



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

## NEWS RELEASE

ASMFC Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

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### ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Board Sets 2015 and 2016 TAC at 187,880 MT & Initiates Amendment to Establish Ecological Reference Points

Alexandria, VA – The Commission’s Atlantic Menhaden Management Board approved a total allowable catch (TAC) for the 2015 and 2016 fishing seasons at 187,880 mt per year, a 10% increase from the 2014 TAC. The increase responds to the positive findings of the 2015 Atlantic menhaden benchmark assessment which indicates the resource is not overfished nor experiencing overfishing relative to the current biological reference points. The TAC will be made available to the states/jurisdictions based on the state-by-state allocation established by Amendment 2 (see accompanying table). The Board also committed to moving forward with the development of an amendment to establish ecological based reference points that reflect Atlantic menhaden’s role as a forage species. The amendment will also consider changes to the current state-by-state allocation scheme.

“The Board struck an important balance by increasing fishing opportunities to both the reduction and bait fisheries and committing to fully evaluating the ecological role of Atlantic menhaden through the amendment process,” stated Board Chair Robert Boyles from South Carolina.

The Board has established a working group to aid in the development of issues to be addressed in the Public Information Document (PID) and draft amendment. The Board will meet later this year to review the working group’s progress. The PID is the first step in the Commission’s amendment process. It will gather information concerning the Atlantic menhaden fishery and resource and provide an opportunity for the public to identify and comment on major issues relative to the management of this species. For more information, please contact Mike Waine, Senior Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at [mwaine@asmfc.org](mailto:mwaine@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740. PR15-15

2015 ATLANTIC MENHADEN QUOTAS*		
STATE	QUOTA (MT)	QUOTA (LBS)
ME	73.24	161,466
NH	0.06	123
MA	1,559.74	3,438,630
RI	33.32	73,457
CT	32.45	71,537
NY	103.13	227,365
NJ	20,816.87	45,893,335
DE	24.56	54,153
MD	2,553.08	5,628,568
PRFC	1,154.66	2,545,595
VA	158,700.12	349,873,884
NC	916.55	2,020,645
SC	-	-
GA	-	-
FL	33.43	73,695
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>186,001.20</b>	<b>410,062,453</b>

\*Quotas may be adjusted pending final 2014 landings.  
Total landings after 1% set-aside for episodic events.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.