James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 8:07 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Mike Wilberg

Email

wilberg@umces.edu

State

Maryland

Comment

Atlantic Menhaden Board:

Recently, Ault and Luo (2026) published a paper that purported to provide a new estimate of natural mortality that, if used, would substantially change the estimated biomass of menhaden in the stock assessment. They further claimed that their study was an improvement over the estimates in Liljestrand et al. (2025). Taken at face value, the Ault and Luo (2026) study casts doubt on the accuracy of the 2025 stock assessment.

As a co-author of Liljestrand et al. (2025), I have reviewed the work in Ault and Luo (2026) and found several fatal flaws such that the information in that paper should not be considered best available science. The main flaws are:

1) The models used by Ault and Luo (2026) do not produce statistically valid estimates. I have rerun their models that are publicly posted on GitHub (https://github.com/bigjawfish/Menhaden_MMR_Model) and found that they do not meet standard diagnostics for determining whether results from a Bayesian model are valid. This is not surprising because previous research on this type of model indicates that the Ault and Luo (2026) model should have problems with parameter estimation.

2) Ault and Luo (2026) ignore the empirical data on magnet efficiency from experiments that were done by putting tagged menhaden directly into the reduction plants to determine the fraction of tags that were recovered (nearly 100,000 fish in nearly

1,000 separate experiments). Liljestrand et al. (2025) used these data to inform their model, which is a better approach.

3) Ault and Luo (2026) distort the literature on the maximum age of Atlantic menhaden. Ault and Luo (2026) state, “More than five decades of ageing data encompassing over half a million Atlantic menhaden indicate that the species regularly attains ages of at least 10–11 years (Schueller et al., 2014, 2021; SEDAR 69, 2019).” That statement is misleading and incorrect. No Atlantic menhaden have been aged to age-9 or older since 1964, despite >500,000 menhaden being aged during 1955-2023. These early high ages are only present in the first ten years of the ageing program when ageing methods were still being developed, and they had a different set of agers than after 1968. A more realistic estimate of the maximum age is likely 6-8. Age 8 is the oldest observed age since 1968 with only two observations. Only twelve fish have been age-7 since 1968, and 155 fish have been aged to 6 (out of more than 300,000).

These flaws are similar to those identified by the ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Technical Committee when they reviewed Ault and Luo’s work previously and comments (March 4, 2025) that I also made to Ault and Luo over the past several years. However, Ault and Luo chose not to address them. The stock assessment should continue to be used as the best science to manage this stock. My co-authors and I plan on submitting a rebuttal to the Ault and Luo (2026) article soon.

Sincerely,
Mike Wilberg
Professor
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

Ault, J.S., J. Luo. 2026. Investigation of Atlantic menhaden mortality rates. Fisheries Research 303; 107865.
Liljestrand, E.M., M.J. Wilberg, A.M. Schueller. 2025. Corrigendum to “Estimation of movement and mortality of Atlantic menhaden during 1966-1969 using a Bayesian multi-state mark-recovery model” [Fish. Res. 210 (2019) 204-213]. Fisheries Research 288: 107445.

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Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC):

I strongly support reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by **50 percent—from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons per year—and establishing strict seasonal quota periods for menhaden.** The Chesapeake Bay is too important, and the ecological warning signs are too serious, to continue managing this critical forage fish as though the timing and location of harvest do not matter.

I have lived in St. Mary's County since 2008 and am lucky enough to have an osprey nest just off my pier. We used to have two to three chicks annually fledge and migrate at the end of the season. Now, we are lucky to have one chick and the last three years they have all starved before fledging.

The evidence points to a decline in the number of menhaden that the ospreys, striped bass and other marine life in the Chesapeake watershed depend upon for their survival.

It is both when and where those fish are removed that matter. A menhaden harvested from a concentrated school in the Bay during the summer is no longer available to the predators that depend upon that school. Concentrated removal can create localized depletion during a biologically important period and can affect the availability of forage to other users of this shared public resource.

The consequences extend beyond the reduction fishery. Menhaden support the Bay's recreational fishing economy, commercial and charter fishermen, watermen, wildlife, and coastal tourism. **One user group should not be permitted to concentrate an enormous harvest of a shared forage resource during the period when that resource is most important to the rest of the ecosystem and to other Bay users.**

For that reason, I urge the Commission to take the following actions:

• Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent to 25,500 metric tons annually.

• Establish strict seasonal quota periods that distribute harvest throughout the year rather than permitting an intense summer harvest.

• Apply a precautionary management approach in light of uncertainty regarding localized menhaden abundance and the ecological condition of the Chesapeake Bay.

• Give greater consideration to the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the broader Chesapeake Bay economy, not just one Virginia based fishing company.

