MENHADEN STATE QUOTA FISHERY CLOSES

Maine Department of Marine Resources would like to inform all Menhaden harvesters that the state allocated quota has been reached and the directed menhaden fishery will close Sunday, June 30 at 11:59 p.m.

All fishing for, taking and landing of menhaden will be prohibited, with the exception of recreational harvesting (25 fish per day, hook and line only), until further notice. Incidental take or landings are also prohibited.

Maine's state allocation for Atlantic menhaden for the FY2019 is 2,438,677 lbs. This number was exceeded based on landings reports received through Thursday, June 27 at noon. Please take this opportunity to complete all your daily landing reports in addition to your monthly paper logbook so that accurate accounting for the state harvest of menhaden may be completed promptly.

The Department has requested participation in the Episodic Events Set Aside Program under Amendment 3 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden and is awaiting approval from ASMFC. We will announce the re-opening of the menhaden fishery under EESA, once we have a confirmed opening date.

FISH LOSS/DUMPING WHILE HARVESTING

Commissioner Keliher would like to remind all harvesters that dead and floating menhaden on shorelines provide unwanted attention to this vital fishery. The Department is hearing multiple reports of harvesters discarding catch due to no market. It is the responsibility of the harvester to understand all aspects of the fishery. Additionally, 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.

EMAIL REPORTING DETAILS

All harvesters that were actively harvesting during the State Allocation Fishery do not need to declare again to harvest in the Episodic Event Fishery. New entrants to the Menhaden fishery need to email menhaden.dmr@maine.gov to indicate they will begin harvesting during the Episodic Event Fishery.

Reporting details are described on our webpage, here. Daily reporting is mandatory.