



Status of the 2025 Gulf Menhaden Fishery

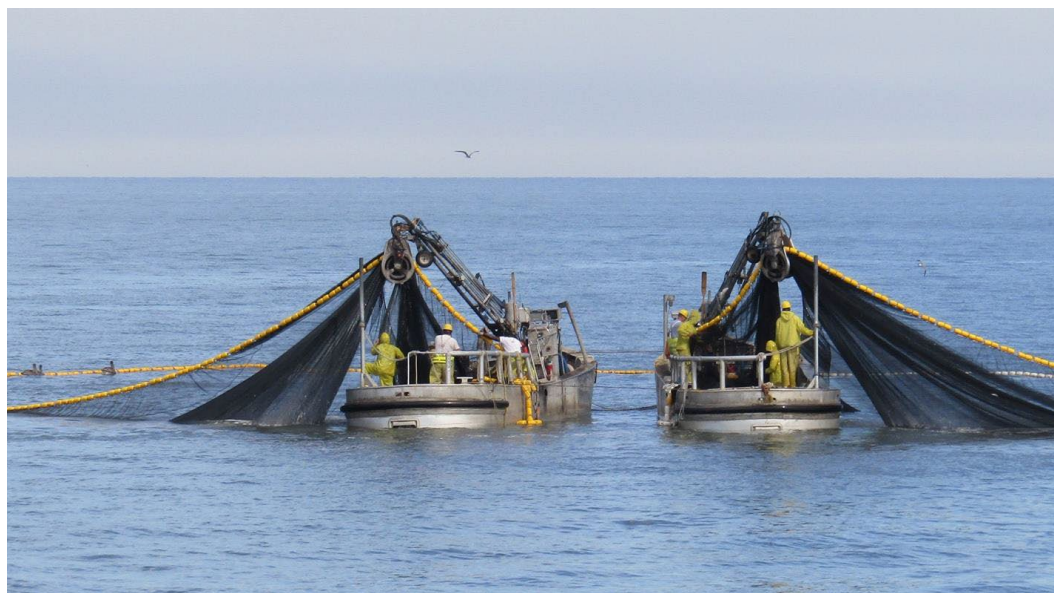
**Menhaden Advisory Committee
GSMFC Fall Meeting
Biloxi, MS – Oct 28, 2025**

**Steve VanderKooy
Gulf States Marine
Fisheries Commission**



Landings through Sept 2025

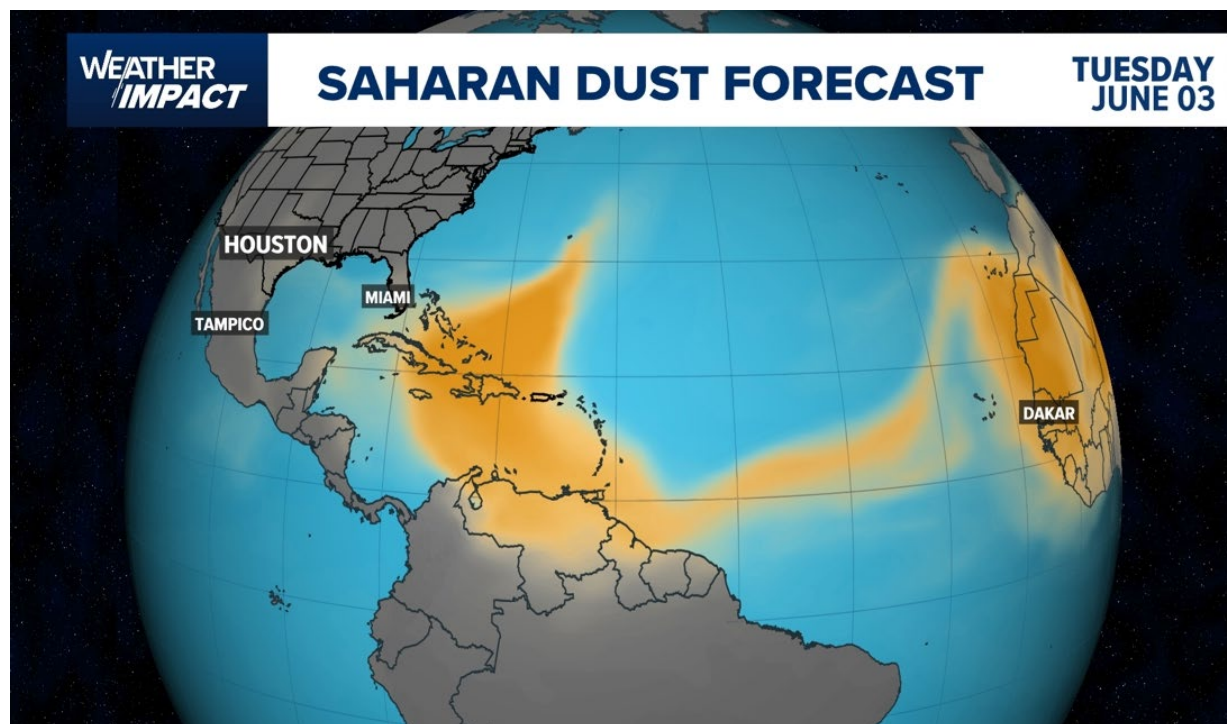
- 412,572 metric tons or 1,357 million standard fish
 - Up 8% over 2024 for equivalent time (335,551 mt)
 - Down 5% from the previous five year average (435,014 mt)





