Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

ISFMP Policy Board

January 25, 2024
8:30 – 10:30 am
Hybrid Meeting

Draft Agenda

The times listed are approximate; the order in which these items will be taken is subject to change; other items may be added as necessary.

1.	Welcome/Call to Order *(J. Cimino)*	8:30 a.m.
2.	Board Consent *(J. Cimino)* • Approval of Agenda • Approval of Proceedings from October 2023	8:30 a.m.
3.	Public Comment	8:35 a.m.
4.	Executive Committee Report (*J. Cimino*) **Action**	8:45 a.m.
5.	Review and Discuss 2023 Commissioner Survey Results (*A. Law*)	9:00 a.m.
6.	Consider Jurisdiction Requests for Species Declared Interest **Final Action**	9:15 a.m.
7.	Discuss Aquaculture in the Exclusive Economic Zone (*D. Blacklock*)	9:25 a.m.
8.	Review NOAA Fisheries White Paper for an Industry-Based Survey (*K. Ford*)	9:55 a.m.
9.	Review Noncompliance Findings (If Necessary) **Action**	10:20 a.m.
10.	Other Business	10:25 a.m.
11.	Adjourn	10:30 a.m.

The meeting will be held at The Westin Crystal City (1800 Richmond Highway, Arlington, VA; 703.486.1111) and via webinar; click here for details

MEETING OVERVIEW

ISFMP Policy Board
Thursday January 25, 2024
8:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Webinar

Chair: Joe Cimino (NJ) Assumed Chairmanship: 10/23	Vice Chair: Dan McKiernan (MA)	Previous Board Meetings: October 19, 2023
Voting Members: ME, NH, MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, DC, PRFC, VA, NC, SC, GA, FL, NMFS, USFWS (19 votes)		

2. Board Consent

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Proceedings from October 19, 2023

3. Public Comment – At the beginning of the meeting public comment will be taken on items not on the agenda. Individuals that wish to speak at this time must sign-in at the beginning of the meeting. For agenda items that have already gone out for public hearing and/or have had a public comment period that has closed, the Board Chair may determine that additional public comment will not provide additional information. In this circumstance the Chair will not allow additional public comment on an issue. For agenda items that the public has not had a chance to provide input, the Board Chair may allow limited opportunity for comment. The Board Chair has the discretion to limit the number of speakers and/or the length of each comment.

4. Executive Committee Report (8:45- 9:00 a.m.) Action
Background • The Executive Committee will meet on February 1, 2023 • The Legislative committee is considering draft a letter of support for establishing a federal working waterfront grant program. Rep. Pingree and Sen. Collins have introduced two bills (**H.R. 6641** and **S. 3180** respectively) that would do this, but they differ in sections.
Presentations • J. Cimino will provide an update of the Executive Committee's work • A. Law will present the draft letter on federal working waterfronts grant program
Board action for consideration at this meeting • Consider approval of the federal working waterfronts grant program letter

5. Review and Discuss 2022 Commissioner Survey Results (9:00-9:15 a.m.)

Background

- Commissioners completed a survey of Commission performance in 2023 (**Meeting Materials**). The survey measures Commissioner's opinions regarding the progress and actions of the Commission in 2023.

Presentations

- A. Law will present the results of the 2023 Commissioner survey highlighting significant changes from the previous year.

Board discussion for consideration at this meeting

- Determine if any action is required based on the survey results

6. Consider Jurisdiction Requests for Species Declared Interest (9:15-9:25 a.m.) Final Action

Background

- The Commission's Rules and Regulations specify the process for a jurisdiction to declare an interest in a fishery.
- New York has requested to declare into the Atlantic Migratory Group (AMG) Cobia Fishery (**Meeting Materials**)

Presentations

- Staff will present changes to the species declared interest

Board action for consideration at this meeting

- Consider approving New York's request to declare into the AMG Cobia fishery

7. Discuss Aquaculture in the Exclusive Economic Zone (9:25-9:55 a.m.)

Background

- NOAA's Office of Aquaculture is seeking opportunities to expand US aquaculture that aligns with its 2011 Aquaculture Policy

Presentations

- D. Blacklock will present an update from the Office of Aquaculture and discuss state involvement in increasing aquaculture in the EEZ (e.g. striped bass)

Board action for consideration at this meeting

- None

8. Review NOAA Fisheries White Paper for an Industry-Base Survey (9:55-10:20 a.m.)

Background

- The Commission, along with the Mid Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils, requested information on an industry-based survey that would be complementary to the NEFSC Spring and Autumn bottom trawl survey
- The NEFSC has written a white paper responding to the Councils and Commission's request (**Supplemental Materials**)

Presentations

- K. Ford will present and overview of the NEFSC white paper

Board action for consideration at this meeting

- None

9. Review Non-Compliance Findings, if Necessary Action

10. Other Business

11. Adjourn

Tina Berger

From: Janice Williams <jwilliams@co.northampton.va.us>
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2024 10:38 AM
To: info
Subject: [External] Menhaden Resolution Adopted by Northampton County, VA
Attachments: Menhaden Resolution (2).pdf

Supervisor John Coker has requested that I provide you with a copy of the resolution adopted on January 9, 2024, by the Northampton Board with regard to the industrial Atlantic Menhaden Fishing industry. It's attached.

Janice Williams
Deputy County Administrator
County of Northampton
P O Box 66
Eastville, VA 23347
757/678-0440 ext. 516

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVING THE COUNTY'S POSITION THAT INDUSTRIAL ATLANTIC MENHADEN FISHING SHOULD BE PROHIBITED WITHIN THE WATERS OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND THREE MILES OF ALL LANDS OF THE COMMONWEALTH AND REQUESTING THAT THE VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCE COMMISSION AND STATE AGENCIES LEGALLY ESTABLISH AND ENFORCE A PROHIBITION OF THE INDUSTRIAL ATLANTIC MENHADEN FISHERY WITHIN THE WATERS OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WITHIN THREE MILES OF ANY LANDS OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

WHEREAS, Atlantic menhaden are an ecologically essential keystone species of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem that support commercially and recreationally important fisheries, maintain water quality by filtering nutrients from the water, and provide essential nutrients for numerous species in the bay food chain; and

WHEREAS, industrial menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay negatively impacts Northampton County by reducing the stock of menhaden available to support important fisheries and wildlife, reducing the populations of recreational and commercial fish species caught in purse seine nets as by-catch, and reducing the population of predator species such as osprey, dolphins, sharks, humpback whales, striped bass, redfish, weakfish, and speckled trout, all of which contribute to the general and tourism economy of Northampton County; and

WHEREAS, industrial menhaden fishing operates on a tactical level where they use spotter airplanes that can quickly cover the entire Chesapeake Bay in a matter of hours, the planes then locate schools of menhaden by air, and then quickly dispatch their boat fleet to extract schools of menhaden from the Chesapeake Bay with purse seine nets. By design, these highly efficient industrial extraction methods cause localized depletion of Atlantic menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay and it is not known how long it may take the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem to recover from excessive depletion of biomass, and whether a full recovery is even possible; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources, Virginia Marine Resources Commission, and members of the Atlantic Menhaden Technical Committee of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission can not provide Northampton County scientific assurance that the spatial or seasonal stock of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is healthy, and the impact of localized depletion due to industrialized Atlantic menhaden fishing techniques in the Chesapeake Bay (VIMS et al. 2023); and

WHEREAS, both the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources published record low striped bass recruitment numbers for 2023, this is the fifth consecutive year of juvenile striped bass numbers being below the average and the second lowest striped bass index ever recorded since 1957 (MDNR et al. 2023, Small et al. 2023, VIMS et al. 2023); and

Whereas, research suggests industrial reduction menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay could be responsible for a decline in striped bass (Buchheister et al. 2017, TRCP et al. 2019). The Virginia Institute of Marine Science linked striped bass starvation to a decline of forage food in the Chesapeake Bay, and starvation as a cause for predisposing fish to Mycobacteriosis, locally referred to as fish wasting disease (Cardinal et al. 2001); and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science recorded industrial menhaden trawlers catching striped bass in their purse nets in the Chesapeake Bay, the average size of the striped bass caught by these industrial menhaden trawlers was over 34 inches, well above the 31 inches established by the ASMFC, suggesting that the striped bass being caught by industrial menhaden trawlers as by-catch are of size to be important breeders for striped bass recovery (Kirkley et al. 1995, ASMF et al. 2023); and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the Center for Conservation at the College of William and Mary published record low osprey chick recruitment numbers in the Chesapeake Bay, the lowest recruitment numbers since 1970 as a result of starvation, a reproduction number that is lower than what occurred at any time during the DDT era and a much lower rate than is sustainable for the Bay population of Osprey (Hafner et al. 2023); and

WHEREAS, industrial menhaden fishing has caused fish kills and fish spills that have impacted public beaches, private property, and public health in Northampton County; and

WHEREAS, industrial menhaden fishing adversely impacts the economic well-being of Northampton County by disrupting the health of our local commercial industry; and

WHEREAS, industrial menhaden fishing adversely impacts the economic well-being of Northampton County by disrupting our local sport fishing industry; and

WHEREAS, industrial menhaden fishing adversely impacts the economic well-being of Northampton County by disrupting our local tourism industry, due to the adverse effects of fish spills, fish kills, the persistent rotting odor of fish spills and fish kills, and reduced sport fishing; and

WHEREAS, all other states on the Atlantic Coast have removed industrial menhaden fishing from their bays and state waters, and have now recorded positive ecological and economic responses in doing so (Main et al. 2023); and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Northampton County Board of Supervisors, this 9th day of January, 2024, establishes the County's position that industrial

Atlantic menhaden reduction fishing should be prohibited within the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and three miles of all lands on the Commonwealth and requests that the Virginia Marine Resources Commission and state agencies legally establish and enforce a prohibition of the industrial Atlantic menhaden reduction fishery within the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and within three miles of any lands of the Commonwealth.

Northampton County Board of Supervisors

The undersigned Clerk of the Northampton County Board of Supervisors hereby certifies that the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Northampton County Board of Supervisors on January 9, 2024.

Clerk, Northampton County Board of Supervisors

From:	Debbie CAMPBELL
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] comment for ASFMC annual meeting
Date:	Tuesday, January 16, 2024 5:48:22 PM
Attachments:	image.png image.png image.png

Greetings. My name is Debbie Campbell and I am writing from my cottage at Silver Beach on the Eastern Shore of VA, in Northampton County.
You have received, and I trust read, the resolution unanimously passed by the Northampton County Board of Supervisors. Osprey and stripers are "canaries in the coal mine" for the Chesapeake when it comes to depletion of menhaden. My personal attempts to make the issue known dates back for many years. I have personally watched this story unfold since 2000. I have had the ships line up out in front of my cottage while a spotter buzzed my home, apparently in response to me taking pictures to document their activity and observe their netting and discharge through my telescope. I have watched as they applied for and received permission to change their radio frequency to obscure what spotter plane pilots were saying. Now they have proposed legislation via HB 928, which could be seen as an attempt make it easier to pursue bogus prosecutions "prosecution pursuant to this section ay be in either the county, city, or town in which the vessel is home ported. A prosecution under this section is a bar to a prosecution under SS 29.1-554.1." Again, foreign dominance trying to dictate US law and manipulate outcomes in their favor.
The science and evidence exists. The plight of Chesapeake Bay Osprey is chronicled in Frontiers of Science magazine article Demographic Response of Osprey Within the Lower Chesapeake Bay to Fluctuations in Menhaden Stock. I have seen with my own eyes the absence of menhaden in the bay and have reviewed the reports and fishing patterns that show the bay is in collapse while I watch the industrial ships relentlessly hunt down and remove entire schools, literally sucking the life out of the Chesapeake with their giant hoses, while our native fish and wildfowl starve. Every other state along the seaboard has banned this in their state waters, yet as a commission you continue to enable a foreign-owned company to deplete this keystone species in our state waters, and we and our community pay the price. Many of you live in states that already enjoy protections for your state waters. Do you think our precious Chesapeake should be shielded by the same protections?
Yes, this is a David and Goliath scenario with us little peon neighbors trying to raise awareness of the need to stop industrial reduction fishing by an international, vertically integrated company that controls its entire supply chain, including the menhaden in OUR Chesapeake Bay. Have you seen the political contributions to VA politicians that are split across the isle? We sure have. So, having worked on this issue in earnest, I hope that regulators like yourselves will finally intervene. Our county Board of Supervisors recently unanimously passed a resolution calling for a prohibition of industrial reduction fishing in VA state waters (attached). These public servants have seen the damage and destruction, including jobs lost, economic impact, and health implications. Based on past experiences, I haven't found ASMF to be very interested in public comments or allowing us to make a presentation to provide insight on the science that should be considered. It is my recollection that most non-Virginia members don't bother to vote on the menhaden catch for VA. As

commission members, I would argue that representatives from every state need to fully educate themselves on the matter and engage in the vote. I hope that you'll follow the cry for relief called by the Northampton County Board of Supervisor's resolution and prohibit reduction fishing in VA state waters. (the real state line, not the arbitrary one that's been drawn.
If you desire more information, I will be happy to arrange one-time use links for you to see the WS McKeever documentary film individually, in deference your own busy schedule. Please let me know if you would like to avail yourself of that opportunity. I am attaching the Resolution and one of the slides from the presentation for your ease of review and to underline the importance of the crisis in Northampton County.
I trust that if you review all the materials, you'll find it prudent to honor the request. Further, I'd appreciate confirmation by individual commission members that this has reached you and has been considered.
Blessings.
Debbie Campbell
7243 Kellam Dr.
Silver Beach
Exmore VA 23350

RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, industrial menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay negatively impacts Northampton County by reducing the stock of menhaden available to support important fisheries and wildlife, reducing the populations of recreational and commercial fish species caught in purse seine nets as by-catch, and reducing the population of predator species such as osprey, dolphins, sharks, humpback whales, striped bass, redfish, weakfish, and speckled trout, all of which contribute to the general and tourism economy of Northampton County; and

WHEREAS, industrial menhaden fishing operates on a tactical level where they use spotter airplanes that can quickly cover the entire Chesapeake Bay in a matter of hours, the planes then locate schools of menhaden by air, and then quickly dispatch their boat fleet to extract schools of menhaden from the Chesapeake Bay with purse seine nets. By design, these highly efficient industrial extraction methods cause localized depletion of Atlantic menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay and it is not known how long it may take the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem to recover from excessive depletion of biomass, and whether a full recovery is even possible; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources, Virginia Marine Resources

WHEREAS, the Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources, Virginia Marine Resources Commission, and members of the Atlantic Menhaden Technical Committee of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission can not provide Northampton County scientific assurance that the spatial or seasonal stock of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is healthy, and the impact of localized depletion due to industrialized Atlantic menhaden fishing techniques in the Chesapeake Bay (VIMS et al. 2023); and

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WHEREAS, industrial menhaden fishing adversely impacts the economic well-being of Northampton County by disrupting our local tourism industry, due to the adverse effects of fish spills, fish kills, the persistent rotting odor of fish spills and fish kills, and reduced sport fishing; and

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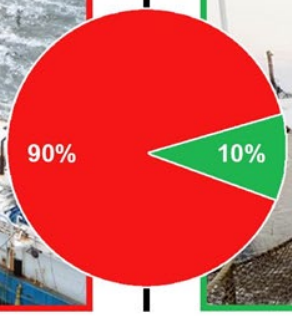
Northampton County Board of Supervisors

The undersigned Clerk of the Northampton County Board of Supervisors hereby certifies that the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Northampton County Board of Supervisors on January 9, 2024.

