Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Atlantic Menhaden Management Board

FROM: James Boyle, FMP Coordinator

DATE: October 27, 2026

SUBJECT: **Update on Recent Menhaden Fishery Performance**

This memorandum serves as a review of recent (2018-2025) landings information relative to commercial allocations and quota transfers. The information is provided to aid the Board in revisiting the quota allocations established in Addendum I to Amendment 3 to the Atlantic Menhaden Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

Overview of Amendment 3 Quota Allocations

Addendum I to Amendment 3, approved in November 2022 and implemented for the 2023 fishing year, established new commercial quota allocations to manage the annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC). Each jurisdiction is allocated a fixed minimum quota with Pennsylvania receiving 0.01%; South Carolina, Georgia, Connecticut, Delaware, North Carolina, and Florida receiving 0.25%; and the remaining states continuing to receive a minimum of 0.5%. The remainder of the TAC, excluding the 1% for episodic events in the states of New York through Maine under the Episodic Event Set Aside (EESA) Program, is allocated based on landings from 2018, 2019, and 2021. On an annual basis, jurisdictions have the option to relinquish part of or all of their fixed minimum quota by December 1st of the preceding fishing year. Any quota relinquished by a jurisdiction is redistributed to other jurisdictions that have not relinquished their quota, based on landings data from 2018, 2019, and 2021. Any overage of quota allocation is determined based on final allocations (inclusive of transfers) and the overage amount is subtracted for that jurisdiction's quota allocation in the subsequent year on a pound-for-pound basis. Quota allocations are to be revisited every three years following implementation of Amendment 3 (2018).

Summary of Recent Landings Trends

Table 1 shows each jurisdiction's total landings as a percentage of the annual coastwide total. Total Landings data from 2018-2025 are included to show trends before and after the implementation of Addendum I. Total landings include directed bait and reduction landings, incidental catch/small-scale fisheries (IC/SSF) landings, and landings occurring under the EESA Program. Total landings may encompass more than a jurisdiction is allocated in a given year due to quota transfers, episodic landings or incidental catch. For these same reasons, annual landing percentages higher than Addendum I allocations do not necessarily indicate a quota overage. Since the implementation of the Addendum, the TAC has not been exceeded. The EESA Program has been in place since the 2013 fishing year and landings under this program

have changed in volume and distribution. Since 2023, Maine was the only jurisdiction to opt into the EESA program every year (Massachusetts opted into the program in 2025). While IC/SSF landings increased annually from 2018-2022, peaking at about 18 million pounds, there have been no reported landings under this provision since the implementation of Addendum I in 2023.

Table 1. Jurisdiction total landings as a percentage of coastwide landings, 2018-2025. Total landings include directed bait and reduction landings, incidental catch, and harvest under EESA. Amendment 3 allocations were implemented beginning in 2018, and Addendum I allocations were implemented in 2023. To protect confidentiality, information for New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Georgia have been removed.

Jurisdiction	Amendment 3 Directed Landings Allocations (%)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Addendum I Directed Landings Allocations (%)	2023	2024	2025
Maine	0.52%	3.48%	4.91%	6.33%	5.12%	5.99%	4.80%	7.96%	6.60%	9.95%
New Hampshire	0.50%		0.99%		1.12%	1.16%	1.19%	1.19%		2.05%
Massachusetts	1.27%	1.35%	1.51%	2.17%	2.31%	2.42%	2.12%	0.81%	3.01%	3.76%
Rhode Island	0.52%	0.17%	0.01%	0.05%	0.83%	0.14%	0.81%	0.04%	0.46%	0.11%
Connecticut	0.52%	0.20%	0.02%	0.03%	0.04%	0.07%	0.33%	0.05%	0.01%	0.02%
New York	0.69%	0.22%	0.31%	1.00%	0.75%	0.27%	0.84%	0.18%	0.28%	0.23%
New Jersey	10.87%	11.95%	10.95%	12.27%	10.62%	10.89%	11.00%	11.11%	11.72%	14.70%
Pennsylvania	0.50%						0.01%			
Delaware	0.51%	0.04%	0.02%	0.04%	0.01%	0.01%	0.27%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%
Maryland	1.89%	0.74%	0.73%	0.64%	0.65%	0.78%	1.17%	0.54%	0.25%	0.14%
PRFC	1.07%	0.79%	0.51%	0.54%	0.59%	0.83%	1.09%	0.56%	0.17%	0.05%
Virginia	78.66%	80.79%	79.86%	75.70%	77.84%	77.27%	75.21%	77.28%	76.78%	68.82%
North Carolina	0.96%	0.17%	0.12%	0.15%	0.10%	0.13%	0.37%	0.22%	0.09%	0.14%
South Carolina	0.50%						0.25%			
Georgia	0.50%						0.25%			
Florida	0.52%	0.06%	0.05%	0.06%	0.03%	0.04%	0.29%	0.04%	0.01%	0.01%
Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Figure 1 shows each jurisdiction's directed landings as a percentage of their base quota from 2018-2025 and then just from 2023-2025 to see the period after Addendum I's implementation. Since the base quota does not include quota transfers or redistributed relinquished quota, values over 100% do not necessarily indicate an overage. Additionally, directed landings do not include landings under the EESA or IC/SSF provisions.