2025 Gulf Menhaden Season

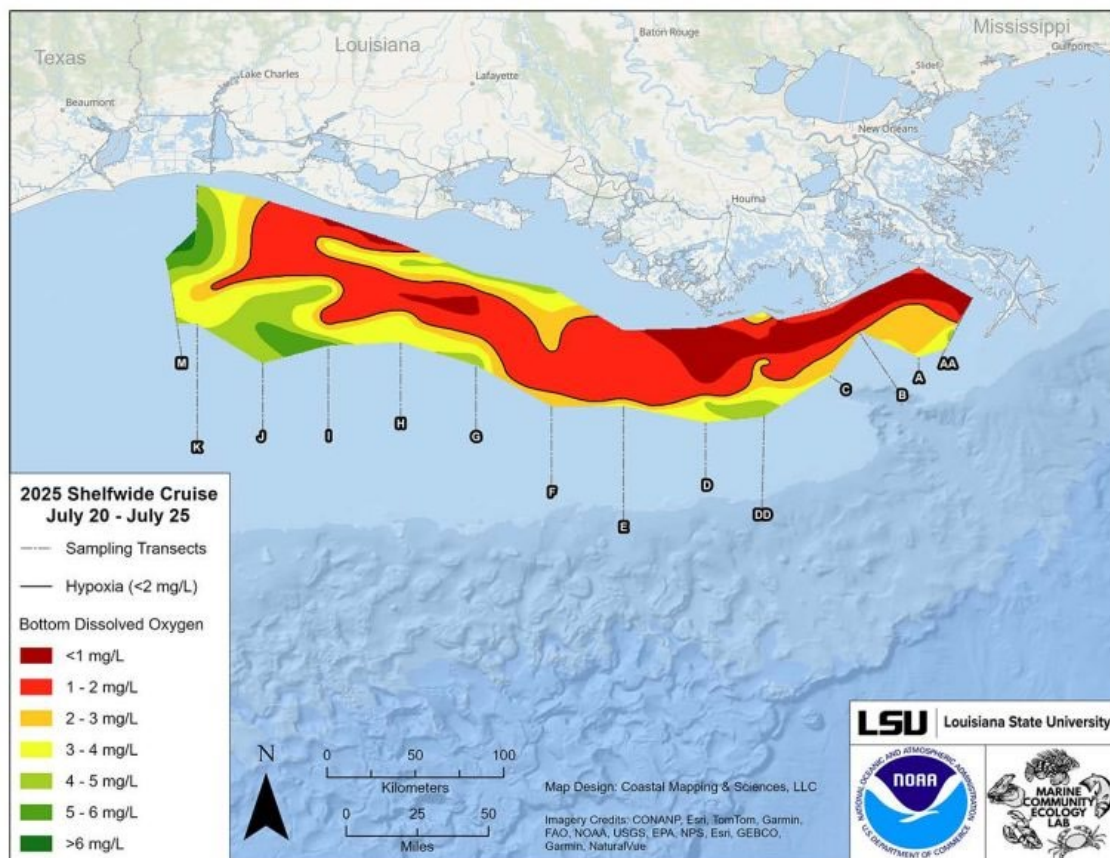
- In May, NOAA forecasted a higher than average hurricane season with 13-19 named storms of which 6-10 could become hurricanes including 3-5 major hurricanes.
- A number of high pressure systems and Saharan dust reduced much of the activity through August.





2025 Gulf Menhaden Season

- In June, NOAA forecasted the Gulf dead zone to be average-sized, covering approximately 5,574 square miles.
- In July, measurement of the dead zone was estimated at only 4,402 square miles, the 15th smallest zone on record in 39 years of measurement.