Clerk, Northampton County Board of Supervisors

Industrial Menhaden Reduction Fishery

Large industrial fishing process that uses spotter airplanes, big vessels, and purse seine nets to catch giant quantities of Atlantic menhaden that are brought to a factory and reduced into pelleted fish meal or oils.
Recognized as foreign-owned industrial reduction fisheries that primarily export to non-local economies and processed food systems outside of the Chesapeake Bay
90% of 2023 Virginia Quota ~ 101M lbs



Commercial Menhaden Bait Fishery

Smaller-scale fishing process that uses boats, purse seine nets, pound nets, and gill nets to catch smaller quantities of Atlantic menhaden that are used as bait for crabbing and fishing.
Recognized as locally-owned sustainable commercial bait fisheries that sell to the local economies and redistribute to the food system of the Chesapeake Bay.
10% of 2023 Virginia Quota ~ 11M lbs

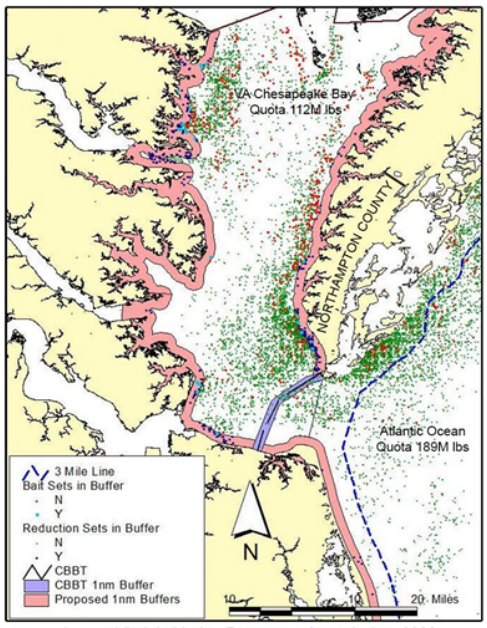


Image: Virginia Marine Resources Commission, 2022
Locations of bait sets 2018-2022 and Locations of reduction sets 2016-2020

More reduction menhaden nets are set near Northampton County than any other county in the state of Virginia.

The Northampton County Industrial Menhaden Resolution seeks to have all menhaden reduction fishing moved east of the 3 mile line and into federal waters.

Goals of resolution:

- Relieve Northampton County and the Chesapeake Bay from industrial menhaden fishing pressure, concentrated industrial extraction, and localized menhaden depletion.
- Relieve the menhaden stock in the Chesapeake Bay and address the shortage of predatory species food supply.
- Allow state agencies to conduct research and determine stock and seasonal assessments of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay as required.
- Resolve Northampton County public health issues regarding fish spills, fish kills, and beach closures.
- Resolve Northampton County economic issues regarding tourism and sport fishing.
- Allow our local commercial menhaden bait fisheries to continue operating in the Chesapeake Bay.
- Allow industrial menhaden reduction fisheries to continue operating in federal waters, as done in neighboring coastal states.

From: Roberta Kellam
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Public Comments to ASMFC Winter Meeting
Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 4:02:24 PM

Please forward my comments to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commissioners in advance of their Winter Commission meeting.

Roberta A. Kellam
PO BOX 205
FRANKTOWN, VA 23354
ROBERTA.KELLAM@OUTLOOK.COM

January 16, 2024

ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, Virginia 22201

RE: **Menhaden Reduction Fishery in the Chesapeake Bay**

To the Distinguished Members of the Commission:

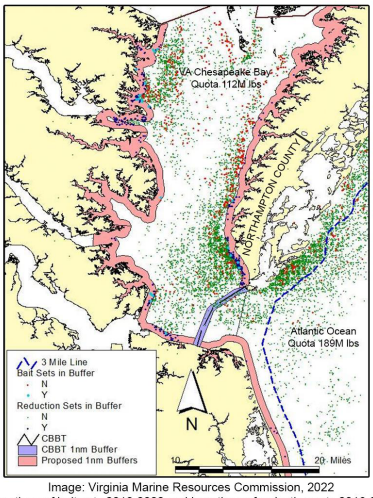
My name is Roberta Kellam and I reside in Northampton County, on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. I am a former member of Virginia's State Water Control Board and the Northampton County Planning Commission. My husband served on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission in the mid-1990s. We very much appreciate your service and the difficult issues that you must address.

The Atlantic Menhaden reduction fishery impacts to Osprey in the Chesapeake Bay requires your urgent attention. The biomass of Atlantic menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay has been so greatly reduced during critical time periods that Osprey reproduction has become unsustainable due to chick starvation in the nest. This has been well-documented in peer-reviewed studies by Dr. Bryan Watts at the Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary.

Ospreys are obligate “pescatores” which means they eat only fish. They are a keystone predator for menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay. It is a well-established principle of ecology that predator population is dependent upon prey availability. The Osprey chick starvation issue should be alarming to every government agency with the responsibility for managing fisheries in the Chesapeake Bay and nearshore Atlantic waters.

The Osprey crisis is a big red flag that something is very wrong with the Chesapeake Bay fisheries management – the sole task of your agency. I am writing to ask that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the sole federal agency responsible for ensuring that American fisheries support ecosystem services and human needs, immediately adopt a moratorium on reduction Atlantic menhaden harvesting within the Chesapeake Bay and within one mile of the mouth of the Bay. I have likewise petitioned the Virginia Marine Resources Commission to take immediate action on a moratorium, but they are under immense political pressure, as is the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences, due to the influence of the sole menhaden reduction fishery upon Virginia politics.

The Northampton County, Virginia, Board of Supervisors, on January 9, 2024, unanimously adopted a Resolution in support of a prohibition on industrial menhaden fishing ”within the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and three miles of all lands of the Commonwealth.” VMRC data shows that menhaden net sets are highly concentrated around the waters of Northampton County. More reduction menhaden nets are set near Northampton County than any other county in the state of Virginia. Reduction menhaden fish spills have led to public health issues in Northampton County at multiple beaches. Data from VMRC shows 17 documented menhaden net spills happened between 2018 and 2022, the dead fish ranged from 29,857 to 625,000 per year. In 2015, a fish spill caused 75,000 menhaden to wash up on the beaches of Northampton County, effectively closing Savage Neck Dune State Preserve. In July of 2022, 19,500 dead menhaden washed ashore on Silver Beach in Northampton County from a fish spill and another spill happened that same year on July 25th, where an estimated 10,000 menhaden and 12,000 pounds of mature red drum washed ashore at Kiptopeke State Park in Northampton County causing park closure. The frequency of these menhaden spills and the rotting fish and odor cause a persistent public health and tourism issue for the County.



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Locations of bait sets 2018-2022 and Locations of reduction sets 2016-2020

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The Northampton County Industrial Menhaden Resolution seeks to have all menhaden reduction fishing moved east of the 3 mile line and into federal waters.

Goals of resolution:

- Relieve Northampton County and the Chesapeake Bay from industrial menhaden fishing pressure, concentrated industrial extraction, and localized menhaden depletion.
- Relieve the menhaden stock in the Chesapeake Bay and address the shortage of predatory species food supply.
- Allow state agencies to conduct research and determine stock and seasonal assessments of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay as required.
- Resolve Northampton County public health issues regarding fish spills, fish kills, and beach closures.
- Resolve Northampton County economic issues regarding tourism and sport fishing.
- Allow our local commercial menhaden bait fisheries to continue operating in the Chesapeake Bay.
- Allow industrial menhaden reduction fisheries to continue operating in federal waters, as done in neighboring coastal states.

Again, I respectfully request that the Commission immediately adopt a moratorium on the Atlantic menhaden reduction fishery in the Chesapeake Bay and nearshore waters. Please do not let the breeding Osprey population be extirpated from the Chesapeake Bay under your watch.

Very truly yours,
Roberta Kellam

Tina Berger

Subject: FW: [External] Request for an ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Management Board Meeting

From: Phil Zalesak <flypax@md.metrocast.net>
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2024 9:20:10 AM
To: Bob Beal <rbeal@asmfc.org>
Subject: [External] Request for an ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Management Board Meeting

Bob,

When are you going to schedule an Atlantic Menhaden Management Board meeting regarding "Localized Depletion of Atlantic Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay" given that:

- Striped bass, bluefish, and weakfish are dependent on Atlantic menhaden for their survival (a).
- Over 60% of the striped bass on the Atlantic Coast begin as spawn in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries (Figure 1).
- The Maryland Chesapeake Bay striped bass juvenile index is dramatically down for five consecutive years (Figure 2).
- The Maryland recreational fishing striped bass gross domestic product was over $800 million dollars and supported over 10,000 jobs in 2016 (Figure 3).
- Maryland and Virginia are experiencing the textbook definition of "Localized Depletion of Atlantic Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay" as defined by NOAA (b) based on a dramatic decline in harvests for striped bass (Figures 4 and 5), bluefish (Figure 6), and weakfish (Figure 7).
- Finally, there has been a dramatic decline of osprey in the main stem of the Chesapeake Bay due to the lack of Atlantic menhaden (c).

Please answer the question.

Thanks for your help.

Regards, Phil

References:

(a) https://sedarweb.org/documents/sedar-69-atlantic-menhaden-ecological-referance-points-stock-assessment-report/ pages iii and 375

(b) 2009_05_08 Maguire Chesapeake Bay menhaden program review report.pdf (noaa.gov) page 4

(c) Frontiers | Demographic response of osprey within the lower Chesapeake Bay to fluctuations in menhaden stock (frontiersin.org)

Figure 1

Ecological Impact

Striped Bass

Chesapeake Bay Contribution to Coastal Sto

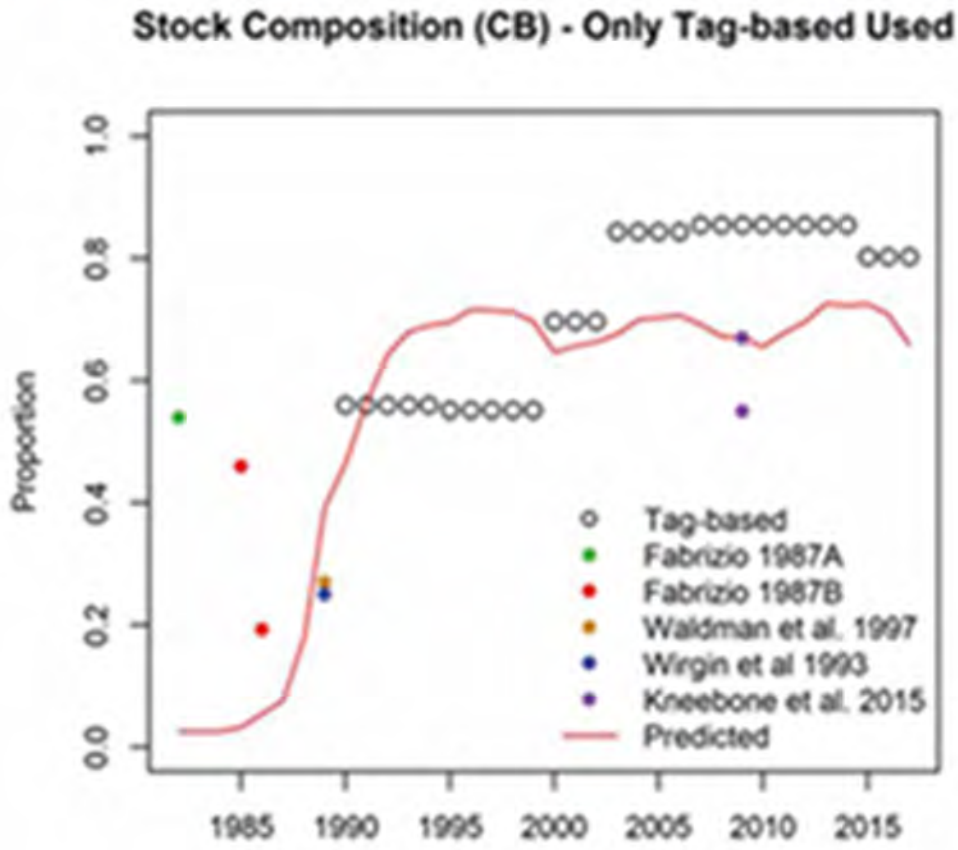


Figure B7.9. Observed versus predicted stock composition for the Chesapeake Bay stoc
Literature values not used in the model fitting are indicted by the solid circles for comp

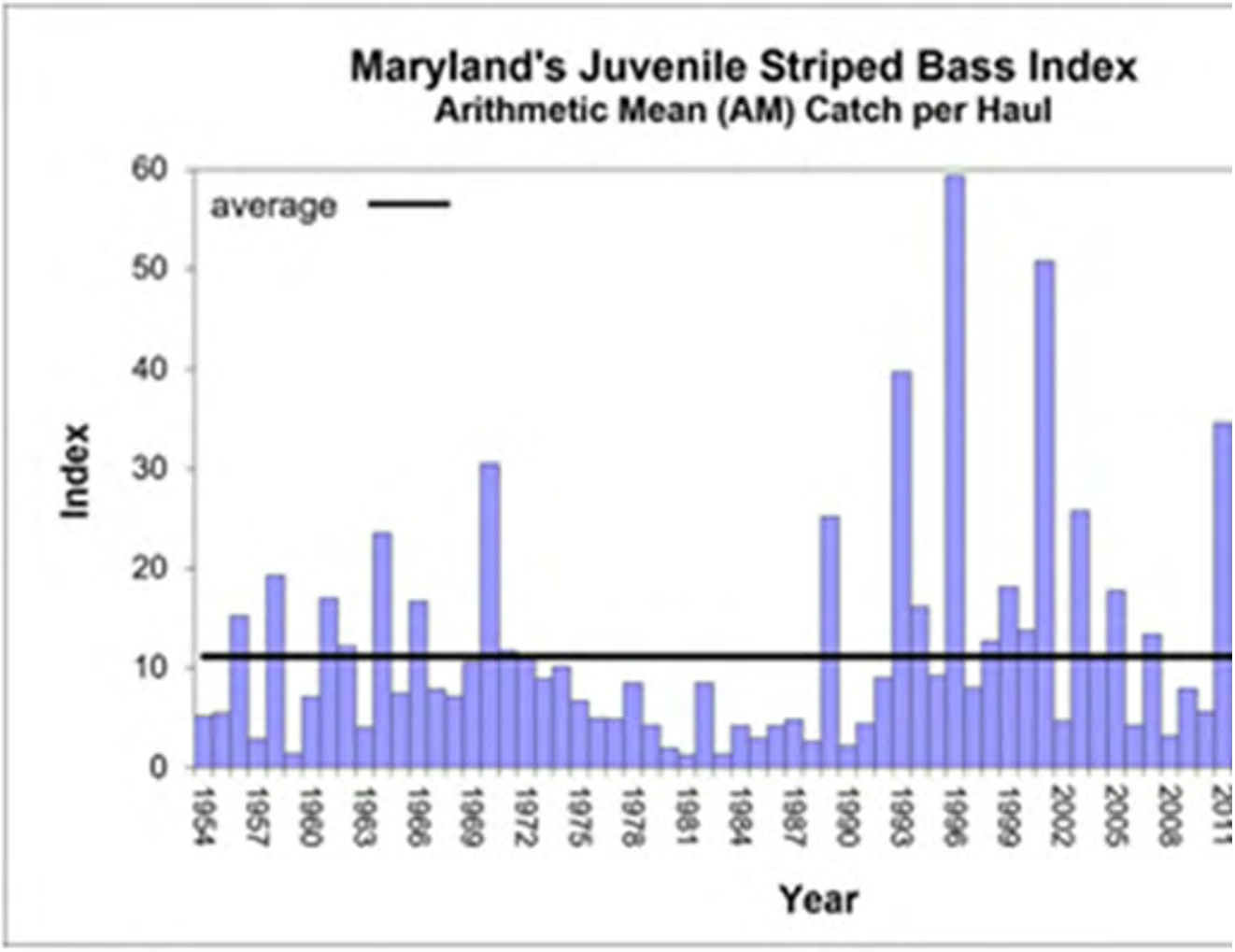
Reference:

https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/23

Figure 2

Ecological Impact

Striped Bass



Reference:

