



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

## NEWS RELEASE

ASMFC Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger  
703.842.0740

### ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Board Sets 2017 TAC at 200,000 MT & Approves Draft Amendment 3 Public Information Document for Public Comment

Bar Harbor, ME – The Commission’s Atlantic Menhaden Management Board approved a total allowable catch (TAC) for the 2017 fishing season of 200,000 mt, a 6.45% increase from the 2016 TAC. According to Technical Committee analysis this increase has a zero percent probability of resulting in overfishing. The TAC will be made available to the states/jurisdictions based on the state-by-state allocation established by Amendment 2 (see accompanying table).

“Given the healthy condition of the resource, this modest increase provides additional fishing opportunities while the Board proceeds with the development of Draft Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan.” stated Board Chair Robert Ballou from Rhode Island.

Additionally, the Board approved the Public Information Document (PID) for Draft Amendment 3 for public comment. As the first step in the amendment process, the PID provides stakeholders with an opportunity to inform the Commission about changes observed in the fishery and provide feedback on potential management measures as well as any additional issues that should be included in the Draft Amendment. Specifically, the PID presents a suite of tools to manage the menhaden resource using ecological reference points as well as options to allocate the resource among the states, regions, and user groups.

The PID will be available on the Commission website, [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org), early next week. It is anticipated that the majority of states will be conducting public hearings over the next couple months. A subsequent press release to provide the details of those hearings. For more information, please contact Megan Ware, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at [mware@asmfc.org](mailto:mware@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

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| 2017 ATLANTIC MENHADEN QUOTAS* |                |                    |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| STATE                          | QUOTA (MT)     | QUOTA (LBS)        |
| ME                             | 77.96          | 171,882            |
| NH                             | 0.06           | 131                |
| MA                             | 1,660.35       | 3,660,454          |
| RI                             | 35.47          | 78,195             |
| CT                             | 34.54          | 76,152             |
| NY                             | 109.78         | 242,032            |
| NJ                             | 22,159.75      | 48,853,880         |
| DE                             | 26.15          | 57,646             |
| MD                             | 2,717.77       | 5,991,662          |
| PRFC                           | 1,229.15       | 2,709,809          |
| VA                             | 168,937.75     | 372,443,990        |
| NC                             | 975.68         | 2,150,995          |
| SC                             | -              | -                  |
| GA                             | -              | -                  |
| FL                             | 35.58          | 78,449             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                   | <b>200,000</b> | <b>440,924,524</b> |

\*Quotas may be adjusted pending final 2016 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.