

## NOTICE OF AGENCY EMERGENCY RULE-MAKING

**AGENCY:** Department of Marine Resources

**CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE:** Chapter 41.30 Menhaden Episodic Event Fishery Closure

**CONCISE SUMMARY:** Maine DMR has received confirmation from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Menhaden Board that over 80% of the episodic quota has been harvested. The Commission has directed all States participating in the episodic fishery to close at 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, July 5, 2017. For this reason, the Commissioner has determined that it is necessary to take emergency action under 12 MRS 6171(3)(C) to close the Atlantic Menhaden episodic event fishery. Upon the closure of the episodic event fishery, a vessel may fish for or take up to 6,000 pounds of menhaden per day as incidental bycatch and the vessel shall not land more than 6,000 lbs per calendar day. A vessel that is taking Atlantic menhaden as incidental bycatch shall not transfer Atlantic menhaden at sea.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 3, 2017

**AGENCY CONTACT PERSON:** Melissa Smith  
**AGENCY NAME:** Department of Marine Resources  
**ADDRESS:** 21 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0021  
**WEB SITE:** <http://www.maine.gov/dmr/rulemaking/>  
**E-MAIL:** Melissa.Smith@maine.gov  
**TELEPHONE:** (207) 624-6558  
**FAX:** (207) 624-6024  
**TTY:** (207) 633-9500 (Deaf/Hard of Hearing)

## DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

### CHAPTER 41

#### 41.05 Territorial Waters Trawl Prohibition

It shall be unlawful to fish for or take Atlantic menhaden by vessels rigged with a midwater, otter or beam trawl net in Maine territorial waters.

#### 41.30 Menhaden Program

##### 1. Definitions

- A. "Hogshead": one hogshead equals 17.5 lb bushels.
- B. "Bushel": one bushel equals 70 lbs of menhaden.
- C. "Truck": one truck equals 40,000 lbs.

##### 2. State Allocation Fishery

It is unlawful to fish for, take, or possess Atlantic menhaden except in accordance with an episodic event fishery established by the Department in accordance with Chapter 41.30(3).

##### A. Exceptions

- (a) An individual may fish or take by hook and line up to 25 menhaden per day for personal use only, daily.
- (b) A vessel may fish for or take up to 6,000 pounds of menhaden per day as incidental bycatch at any time other than during an episodic event fishery. A vessel shall not land more than 6,000 lbs per calendar day. A vessel that is taking menhaden shall not transfer menhaden at sea.

##### 3. Episodic Event Fishery

An episodic event fishery may be opened following the full utilization of the state allocation of menhaden. The Atlantic menhaden episodic fishery opened 12:01 a.m. on June 8, 2017 and will close at 11:59 p.m. on July 5, 2017.

##### A. Notice

Commercial Pelagic and Anadromous license holders shall be informed by public notice in a newspaper circulated in the area affected of any openings or closing dates for an episodic event fishery.

##### B. Reporting

Any harvester landing menhaden during an episodic event fishery must declare into the fishery by notifying the Department of their intent to harvest menhaden during the episodic event fishery prior to landing any menhaden. All harvesters must report landings daily to the

Department by leaving a message at (207) 633-9494 with the following information no later than noon the day after landing:

- License Holder Name
- Vessel Name
- Vessel Documentation or State Registration Number
- DMR Landings Number
- Location of Harvest
- Pounds Landed
- Phone Number where License Holder can be reached
- VTR numbers (if applicable)

This reporting requirement is in addition to the reporting requirements of Chapter 8.20 for anadromous and pelagic license holders.

#### C. Landing of menhaden

Following the opening of an episodic event fishery, and prior to the closure of the episodic event fishery, all menhaden harvested from Maine territorial waters must be landed in the State of Maine between 12:01 AM on Monday and 11:59 PM Thursday each week.

##### (1) Effort Restrictions

(a) Weekly landing limit shall not exceed 160,000 lbs (4 trucks) per vessel

(b) Daily landing limit shall not exceed 120,000 lbs (3 trucks) per vessel.

##### (2) Exceptions

(b) An individual may fish or take by hook and line up to 25 menhaden per day for personal use only, daily.

(c) Any license holder landing Atlantic menhaden taken from Maine territorial waters with fixed gear are subject to a daily landing limit of 6,000 lbs and may harvest seven days a week.

#### 4. Areas

##### A. Bald Head Cliff to Cape Arundel

Shoreward and westerly of a straight line starting at the easternmost point of Bald Head Cliff, Ogunquit to the southernmost point of Cape Arundel, Kennebunkport.

##### B. Biddeford Pool to Cape Elizabeth

Shoreward and westerly of the territorial sea line, as identified on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration nautical chart 13286, starting at the easternmost point of Biddeford Pool, Biddeford following the territorial sea line to where the line intersects the southernmost point of land in Cape Elizabeth.

##### C. All Maine territorial waters outside the areas defined in Chapter 41.30(A) & (B)

Shoreward of the territorial sea line, as identified on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration nautical charts, except for those areas defined in Chapter 41.30(A) & (B).

