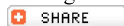


From: Department of Marine Resources <DMR@subscriptions.maine.gov>

Subject: MENHADEN: Update on Quota Consumption and Best Harvest Practices



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#### Notice to all Menhaden Harvesters:

Maine's adjusted 2024 allocation is **23,950,712 pounds**. The commercial fishery opened on Monday, June 17th, with approximately 189 harvesters landing 1,780,136 pounds in a single day. As of yesterday, total menhaden landings are **4,688,245 pounds with 283 harvesters reporting** (including both commercial and non-commercial). The Episodic Set Aside remains at 5.1 million pounds. As a reminder, other states can request fish from this Set Aside once they have harvested their commercial quota.

Menhaden are more abundant than last year, and we are harvesting at a faster pace. That said, the Department has not yet made a decision on whether to pause the fishery. We will continue to communicate with the industry as harvest progresses.

#### Important Reminders:

In light of the high abundance of menhaden in our waters, the Department reminds harvesters that menhaden is not a resource to be callously wasted. Do not fish without a market. Harvesting menhaden in excess and knowingly not having a direct sale prepared negatively impacts potential bait availability in later months. It shouldn't have to be re-stated that all efforts should be made to fish sustainability to avoid dumping or loss of fish. Please call [Marine Patrol](#) if you see fish being wasted.

The Department has received calls that bait storage is filling up. Please fish responsibly.

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For questions on menhaden regulations in Maine, contact Melissa Smith at [melissa.smith@maine.gov](mailto:melissa.smith@maine.gov) or 207.441.5040

Fair winds to you and yours.

#### Melissa D. Smith

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