Chesapeake Bay 2023 Young-of-Year Striped Bass Survey Results Anno

Figure 3

Economic Impact

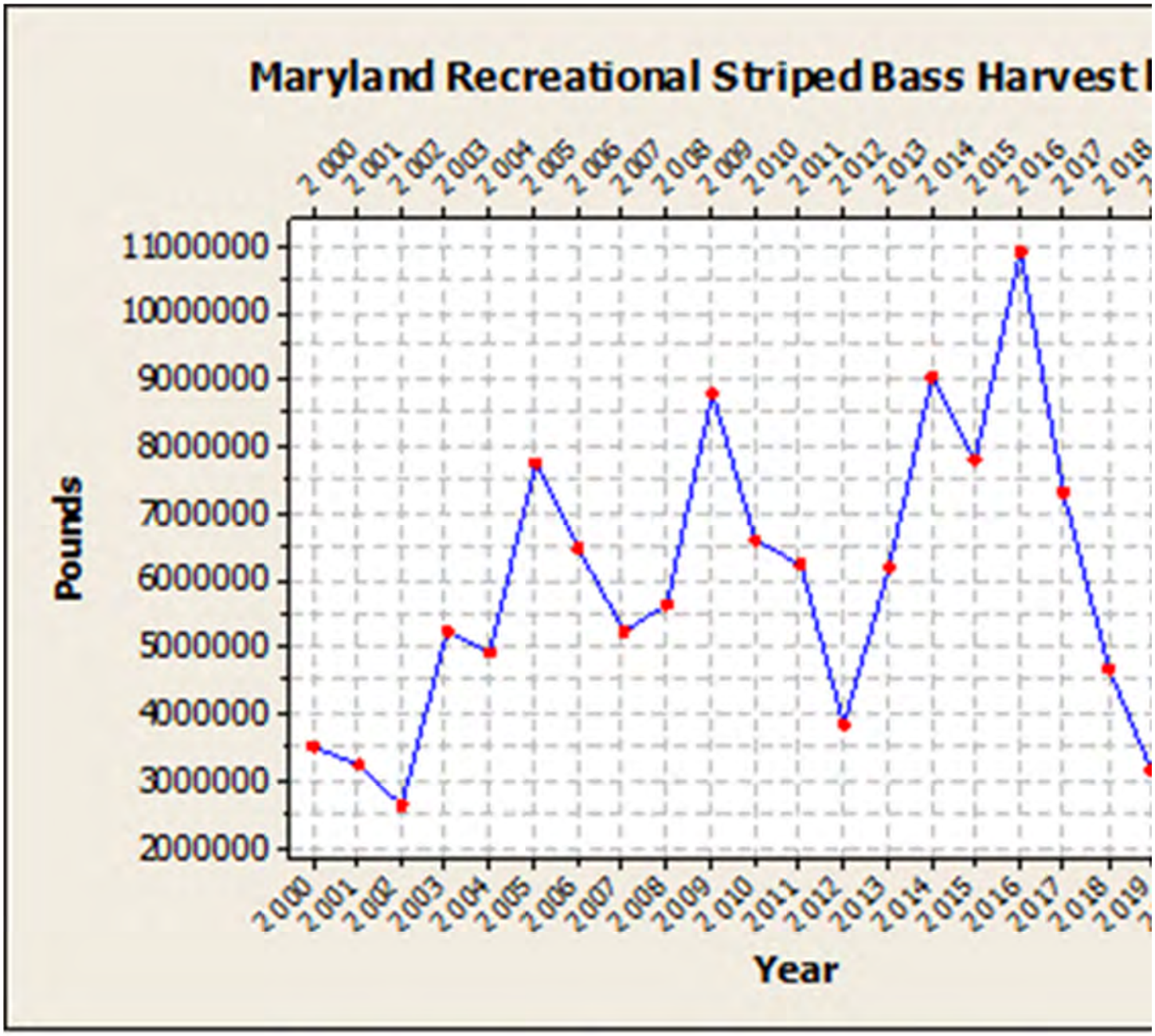
Striped Bass Related GDP for Maryland and Virgi

	Recreational GDP	Recreational Jobs	Commer GDP
Maryland	$802,791,200	10,193	$17,109,2
Virginia	$106,623,300	1,444	$12,198,1
Total	$909,414,500	11,637	$29,307,3

Reference:

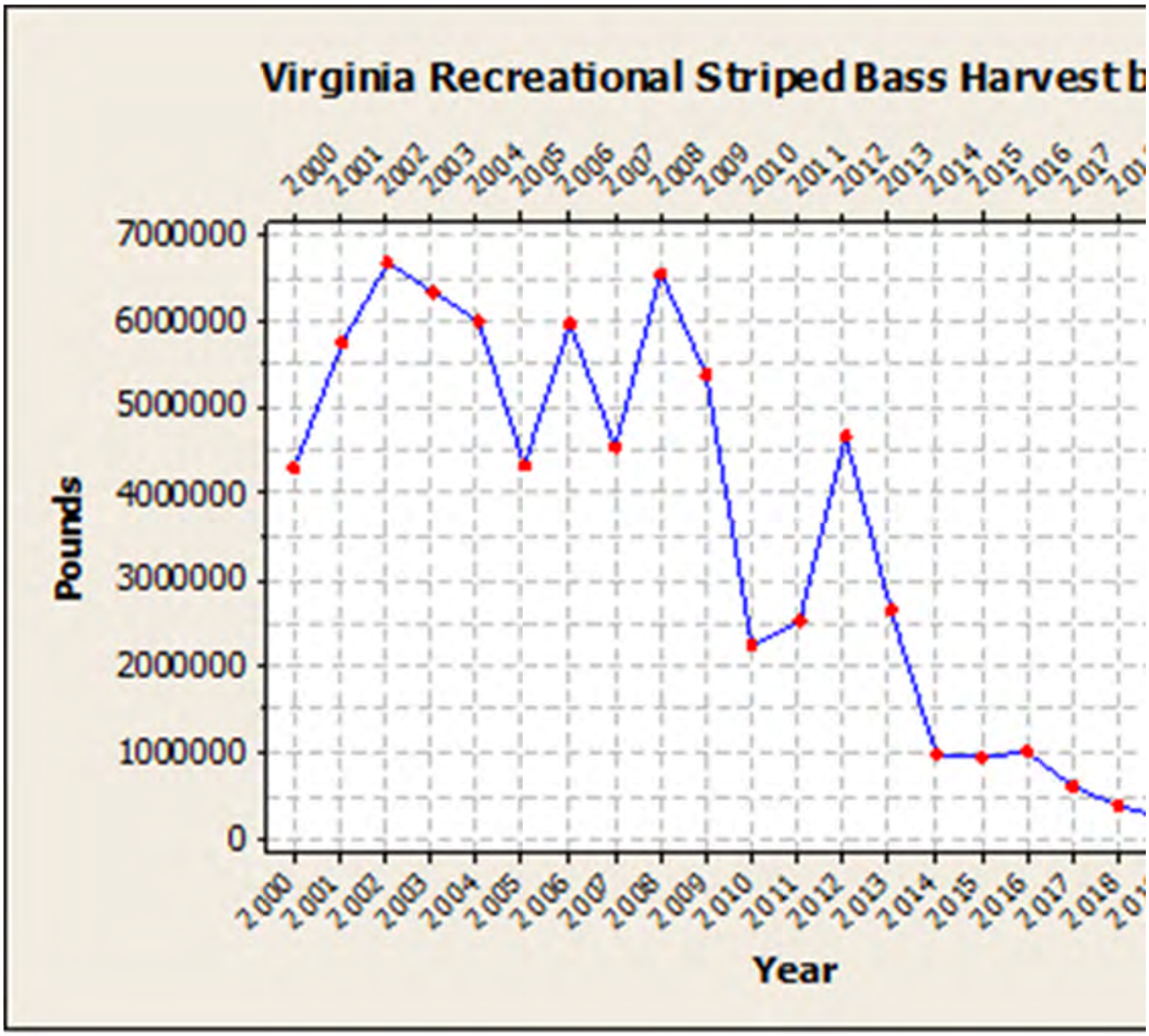
https://mcgraw.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/McGraw
Report-FINAL_compressed.pdf

