MENHADEN: Directed State Fishery Re-opens July 22, 2019

The menhaden fishery will remain open as the Department resumes the directed State allocated fishery. The re-opening of the directed State harvest is a result of menhaden quota transfers the Commissioner has received from partnering states. DMR has implemented emergency regulation to re-open the State fishery on Monday, July 22, 2019. There will be no disruption to harvesters.

Participation in the directed State menhaden fishery STILL REQUIRES DAILY REPORTING of your fishing activity to menhaden.dmr@maine.gov. It is critical that Maine is able to accurately monitor and report our landings while under a hard quota. Failure to report as required is a violation of regulation and jeopardizes Maine’s future access to this resource. DMR will be issuing summonses for failure to report, and suspending licenses as necessary. This could impact your ability to participate in this fishery next season.

Daily reports must include the following elements:
More than 560 Commercial Pelagic and Anadromous license permits have been issued in 2019 with over 180 of those individuals declared into the fishery during the Episodic Event Set Aside. This week, there were 120 active harvesters reporting landings for menhaden during the EESA fishery. Preliminary landing reports estimate 3.2 million lbs have been landed after four days of open harvest with reports still being tallied.

The Commissioner has acquired several transfers of menhaden quota from partner States; these transfers rectified the overage that occurred during the initial directed fishery and the remaining allotment will allow for the re-opening of the directed State allocated fishery. Approximately 4 million additional lbs are available.

The [notice of emergency rulemaking](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MEDMR/bulletins/2522ac9) will be posted to DMR's website and also included below:

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**NOTICE OF AGENCY EMERGENCY RULE-MAKING**

**AGENCY:** Department of Marine Resources  
**CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE:** Chapter 41.30 Menhaden Fishery Management Program  
**CONCISE SUMMARY:**

The fishery for Atlantic menhaden is managed through the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). Maine’s allocated quota share for FY2019 was 2,438,677 pounds, which was fully consumed by June 30, 2019. Additionally, Department of Marine Resources (DMR) was granted access to the Episodic Event Set Aside program (EESA); it is projected that 80% of the 4.7 million lbs EESA has been consumed by Thursday, July 18, 2019. The Commissioner has secured several transfers of menhaden quota that will allow for the DMR to re-open the directed state allocated fishery. Beginning July 22, 2019, harvest may occur between 12:01 a.m. on Monday and 11:59 p.m. Thursday each week; daily landing limit is 120,000 lbs and this regulation reduces the weekly limit to 120,000 lbs as well. Harvesting and landings are restricted to Maine territorial waters; only one landing may occur per calendar day. All landings must be reported daily via email to menhaden.dmr@maine.gov. The Commissioner has determined that it is necessary to take emergency action to implement the reduction of the weekly limit to prevent the depletion of the supply of Atlantic menhaden. The Commissioner hereby adopts this emergency regulation as authorized by 12 M.R.S. §6171(3)(B).

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 21, 2019

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https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MEDMR/bulletins/2522ac9
Questions about menhaden management: Melissa.Smith@maine.gov or 624-6558

Questions about reporting: Rob.Watts@maine.gov or 633-9412

Questions about menhaden rules may also be directed to your local patrol officer. For patrol's contact information, please click here.

Division I Head: Lieutenant Daniel White - 633-9596, 592-1260 (cell)
Division II Head: Lieutenant Troy Dow - 664-2393

- MAPA Emergency Ch 41 Menhaden State Re-open 7.21.19 WEB.pdf

DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL AS RESPONSES ARE NOT MONITORED.

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