

From: [Matthew Mayhew](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Comment On: Proposed Regulatory Amendments for Commercial Menhaden, Summer Flounder, Horseshoe Crab, and Groundfish Management
Date: Sunday, April 30, 2023 7:53:19 PM

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Hello,

My Name Is Matthew Mayhew. I fish out of the harbor of Menemsha and I hold a Mass Coastal Access Permit along with other endorsements.

Menhaden

On the Regulatory Changes to the Menhaden Fishery I would just like to see that Access to Menhaden for bait be left with an 6000lb limit during open period so that bait supply for our local lobster fishery can still be available.

Summer Flounder

On the Summer Flounder I think the best way to keep the Quality of the catch at sale high Is to limit the trip duration.

1.Allow Fishers/boats to land a max trip limit of 2800LB.

With a Max weekly limit of 5600lb 7days x 800LB = 5600lb

A weekly aggregate could help the small inshore fishers when the nice weather is available they could fish full days or multiple days to catch a larger share of the available quota. This is why I am in favor of a weekly aggregate limit rather than a daily limit across the board so that both small and larger businesses can take advantage of the larger landing quantities while fishing hopefully more efficiently.

With regards to the small mesh squid fishery I think that if a Large Mesh Summer flounder net is readily available on the vessel It should be able to land its potential allocated Summer Flounder, Sea Bass, or any other by catch that is allocated. It makes little sense to throw back stressed large fish when available quota exists.

Thanks for your time and dedication,

Matthew Mayhew

From: [Wayne Oldroyd](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial Menhaden
Date: Saturday, April 1, 2023 9:13:37 AM

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Hello Daniel McKiernan My Name is Wayne Oldroyd 508 269 0789 and I run a charter Business out Of Somerset Ma in the taunton River and Mt Hope Bay Area .. We have a issue with Commercial Menhaden Season starting on July 15th.

this opening also arrives when the Striped Bass fishery arrives in our area due to our southerly location . And what happens every year is that the Large commercial Menhaden Boats Bascially remove all the Menhaden in our Small and shallow river waters and they operate north of the Braga Bridge up into the Assonet river, and they are hauling from sun rise to sun set and their hauls are not stopping at 12000 lb or the 6000lb.. those numbers are easily met in 1 or 2 sets and this is usually ends by July 1st because they have cleaned out our area waters because the States total quota ..

I am not against them taking Menhaden in our Area I would suggest that our area be delayed in opening until July or stop them from operating north of the Brightman Street Bridge .or targeted enforcment of our Area to insure compliance or All of they Above

water Temps has increase in July and the bass have moved out into cooler southern waters , and the Menhaden remain

I have inclosed a map showing how small our Area waters Are so please consider a delay in our area or restriction north of RT 6 and RT 79 . any of the the 2 action will assist in maintaining the Bio diversity food forge for the entire area please review the Map attached for a visual understanding of how small the fishery is

Respectfully
Wayne Oldroyd

Sent with Airmail

From: [DOUGLAS HEATH](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Menhaden fishery
Date: Monday, May 1, 2023 3:30:21 PM

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Dear Dan,

After attending last week's meeting, I could see that you and staff are trying to keep all players happy. We have some big boats that want to land larger trips and smaller boats that do not. If you crunch the numbers there is potential for quota to be used up quickly.

I hope careful consideration is given so more fish could be landed later, after July and through September when the market could use it the most.

Thank you,
Douglas Heath
F/V Intuition

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Mike Leary](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Menhaden proposed Rule
Date: Sunday, April 30, 2023 8:00:13 AM

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Michael P Leary

Eyes Above LLC

3 Orchard Drive

Hampton Falls, NH 03844-2410

Mikeleary03844@gmail.com

Daniel McKiernan

Director

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Atlantic Menhaden Management

Dear Director McKiernan

Please accept my written comments regarding the Atlantic Menhaden plan, proposed rules and quota management controls. I participate in the fishery as a spotter pilot and have done so since 2019 so my historic knowledge of the fishery is limited.

Quota Management: It is my belief that a June 15th opening will be too late for the limited entry vessels to harvest their daily limit in Ipswich Bay. The fishery in Ipswich Bay has happen as early as May 17th in years past. Last year, 2022, the fish exited Ipswich Bay around June 11, and never returned. All local effort was then directed in Gloucester Harbor as well as Salem Sound. I have concerns that the fishery in such a small

confined area with so many boats is not sustainable for that small area.

I recommend the fishery to open June 1st if not before.

I believe to continue this fishery at the limited entry level to be profitable, I recommend that the 120,000 daily trip limits be used till 70% of the quota is landed. From 70% to 90% of the quota then the limited entry boats will have a 40,000 daily trip limit. From 90% to 100% a 6000 pound daily trip limit. As the proposed rule is written, it seems like you are catering to the open access 6000 trip limit permit holders.

I would like to see Monday through Thursday open fishing days throughout the season.