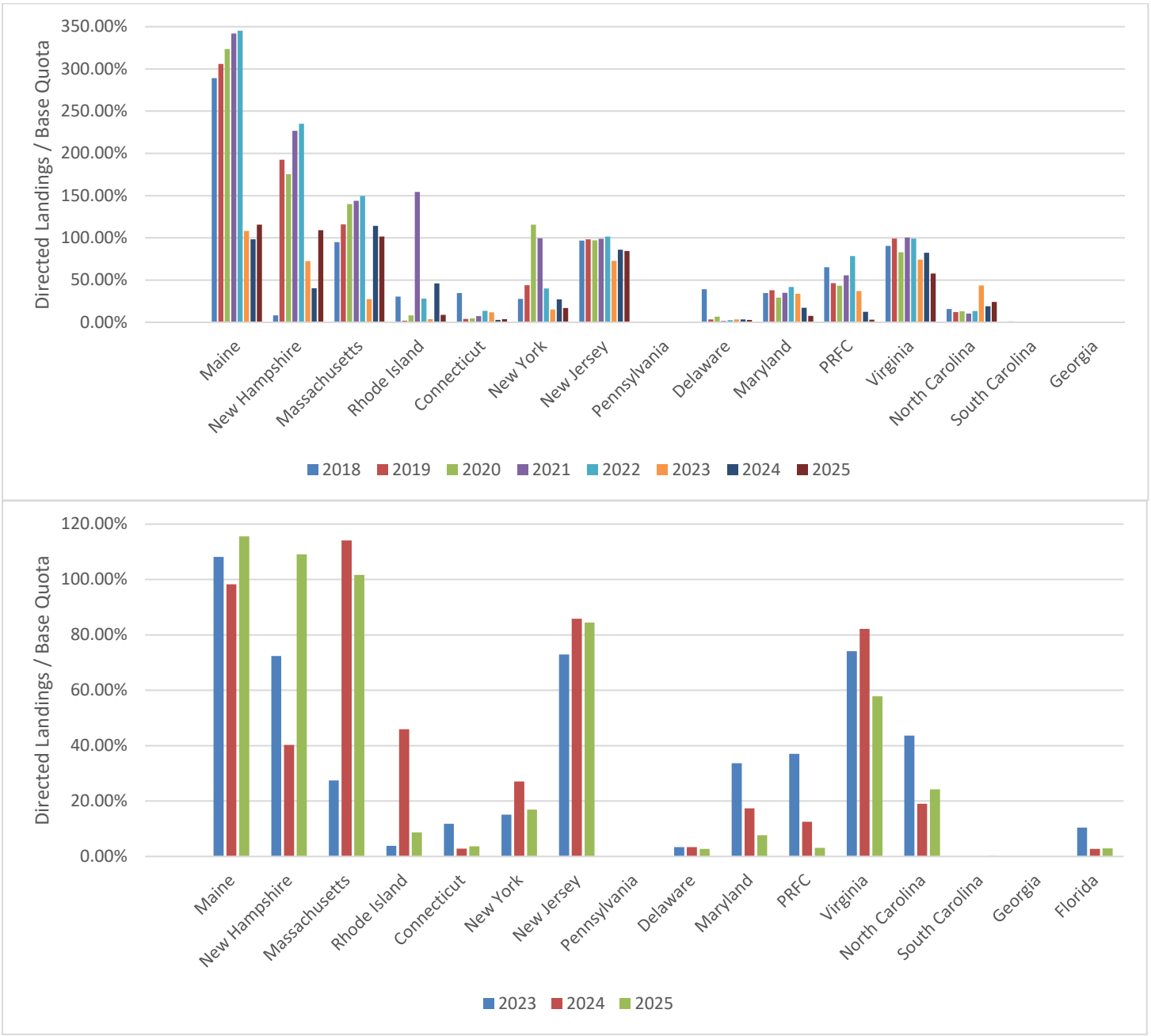

Figure 1. Directed landings as a percentage of base quota by jurisdiction for 2018-2025 (above) and 2023-2025 (below).