## 5. Area Limitations

The areas in Chapter 41.30(4)(A, B & C) are restricted to the take, possession transport, and landing of the Atlantic menhaden in accordance with the following regulations:

### A. Harvester Vessel Limitations in all Areas (A, B & C)

It shall be unlawful for any harvester vessel that exceeds 50 feet in length overall to fish for, take, or possess menhaden within these restricted areas. It shall be unlawful for any harvester vessel to fish for, take, possess or transfer greater than 120,000 lbs of menhaden per day (12:01 AM to 11:59 PM).

### B. Carrier Vessel Limitations in all Areas (A, B & C)

It shall be unlawful for any carrier vessel to receive or land more than 120,000 lbs of menhaden per day (12:01 AM to 11:59 PM) harvested from Maine Territorial waters, which includes Areas A, B & C.

(1) A carrier vessel may transport and land menhaden once per day at a limit of 120,000 lbs capacity.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any carrier vessel greater than 90 feet LOA to transport menhaden harvested from Areas A, B & C.

## 6. Suspension of rules

The Commissioner has the authority to suspend all regulations in Chapter 41.30 in the event of a potential fish kill upon consultation with industry and Marine Patrol. Notice of rule suspension and duration shall be provided via the internet on the Department's web site and by email to industry members or telephone.

## **Basis Statement**

Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden was approved in December 2012. Amendment 2 enables the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board to set aside 1% of the overall total allowable catch (TAC) for episodic events. Episodic events are times and areas where Atlantic menhaden are available in more abundance than they normally occur. The set aside is designed to enable increased harvest of Atlantic menhaden during episodic events. As part of the episodic events set aside provision, the Board developed the mechanism for state(s) to use the set aside. The Technical Addendum detailing the episodic events set aside program was subsequently approved by the Board at its May 22, 2013 meeting. Upon the closure of the episodic event fishery, a vessel may fish for or take up to 6,000 pounds of menhaden per day as incidental bycatch and the vessel shall not land more than 6,000 lbs per calendar day. A vessel that is taking Atlantic menhaden as incidental bycatch shall not transfer Atlantic menhaden at sea.

Maine DMR has received confirmation from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Menhaden Board that over 80% of the episodic quota has been harvested. The Commission has directed all States participating in the episodic fishery to close at 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, July 5, 2017. For this reason, the Commissioner has determined that it is necessary to take emergency action under 12 MRS 6171(3)(C) to close the Atlantic Menhaden episodic event fishery.

# Rule-Making Fact Sheet

(5 M.R.S., §8057-A)

AGENCY: Department of Marine Resources

NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER OF AGENCY CONTACT PERSON:

Melissa Smith, Department of Marine Resources, 21 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0021 Telephone: (207) 624-6558; E-mail: [Melissa.Smith@maine.gov](mailto:Melissa.Smith@maine.gov), web address: <http://www.maine.gov/dmr/rulemaking/>

CHAPTER NUMBER AND RULE: Chapter 41

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: **12 M.R.S. §6171 (3)(C)**

DATE AND PLACE OF PUBLIC HEARING: NA

COMMENT DEADLINE: NA

PRINCIPAL REASON(S) OR PURPOSE FOR PROPOSING THIS RULE: [*see* §8057-A(1)(A)&(C)] The Department has received confirmation from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Menhaden Board that over 80% of the episodic quota has been harvested. The Commission has directed all States participating in the episodic fishery to close midnight on Wednesday, July 5, 2017. For this reason, the Commissioner has determined that it is necessary to take emergency action under 12 MRS 6171(3)(C) to allow for the occurrence of an episodic event fishery.

IS MATERIAL INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE IN THE RULE? \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ **X** NO [§8056(1)(B)]

ANALYSIS AND EXPECTED OPERATION OF THE RULE: [*see* §8057-A(1)(B)&(D)]: This rule seeks to permit the occurrence of an episodic event fishery for Atlantic menhaden as allowed by Technical Addendum 1 to Amendment 2 of the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF RELEVANT INFORMATION CONSIDERED DURING DEVELOPMENT OF THE RULE (including up to 3 primary sources relied upon) [*see* §§8057-A(1)(E) & 8063-B]

Landings reports collected and disseminated by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Menhaden Board state that over 80% of the episodic quota has been harvested. It has been determined by the Atlantic Menhaden Board that the quota will be reached by midnight of Wednesday, July 5, 2017.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT OF THE RULE: [*see* §8057-A(1)(C)] No fiscal impact anticipated.

**FOR EXISTING RULES WITH FISCAL IMPACT OF \$1 MILLION OR MORE, ALSO INCLUDE:**

*ECONOMIC IMPACT, WHETHER OR NOT QUANTIFIABLE IN MONETARY TERMS:*

[*see* §8057-A(2)(A)]

*INDIVIDUALS, MAJOR INTEREST GROUPS AND TYPES OF BUSINESSES AFFECTED AND HOW THEY WILL BE AFFECTED:* [*see* §8057-A(2)(B)]

*BENEFITS OF THE RULE:* [*see* §8057-A(2)(C)]

*Note: If necessary, additional pages may be used.*