



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Marine Resources Commission
Building 96
380 Fenwick Road
Fort Monroe, VA 23651

Justin D. Worrell
Acting Commissioner

June 10, 2022

TO: ATLANTIC MENHADEN BUYERS AND HARVESTERS

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

**RE: CLOSURE OF THE COMMERCIAL NON-PURSE SEINE MENHADEN
BAIT FISHERY SECTOR**

Effective 6:00 P.M., Friday, June 17, 2022, the commercial non-purse seine menhaden bait fishery will close. This sector includes cast net, dredge, fyke net, gill net, pound net, haul seine and trawl. Based on landing reports from mandatory harvest reporting, it is projected that Virginia will have caught 100% of the 5,289,548 pounds of the commercial non-purse seine menhaden bait sector quota, by the above date and time.

As provided in Chapter 4 VAC20-1270-10 et seq. "Pertaining to Atlantic Menhaden", the commissioner shall announce the date of closure when the total allowable commercial landings for the non-purse seine menhaden bait sector is projected to be taken.

Beginning at 6:01 P.M., Friday June 17, 2022, any person licensed in the non-purse seine menhaden bait sector may possess and land up to 6,000 pounds of menhaden per calendar day as bycatch. Any two persons licensed in the non-purse seine menhaden bait sector may possess and land up to 12,000 pounds of menhaden bycatch when working together from the same vessel using a stationary multi-species gear (pound nets, anchored/staked gill nets, and fyke nets) per the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission incidental catch provision.

All landings of menhaden must be reported according to the schedule and reporting requirements established by Chapter 4 VAC 20-610-10 et seq., "Pertaining to Commercial Fishing and Mandatory Harvest Reporting".

If you have any questions or comments please contact Jill Ramsey at:
Jill.Ramsey@mrc.virginia.gov or (757) 247-2243.

An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat

www.mrc.virginia.gov

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