As a pilot I see more recreational effort Friday through Monday.

I was unable to attend the public meeting and could not find the meeting on *YouTube*. I am wondering what the rationale of the later start date is? It is a quota based fishery. Is the State trying to manage the bait market? If the State wants to manage the markets it should be consistent and do so across the entire State waters fishery.

Open the fishery when the fish appear, manage the quota and let the dealers and fishermen manage the markets.

Thank you for your time considering my comments. As you know there is a lot of time and effort trying to manage this fishery. History has proven itself that no consecutive years are ever alike and Menhaden come and go. When they go they can be gone for many, many years.

That's just nature...

Michael P Leary

Eyes Above LLC



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From: [Donald Finocchio](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: More restrictions needed to protect menhaden
Date: Friday, March 31, 2023 4:26:13 PM

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Director McKiernan,

I applaud the work you do.

I'm a recreational striped bass and bluefish angler of 40 years out of Ipswich, MA. My concerns are with the harvesting of menhaden as the more I learn the more I understand that menhaden are one if not the primary prey for these game fish that I enjoy catching and eating. In recent years it seems like menhaden started to become more available and as a result fishing for large stripers and blues was much improved. However, over the last two years more and more commercial trawlers are seen in our area and I consequently the striped/blues fishing has dropped off significantly, in my opinion.

In summary, it seems menhaden may be the most important fish in our fishery and I urge you to keep restricting the commercial folks until a balanced menhaden stock is achieved.

Many thanks,

Don Finocchio
978 471 9630

From: [Thomas, Andrew](#)
To: [McKiernan, Dan \(FWE\)](#); [Reed, Story \(FWE\)](#); [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Cc: [Thomas, Andrew](#)
Subject: Purse seine cap control date recommendation
Date: Thursday, April 27, 2023 11:41:21 AM
Attachments: [Cap-purse seine.docx](#)

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Control Date Recommendations

4/27/23

To: Division of Marine Fisheries Daniel Mckiernan and Story Reed.

From: Andrew Thomas Lobsterman, Hull Mass. lobster permit 005252, Cap Purse seine. FV Generations.

Hi Dan and Story,

It was nice seeing you at the meeting in Gloucester. I have some concerns about the control date that I would like to share. Quick background. I am a fourth generation lobsterman out of Hull. My great grandfather, grandfather whom I never met (drowned while lobstering) and my father all lobstered. My dad 79 still goes hard at it.

I have carried the cap permit for a few years now. I have always wanted to catch bait for myself. Carrying the Cap permit gave me a little reassurance that if things got bad lobstering, then at least I had the option of catching bait and taking the edge of the bait bill. Last year was the breaking point for me. I watched fuel go from 1.67gal three years ago to 5.60gal last year. Bait was up to 200 a barrel. Crew expenses are up and all boat and trap expenses have at least doubled.

I decided to make the investment to try to catch bait. Before spending thousands of hard earned dollars, I made sure that proper research and due diligence was done. I went to the first menhaden meeting in Gloucester to make sure I understood all the rules. I sent numerous emails to dmf staff on rules to ensure I was doing everything correctly. Everything looked good.

On April 12th (prior to any mention of a control date) I drove to new Hampshire and bought a seine net from Dan Murphy. I had a question about the mesh size when I saw the net and contacted dmF to ensure mesh size was ok. I was fortunate to speak with Story Reed about this issue. Net size ok and I paid thousands for the net. I have also acquired a mast, boom, new high resolution garmin chartplotter, 2 chirp and clear vu transducers, ordered a brailing net and more. All Set, good to go. Made a large investment in time and money prior to the control date was brought up.

If I knew there was a control date that may effect me, I would have had second thoughts about making the investment. I am sure that date will effect others going forward.

My recommendations about the control date are the following;

At the 2nd Gloucester meeting I asked Story how many Cap permits were out there. He stated around 70 permits, but only 12-15 active. Im not sure about the historic perspective of the permits but with the Cap permit structure in place now it appears that there has been no negative impact on the fishery as it stands. Only a small percentage of the cap permits are used and I don't think many will ever be used. Many of the permit holders are older and not likely to invest in fishing at this point. The realistic number of permits being ever used is much lower than 70. The overall quota has actually increased under this model.

I also understand the purpose of the control date. To prevent the number of cap permits increasing like what happened in Maine. Totally agree with that.

- My proposal would be to grandfather the Cap permit holders from last year who renewed for this year.
- Control date for any New cap permits.

If that is not acceptable, I strongly think the Active Cap permits and Cap holders like myself who have documented a large financial investment in the industry prior to discussions of the control date be grandfathered.

Obviously wording including that Director Mckiernan could alter or change wording if needed at any time but at least some assurance to the vested cap holders that they are safe for the time being.

I appreciate your time and efforts in managing the Fisheries. The DMF staff has been extremely helpful to my father and I for many years any time we have questions or requests.

Thank you

Andrew Thomas