Figure 4



https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/commercial/

Figure 5

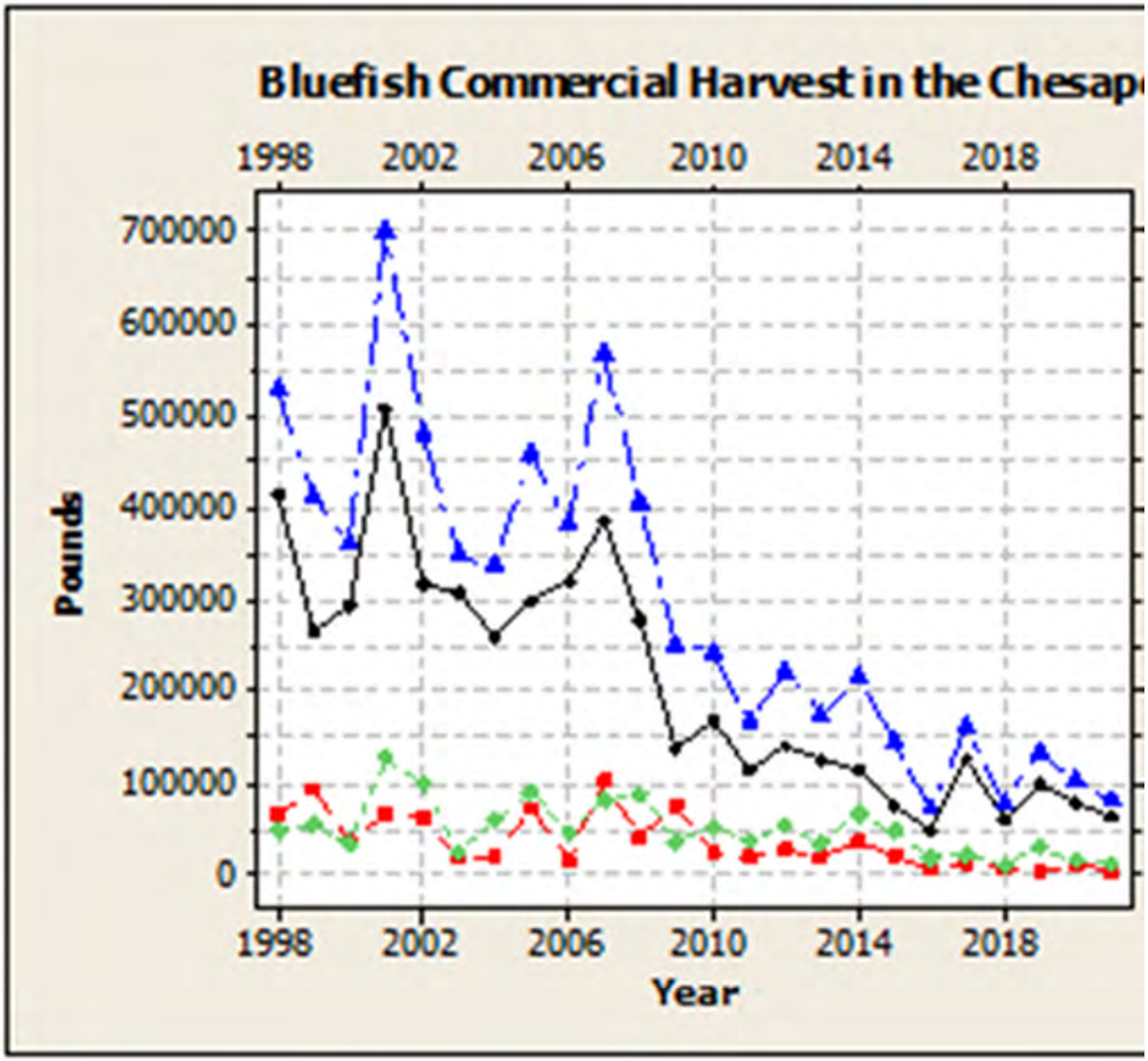


https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/commercial/

Figure 6

Ecological Impact

Bluefish

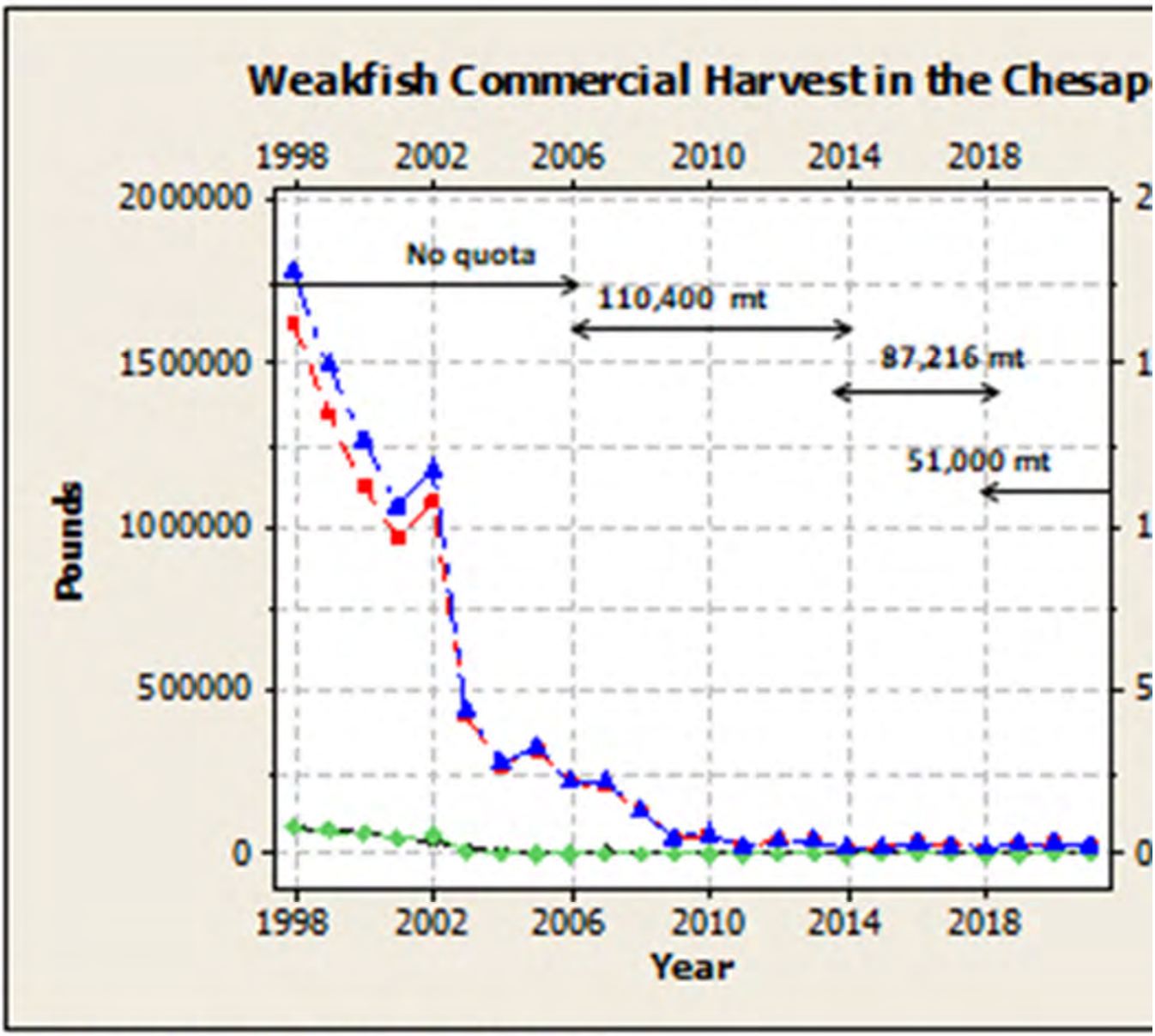


References: MD DNR, VMRC, PRFC

Figure 7

Ecological Impact

Weakfish



References: MD DNR, VMRC, PRFC

Tina Berger

From: Robert Beal
Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2024 5:26 PM
To: PHILIP ZALESAK
Cc: Conor McManus; James Boyle; Toni Kerns; david@chesapeakelegal.org; Joe Cimino; DAN MCKIERNAN; PHILIP ZALESAK; 'Dale William Neal'; 'David Reed'; 'Ron Smith'; ospreycbva@gmail.com; jthorpe@umm.edu; ROMARIC MONCRIEFFE; MICHAEL ACADEMIA; KEN SCHULTZ; sophieandfolly@yahoo.com; tomburkett@virginia.edu; bellmarineservices@gmail.com; stzalesak@gmail.com; boatman5@ymail.com; battista91@yahoo.com; dunnsville@gmail.com; donna@skylineinvestmentgroup.com; 'Brian Collins'; wsmckeever@gmail.com; JON HURDLE; JEREMY COX; Adam S. Nowalsky; Allison Colden; ALLISON HEPLER; ANITA A KULIK; Caitlin Craig; CAMERON RENY; Carolyn N Belcher; CHAD THOMAS; Cheri Patterson; CHRIS BATSAVAGE; Conor McManus; Craig A. Miner; Craig D Pugh; Dana Stein; DAVID H. WATTERS; DAVID M. DELLOSO; David Sikorski; DAVID BORDEN; Dennis Abbott; DOUG GROUT; Doug Haymans; Emerson Hasbrouck; Eric Reid; Erika Burgess; FRED W. THIELE Jr.; GARY JENNINGS; INGRID BRAUN; Bryan Plumlee; James Boyle; JEFF KAELIN; Jerry Mannen Jr.; JESSICA MCCAWLEY; Joe Cimino; JOHN CLARK; John Maniscalco; Justin Davis; KATHY RAWLS; KRISTOPHER M KUHN; LOREN W.LUSTIG; LYNN FEGLEY; MALCOLM RHODES; MARTY GARY; Capt. MATTHEW CORBIN; MAX APPELMAN; Megan Ware; Megan Ware; Meghan Lapp; Mel Bell; MICHAEL WRAY; MICHAEL LUISI; NICHOLA MESERVE; Rep. JOSEPH P GRESKO; Patrick Keliher; Patrick Keliher; Patrick Geer; Raymond Kane; Renee Zobel; ROBERT LAFRANCE; RON OWENS; Ronnie Cromer; Roy Miller; Russell Dize; Sarah Ferrara; SARAH K. PEAKE (SARAHKPEAKE@GMA.IL.COM)@server2.raptoremailsecurity.com; VIN GOPAL; SHANNA MADSEN; Spud Woodward; Stephen Train; Susan Sosnowski; Monty Mason; Thad Altman; TIM SCHAEFFER; TREY RHODES; WILLIAM HYATT; William J Carson; Tina Berger
Subject: RE: [External] The Role of Atlantic Menhaden as a Forage Fish in the Chesapeake Bay

Phil,

Thank you for submitting additional comments. While it appears you copied the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board on this email, we will also include it in the supplemental briefing materials for the Commission's Winter Meeting.

Regarding your ongoing request for extended time during the Commission's Winter Meeting: The Commission has an open process to collect significant public input during and between meetings. You and others have fully availed yourselves of our public comment process. We are not able to accommodate your request for 30 minutes on the Winter Meeting agenda. As you know, the Commission manages dozens of fisheries and has thousands of stakeholders along the Atlantic coast. In order to treat all stakeholders fairly and consistently, we are unable accommodate requests for extended time on board agendas for public presentations.

At the upcoming ASMFC Winter Meeting, you are encouraged to provide your perspective during the public comment period at the beginning of the ISFMP Policy Board meeting at 8:30am on Thursday, January 25.

Best,
Bob

From: Phil Zalesak <flypax@md.metrocast.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2024 11:59 AM
To: Robert Beal <Rbeal@asmfc.org>
Cc: Conor McManus <conor.mcmanus@dem.ri.gov>; James Boyle <JBoyle@asmfc.org>; Toni Kerns

<Tkerns@asmfc.org>; david@chesapeakelegal.org; Joe Cimino <joseph.cimino@dep.nj.gov>; DAN MCKIERNAN <dan.mckiernan@mass.gov>; PHILIP ZALESAK <flypax@md.metrocast.net>; 'Dale William Neal' <dalewilliamneal@gmail.com>; 'David Reed' <david@chesapeakelegal.org>; 'Ron Smith' <smitty3894@aol.com>; ospreycbva@gmail.com; jthorpe@umm.edu; ROMARIC MONCRIEFFE <romaric.moncrieffe@audubon.org>; MICHAEL ACADEMIA <macademia@email.wm.edu>; KEN SCHULTZ <ken@kenschultz.com>; sophieandfolly@yahoo.com; tomburkett@virginia.edu; bellmarineservices@gmail.com; stzalesak@gmail.com; boatman5@ymail.com; battista91@yahoo.com; dunnsville@gmail.com; donna@skylineinvestmentgroup.com; 'Brian Collins' <brian.c1@me.com>; wsmckeever@gmail.com; JON HURDLE <jonhurdle@gmail.com>; JEREMY COX <jcox@bayjournal.com>; Adam S. Nowalsky <captadamnj@gmail.com>; Allison Colden <acolden@cbf.org>; ALLISON HEPLER <allison.hepler@legislature.maine.gov>; ANITA A KULIK <akulik@pahouse.net>; Caitlin Craig <caitlin.craig@dec.ny.gov>; CAMERON RENY <cameron.reny@legislature.maine.gov>; Carolyn N Belcher <carolyn.belcher@dnr.ga.gov>; CHAD THOMAS <thomascd@roadrunner.com>; Cheri Patterson <cheri.patterson@wildlife.nh.gov>; CHRIS BATSAVAGE <CHRIS.BATSAVAGE@NCDENR.GOV>; Conor McManus <conor.mcmanus@dem.ri.gov>; Craig A. Miner <craigminer230@gmail.com>; Craig D Pugh <crabman31@aol.com>; Dana Stein <mbrassil@house.state.md.us>; DAVID H. WATTERS <DAVID.WATTERS@LEG.STATE.NH.US>; DAVID M. DELLOSO <ddelloso@pahouse.net>; David Sikorski <davidsikorski@mac.com>; DAVID BORDEN <lizzy.2@charter.net>; Dennis Abbott <swamper199@gmail.com>; DOUG GROUT <groutnhfish@gmail.com>; Doug Haymans <doug.haymans@dnr.ga.gov>; Emerson Hasbrouck <ech12@cornell.edu>; Eric Reid <Ericreidri@gmail.com>; Erika Burgess <erika.burgess@myfwc.com>; FRED W. THIELE Jr. <thielef@nyassembly.gov>; GARY JENNINGS <gjennings@asafishing.org>; INGRID BRAUN <ingrid.prfc@gmail.com>; Bryan Plumlee <bplumlee@pbp-attorneys.com>; James Boyle <JBoyle@asmfc.org>; JEFF KAELIN <jkaelin@lundsfish.com>; Jerry Mannen Jr. <jmannen@yfmlaw.com>; JESSICA MCCAWLEY <jessica.mccawley@myfwc.com>; Joe Cimino <joseph.cimino@dep.nj.gov>; JOHN CLARK <john.clark@delaware.gov>; John Maniscalco <john.maniscalco@dec.ny.gov>; Justin Davis <justin.davis@ct.gov>; KATHY RAWLS <KATHY.RAWLS@NCDENR.GOV>; KRISTOPHER M KUHN <kkuhn@pa.gov>; LOREN W.LUSTIG <senseofwonder@pa.net>; LYNN FEGLEY <lynn.fegley@maryland.gov>; MALCOLM RHODES <rhodesmm@musc.edu>; MARTY GARY <martin.gary@dec.ny.gov>; Capt. MATTHEW CORBIN <matthew.corbin@maryland.gov>; MAX APPELMAN <max.appelman@noaa.gov>; Megan Ware <megan.ware@maine.gov>; Megan Ware <megan.ware@maine.gov>; Meghan Lapp <meghan@seafreezeltd.com>; Mel Bell <bellm@dnr.sc.gov>; MICHAEL WRAY <michael.wray@ncleg.gov>; MICHAEL LUISI <michael.luisi@maryland.gov>; NICHOLA MESERVE <nichola.meserve@mass.gov>; Rep. JOSEPH P GRESKO <joseph.gresko@cga.ct.gov>; Patrick Keliher <patrick.keliher@maine.gov>; Patrick Keliher <patrick.keliher@maine.gov>; Patrick Geer <pat.geer@mrc.virginia.gov>; Raymond Kane <ray@capecodfishermen.org>; Renee Zobel <renee.zobel@wildlife.nh.gov>; ROBERT LAFRANCE <robert.lafrance@quinnipiac.edu>; RON OWENS <ron.prfc@gmail.com>; Ronnie Cromer <RonnieCromer@scsenate.gov>; Roy Miller <fishmaster70@comcast.net>; Russell Dize <maryjdize@gmail.com>; Sarah Ferrara <sarah.ferrara@mahouse.gov>; =?UTF-8?Q?SARAH_K._PEAKE_=28=C2=A0SARAHKPEAKE=40GMA?=.=?UTF-8?Q?IL.COM=29?=@server2.raptoremailsecurity.com; VIN GOPAL <sengopal@njleg.org>; SHANNA MADSEN <shanna.madsen@mrc.virginia.gov>; Spud Woodward <swoodward1957@gmail.com>; Stephen Train <FVHATTIEROSE@aol.com>; Susan Sosnowski <sen-sosnowski@rilin.state.ri.us>; Monty Mason <district01@senate.virginia.gov>; Thad Altman <thad.altman@myfloridahouse.gov>; TIM SCHAEFFER <tischaeffe@pa.gov>; TREY RHODES <trey.rhodes@house.ga.gov>; WILLIAM HYATT <hyattwilliam01@gmail.com>; William J Carson <william.carson@delaware.gov>
Subject: [External] The Role of Atlantic Menhaden as a Forage Fish in the Chesapeake Bay

Bob,

I have reviewed the information you provided below.

Unfortunately, the data associated with the Atlantic menhaden survey for the Atlantic Coast can't be applied to the Chesapeake Bay. The Atlantic Coast and the Chesapeake Bay are two distinct marine environments with different biomass densities throughout the year. Therefore, **the mortality rate analysis of Atlantic menhaden is invalid for the Chesapeake Bay**.

The Atlantic Coast doesn't experience the same harvest intensity of Atlantic menhaden that Virginia waters do.

First, the ASMFC allocates 75.21% of Atlantic menhaden to Virginia. Virginia then allocates over 90.4% to its Atlantic menhaden reduction fishery. That is a total allocation of over 67% of the TAC for the entire Atlantic Coast to a single reduction fishery which is in clear violation of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board "Goals and Objectives". For an Atlantic Coast TAC of 233,550 metric tons, that represents over 158,000 metric tons or 761 million (3 / 4 of a billion) fish being removed from Virginia waters based on an average of .46 pounds per fish (NOAA)

Second, the ASMFC allocates 51,000 metric tons of Atlantic menhaden to the reduction fishery in the Chesapeake Bay or over 244 million fish with the remaining 517 million fish being removed in Virginia waters just outside the Bay. That is the text book definition of "Localized Depletion of Atlantic Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay."

Third, **you can't manage what you can't measure**. Neither the ASMFC nor the Virginia Marine Resources Commission has any idea what the biomass of Atlantic menhaden is in the Chesapeake Bay during the Atlantic menhaden reduction season (May – November). Therefore, the impact on the mortality rate of striped bass, bluefish, and weakfish cannot be determined in the Chesapeake Bay. Nor can any credible economic analysis be made to determine the impact on recreational fishing business base in the Chesapeake Bay.

However, we do know that the Maryland Chesapeake Bay striped bass juvenile index has been extremely low for the last four consecutive years which is a good indicator that there are insufficient Atlantic menhaden for striped bass to eat. One could easily conclude that striped bass are not being overfished in the Chesapeake Bay. They are simply underfed and starving to death. This also appears to be true for osprey based on the latest peer-reviewed research. Frontiers | Demographic response of osprey within the lower Chesapeake Bay to fluctuations in menhaden stock (frontiersin.org)

I have a lot more information, however, the information above should be sufficient to justify an Atlantic Menhaden Management Board meeting on Thursday, January 24, at 1 PM as this will not interfere with what you currently have planned.

