



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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Marine Fisheries Advisory

Limited Entry Commercial Menhaden Fishery to Reopen at the 25,000-Pound Trip Limit on September 9

The state's limited entry fishery for menhaden will resume on Monday, September 9, 2024 at the 25,000 pound trip limit. This is the result of DMF obtaining a transfer of 500,000 pounds of quota from Rhode Island. This transfer will increase the Commonwealth's quota such that more than 10% of the transfer-adjusted quota remains thereby allowing the fishery to re-open at a 25,000-pound trip limit. Moreover, as it is now after September 1 and more than 10% of the transfer-adjusted quota remains available, the trip limit will remain at 25,000 pounds for the remainder of the season or until 100% of the quota is taken and the fishery is closed.

On August 21, DMF projected the state's commercial menhaden fishery would achieve 90% of its 2024 quota, and as a result, the trip limit was automatically reduced from 25,000 pounds to 6,000 pounds (see [Advisory](#)). This left approximately 1 million pounds of quota available for the small-scale fishery to continue to fish on for the remainder of the season. At present, the small-scale fishery is landing approximately 42,000 pounds per week with landing rates expected to wane this month as the fish migrate out of our waters. Under these conditions, it is unlikely Massachusetts will fully use its 2024 commercial quota, and concurrently, the local lobster fishery is reportedly experiencing a bait shortage. In response, DMF worked to obtain this quota transfer to restart the limited entry fishery at a 25,000-pound trip limit for the remainder of the season.

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