



Notice of Final Rulemaking: Chapter 41 Atlantic Menhaden; FY2021 Harvest Rules

Maine Department of Marine Resources sent this bulletin at 04/27/2021 01:49 PM EDT

Good afternoon,

The DMR Advisory Council met in remotely on April 20, 2021 to discuss and approve proposed rulemaking for Chapter 41 Atlantic Menhaden for the 2021 fishing year. Final rulemaking and the updated regulations are [available on our website](#).

In preparation for the upcoming Menhaden season, please read through key highlights for FY2021. The full regulation is posted [here](#) and also attached to this notice.

FIRST, SELECT THE APPROPRIATE LICENSE

Effective November 2020, the Commercial Pelagic and Anadromous License no longer permits the harvester to take menhaden. If you renewed your CPAL for the purpose of targeting menhaden, please contact DMR Licensing at 207-624-6550, Option 2.

License options for harvesting menhaden:

- **Commercial Menhaden License** (MENC in [LEEDS](#)) - Choose this license if you intend to harvest and SELL menhaden.

OR

- **Noncommercial Menhaden License** (MENR in [LEEDS](#)) - Choose this license if you intend to harvest for personal (bait) use

An individual may hold either the commercial menhaden license OR the noncommercial menhaden license. An individual may not hold both licenses.

Note: FY2020 Personal Use No-sale permit is now the Noncommercial Menhaden License. If you are in possession of a Noncommercial Menhaden License, please scroll down to Noncommercial Harvest Controls for details pertaining to your fishing activity.

COMMERCIAL HARVEST: STATE ALLOCATED FISHERY HARVEST CONTROLS

New for FY2021, the commercial harvest of the State Allocated fishery will open on Monday, June 14, 2021 at 12:01 am.

- Harvest days are Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays

- Weekly vessel limit is 23,800 lbs or 68 barrels
 - Limit may be caught in a single day, or spread over the four harvest days
- Harvester vessels are prohibited from selling, giving, or transferring menhaden at sea
- Vessels are prohibited from receiving any menhaden while at sea from harvester vessel
- Storage of menhaden required immediately upon harvest
 - Either barrels, crates or totes
- Daily trip level reports are due same day as landing before 11:59 pm through LEEDS

COMMERCIAL HARVEST: EPISODIC ALLOCATED FISHERY HARVEST CONTROLS

- Harvest days are Tuesdays and Fridays
- Weekly vessel limit is 14,000 lbs or 40 barrels
 - Limit may be caught in a single day, or spread over the two harvest days
- Harvester vessels are prohibited from selling, giving, or transferring menhaden at sea
- Vessels are prohibited from receiving any menhaden while at sea from another vessel
- Storage of menhaden required immediately upon harvest
 - Either barrels, crates or totes
- Daily trip level reports are due same day as landing before 11:59 pm through LEEDS

COMMERCIAL HARVEST: SMALL SCALE FISHERY HARVEST CONTROLS

- Harvest days are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
- Daily vessel limit is 6,000 lbs or 17 barrels
 - Daily limit is required by ASMFC fishery management plan
- Harvester vessels are prohibited from selling, giving, or transferring menhaden at sea
- Vessels are prohibited from receiving any menhaden while at sea from another vessel
- Gear restriction remains for purse seine size: 150 fathom long by 8 fathom deep
- Storage of menhaden required immediately upon harvest
 - Either barrels, crates or totes
- Daily trip level reports are due weekly on Sundays by 11:59 pm through LEEDS

NONCOMMERCIAL HARVEST FISHERY CONTROLS

New for FY2021, the noncommercial harvesting season for menhaden is May 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

- Fishing may occur seven days a week
- Daily limit is 1,050 lbs or 3 barrels
- Gear options include bait gillnets, hand seines, cast nets
- Daily trip level reports are due weekly on Sundays by 11:59 pm through LEEDS

For additional information on how to report [electronically online through LEEDS](#), there are several how-to's created to provide detailed instruction for [reporting a negative report](#) (or did not fish) and [reporting a positive landing report](#) for menhaden.

Similar to last season, harvesters with federal permits should report landings through [FISH ONLINE](#).

Note: If you did not go fishing, or went fishing and had no landings, you still need to complete a daily report stating "DID NOT FISH".

Questions on Reporting: Rob.Watts@maine.gov or 207-633-9412

Questions on Operations: Division 1 [Lieutenant Daniel White](#) - 633-9596, 592-1260 (cell); Division 2 [Lieutenant Troy Dow](#)- 664-2393. To find contact information for your local officer: [Marine Patrol Contact List](#)

Questions on Management: Melissa.Smith@maine.gov or 207-441-5040

- [MAPA 4 Chapter 41 Menhaden 2021 Commercial Harvest Rules WEB.pdf](#)