I am requesting 30 minutes to brief "Localized Depletion of Atlantic Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay" with 20 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for Q&A.

Regards, Phil

-------- Original message --------
From: Robert Beal <Rbeal@asmfc.org>
Date: 1/10/24 11:25 AM (GMT-05:00)
To: PHILIP ZALESAK <flypax@md.metrocast.net>, Conor McManus <conor.mcmanus@dem.ri.gov>, James Boyle <JBoyle@asmfc.org>, Toni Kerns <Tkerns@asmfc.org>
Cc: 'David Reed' <david@chesapeakelegal.org>, PHILIP ZALESAK <flypax@md.metrocast.net>, Joe Cimino <joseph.cimino@dep.nj.gov>, DAN MCKIERNAN <dan.mckiernan@mass.gov>
Subject: RE: [External] RE: The Role of Atlantic Menhaden as a Forage Fish

Phil,

Our practice is for press releases to be reviewed by the Executive Director, Species board chair, Director of Fisheries Policy, FMP Coordinator, and Director of Communications before release.

I re-read your first post at the bottom of this thread. I think I now understand the source of confusion. In the first post you provided the following quote from the October 20, 2020 press release:

"The Atlantic Menhaden Management Board (Board) approved a total allowable catch (TAC) of 194,400 metric tons (mt) for the 2021 and 2022 fishing seasons, which represents a 10% reduction from the 2018-2020 TAC level. The 2021-2022 TAC was set based on the ecological reference points (ERPs) approved by the Board in August, and reaffirms the Board's commitment to **manage the fishery in a way that accounts for the species role as a forage fish**."

I believe you are interpreting the underlined text to indicate the Board or Commission needed to take further action to manage the fishery to account for menhaden's role as a forage fish. However, the intent of this text is to indicate the Board reaffirmed the August 2020 decision to use ERPs to manage the menhaden fishery. The ERPs, as adopted, account for the ecological services provided by menhaden.

The adopted ERP definitions are:

ERP F target: the maximum fishing mortality rate (F) on Atlantic menhaden that sustains Atlantic striped bass at their biomass target when striped bass are fished at their F target

ERP F threshold: the maximum F on Atlantic menhaden that keeps Atlantic striped bass at their biomass threshold when striped bass are fished at their F target.

ERP fecundity target and threshold: the long-term equilibrium fecundity that results when the population is fished at the ERP F target and threshold, respectively.

As you see, these adopted ERPs are designed to support the striped bass population at the biomass target level. The menhaden quotas for 2021-2025 are consistent with the ERPs. These ERP F reference points are

lower than the single-species reference points and result in a lower menhaden TAC than would be allowed if the Board were not taking menhaden's role as a forage fish into account in management.

Based on the most recent menhaden stock assessment update (2022), the fishing mortality rate for 2021 is below the ERP threshold and target, and the fecundity for 2021 is above the ERP threshold and target. Therefore, overfishing is not occurring and the stock is not overfished. This indicates the current menhaden management program will sustain striped bass at their biomass target when striped bass are fished at their fishing mortality rate target. The ERP assessment also shows that even if we stop menhaden fishing entirely, striped bass will not rebuild unless fishing mortality on striped bass is reduced to sustainable levels (which is being addressed).

The Commission regularly reviews and updates its scientific information and stock assessments. To that end, the menhaden ERPs are undergoing a benchmark assessment for peer review and presentation in 2025 and the menhaden stock assessment will be updated in 2025. The terms of reference approved by the Board for the 2025 ERP benchmark assessment can be found here: Spring 2023 meeting materials, with draft TORs (Beginning on page 30). The ERP Work Group met in November of 2023 and the notes from that meeting can be found here: ERP Work Group Notes. The Atlantic Menhaden Management Board will review the results from these analyses and adjust the management program if necessary.

Bob

From: Phil Zalesak <flypax@md.metrocast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 8:36 AM
To: Conor McManus <conor.mcmanus@dem.ri.gov>; Robert Beal <Rbeal@asmfc.org>; James Boyle <JBoyle@asmfc.org>; Toni Kerns <Tkerns@asmfc.org>
Cc: 'David Reed' <david@chesapeakelegal.org>; PHILIP ZALESAK <flypax@md.metrocast.net>
Subject: [External] RE: The Role of Atlantic Menhaden as a Forage Fish

Bob,

First, do you as the ASMFC Executive Director review and approved all ASMFS press releases? Did you review and approve the release of https://asmfc.org/uploads/file/5f8f5e30pr23AtlMenhaden2021-2022TAC.pdf

Second, as the ASMFC Executive Director are you responsible and accountable for addressing the management of Atlantic menhaden as it relates to the striped bass fishery?

Thanks for your help.

Regards, Phil

From: Phil Zalesak [mailto:flypax@md.metrocast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 1:47 PM
To: 'McManus, Conor (DEM)'; 'Robert Beal'; JBoyle@asmfc.org; 'Toni Kerns'
Cc: 'David Reed'; Phil Zalesak
Subject: RE: The Role of Atlantic Menhaden as a Forage Fish

Conor,

I am completely familiar with the page you referenced below.

I am more concerned about management responsibility and accountability.

First, who in the ASMFC approved the forage fish press release? https://asmfc.org/uploads/file/5f8f5e30pr23AtlMenhaden2021-2022TAC.pdf

Second, who in the ASMFC was responsible and accountable for addressing the management of Atlantic menhaden as it relates to the striped bass fishery?

Thanks for your help.

Take care, Phil

From: McManus, Conor (DEM) [mailto:Conor.McManus@dem.ri.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 9:53 AM
To: Phil Zalesak; 'Robert Beal'; JBoyle@asmfc.org; 'Toni Kerns'
Cc: 'David Reed'
Subject: Re: The Role of Atlantic Menhaden as a Forage Fish

Dear Phil,

The most recent documents on Atlantic menhaden produced by ASMFC can be found on their website (https://asmfc.org/species/atlantic-menhaden). There is background on the last Addendum and there is the 2022 stock assessment. There are other peer-reviewed publications that have come out since 2020 I believe, but those are not directly used for management.

Best,

Conor

Conor McManus, PhD

Chief

RIDEM Division of Marine Fisheries

3 Ft. Wetherill Road

Jamestown, RI 02835

From: Phil Zalesak <flypax@md.metrocast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 7:09 AM
To: McManus, Conor (DEM) <Conor.McManus@dem.ri.gov>; 'Robert Beal' <Rbeal@asmfc.org>; JBoyle@asmfc.org <JBoyle@asmfc.org>; 'Toni Kerns' <Tkerns@asmfc.org>
Cc: 'David Reed' <david@chesapeakelegal.org>; Phil Zalesak <flypax@md.metrocast.net>
Subject: RE: The Role of Atlantic Menhaden as a Forage Fish

Conor,

Please forward any reports by the ASMFC since the fall of 2020 which addresses the management Atlantic menhaden as it relates to the striped bass fishery.

Thanks for your help.

Take care, Phil

From: McManus, Conor (DEM) [mailto:Conor.McManus@dem.ri.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 6:31 AM
To: Phil Zalesak; 'Robert Beal'; JBoyle@asmfc.org; 'Toni Kerns'
Cc: David Reed
Subject: Re: The Role of Atlantic Menhaden as a Forage Fish

Dear Phil,

Atlantic menhaden is managed by ASMFC through interstate fisheries management. Regarding your quote, I believe the adoption of ecological reference points allows for managing the fishery in a way that accounts for the species role as a forage fish, particularly striped bass. TACs, the single species stock assessment, and the ecological reference point work are all conducted periodically, with some of those having been done since 2020. I believe the rationale for the 2021 TAC decision was done acknowledging the role of the menhaden as forage fish.

Best,

Conor

Conor McManus, PhD

Chief

RIDEM Division of Marine Fisheries

3 Ft. Wetherill Road

Jamestown, RI 02835

From: Phil Zalesak <flypax@md.metrocast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 5:50 AM
To: McManus, Conor (DEM) <Conor.McManus@dem.ri.gov>; 'Robert Beal' <Rbeal@asmfc.org>; JBoyle@asmfc.org <JBoyle@asmfc.org>; 'Toni Kerns' <Tkerns@asmfc.org>
Cc: David Reed <david@chesapeakelegal.org>; Phil Zalesak <flypax@md.metrocast.net>
Subject: RE: The Role of Atlantic Menhaden as a Forage Fish

Conor,

From you statement, is it correct to state that no individual or organization was tasked to “manage the fishery in a way that accounts for the species role as a forage fish” since October of 2020?

Also, whose responsible was it to see that this was properly managed?

Thanks for your help.

Take care, Phil

From: McManus, Conor (DEM) [mailto:Conor.McManus@dem.ri.gov]
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 12:10 PM
To: Phil Zalesak; Robert Beal; JBoyle@asmfc.org; Toni Kerns
Subject: Re: The Role of Atlantic Menhaden as a Forage Fish

Dear Phil,

Sorry for the delayed reply. Yes I remember the drop in TAC back in 2021. In regards to your question on the ERP, the workgroup is actively addressing these questions now as they update models and reassess their utility. I am cc'ing folks from ASMFC who can speak more to currently timelines.

Best,

Conor

Conor McManus, PhD

Chief

RIDEM Division of Marine Fisheries

3 Ft. Wetherill Road

Jamestown, RI 02835

From: Phil Zalesak <flypax@md.metrocast.net>
Sent: Friday, January 5, 2024 10:27 AM
To: McManus, Conor (DEM) <Conor.McManus@dem.ri.gov>
Cc: Phil Zalesak <flypax@md.metrocast.net>
Subject: The Role of Atlantic Menhaden as a Forage Fish

Connor,

Recall the following . . .

First, on October 20, 2020 the following press release was made by the ASMFC:

"The Atlantic Menhaden Management Board (Board) approved a total allowable catch (TAC) of 194,400 metric tons (mt) for the 2021 and 2022 fishing seasons, which represents a 10% reduction from the 2018-2020 TAC level. The 2021-2022 TAC was set based on the ecological reference points (ERPs) approved by the Board in August, and reaffirms the Board's commitment to **manage the fishery in a way that accounts for the species role as a forage fish**."

https://asmfc.org/uploads/file/5f8f5e30pr23AtlMenhaden2021-2022TAC.pdf [asmfc.org]

The reason for this press release was that in January 2020 the Ecological Reference Point Stock Assessment Report was published and concluded that:

“A suite of five key predator and prey species were identified from diet data and other considerations (referred to as ERP focal species). Atlantic striped bass, bluefish, spiny dogfish, and weakfish were identified as key predator species of Atlantic menhaden.”

The report also showed direct relationship between the mortality rate of Atlantic menhaden and the mortality rate of striped bass.

https://sedarweb.org/documents/sedar-69-atlantic-menhaden-ecological-referance-points-stock-assessment-report/ [sedarweb.org] pages iii and 375

Second, did the Ecological Reference Point Working Group, the Atlantic Menhaden Technical Committee, or any other person or organization every receive tasking to evaluate Atlantic menhaden role as a forage fish and its impact on predators such as striped bass, bluefish, and weakfish?

If so, please forward a copy of the tasking, date, and any subsequent reports.

Thanks for your help.

Take care, Phil

Tina Berger

Subject: FW: [External] Thoughts on no menhaden board meeting

From: Tom Lilly <foragematters@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2024 8:58:25 AM
To: Robert Beal <rbeal@asmfc.org>
Cc: James Boyle <JBoyle@asmfc.org>; Tina Berger <tberger@asmfc.org>; Conor McManus <conor.mcmanus@dem.ri.gov>; PHILIP ZALESAK <flypax@md.metrocast.net>; Dale William Neal <dalewilliamneal@gmail.com>; Brian <brian.c1@me.com>; steve atkinson <steveatkinson52@verizon.net>; debbie campbell <debbiescampbell@icloud.com>
Subject: [External] Thoughts on no menhaden board meeting

Bob It is very sad that after all these years and the millions of people that have described their values and the hope their children and grandchildren could enjoy Chesapeake Bay bay wildlife the way it was will not get a chance to meet the menhaden board face to face. I wonder if you took the time to listen and watch the 11 witnesses that testified at the MRC meeting in August. If you did, I have to wonder how you could be making this decision ? I personally feel that over the years the Commission has really not done anything to help..it's just got worse and worse. It's the same people year after year that are turning the people down no matter how bad things get or what new scientific information is developed. It's really to late for my generation…our ospreys chicks are dead, they won't be coming back to our nests , the grandchildren who loved to fish in front of the house ten years ago have grown up . They lost interest in most fishing years ago. The ibises and blue herons moved away years ago when the juvenile menhaden quit coming. The Charter says the staff and board should be using the people's values in your management actions. That is not being followed at all . That is the root of the people's problem here. The Commission that allocates their natural resources doesn't care what they want and doesn't care about what they need. That could not be made any clearer than right now when you denied a meeting of the menhaden board . The ERP science we waited ten years for that says the condition of striped bass and ospreys, which is dismal in the bay, chronically terrible , is to be the indicator of over harvesting but that science is just ignored. All of the assessments and formulas justifying the absurd quota to Virginia based on what is claimed is going on in the Atlantic are just smoke and mirrors. Justifying a quota of 51,000 mt in the bay and increasing VA's quota by 22,000 tons when every indicator is that all life in the bay that depends on menhaden is failing. This is what happens when there is no check or balance in this system, no neutral person or group that can look things over in the public's interest.

Are you aware there was such a lack of menhaden in the Rhode Island bay this year that it never met the forage base in the management plan and purse seining was not allowed? That was to protect the ecology of their 147 square mile bay. It seems the Atlantic biomass estimates are an illusion.

Weeks ago I asked you if you were aware that for the first time the factory fishing boats were often spending the night in the Cape Charles area because they can't catch a boatload of fish? What this means to anyone that will listen is that on many days in the Virginia bay there are virtually no schools of menhaden. If there were 50 or 100 schools of menhaden in the Virginia bay do you think this would be happening? No, it would not. Under the best science available, and that is the forage base established in Rhode Island, there should be at least 750 10 tons schools menhaden for the forage base just for bluefish and striped bass in the Virginia bay. Don't you agree that these facts indicate that on many days the forage base of Virginia bay is about nonexistent. ? Why isn't that brought up by the staff… why isn't that cause for a meeting ? Is that something the staff could look into ? What about our question for the Policy Board that the Commission is allowing Ocean Harvesters to catch thousands of schools of menhaden in the Va bay just be tore they migrate to Maryland to feed our fish and wildlife . Will the staff and the Commission take the necessary action to protect Maryland? Will the staff at least discuss what the options are here?

As you know, I have been asking the commission and the MRC to divulge the final factory total catch in Chesapeake Bay for 2023. From this exchange it is now obvious that this figure is not confidential because it must be given to the public eight months after the fact in the Va management report on Menhaden . That result should be available now along with the fishing effort data so the public can see what is going on in Virginia and if the Commission is reacting to it properly and promptly. That is not happening. Why is that number being withheld?