The Chesapeake Bay is not simply a location on a fisheries management map. It is a complex and interconnected ecosystem, and menhaden are one of its essential links.

We should not wait for further deterioration before taking action. There is no time for additional five-year studies to delay the decision. The severe drop in nesting pairs and the lack of surviving chicks will not replenish the specicies enough to survive that long.

As someone who lives here, fishes and sails these waters, swims in them, and cares deeply about the wildlife that depends upon them, I believe the Commission has an obligation to manage menhaden conservatively and to recognize that the health of the Bay must take precedence over maximizing a concentrated industrial harvest.

Reduce the cap. Establish meaningful seasonal quotas. Protect the forage base. Give the Chesapeake Bay—and the people and wildlife that depend upon it—a greater margin for recovery.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris Allen
18029 William Howard Way
Tall Timbers, St. Mary's County, Maryland

James Boyle

From: Allen-Chabot, Amy Marie <amallenchabot@aacc.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 12:25 PM
To: James Boyle
Subject: [External] menhaden

Hi. I am very concerned about the loss of the osprey population due to the depletion of menhaden. We need stricter limits on how many menhaden can be caught so we can protect the osprey and the ecosystem at large. I hope you will support limits and prevent Cooke Inc. from further decimating the osprey population. Thank you

Amy Allen-Chabot
Arnold MD.

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James Boyle

To: j
Subject: RE: [External] Re: Public comment document / portal / submission

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From: Troy Anderson <tca.ecology@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 1:10 PM
To: James Boyle <JBoyle@ASMFC.org>
Subject: Re: [External] Re: Public comment document / portal / submission

Mr. Boyle,

Thank you. Here is my comment as a Maryland resident.

Troy Anderson
Timonium, MD

I am writing in strong support of Option B4, the full 50% reduction of the Chesapeake Bay Cap to 25,500 mt, along with measures that shift harvest later in the season. This is the most effective and least ambiguous approach to protecting the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and ensuring equitable access to menhaden for Maryland's fisheries.

I am very concerned about this issue in the Bay. I fish and have taught my daughters (and later, their boyfriends) how to fish the Bay. In recent years, it is clear that Stripers are getting skinnier, and other anglers are telling me the same story. There are published papers on how predators are being negatively impacted (From Osprey to native fish in the Bay). I thank you for considering my comment. I tried to organize it based on the information provided.

My comments / recommendations is as follows:

1. Option B4 is the strongest and clearest ecological choice

The Draft Addendum states:

"Sub Option B4: Reduce by 50% to 25,500 mt."

This reduction is necessary because the Chesapeake Bay's forage base is under sustained ecological stress. The Ecological Reference Points (ERP) framework—ASMFC's ecosystem-based management system for Atlantic menhaden—shows that predator species such as striped bass, bluefish, and weakfish are below target biomass and experiencing poor body condition due to forage limitations. Under the ERP framework, higher harvest levels increase the probability of exceeding both the ERP fishing mortality target and the ERP threshold, as shown in the Draft Addendum's risk tables.

Maryland's striped bass juvenile index has produced seven consecutive below-average year classes, a

clear indicator of ecosystem instability. Peer-reviewed research from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science has documented osprey reproductive failure in the lower Bay driven by menhaden scarcity. These findings demonstrate that current harvest levels are not sustainable for the broader food web.

2. Seasonal quota periods must shift harvest later (Options B2 or B3)

The Draft Addendum explains the purpose of quota periods:

"Alleviate a concentration of reduction harvest that may prevent menhaden from distributing throughout the Bay."

Options B2 and B3 best accomplish this by reducing early-season industrial harvest and allowing menhaden to move into Maryland waters, supporting predators, recreational anglers, and small-scale commercial fisheries.

3. Support for overage paybacks and late-season rollovers (Option B)

The Addendum's example shows how overages can be corrected:

"Period 1 would be reduced by 2,000 pounds and Period 3 would be increased by 2,000 pounds."

Mandatory paybacks and rollover only into later periods reinforce the ecological goal of protecting early-season distribution.

4. Regular Bay Cap review is essential (Section 3.3, Option B)

The ERP framework demonstrates that ecosystem conditions can shift rapidly. A three-year review cycle ensures the Bay Cap remains aligned with predator needs and updated ERP risk analyses.

5. Maryland's recreational and charter economy depends on menhaden

NOAA Fisheries reports that recreational fishing in Maryland generates over $1.4 billion annually and supports more than 12,000 jobs. Maryland's charter fleet alone contributes over $100 million in annual economic activity.

By contrast, the reduction sector is geographically concentrated in a single Virginia county and represents a small fraction of the Bay's total fisheries economy. Protecting forage availability is far more economically consequential for Maryland and the broader Chesapeake region.

