

**R.I. Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations  
PART XVI - MENHADEN REGULATIONS**

16.3 Landing of Menhaden in RI Under State Quota Program – A total annual statewide quota for menhaden is hereby established. It shall be the most recent allocation as established for the State by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). The quota shall pertain solely to landings of menhaden in RI. The quota shall not pertain to the possession of menhaden in RI waters prior to landing. The quota may only be harvested and landed by fishermen licensed and vessels duly authorized in accordance with the provisions of Title 20 of the General Laws and in accordance with all rules and regulations promulgated by the Department of Environmental Management. The State’s menhaden quota will be managed as follows:

16.3.1 -- The landing limit for menhaden in RI will be unlimited until the quota has been reached, as determined by the Division. Once the quota has been reached: (i) the landing limit will be zero for vessels associated with directed fisheries for menhaden, including but not limited to purse seine operations, and (ii) the landing limit will be 6,000 pounds per vessel per day for all vessels not associated with directed fisheries for menhaden.

16.3.2 – All commercial menhaden operations conducted in the Narragansett Bay Menhaden Management Area, prior to and after the State’s quota has been reached, are subject to the provisions of section 16.2.

16.4 – Episodic Event Set Aside Program –

(A) After the State’s quota has been reached, if RI is approved to participate in the Episodic Event Set Aside Program for Menhaden, as established by the ASMFC, the landing limit for menhaden will be 120,000 pounds per vessel per day for vessels associated with directed fisheries for menhaden, until the Set Aside has been exhausted, as determined by the ASMFC and/or the Division, at which time the program will end and the directed fishery will close. Vessels who target and land menhaden in RI under this program must harvest only from RI waters and, if operating in the Narragansett Bay Menhaden Management Area, must adhere to all of the provisions governing the Narragansett Bay Menhaden Management Area, as set forth in section 16.2.

(B) Reporting Requirements -- Any commercial fisher intending to target menhaden under the Episodic Event Set Aside Program for Menhaden must notify the DEM Division of Law Enforcement (DLE) at (401) 222-3070 prior to taking or coming into possession of menhaden. At the time that a fisher advises the DLE of his/her intent to harvest menhaden, the DLE shall notify said fisher of any modification to the possession limit for menhaden that is applicable to operations conducted in the Narragansett Bay Menhaden Management Area.

Each said fisher shall also contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife at (401) 423-1940 at the end of each daily trip or within four hours thereof to report the amount of menhaden landed by the fisher in pounds. These menhaden-specific reporting requirements are in addition to all other existing commercial fishing reporting requirements as set forth in the RI Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations.

(C) Vessels not associated with directed fisheries for menhaden may continue to harvest and land in RI up to 6,000 pounds per vessel per day as bycatch. Such vessels are not subject to the provisions of sub-sections 16.3.2(A) and (B), but are subject to the provisions of section 16.2 with regard to operations conducted in the Narragansett Bay Menhaden Management Area, and are subject to all existing commercial fishing reporting requirements as set forth in the RI Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations.

16.5 – No fisher may transfer or attempt to transfer menhaden to another fisher.