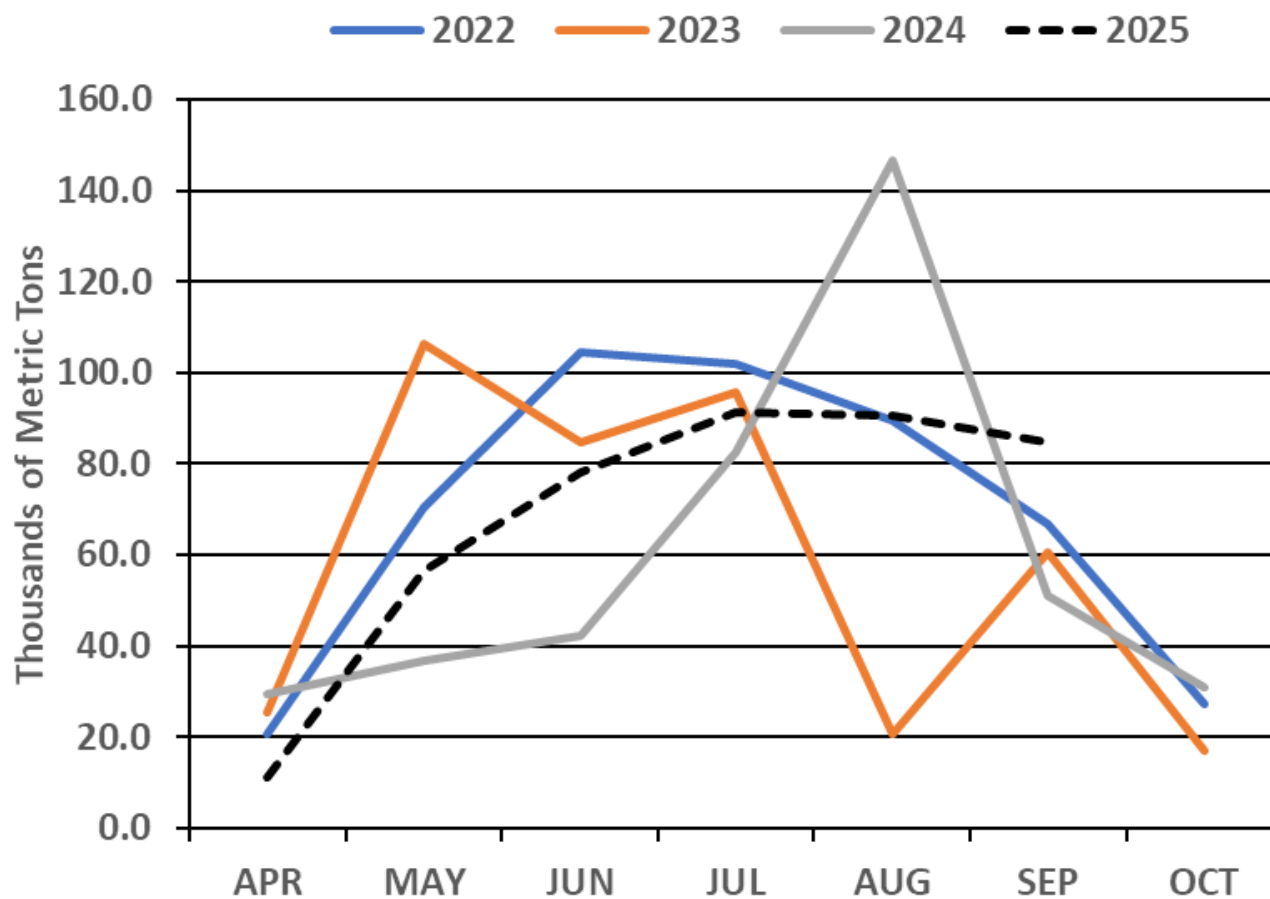
2025 Landings by Month

APR	11,144
MAY	56,577
JUN	78,202
JUL	91,232
AUG	90,594
SEP	84,822
OCT	-
TOTAL	412,572 mt





2025 Landings by Month





2025 – Vessel Participation

- 33 vessels participating in 2025
 - 27 vessels actively fishing
 - 6 run boats





Age Composition at Gulf Ports for 2025

None of the 2025 samples have been analyzed yet





2025 Projected Total Landings

Reported landings through August 2025	327,750
Mean landings for Sept-Nov (2022-2024)	84,519
2025 Projected Landings	412,269