I urge the Board to adopt Option B4 and the strongest possible combination of seasonal distribution, overage controls, and regular review. These measures are necessary to protect the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and ensure sustainable, equitable use of this shared resource.

Best regards,
Troy Anderson

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James Boyle

From: G2W2
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 3:15 PM
To: James Boyle; Comments
Subject: FW: ASMFC menhaden public hearing

From: Roger and Judith Anderson <rqajpa@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 7:32 AM
To: G2W2 <G2W2@asmfc.org>
Subject: [External] ASMFC menhaden public hearing

I recently received a thank you from your organization thanking me for attending your Menhaden public hearing. THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING THE PUBLIC TO LISTEN AND COMMENT!

I have fished the middle western portions of the Chesapeake Bay, mostly around Gwynns Island and the Piankatsnk River, for the past 50 years. I have personally observed the significant decline in fish during that time period. Everything from trout, redfish, spot, and croakers. I used to kayak fish along the shoals at the Hole in the Wall. It was so enjoyable to see 5 or 6 ospreys diving for fish in that area and I had pretty good luck catching both reds and trout. Not any more as there are no more fish. Haven't caught a "red" or legal trout in over 2 years. My neighbor who line fishes almost every day has also see a similar decline in fish. Now I see only one or two ospreys desperately searching for food along our shoreline.

In my opinion the problem is much larger than just Menhaden. It's commercial overfishing. We used to have good fishing, but for the past 7 or 8 years big commercial netter boats have been operating out of Milford Haven almost every day in good and bad weather. No controls, and if there are, no enforcement. This past September they were not sending all their boats out-not sure why-could be the price of diesel? Obviously it wasn't economically feasible. But as I stated above there are very few fish.

In summary the "canary in the coal mine" is not just the significant decline in Menhaden, or the starving ospreys, but the overall decline in fish caused by a combination of factors, environmental, overfishing, and unwillingness of some state fishing commissions to take effective actions. Please, take appropriate actions to restore our fisheries.

Respectfully,
Roger Anderson
Hudgins and Manassas, VA
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Public Testimony - Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Atlantic Menhaden Management Board

Annie Sokoloski
Voices of the Fleet
Lubec, Maine

I have spent decades working in commercial seafood operations and along Maine's working waterfront. I understand that responsible fisheries management has to account for the resource itself, but I also understand the realities behind the numbers: fishermen, vessels, processing capacity, weather, markets, migration, bait supply, and communities whose livelihoods depend upon decisions made by fisheries managers.

Although Draft Addendum II focuses specifically on the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery, Atlantic menhaden are a coastwide resource. What happens in Chesapeake Bay deserves the attention of fishing communities throughout the Atlantic states.

And I believe there is one distinction that should remain at the center of this discussion:

There is evidence of concern in Chesapeake Bay. There is not yet evidence establishing a single cause.

The Draft Addendum documents legitimate warning signs. Maryland's Chesapeake Bay pound-net menhaden harvest declined by 60% in 2024 compared with the 2018-2022 average. Notable declines in pound-net catch per unit effort were also observed in Maryland, Virginia, and the Potomac River fisheries. A fishery-independent survey in the Choptank River showed a substantial decline in adult menhaden abundance in 2024 that remained low in 2025. Those observations deserve serious attention.

But the Draft Addendum is equally important for what it says we do not yet know.

ASMFC acknowledges that sufficient scientific information is not currently available to comprehensively characterize menhaden abundance and distribution throughout Chesapeake Bay or determine the influence of fishing pressure on menhaden within the Bay.

Menhaden availability can be affected by fishing pressure. It can also be influenced by overall abundance, population structure, spatial and temporal distribution, environmental conditions, habitat suitability, and predation pressure. The Draft recognizes those possibilities.

That brings me to the principle that guides my comments:

> **I am not opposed to precaution. I am opposed to presenting precaution as certainty.**

If the Board determines that precautionary action is warranted, then take precautionary action - but call it what it is.

Explain why that particular level of precaution was selected. Be equally clear about what the science tells us and what it cannot currently establish. And commit to revisiting the decision as better Chesapeake-specific information becomes available.

Precaution should protect the resource while the science catches up. It should not become a substitute for the science.

The Chesapeake Bay Cap

The existing Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap of 51,000 metric tons was not established as a scientifically determined biological threshold for Chesapeake Bay. It approximated average Bay reduction harvest during 2012-2016. The Draft also acknowledges that there is no scientifically determined Chesapeake-specific forage threshold upon which the current Bay Cap is based.

The Board is now considering maintaining the existing cap or reducing it by 10%, 20%, 30%, or 50%, potentially reducing the cap to 25,500 metric tons.

Those are materially different management decisions.