I would appreciate some answers to these questions particularly the data on the bay reduction landings . Is that possible? Thank you and best persoTom Lilly

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 11, 2024, at 5:26 PM, Robert Beal <rbeal@asmfc.org> wrote:

Tom,

Thank you for your continuing to provide input on menhaden management. We will include your comments in the supplemental briefing materials for the Commission's Winter Meeting.

Regarding your ongoing request for an Atlantic Menhaden Management Board meeting at the Commission's Winter Meeting: As you are aware, the Commission has an open and inclusive process to collect public input during and between meetings. You and others have fully availed yourselves of our public comment process. We will not be adding a Menhaden Board meeting to the Winter Meeting Agenda given there is a scheduled public comment opportunity at the beginning of the ISFMP Policy Board meeting at 8:30am on Thursday, January 25. I would like to reiterate the Policy Board provides oversight to the Commission's management and scientific activities. If the Policy Board identifies an issue, they can charge a species management board with taking action. Also, as we have discussed, the Policy Board has nearly identical membership to the Menhaden Management Board. The three Commissioners from the fifteen Atlantic coastal states, Potomac River Fisheries Commission, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and NOAA Fisheries are all represented on both the Menhaden Board and the Policy Board.

Best,
Bob

From: Tom Lilly <foragematters@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2024 3:36 PM
To: Robert Beal <Rbeal@asmfc.org>; James Boyle <JBoyle@asmfc.org>; Tina Berger <tberger@asmfc.org>; Conor McManus <conor.mcmanus@dem.ri.gov>
Cc: PHILIP ZALESAK <flypax@md.metrocast.net>; Dale William Neal <dalewilliamneal@gmail.com>; Brian <brian.c1@me.com>; steve atkinson <steveatkinson52@verizon.net>; debbie campbell <debbiescampbell@icloud.com>
Subject: [External] Have a menhaden board meeting for the people's sake

To Bob Beal, Conor McManus ,James, Tina

In Bob's mail to Phil Zalesak denying a menhaden board meeting he refers of dozens of other species boards and thousands of people on the Atlantic coast that he

considered in deciding what species boards deserved a meeting in January. . .He set seven species boards : lobster, spiny dogfish , eel , striped bass, shad and river herring and coastal pelagics. Thousands may be involved with these but, with all due respect by denying the menhaden board the concerns and values of millions of people and thousands of businesses who want the factory fishing stopped in Virginia are not being heard. Not thousands but millions of people that have now made their values and concerns about menhaden made to Bob and the board ! Section six of your Charter :

"an effective fishery management program must be carefully
designed to reflect the varying values....that are important
to the various interest groups involved in coastal fisheries"

So what are those values and who are those groups that want to meet face to face with the menhaden board this January?

One of the better summaries of the values the interested public has in Chesapeake Bay menhaden and what they want from the MRC and the Commission is in the sworn testimony of eleven diverse and well qualified witnesses at the VA MRC hearing on menhaden 22,2023.(scan summary) Please view the video record of this testimony by going to YouTube and speaking "Virginia Marine Resources Commission" and then select the VMRC meeting date. Another source for these values is the recent documentary film by Director William McKeever " The Bigest Little Fish You Have Never Seen" that film will

be shown on local Pac 14 and will be available on ROKU tv this Saturday at 2pm. We will send access directions as soon as we have them.

Now what are the groups interested in Chesapeake Bay menhaden, what size are they and what is their connection to the quality of life and culture of Chesapeake Bay ?

10/21/2021 There are over a million Marylanders represented by the thirty senators and delegates in the Maryland Sportsmen's Caucus that asked the MRC to relocate the factory fishing.(scan) giving the science basis by Dr Bressman. Striped bass angling and charter fishing are part of our history our culture.. So are the connection the people of the bay have with our ospreys, eagles, ibises and great blue herons...these indicator species of the health of the bay are rapidly disappearing as the juvenile and adult menhaden fade away. (scan requiem for Tangier Sound) There's just not much left for the kids, generations of kids and grandkids to see any more, they are missing so much.

3/01/22 MD Senate Resolution 06 asking the ASMFC to end factory fishing in Virginia was supported by ten state wide fishing clubs and charter captains that represent the values of at least 400,000 Maryland saltwater anglers and 50,000 children and about 40,000 charter fishing clients who want fishing to improve. This was endorsed by the Maryland Sierra Club and Shore Rivers that have over 73,000 Maryland members.(scan) The Chesapeake Bay Program and CBF estimate the MD saltwater recreational fishing sector creates $800 million in economic activity and 13,000 jobs .

6/14/2022 The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership Petition to Governor Youngkin joined a

grassroots petition with 10,000 signatures with the ASA, NMMA and MRAA marine trade and boating businesses that represent over 25,000 affected jobs and hundreds of businesses in Maryland and Virginia asking to end reduction fishing in Virginia. (scan) The VSSA and multiple fishing groups in VA spoke on behalf of thousands of VA charter fishing clients and on behalf of the Virginia saltwater anglers that took 6.7 million fishing trips in the last survey year of 2017. (NOAA Lovell survey - scan) this is over a million fishermen based on six trips a year that want fishing to get better in Virginia. The measured 60% declines in trips and spending by striped bass anglers in Virginia between 2009 and 2016 (scan Southwick data) Capt Mike Ostrander, President of the VA Anglers Club testified at the August MRC that 149 charter captains had quit recently in Virginia.The same is true at Somers Cove Marina in Crisfield off Tangier sound . All but one or two of the fifteen charter boats that used to take two trips out a day striper fishing fifteen years ago have quit both head boats have been sold ..one going to Florida and the other to Maine for whale watching.

4/20/2023 Dr. Brian Watts and Michael Academic article published citing chronic and acute osprey nesting failures in Virginia tidewater due to inadequate menhaden. Thirty years of research.(scan MRC testimony). Earlier 30 menhaden scientists including those from the ASMFC, NOAA, MRC and MD DNR published a journal article tying the health and abundance of marine fish eating birds (eagles, ospreys, herons and ibises) to levels of menhaden that would support striped bass. (scan Frontiers article page 1 and 12)

8/22/2023 Three Audubon Society Board members spoke at the VA MRC meeting about the Osprey alert issued to Audubon's two million members about the

collateral damage to wildlife from menhaden overharvesting. Audubon joined Sierra Club, Shore Rivers, CCA and Issac Walton standing up for the values and concerns of its members and as spokesman for the people of Chesapeake Bay that treasure bay wildlife from ibises, great blue herons, eagles, loons and the marine mammals, the porpoises and whales that feed on menhaden and are almost all threatened in one way or another.(scan Md Ornithological Society) They know the striped bass and osprey reproductive failures signal grave damage to almost every fish eating avian species in the bay ecosystem from menhaden overharvesting. This group often referred to as "wildlife watchers" is the largest affected group with the greatest economic impact. For example, in MD DNR's 2015-25 Wildlife Action Plan about one in three Marylanders (two million people) are wildlife watchers and over 900,000 residents and visitors participate in bird watching. this activity directly generated $483 million dollars and supported 10,807 full time jobs. The TIO (multiplier of secondary gains) was $909 million dollars.

Virginia's wildlife watching participation is found in the Rockville Institute's Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation survey(scan) Again about one third of all Virginians (three million) participate in wildlife watching away from home, with about 24 million trips (table 28) Spending on trips and gear in all categories is about 3.3 billion dollars. For a point of reference this trip number compares with Virginia salt water fishing trips in 2017 (NOAA-Lovell survey-scan) of 6.7 million: for hire 43,684, private boat 2.5 million, from shore 4.1 million.

There is another large group of Virginia's and Marylanders involved in this. They are the power boat owners and the hundreds of marinas, marine sales,

insurance, building, repairing and storage of the 450 thousand power boats in the two states supporting 43,000 jobs and nearly 1000s of businesses (scans NMMA and MRAA data on request) Total economic impact of 5.3 billion dollars.

The experience in New York and New Jersey when they outlawed factory menhaden fishing in their waters shows just how striped bass fishing has rebounded, how charter fishing has bounced back and how ospreys are thriving. (scans- George first and Saltwater Sportsman). Fish stick with their food source. You can bet a lot of boat owners are out on the water more and all the associated business from marinas, boat sales and service, motels and restaurants are thriving. Compare this to Chesapeake Bat where charter fishing in dying out with the striped bass, ospreys, herons along with the quality of Chesapeake Bay life for millions of people and their kids and grandkids. The buck stops at the Director's office at the ASMFC> Please open that door and let in the feelings and pride the people have in Chesapeake Bay that want their bay fish and wildlife back and they want you to stop giving all that value of their precious menhaden forage to feed the fish and bank accounts of a Canadian Company... Lets keep America's natural resources in America to benefit Americans and their wildlife. Will you start to do that by letting millions of American voices be heard at a menhaden meeting? Please reply so we can tell the people of Chesapeake Bay whether they and their kids count at the ASMFC and what values the ASMFC finds important. Thanks Tom Lilly Whitehaven MD

Senate Chair
JACK BAILEY
Legislative District 29
Calvert & St. Mary's Counties

Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus
James Senate Office Building, Room 402
410-841-3673 or 301-858-3673
1-800-492-7122 Ext. 3673

Senate Co-Chair
KATIE FRY HESTER
Legislative District 9

House Chair
NED CAREY
Legislative District 31A
Anne Arundel County

Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus
Lowe House Office Building, Room 161
410-841-3047 or 301-858-3047
1-800-492-7122 Ext. 3047

House Co-Chair
WENDELL BEITZEL
Legislative District 1A

The Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus

The Sportsmen's Best Friend in Annapolis

October 21, 2021

Steven G. Bowman
VMRC Chairman
Building 96, 380 Fenwick Road
Ft. Monroe, Virginia 23651

RE: "The Most Important Fish in the Sea" – IMMEDIATE ACTION

Mr. Bowman:

Each year the number of menhaden surviving the Virginia netting gauntlet to successfully reach Maryland's portion of the Chesapeake Bay is declining. This scientifically documented fact is detrimental to both avian and marine species dependent upon the "Most Important Fish in the Sea". This must change.

On October 15, 2021, a fishery biology professor from Salisbury University (Dr. Noah Bressman, PhD) formally addressed the dire menhaden issue in a statement to Maryland's DNR Secretary, et al. For the record, the Maryland's Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus within the Maryland General Assembly fully supports the position taken by Dr. Bressman and urges time-sensitive compliance by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission.

Here's what Dr. Bressman stated:

> "Currently, the Virginia-based menhaden fishery is overfishing the stock of Atlantic Menhaden in and around the Chesapeake Bay, which is preventing this important forage fish from making its way into the bay and its tributaries. As an important prey item for many important species in the bay, such as Striped Bass and Osprey, the disappearance of most of the menhaden from the bay is contributing to the disappearance of many species that rely on menhaden.
>
> Virginia has been allotted about 75% of the entire Atlantic Coast's quota, which is a drastically disproportionate amount relative to its coastline. Additionally, much of their harvesting occurs as menhaden migrate into the bay, where they enter Maryland's waters. What this essentially means is 75% of the quota for the entire Atlantic Coast is being taken in the bay or just before they enter the bay. While this may not be causing overfishing for the entire Atlantic Coast based on quotas, because all of these fish are being taken from essentially just the bay, it is having locally drastic effects on the ecosystem.

Therefore, I strongly suggest either delaying the start of the menhaden commercial season until after a significant amount of menhaden have migrated north along the Virginia coast into the Chesapeake bay (which occurs in spring/early summer), by pushing these factory fishing efforts at least 3 miles offshore into federal waters instead of along the coastline in state waters (as the fish in the state waters are most likely to migrate along the coast into the bay), pushing the commercial menhaden fishery north of the entrance to the Chesapeake bay during their migration, and/or significantly reducing the quotas of menhaden in and around the mouth of the Chesapeake bay.

These actions are necessary to ensure the long-term health of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and the associated fisheries and ecotourism."

What is happening to the "Most Important Fish in the Sea" is intolerable. VMRC must stand up and do what's right.

Senator Jack Bailey, Senate Co-Chair

Delegate Ned Carey, House Co-Chair

Cc:

Members, Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Dr. Noah Bressman, Salisbury University
Senator Emmett Hanger, Senate Co-Chair, Virginia Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus
Delegate James Easily Edmunds II, House Co-Chair, Virginia Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus
Jeff Crane, President, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
The Honorable Ann Jennings, Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources
The Honorable Jeannie H. Riccio, Maryland Secretary of Natural Resources

From: Noah Bressman noahbressman@gmail.com
Subject: Support for Action on Menhaden
Date: Oct 15, 2021 at 10:36:49 AM
To: jeannie.riccio@maryland.gov, bill.anderson@maryland.gov, lynn.fegley@maryland.gov
Bcc: foragematters@aol.com

Dear Secretary Riccio and DNR Menhaden Delegates,

As a Fish Biology Professor at Salisbury University with multiple collaborations with the MD DNR, former nominee to the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council, an avid angler, science communicator, and concerned citizen of Maryland, I write to offer my support for action on menhaden in and around the Chesapeake Bay. Currently, the VIrginia-based menhaden fishery is overfishing the stock of Atlantic Menhaden in and around the Chesapeake Bay, which is preventing this important forage fish from making its way into the bay and its tributaries. As an important prey item for many important species in the bay, such as Striped Bass and Osprey, the disappearance of most of the menhaden from the bay is contributing to the disappearance of the many species that rely on menhaden.

Currently, Virginia has been allotted about 75% of the entire Atlantic Coast's quota, which is a drastically disproportionate amount relative to its coastline. Additionally, much of their harvesting occurs as menhaden migrate into the bay, where they enter Maryland's waters. What this essentially means is 75% of the quota for the entire Atlantic coast is being taken in the bay or just before they entire the bay. While this may not be causing overfishing for the entire Atlantic coast based on quotas, because all of these fish are being taken from essentially just teh bay, it is having locally drastic effects on the ecosystem.

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Sincerely,
Dr. Noah Bressman, PhD
Assistant Professor of Physiology
Salisbury University

Dr. Noah Bressman, PhD
Assistant Professor of Physiology
Salisbury University
Fish Biology, Biomechanics, Functional Morphology, and Behavior
Noahbressman.wixsite.com/noah
He/him/his

Begin forwarded message:

From: Noah Bressman <noahbressman@gmail.com>
Date: October 18, 2021 at 9:54:57 AM EDT
To: Tina Berger <tberger@asmfc.org>
Subject: Re: FW: Final Supplemental Materials for ASMFC 2021 Fall Meeting

Thanks, Tina! I want to clarify that the most important thing I recommend is that the board take action now to evaluate the options to increase menhaden in Chesapeake Bay. If action was started at Tuesday's board meeting, some or all of the measures could be in effect for the 2022 season. This can be accomplished using qualitative management methods, such as seasonal and area closures without additional research. It can also be accomplished by moving the fishing into the US federal zone as every state except Virginia has seen the necessity for doing. While I am always in support of more research for any topic (because I am a scientist), waiting for additional research on this issue that is already clear will likely lead to menhaden continuing to plummet in the bay, which will further reduce the capacity for striped bass to recover in the bay, especially after the recent report showing their abysmal recruitment over the last 3 years. A delay in action, such as a several years-long stock and recruitment reassessment of the bay before action, will lead to the problem getting worse before it gets better.