- Decrease of 1.7% from 2024 (419,244 mt)
- Decrease of 1.1% from 5-year Average (416,711 mt)



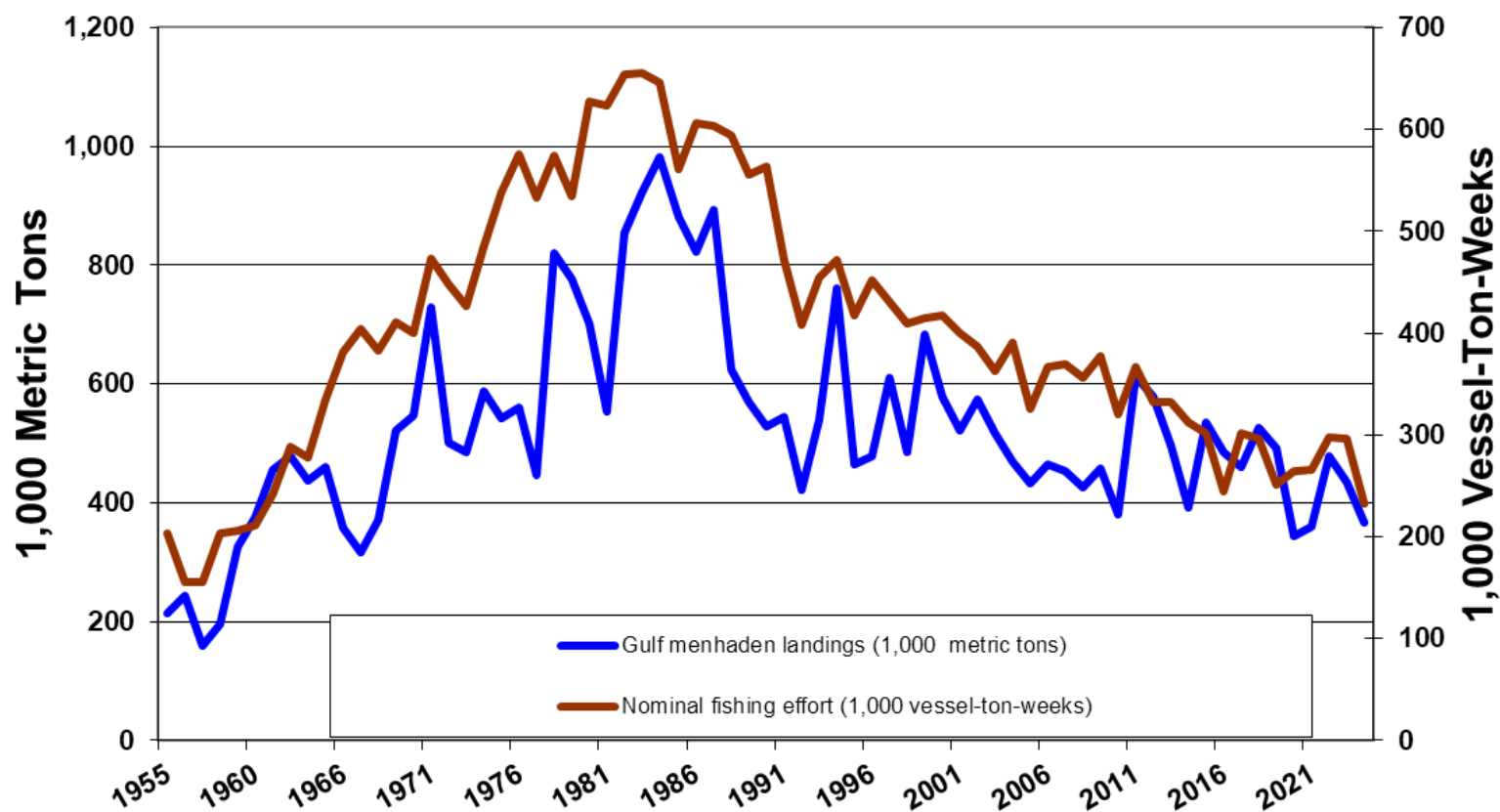
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- Decrease of 1.7% from 2024 (419,244 mt)
- Decrease of 1.1% from 5-year Average (416,711 mt)
- **Adding in October 2024 landings (8,129), total for 2025 may be $\approx$ 420,701 mt**