Prior to Addendum I, Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire were consistently harvesting above their base quotas through quota transfers, and in 2022, New Jersey also exceeded its directed quota. Since 2023, Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts all harvested above their base quotas for at least one year, including all 3 states in 2025, but no jurisdiction has harvested above their base quota for all 3 years.

Quota Transfers

Table 2 outlines quota transfers from 2018-2025. Not every jurisdiction transferred quota consistently; only Maine either gave or received quota every year from 2018-2025. Prior to Addendum I, the only jurisdictions to have a net increase in quota through transfers were Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. After Addendum I, Maine, Massachusetts, and Virginia had a net increase in quota through transfers. In 2020 and 2021 there were a total of 16 state-to-state quota transfers, which then increased to 24 in 2022. Since then, there were 5 quota transfers in 2023, 3 quota transfers in 2024, and 7 quota transfers in 2025.

Table 2. Quota transfers in pounds by jurisdiction for 2018-2025.

Jurisdiction	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Pre-Addendum I Total	Pre-Addendum I Average	2023	2024	2025	Post-Addendum I Total	Post-Addendum I Average
Maine	5,400,000	6,573,592	5,450,000	5,437,698	5,380,000	**28,241,290**	**5,648,258**	1,150,000	2,000,000	3,250,000	**6,400,000**	**2,133,333**
New Hampshire	0	3,373,592	2,300,000	2,686,318	3,070,000	**11,429,910**	**2,285,982**	0	-2,000,000	1,000,000	**-1,000,000**	**-333,333**
Massachusetts	0	1,300,000	2,350,000	2,492,791	3,020,000	**9,162,791**	**1,832,558**	-100,000	1,700,000	160,000	**1,760,000**	**586,667**
Rhode Island	0	-400,000	-1,800,000	1,240,675	-1,460,000	**-2,419,325**	**-483,865**	-300,000	-500,000	-410,000	**-1,210,000**	**-403,333**
Connecticut	-500,000	-2,400,000	-2,000,000	-2,000,000	-2,110,000	**-9,010,000**	**-1,802,000**	-750,000	0	-1,500,000	**-2,250,000**	**-750,000**
New York	-1,000,000	-1,900,000	500,000	0	0	**-2,400,000**	**-480,000**	0	0	-1,000,000	**-1,000,000**	**-333,333**
New Jersey	0	0	0	275,000	1,850,000	**2,125,000**	**425,000**	0	0	0	**0**	**0**
Pennsylvania	0	0	-500,000	-1,086,318	-1,300,000	**-2,886,318**	**-577,264**	0	0	0	**0**	**0**
Delaware	-150,000	0	-100,000	0	-870,000	**-1,120,000**	**-224,000**	0	0	0	**0**	**0**
Maryland	-1,500,000	-1,000,000	-1,350,000	-1,000,000	-2,500,000	**-7,350,000**	**-1,470,000**	0	0	-1,000,000	**-1,000,000**	**-333,333**
PRFC	0	0	0	-900,000	-1,000,000	**-1,900,000**	**-380,000**	-1,992,297	0	0	**-1,992,297**	**-664,099**
Virginia	-1,000,000	-1,000,000	0	0	4,310,000	**2,310,000**	**462,000**	1,992,297	0	0	**1,992,297**	**664,099**
North Carolina	0	-600,000	-1,800,000	-2,000,000	-2,950,000	**-7,350,000**	**-1,470,000**	0	0	-500,000	**-500,000**	**-166,667**
South Carolina	0	-2,347,184	-1,650,000	-1,775,000	-2,120,000	**-7,892,184**	**-1,578,437**	0	-700,000	0	**-700,000**	**-233,333**
Georgia	0	0	0	-1,971,164	-2,000,000	**-3,971,164**	**-794,233**	0	-500,000	0	**-500,000**	**-166,667**
Florida	-1,250,000	-1,600,000	-1,400,000	-1,400,000	-1,320,000	**-6,970,000**	**-1,394,000**	0	0	0	**0**	**0**