Sincerely,
Dr. Noah Bressman, PhD
Assistant Professor of Physiology
Department of Biology
Salisbury University

On Fri, Oct 15, 2021 at 2:47 PM Tina Berger <tberger@asmfc.org> wrote:

> Dr. Bressman – Thank you for your public comment on Atlantic menhaden management. It was sent to the Atlantic Menhaden Board today for its consideration. – Tina

Tina Berger

The Path to an Ecosystem Approach for Forage Fish Management: A Case Study of Atlantic Menhaden

Kristen A. Anstead (https://www.frontiersin.org/people/u/1089781)[1*], Katie Drew (https://www.frontiersin.org/people/u/990320)[1], David Chagaris (https://www.frontiersin.org/people/u/495125)[2], Amy M. Schueller (https://www.frontiersin.org/people/u/1119106)[4], Jason E. McNamee (https://www.frontiersin.org/people/u/1124192)[5], Andre Buchheister (https://www.frontiersin.org/people/u/1120381)[6], Geneviève Nesslage (https://www.frontiersin.org/people/u/1126723)[7], Jim H. Uphoff Jr. (https://www.frontiersin.org/people/u/1171712)[8], Michael J. Wilberg (https://www.frontiersin.org/people/u/344791)[7], Alexei Sharov[9], Micah J. Dean[10], Jeffrey Brust[11], Michael Celestino[11], Shanna Madsen[12], Sarah Murray (https://www.frontiersin.org/people/u/1090785)[1], Max Appelman[1], Joseph C. Ballenger (https://www.frontiersin.org/people/u/1146004)[13], Juana Brito (https://www.frontiersin.org/people/u/359070)[2,14], Ellen Cosby[15], Caitlin Craig[16], Corrin Flora[17], Kurt Gottschall[18], Robert J. Latour (https://www.frontiersin.org/people/u/1146038)[19], Eddie Leonard[20], Ray Mroch[4], Josh Newhard (https://www.frontiersin.org/people/u/1111904)[21], Derek Orner[22], Chris Swanson[23], Jeff Tinsman[24], Edward D. Houde (https://www.frontiersin.org/people/u/615796)[7], Thomas J. Miller[7] and Howard Townsend (https://www.frontiersin.org/people/u/530527)[25]

[1]Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Arlington, VA, United States
[2]Nature Coast Biological Station, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, United States
[3]Maine Department of Natural Resources, Boothbay Harbor, ME, United States
[4]NOAA Fisheries, Beaufort, NC, United States
[5]Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Providence, RI, United States
[6]Department of Fisheries Biology, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA, United States
[7]Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Solomons, MD, United States
[8]Cooperative Oxford Lab, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Oxford, MD, United States
[9]Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Annapolis, MD, United States
[10]Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, Gloucester, MA, United States
[11]New Jersey Division of Marine Fisheries, Port Republic, NJ, United States
[12]Virginia Marine Resources Commission, Hampton, VA, United States
[13]South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Charleston, SC, United States
[14]OKEANOS Research Center, University of the Azores, Horta, Portugal
[15]Potomac River Fisheries Commission, Colonial Beach, VA, United States
[16]New York Department of Environmental Conservation, East Setauket, NY, United States

from BAM. All focal species had recently undergone single-species stock assessments, which provided life history, landings, and index data through 2017, as well as estimates of fishing mortality and population size. Newer data were not available for all of the groups included in the full NWACS EwE model; as a result, inputs for those groups were extrapolated from the terminal year of 2013.

The ERP WG evaluated the five ERP models based on their performance (i.e., residuals, sensitivities, and other diagnostics), their strengths and weaknesses, and their ability to inform the fundamental ecosystem management objectives (Buchheister et al., 2017a,b; McNamee, 2018; Uphoff and Sharov, 2018; Nesslage and Wilberg, 2019; Chagaris et al., 2020). The ERP WG ultimately recommended using the NWACS-MICE model rather than the other four for two reasons. First, the EwE framework used by the NWACS-MICE model was the only approach that could address both the top-down effects of predation on Atlantic menhaden and the bottom-up effects of Atlantic menhaden on predator populations, which were required to evaluate the key tradeoffs between Atlantic menhaden harvest and predator needs that were central to the identified ecosystem objectives. Second, the NWACS-MICE implementation was less data-intensive than the full NWACS model, which reduced some of the uncertainty associated with modeling the data-poor predators and prey in the full model. This meant the NWACS-MICE model could be updated more quickly and efficiently, on a timeframe that met manager's needs. Comparisons of the full and MICE versions of the NWACS model indicated that the NWACS-MICE model included the fish predators most sensitive to the menhaden population. Striped bass was the most sensitive fish predator to Atlantic menhaden harvest in both models. In the full NWACS model, nearshore piscivorous birds were also sensitive to Atlantic menhaden *F*, but their response was similar to striped bass over the range of scenarios explored by the full model (Southeast Data Assessment and Review [SEDAR], 2020b). This choice was consistent with a growing body of literature that has recommended models of intermediate complexity (i.e., MICE) for ecosystems as representing a compromise between complexity/realism and uncertainty for use in management (Plagányi et al., 2014; Collie et al., 2016; Punt et al., 2016). Specifically, the ERP WG recommended using the NWACS-MICE in conjunction with the single-species assessment model, BAM; the NWACS-MICE model would provide strategic advice about the trade-offs between Atlantic menhaden fishing mortality and predator biomass to set reference points, while the single-species model would be used to provide short-term tactical advice about harvest strategies to achieve the ERP *F* target (Chagaris et al., 2020; Southeast Data Assessment and Review [SEDAR], 2020b). The ERP report was peer-reviewed with the single-species assessment in 2019, and the ERP WG's recommended tool was deemed acceptable for management use by a panel of independent experts (Southeast Data Assessment and Review [SEDAR], 2020b). The peer-review panel also recommended the continued development of the alternative models going forward.

Current Management

The development and implementation of ERPs for Atlantic menhaden was a lengthy process (Figure 4 and Table 1), but in August 2020, ASMFC adopted the approach from the ERP WG for management use. The ERP target was defined as the maximum *F* on Atlantic menhaden that would sustain striped bass at their biomass target when striped bass were fished at their *F* target. The ERP threshold was defined as the maximum *F* on Atlantic menhaden that would keep striped bass at its biomass threshold when striped bass was fished at its *F* target. For both reference points, all other species in the model were fished at their *status quo* (i.e., 2017) *F* rates. Striped bass was the focal predator species for this analysis because it was the most sensitive to Atlantic menhaden *F* in both the NWACS-MICE and the full NWACS models. Thus, levels of Atlantic menhaden *F* that sustain striped bass should also sustain piscivorous birds and less sensitive predators, in the absence of significant disruptions to the ecosystem (Southeast Data Assessment and Review [SEDAR], 2020b). With these ERP targets and thresholds, the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board reviewed projections from the single-species model, BAM, and set a quota for 2021 and 2022 of 194,400 mt, a 10% decrease in the quota from 2020.

FIGURE 4

FWD: Menhaden
From: George Scocca george@nyangler.com
To: Tom foragematters@aol.com
Date: Mon, March 8, 2021 7:15am

Hello Tom:

I am the person that spearheaded the bill that has kept reduction fishing out of NY waters. The changes here have been unbelievable. I can talk about it all day. My single greatest accomplishment in 35 years of fisheries management.

The availability of bunker throughout our season has seen an increase in both charter and party boats carrying anglers to get in on our great striped bass fishery. Bass stick with their food source and this has kept a healthy population of stripers in our waters. It's sparked a number of for hire boats to carry more anglers than ever before.

It has also had a profound effect on our bird population. We now have about 12 dozen nest pair eagles on long island and the osprey population is thriving. All due to the amount of forage for them to eat.

And lets not forget the importance of their filtering our waters.
Thank you.
George R. Scocca
nyangler.com

Check out my Linkedin profile

From Tom Lilly <foragematters@aol.com>

To CC / BCC

Fw: VMRC meeting summary your testimony!

Summary of testimony:

Christy Medice (9.49-11:39) Suggests that a 2.5 mile buffer from shore needed in bay due to depth of nets...said factory is staying a mile off Silver Beach and beaches have been clean.

Debbie Campbell (11:55-14.22) spoke as mother and grandmother with grandson Eric with her of the precious time together and importance of the lessons learned fishing by children but the kids lose interest as the fishing is so poor. Says the bay is dying- that the board has been "asked and asked" (to change this)

Dr Bryan Watts (37.59-44.5) Professor of Biology at William and Mary and founder of the Center for Conservation Biology involved in studying osprey status for decades. Spoke to importance of menhaden forage to not only ospreys but for other species such as eagles, gannets etc. Spoke to fact that 1,000s of osprey babies died of starvation in VA this season. That menhaden levels in the bay need to return to what was here in the 1980s to adequately support ospreys in the lower VA bay. Said the problem was widespread extending up into Maryland.

Julie Kacmarcik (21.36-24.35) ....Conservation chair of Richmond Audubon Society. ...Advises Audubon has issued a national alert to its two million members in 610 Chapters of the osprey problems in VA, about the collateral damage caused by overharvesting . ...asked for a 50% reduction in bay harvests....spoke of of menhaden as a resource owned by the public...said "cast votes not nets"

Terry Cuthriell (24.5-28.10) Past president of Virginia Society of Ornithology, William and Mary graduate, spoke to her lifetime of observing ospreys and eagles in the lower James River. Ospreys starving in first week of life, spoke to osprey's value as a filter feeder cleaning water and keeping dead zones in check. Urged restoring bay osprey to the levels in the 1980s when the bay was healthy. Spoke to New Jersey now calling itself the striped bass fishing mecca because of the abundance of menhaden since NJ banned reduction fishing in state waters. (Editor's comment See eg article Saltwater Sportsmen scan, also see similar results in NY - scan)

Andy Cortez (28.27-30.2) Furnished the Commision with an ethics document from VA Wildlife Resources Board

Captain Mike Ostrander.(30.30-32.36) Describes a 23 year history of charter fishing on the upper James River and his transition to wildlife and birdwatching tours featuring the ospreys that are thriving there where they rely on shad and catfish not menhaden. Spoke to the decades of efforts by Virginia Anglers Club members at the MRC to reduce menhaden harvests. Spoke of his survey showing 149 of his fellow charter captains had gone out of business in the lower Chesapeake Bay due to poor fishing.. Asked for relief.

Lynn Evans Johnson.(32.58-34.41) Audubon Board member. Spoke of the devastation of our natural resources,.asked the Board to consider the choices, to act as a team going forward.

Lynn Jenkins...Referred to the details/factorr which had already been provided by previous presenters. Reassured the Commissioners that we are not naive as to the complexity of the issue, but wanted another "factor" to be considered-that members of the Commission need to listen to us not just with their "heads"...but with their hearts.

Jacque Montfrans..... Spoke of ospreys as "canary in coal mine" as to menhaden over harvesting ...that improvements in menhaden

would benefit all bay species,, that Commissioners were to be stewards of VA marine resources. (editor's note the ASMFC refers to striped bass as the canary in the coal mine under their ERP definitions. 30 menhaden scientists say the same thing about the ERP status of ospreys. See page 12 Journal Article in Frontiers in Marine Science (scan) Both ospreys and striped bass are indicator species for menhaden overharvesting and both species are in chronic reproductive failure in Chesapeake bay right now.That should be enough in itself (even without the other ecologic, social and economic consequences to millions of people) for the managers to take prompt decisive remedial action but they continue to ignore reality and their own science.

Tomoko Hamada (39:03-39.54)
Wildlife artist Spoke of her anguish about ospreys "watch all the time...can't catch fish ....there are no fish now...." and then "watch babies dying in front of my eyes, heart breaking"

the link to the testimony
is https://youtu.be/hf58Z9SLNlg Or Google YouTube Virginia Marine Resources Commission meeting August 22,2023

Send GIF abc ... Save Delete

The Economic Contribution of Marine Angler Expenditures on Fishing Trips in the United States, 2017

Sabrina J. Lovell, James Hilger, Emily Rollins, Noelle A. Olsen, and Scott Steinback

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service

NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-F/SPO-201
March 2020

ORE Drive
Lovell survey

Table 2: Number of Angler Trips, 2017

State	Mode	Total Trips	Percent Adult	Adult Trips
Alabama	For-Hire	93,314	87%	81,183
Alabama	Private Boat	2,540,490	98%	2,489,680
Alabama	Shore	5,859,527	91%	5,332,169
Alaska	For-Hire	250,380	88%	220,334
Alaska	Private Boat	487,735	94%	458,471
Alaska	Shore	73,768	89%	65,654
California	For-Hire	636,000	88%	559,680
California	Private Boat	533,000	94%	501,020
California	Shore	2,373,000	89%	2,111,970
Connecticut	For-Hire	35,712	88%	31,427
Connecticut	Private Boat	1,336,683	97%	1,296,583
Connecticut	Shore	2,564,867	85%	2,180,137
Delaware	For-Hire	14,035	88%	12,350
Delaware	Private Boat	679,843	95%	645,851
Delaware	Shore	1,296,891	92%	1,193,140
East Florida	For-Hire	249,800	88%	219,824
East Florida	Private Boat	11,755,735	92%	10,815,276
East Florida	Shore	28,397,989	91%	25,842,170
Georgia	For-Hire	27,701	67%	18,560
Georgia	Private Boat	1,569,086	92%	1,443,559
Georgia	Shore	3,027,516	78%	2,361,462
Hawaii	Private Boat	260,865	100%	260,865
Hawaii	Shore	1,019,019	100%	1,019,019
Louisiana	For-Hire	178,723	88%	157,276
Louisiana	Private Boat	1,639,814	94%	1,541,425
Louisiana	Shore	489,815	89%	435,935
Maine	For-Hire	15,932	83%	13,224
Maine	Private Boat	649,523	90%	584,571
Maine	Shore	1,082,113	88%	952,259
Maryland	For-Hire	211,101	94%	198,435
Maryland	Private Boat	3,414,605	94%	3,209,729
Maryland	Shore	4,717,129	85%	4,009,559
Massachusetts	For-Hire	224,249	91%	204,067
Massachusetts	Private Boat	3,389,625	96%	3,254,040
Massachusetts	Shore	4,160,993	92%	3,828,113
Mississippi	For-Hire	20,642	95%	19,610
Mississippi	Private Boat	1,605,632	98%	1,573,519
Mississippi	Shore	3,225,480	97%	3,128,715
New Hampshire	For-Hire	51,005	91%	46,415
New Hampshire	Private Boat	429,629	94%	403,851
New Hampshire	Shore	491,746	85%	417,984
New Jersey	For-Hire	215,364	91%	195,981
New Jersey	Private Boat	4,848,351	96%	4,654,417
New Jersey	Shore	7,224,625	92%	6,646,655
New York	For-Hire	258,989	91%	235,680
New York	Private Boat	7,372,066	93%	6,856,022
New York	Shore	9,002,927	87%	7,832,547
North Carolina	For-Hire	149,438	90%	134,494

211,101
3,414,605
4,717,129
8,342,835

State	Mode	Total Trips	Percent Adult	Adult Trips
North Carolina	Private Boat	5,044,731	94%	4,742,047
North Carolina	Shore	17,258,107	92%	15,877,459
Oregon	For-Hire	65,000	88%	57,200
Oregon	Private Boat	395,000	94%	371,300
Oregon	Shore	233,000	89%	207,370
Rhode Island	For-Hire	35,337	92%	32,510
Rhode Island	Private Boat	774,416	92%	712,463
Rhode Island	Shore	1,508,013	91%	1,372,292
South Carolina	For-Hire	87,594	81%	70,951
South Carolina	Private Boat	3,136,086	92%	2,885,199
South Carolina	Shore	6,165,228	82%	5,055,487
Texas	For-Hire	191,404	88%	168,435
Texas	Private Boat	952,829	94%	895,659
Texas	Shore	NA	89%	NA
Virginia	For-Hire	43,684	92%	40,189
Virginia	Private Boat	2,547,984	97%	2,471,544
Virginia	Shore	4,157,484	94%	3,908,035
Washington	For-Hire	83,000	88%	73,040
Washington	Private Boat	1,012,000	94%	951,280
Washington	Shore	513,000	89%	456,570
West Florida	For-Hire	772,230	91%	702,729
West Florida	Private Boat	18,025,116	93%	16,763,358
West Florida	Shore	23,042,831	87%	20,047,263

43,684
2,547,984
4,157,484
6,749,152

HOW TO
(HTTPS://WWW.SALTWATERSPORTSMAN.COM/CATEGORY/HOWTO/)

Is New Jersey the New Striped Bass Mecca?

