

James Boyle

From: jean nelson <jmnel123@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2026 5:56 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [New] [External] atlantic menhaden board meeting comments

TIME SENSITIVE

comments for inclusion in board packet for aug menhaden meeting due by 10 am friday 31 jul 2026

PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT

attempted to send via your official comment page but didn't seem to go thru after i hit comment.

from jean nelson
jmnel123@gmail.com
resident of virginia

BOARD MEMBERS

i understand that your meeting will be discussing a bay cap. i would respectfully request that you ask yourself these questions before making any decision

by your own admission you can do a stock assessment of menhaden in the open waters of the atlantic, but have no idea how to do it in the enclosed waters bay (maybe talk to your colleagues from rhode island where surveys of narragansett bay have been done for years)

each year the atlantic stock assessment shows no overfishing in the atlantic then assigns 75% of the total allowable catch to be taken from the bay (no wonder the atlantic numbers are so high)

do you concede that the atlantic waters and the bay waters are two separate and distinct bodies of water? and isn't it likely that they require individualized management?

by your own admission you have scientific info regarding menhaden numbers in the bay. how are you allowed to set a bay cap if you have no idea whether that cap is 10% or 90% of all of the menhaden available in the bay?

how can you ask what's the MAXIMUM amount of fish omega might be able to take from the chesapeake waters during their season without first knowing the MINIMUM number of fish required be left in the bay in order to sustain the health of the bay and the lives of the bay birds mammals and predator fish that depend on the menhaden for its very survival?

the bay belongs to the state of virginia and its residents - it's not meant to be the private property of canada or omega. having said that im in support of the reedville operations - but until you can base a bay cap on actual scientific data and you how much can safely be removed with no adverse ecological damage - there needs to be moratorium on reduction fishing in the bay in order to get a clear picture of the state of the bay in a resting state.

i'm not saying reduce how many fish omega can take each season - the numbers can stay the same - they just can't come from the bay. they need to come from the 'not overfished' waters of the atlantic. i understand that saying that might

send a panic from the 15 other states that are no doubt elated that virginia has been carrying the burden when other states ban them from their waters but omega should not be virginia's problem alone.

and of course omega will object and claim that jobs will be lost if they can't fish the bay but that's just not true. it still requires the same amount of employees in reedville, or workers on their boats, and even folks working in related local industries that support their business - regardless of whether the fish came from the bay or the atlantic. they may have to spend a bit more in fuel costs but that's the price of doing business and they can charge more for their product (or cover it with all the money they will save on their super big lobbying budget).

i don't mean that to be a joke - it's a win-win. omega loses no jobs - if it really about reedville legacy and their employees as they claim, this should make them happy and as for virginia the revenue money currently going to our state stays the same.

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From: [ASMFC](#)
To: [Comments](#)
Subject: [New] [External] New public comment for 2026 Summer Meeting
Date: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 10:28:49 PM

2026 Summer Meeting

Action Title
2026 Summer Meeting
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/2026-summer-meeting/
Name
Dave Prockop
Email
dprockop@gmail.com
State
Rhode Island
Comment
Dear ASMFC Commission members, Data you are familiar with indicate very clearly that menhaden have been over-harvested for years. I therefore urge you to greatly and meaningfully reduce the cap for the menhaden reduction fleet (and, of course, the Chesapeake should be managed independently of other areas). First of all, lowering the cap will be in the long-term best interest of the reduction fleet itself since a lower cap should, we hope, allow the menhaden population to rebound and therefore give the reduction fleet a sustainable fishery from which to profit for many years to come. In addition, allowing the menhaden population to regrow can only help support the regrowth of the striped bass population, which is already in dire straits. Although it has been shown that a larger menhaden population will not itself allow the striped bass population to rebound, an abundant supply of menhaden can certainly be one significant contributing factor. With thanks for your consideration, Dave Prockop Barrington, RI

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