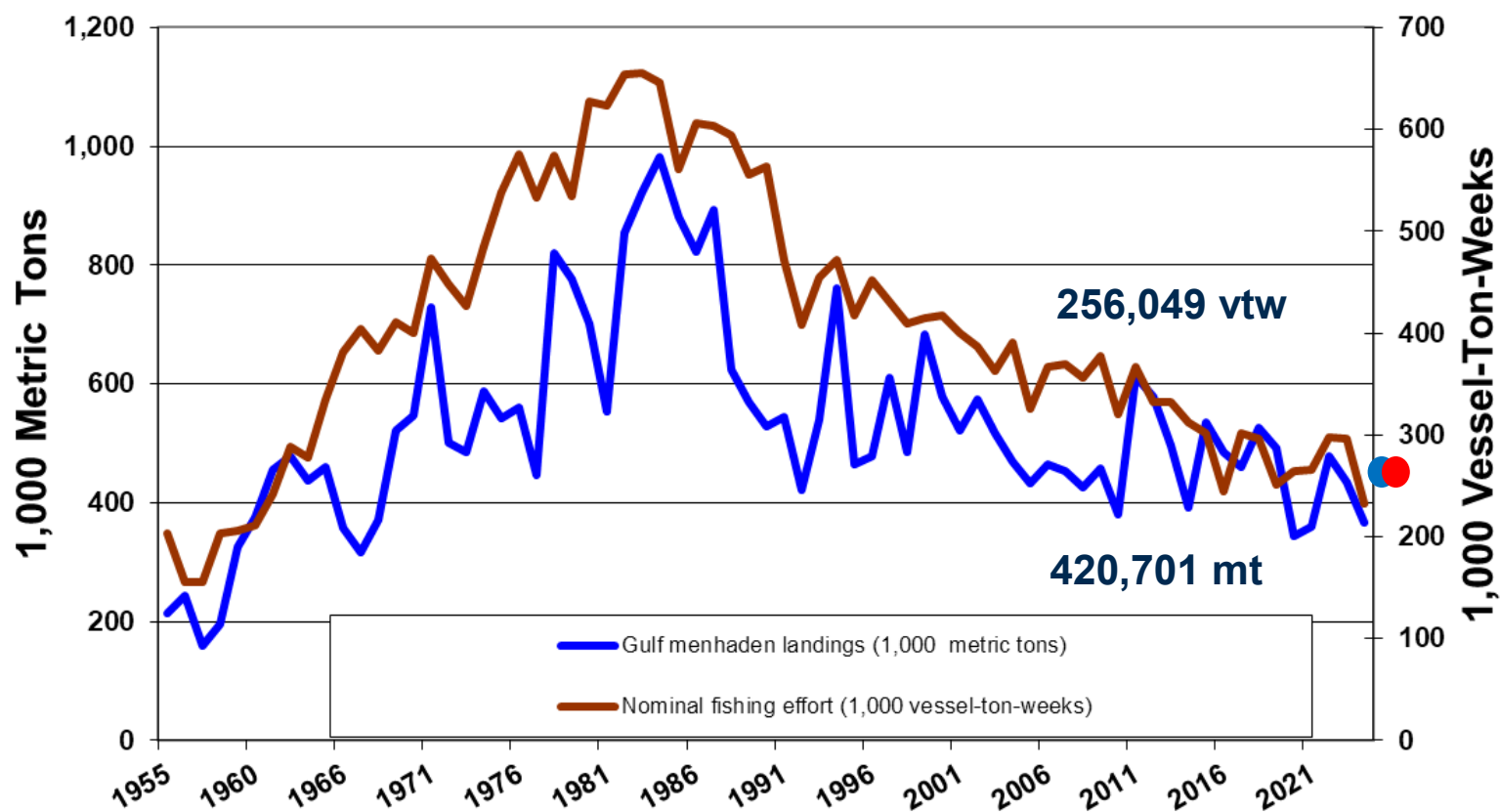


Historical Landings and Nominal Fishing Effort through 2024





Historical Landings and Nominal Fishing Effort through 2024





October 2024's Preliminary 2025 Forecast

- **NOAA Assumed:**

- Projected 2024 landings ~
366,720 mt
- 2024 nominal fishing effort
~232,528 v-t-wks

- 2025 nominal fishing effort estimate of ~282,200 v-t-wks

- Preliminary Forecast for 2025 ~382,402 mt

❖ Fleet exceeding NOAA forecast – +8% in Sept, +10% for 2025

Interjurisdiction Fisheries Program



Questions?



2025 Port Sampling

At the end of September, 616 samples have been completed or in the works of the target 900.

- Moss Point = 266
- Empire = 191 (+ 43 frozen)
- Abbeville = 116

Samplers are continuing to pick up samples from the plants through the end of the season.