2026
MarineFisheries Advisory

Atlantic Menhaden Trip Limit Reduction Effective September 1

Effective Tuesday, September 1, the Atlantic menhaden commercial trip limit will be set to 6,000 pounds of state or federal waters catch for all fishery participants. This action reduces the limited entry trip limit from 25,000 pounds (aligning it with the open entry trip limit) and removes the restriction on federal waters catch being landed. These rules will remain in effect until the Division of Marine Fisheries determines that 100% of the Commonwealth's 2026 Atlantic Menhaden Commercial Quota is harvested.

These changes result from the Division of Marine Fisheries closing the 2026 Episodic Event Set Aside Fishery ([Closure Notice](#)) and resuming the Quota Managed Fishery on September 1 with less than 98% of the quota remaining, which triggers the 6,000-pound trip limit ([Legal Notice](#)).

Menhaden fishers are reminded of the additional rules that apply at the 6,000-pound limit: (1) the use of carrier vessels is prohibited; (2) all retained catch must be immediately stored in level-filled 55-gallon barrels or 28" x 16" x 11" fish totes; (3) the maximum purse seine size is 450' long by 48' deep; and (4) purse seine nets must have affixed a DMF issued tag, certifying it has been inspected for compliance with the net size restriction.

For more information about the management of menhaden in Massachusetts,
visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.