The DMR Advisory Council met in March to discuss and approve proposed rulemaking for Chapter 41 Atlantic Menhaden for the 2019 fishing year. Final rulemaking and the updated regulations are available on our website. The state fishery for Atlantic menhaden is open and harvesting may occur as soon as Atlantic menhaden are present in state waters.

Key changes to Chapter 41 Atlantic Menhaden for 2019:
- Fixed gear harvesting may occur seven days a week in both the state allocated and the episodic fishery; however, the fixed gear fishery will maintain the same daily and weekly landing limits as previously set for the mobile fishery.
  - Fixed gears: fishing weirs, stop seines and pound nets
- Recreational harvest for personal use allows up to 25 fish per angler for hook and line harvest, daily.

Status quo rules in Chapter 41 Atlantic Menhaden for 2019:
- Harvest may occur between 12:01 a.m. Monday through to Thursday 11:59 p.m.
- Daily landing limit is 120,000 lbs with a weekly cap set at 160,000 lbs
  - This applies to both HARVESTER and CARRIER vessels
- One landing event per 24 hour period
- Harvesting and landing of menhaden is restricted to Maine state waters
- Daily reporting of landings during State and Episodic quota fisheries is required via menhaden.dmr@maine.gov

IMPORTANT: For both the state allocation and episodic event fisheries, a transfer at sea to a vessel utilizing menhaden as bait is considered a landing event. If a harvester vessel still retains a portion of their day's catch onboard, it may not be landed until the next calendar day.

Information on Maine gillnet bait fishing regulations can be found in Chapter 55 Gear Restrictions, or contact Marine Patrol for further clarification (Division I Lt Daniel White 207-633-9596; Division II Lt Troy Dow 207-664-2393).

EMAIL OR TEXT REPORTING DETAILS

All harvesters that intend to participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery need to declare their intent to harvest by emailing menhaden.dmr@maine.gov. This is to ensure you are aware of the email needed to report landings. You may also text to email address to report your landings information.

Report using the format below:
- Name of harvester
- Name/Vessel ID
- Permit ID
- Landings number of license holder
- Total catch retained (including all catch transferred to any vessel who will not report it as their own catch)
- Name/Permit ID of Carrier, if transfer at-sea occurs
- Total amount of menhaden on board
- Date, time and location (dealer, city, state) of offload
- Estimated catch to be received, by weight, to each dealer (by dealer name and landings number)
- VTR number, if applicable

**Note:** If you did not go fishing, or went fishing and had zero landings, you still need to complete a daily email report stating "DID NOT FISH/ No Landings".

Please be advised that you are required to report *daily* as described in Chapter 41.30(3)(C); and, per Chapter 8.20(Q), Pelagic and Anadromous Fishing Harvest paper trip reports are due on the 10th of the following month. **Failure to do so would be considered an act of non-compliance and is grounds for suspension from the Atlantic menhaden fishery.** Landing reports are essential for accurate monitoring of the quota.

**FISH LOSS WHILE HARVESTING**

Commissioner Keliher would like to remind all harvesters that dead and floating menhaden on shorelines provide unwanted attention to this vital fishery. All efforts should be made to take sets that are manageable by the vessel and crew. It is strongly encouraged that harvesters clean up any loose fish during each and every harvest event to avoid the accumulation of dead menhaden in coves and along beaches and shorelines.

**For any questions regarding reporting, please contact Rob.Watts@maine.gov or 207-633-9412. For any questions on the menhaden fishery, please contact Melissa.Smith@maine.gov or 207-624-6558.**