Honachefsky

EXCERPT FROM ARTICLE

Jersey (https://www.saltwatersportsman.com/story/sponsored-post/new-jersey-striped-bass-fishing/) politicians did one thing right: Getting the Omega 3 bunker boats out of state waters. That has allowed a vast biomass of menhaden to proliferate throughout the year in Jersey waters. This draws behemoth bass into the bays, river systems and alongshore to fatten up on omnipresent adult bunker.

Walk up to the beach and black clouds of bait are present in the surf and nearshore from spring through winter. During the fall, massive schools of smaller baits such as peanut bunker, bay anchovies and spearing push out of the backwaters and inundate the surf line. From October through December, sand eels choke the surf waters.

https://www.saltwatersportsman.com/howto/is-new-jersey-the-new-striped-bass-

A catch and release striper surf tourney on a small stretch of the Jersey coast last October reported 53 bass from 40 to 52 inches (25 to 52 pounds) released in one day. And that chew lasted for days.

SIERRA CLUB

P.O. Box 278
Riverdale, MD 20738

Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Testimony on: SJ6 "Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission – Atlantic Menhaden – Prohibition on Commercial Reduction Fishing"

Position: Support

Hearing Date: March 1, 2022

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club urges a favorable report on SJ6. This resolution asks the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to exercise its authority regarding the management of the menhaden fishery to consider prohibiting commercial reduction fishing of Atlantic menhaden, including the use of purse seines and spotter planes, in the Chesapeake Bay.

Atlantic menhaden are a keystone species for the Chesapeake Bay. As noted by this resolution, Atlantic menhaden form a critical connection between the bottom and the top of the food chain. Menhaden are filter feeders, eating plankton and rotifers and helping clear the water of nutrient-pollution.[1] They are also a vital source of food to predators, including predatory fish, dolphins, whales, osprey, and bald eagles. While this is incredibly important to the ecosystem of the Bay, it is also important to the fishing industry. Many species of fish that we harvest from the Bay rely on the menhaden as a food source, including rockfish (striped bass), bluefish, and weakfish.

The Chesapeake Bay is an important nursery for the menhaden that helps sustain the population along the entire Atlantic coast. It is deeply concerning that the number of menhaden juveniles have decreased significantly since 1976 and has stayed low in the last 20 years.[2]

In order to protect the natural wonders of the Chesapeake Bay, it is important that action be taken now. We urge the Committee to issue a favorable report.

Marc Imlay
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Josh Tulkin
Chapter Director
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[1] https://www.vims.edu/research/units/projects/menhaden/research/modeling.php
[2] Durrell, E. Q. & Weedon, C. (2019). Striped Bass Seine Survey Juvenile Index Web Page. DNR.Maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/Juvenile-Index.ASPX. Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Service.

ONE DRIVE CAROZZA-MAIL PDF

SHORERIVERS

Testimony in SUPPORT of SJ6 – Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission - Atlantic Menhaden - Prohibition on Commercial Reduction Fishing

March 1, 2022

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT of SJ6** on behalf of ShoreRivers. ShoreRivers is a river protection group on Maryland's Eastern Shore with 3,500 members. Our mission is to protect and restore our Eastern Shore waterways through science-based advocacy, restoration, and education.

This bill sets forth a resolution by the Maryland General Assembly asking the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to take further action to prohibit the commercial reduction fishing of Atlantic Menhaden, including the use of purse seines and spotter planes in the Chesapeake Bay in order to maintain a sustainable fishery. This reduction fishery poses a major threat to many Bay species every year, and when these other fisheries suffer it increases the pressure on other fisheries, including crabs and oysters. Thus, it is of critical importance to protect a foundational species like menhaden as much as possible.

Menhaden are incredibly valuable to the Chesapeake Bay and the many other commercial and recreational fisheries that occur in the rivers of the Eastern Shore. As a vital part of the ecosystem, menhaden filter plankton from the water and help to improve water quality, and they are a necessary food source for other aquatic species like striped bass and bluefish, but also for ospreys and bald eagles. The Department of Natural Resources noted in their 2021 Striped Bass survey that while the stiped bass young-of-year showed a slight increase in population from 2020, what was of note was the increased numbers of menhaden in the rivers, notable the Choptank River. When the menhaden population thrives, so do our other fisheries. And when our fisheries are healthy, we know that water quality and habitat are at healthy levels to support those populations, which means that our economies and local communities will see a benefit.

For these reasons stated above, ShoreRivers urges the Committee to adopt a **FAVORABLE** report on SJ6.

Sincerely,

Matt Pluta,
Choptank Riverkeeper, on behalf of:

ShoreRivers
Isabel Hardesty, Executive Director
Annie Richards, Chester Riverkeeper | Matt Pluta, Choptank Riverkeeper
Elle Bassett, Miles-Wye Riverkeeper | Zack Kelleher, Sassafras Riverkeeper

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shorerivers.org

June 14, 2022

Governor Glenn Youngkin
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Governor Youngkin,

As members of the recreational fishing and boating community, we ask that you move menhaden reduction fishing out of the Chesapeake Bay until science demonstrates that high volume reduction fishing for menhaden can be allowed without negatively affecting the broader Bay ecosystem.

America's anglers and boaters consistently play an integral role in the stewardship of our shared natural resources by directly funding conservation and habitat restoration efforts through licensing fees and excise taxes set up through the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund on fishing equipment and boat fuel. In 2021 alone, $399 million was apportioned to the states to fund fishery conservation programs.[1] This resulted in $6.26 million in funds for conservation programs specifically in Virginia, funded solely by anglers and boaters.

Our recreational fishing coalition of national and Virginia-based groups is clearly dedicated to maintaining the health of the Chesapeake Bay, the region's economy, and the broader marine ecosystem in the Atlantic. A major source of our conservation ethic is the fact that saltwater recreational fishing is an economic powerhouse, especially for Virginia where fishing is enjoyed by 600,000 anglers annually, contributing $465 million to the Commonwealth's economy and supporting 6,504 jobs.[2] The jobs created by these fisheries are the lifeblood of our coastal communities as more than 90 percent of the sportfishing and boating industry is made up of small businesses.

Atlantic menhaden play a vital role in maintaining the sportfishing economy and the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem by serving as the base of the food chain for many recreationally important species. Specifically, menhaden are critical to the diets of gamefish like striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, and more, that feed Americans and keep them coming to Virginia waters and spending money in our coastal communities. For example, the striped bass fishery is the largest marine recreational fishery in the U.S., driving $166 million in recreational fishing activity in Virginia alone. However, the economic value of striped bass fishing to Virginia has declined by over 50 percent in the past decade.[3]

[1] Certificate of Apportionment For Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration, available at: https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/SFR%20FY22%20Certificate%20of%20Final%20Apportionment%202022Feb3_508.pdf
[2] Fisheries Economics of the United States, 2021, available at: https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/2021-11/FEUS-2018-final-508_0.pdf
[3] The Economic Contributions of Recreational and Commercial Striped Bass Fishing, 2019, available at: https://mcgrawconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/McGraw-Striped-Bass-Report-FINAL.pdf
[4] Evaluating Ecosystem-Based Reference Points for Atlantic Menhaden, 2017, available at: https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/19425120.2017.1360420
[5] ASMFC news release, 2019, available at: http://www.asmfc.org/uploads/file/5dfbd30bpr40SecretarialSupport_Menhaden_VANoncompliance.pdf

Part of the decline in the striped bass population is explained by fishing mortality being too high, and in 2014 and 2020 our coalition supported significant reductions on the striped bass fishery to address that decline. However, according to a scientific model, menhaden reduction fishing also contributes to a nearly 30 percent decline in striped bass numbers coast wide.[4] The scientific linkage between menhaden as prey and striped bass as a main predator is undeniable. Therefore, the industrial menhaden fishery in the Chesapeake plays a role in the ability of striped bass to rebuild to healthy population levels. By removing more than 100 million pounds of menhaden every year from the Chesapeake Bay, the most important striped bass nursery on the East Coast, reduction fishing in Virginia is undermining the sportfishing economy and small businesses throughout the Commonwealth.

The detrimental impact of menhaden reduction fishing on the ecosystem is so pronounced that it is prohibited in every state along the East Coast except Virginia. However, each year, over 100 million pounds of menhaden are being removed from the Chesapeake Bay and "reduced" to fish meal and oil for pet food and salmon feed by a foreign-owned company—Cooke Inc. Locally known as Omega Protein, the corporation is exporting this keystone fish to other countries as a global commodity, despite repeated signs of the negative impact it is causing to the environment and other industries dependent on a healthy marine ecosystem. In fact, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) found Virginia out of compliance with the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic menhaden in 2019, after Omega Protein exceeded the Chesapeake Bay harvest cap by 33 million pounds.[5]

Over the past decade, recreational fishing and boating organizations, coastal businesses, and hundreds of thousands of individual anglers and conservationists have called on decisionmakers to leave enough menhaden in the water to feed the wildlife that support vibrant recreational fishing, boating and other industries that boost Virginia's coastal economy. Governor Youngkin, we urge you to use your authority to move menhaden reduction fishing out of the Bay until science demonstrates that menhaden fishing can be allowed without negatively affecting the broader Bay ecosystem. Importantly, you could put this stopgap in place and still allow Omega Protein to fish in Virginia's ocean waters.

Moving menhaden reduction fishing out of the Bay will help to protect the health of the ecosystem and help grow Virginia's outdoor recreational economy, which benefits all Virginians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Whit Fosburgh

President & CEO

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Glenn Hughes

President

American Sportfishing Association

Frank Hugelmeyer
President
National Marine Manufacturers Association

Jim McDuffie
President & CEO
Bonefish & Tarpon Trust

Matt Gruhn
President
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas

Greg Jacoski
Executive Director
Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation

Patrick Murray
President
Coastal Conservation Association

Ellen Peel
President
The Billfish Foundation

Brett Fitzgerald
Executive Director
Angler Action Foundation

Jared Mott
Conservation Director
Izaak Walton League of America

Jason Schratwieser
President
International Game Fish Association

Ernie Padgette
President
Virginia Division of the Izaak Walton League of America

Virginia Angling Clubs

Steve Atkinson
President
Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association

Captain Mike Ostrander
President
Virginia Anglers Club

Chris Schneider

President

Virginia Beach Angler's Club

Joe Stephenson

President

Great Bridge Fisherman's Association

Henry Troutner

Vice President

Norfolk Anglers Club

Samuel A. Graham

President

Central Virginia Sport Fishing Association

Ed Pacheco

President

Virginia Coastal Fly Anglers

Dean Carroll

President

Eastern Shore Anglers Club

Steve Jones Jr.

President

Tidewater Anglers Club

Danny Forehand

President

Peninsula Salt Water Sport Fisherman's Association

COMMENT ON THE FOOD FISH WATERMEN, CHARTER CAPTAINS, CHARTER CLIENTS, SPORT ANGLERS, FISH WHOLESALERS, MARINAS, RESTAURANTS, FISH RETAILERS , BOAT SALES, SERVICE , STORAGE AND OTHER JOBS AND BUSINESSES THAT COULD BENEFIT IF SUBSTANTIALLY MORE MENHADEN WERE LEFT IN THE WATER TO GROW HEALTHIER MORE ABUNDANT FISH.

CONVERT 100 THOUSAND TONS OF MENHADEN TO MORE FISH FOR OUR FOOD FISH WATERMEN AND SPORT ANGLERS. COMPUTE VALUE BEING GIVEN EACH YEAR TO A PRIVATE COMPANY OWNED BY A FOREIGN BILLIONAIRE

ALL THAT POTENTIAL VALUE IS LOST TO THE WORKING PEOPLE OF MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA WHEN THAT MENHADEN IS TAKEN FROM THE WATER AND EXPORTED TO CANADA AND OR USED FOR ANIMAL AND FISH FOOD.

BEFORE WE LOOK AT THE DATA LETS TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE FISHING, THE CHARTERS, THE WILDLIFE AND THE STATE MARINA BUSINESS IN THE MARYLAND SIDE OF TANGIER SOUND A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THE MARYLAND-VIRGINIA LINE ACROSS THE BAY FROM REEDVILLE, VIRGINIA. THIS IS CALLED REQUIEM FOR TANGIER SOUND WRITTEN IN 2019.

THE NEXT THREE PAGES ARE THE DATA ABOUT THE PEOPLE, JOBS AND BUSINESSES AFFECTED. DO THE CALCULATIONS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS IF FISHING IMPROVED SO OUR FISHING FAMILIES GEARED UP AND TOOK JUST THREE MORE FISHING TRIPS A YEAR. JUST THAT SMALL DIFFERENCE COULD RESULT IN $100 MILLION DOLLARS IN DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT SPREAD THROUGHOUT VIRGINIA AND MARYLAND.

WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS AND GRANDKIDS THAT WOULD GET SOME GREAT FISHING IN? WHAT ABOUT THE PRECIOUS MEMORIES CREATED? THIS IS THE STORY OF MY GRANDCHILDREN WHO ARE GROWING UP WHEN THE BAY HAS LOST ITS MENHADEN AND WHERE THE FISH AND WILDLIFE ARE SUFFERING.

THIS IS ALEX'S STORY .