

From: Department of Marine Resources <DMR@subscriptions.maine.gov>

Subject: MENHADEN: Update on Maine's 2024 Allocated Quota and Episodic Event Set-Aside Quota



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Notice to all Menhaden Harvesters:

Maine's [Atlantic Menhaden quota for FY2024](#) was preliminarily set at 24,510,314 pounds. However, additional late landing reports have caused an overage. Based upon this week's updated landings data for the 2023 fishing year, there is a 551,764 pound overage in the directed menhaden fishery, in addition to a 7,838 pound overage for the Episodic Event Set-Aside.

As a result of these overages, Maine's adjusted 2024 allocation is now reduced to **23,950,712 pounds**.

Throughout the 2023 fishing year, the Department clearly communicated that continued late reporting of harvester trip reports would lead to undesirable consequences to the upcoming 2024 menhaden fishing season. DMR received multiple quota transfers throughout 2023 to account for overages to the state's quota as harvester reports were submitted. However, continued submission of late harvester reports in 2024 significantly exceeded these quota transfers.

The consequence of this late reporting is now a reduced seasonal quota. Harvesters who are delinquent in filing their reports are causing others who are following reporting requirements to lose access to quota. This is unacceptable. The Commissioner has directed the Maine Marine Patrol to work with the Landings Program and issue summons for late reporting. Any harvester who becomes a chronic violator of this requirement will face a possible license suspension.

To avoid a repeat of pound-for-pound payback on menhaden allocation overages in the future, harvesters **MUST** report their menhaden landings **DAILY**, as outlined in [Chapter 41.20](#). Timely, and accurate, landing reports will allow for in-season management adjustments to deter harvesting over the allocated quota.

For questions on menhaden regulations in Maine, contact Melissa Smith at melissa.smith@maine.gov or 207.441.5040

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