If the Board chooses one of those reductions, fishermen and the public deserve to understand why that particular percentage was selected.

A 10% reduction, a 20% reduction, and a 50% reduction cannot all represent the same biological determination.

If the science cannot presently identify a precise Chesapeake-specific threshold, then the selected percentage should be described accurately as a management judgment about the appropriate level of precaution under uncertainty.

There is nothing inherently wrong with making such a judgment. Fisheries managers are sometimes required to act before every scientific question has been answered. But transparency about the basis for that decision matters.

Linking the Bay Cap to the Coastwide TAC

I am particularly cautious about permanently linking the Chesapeake Bay Cap to the coastwide Total Allowable Catch.

A one-time precautionary reduction can be evaluated and revisited as additional Chesapeake-specific science becomes available. An automatic formula is different.

It establishes an ongoing management relationship between two measures that were created for different purposes.

The coastwide TAC limits total removals across the fishery and is informed by coastwide stock assessments and ecosystem reference points. The Chesapeake Bay Cap limits reduction harvest within a specific geographic area and historically has been based largely upon recent landings rather than a scientifically determined Chesapeake-specific forage threshold.

Under the options contained in this Addendum, future changes in the coastwide TAC could automatically produce corresponding percentage changes in the Chesapeake Bay Cap, subject to whatever upper and lower limits the Board selects.

Before establishing that automatic relationship, I believe the Board should demonstrate the scientific basis for assuming that a percentage change in coastwide TAC should produce a corresponding percentage change in the amount of reduction harvest appropriate within Chesapeake Bay.

Changing today's number and changing the formula that determines tomorrow's number are not the same decision.

They should not be treated as though they are.

Timing Matters Too

I also believe the Board is right to examine the timing and concentration of harvest separately from total harvest.

In 2023 and 2024, more than half of Chesapeake Bay reduction landings occurred during approximately a six-week period in midsummer. The Draft raises the legitimate question of whether concentrating that much harvest into a relatively short period could affect availability to other fisheries and predators.

But this is where management must also recognize how fisheries actually operate.

Fish do not follow a management calendar.

Having worked for decades in commercial seafood operations, I understand that biological availability, migration, weather, vessel operations, processing capacity, markets, and regulatory calendars do not always align neatly.

The historical information presented in this Addendum shows significant differences between when the fishery has actually operated and some of the seasonal allocations now being considered.

If seasonal quota periods are adopted, they should contain enough flexibility to respond to actual conditions. A fisherman should not be penalized simply because fish were available during a different part of the season than a management calendar anticipated.

Require the Three-Year Review

On this issue, I do have a clear preference.

I support the option requiring the Board to revisit these measures every three years.

The Draft Addendum specifically provides the Board with the option of establishing a three-year review schedule.

If these measures are adopted because uncertainty warrants precaution today, then the Board has an equal responsibility to examine them again as additional information becomes available.

That review should consider new Chesapeake-specific research, fishery-independent information, fishery performance, changes in distribution and availability, and what managers have learned since implementation.

Precautionary measures adopted while the science is developing should not become permanent simply through inertia.

If the evidence later supports stronger measures, the Board should have the willingness to strengthen them. If the evidence supports relaxing them, the Board should have the willingness to do that as well.

That is what adaptive fisheries management should look like.

> **Protect the resource. Protect the integrity of the science. And recognize the people whose livelihoods depend upon the decisions made in this room.**
>
> **Those responsibilities are not mutually exclusive. Good fisheries management requires all three.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

James Boyle

From: Chris Arias <chris@oceanresearchproject.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 6:37 PM
To: Comments; James Boyle
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Dear James Boyle and The Atlantic Menhaden Management Board

I'm a member of the Board of Directors of Ocean Research Project (ORP), although I speak for myself and not on the behalf of ORP, an organization dedicated to studying the impacts of human-induced stress on the world's oceans.

In 2024, ORP conducted a Chesapeake Bay-wide survey of plastic pollution, the findings of which were subsequently included in the Chesapeake Bay's annual report card. Our research found that microplastics and microfibers are pervasive throughout the Bay, highlighting just one of the many pressures affecting this vital ecosystem.

The Chesapeake Bay faces multiple, interconnected stressors, including plastic pollution, habitat degradation, and fishing pressure. While no single regulatory action can solve all of these problems, I believe that taking meaningful steps to address individual stressors—particularly the management of Atlantic menhaden, a critical forage fish—can help improve the Bay's overall health and resilience.

The proposed menhaden management measures offer an opportunity to take a precautionary approach, ensuring that sufficient menhaden remain available to support the Bay's food web, other fisheries, and the wildlife and communities that depend on them. By better managing this resource, we can help preserve the Chesapeake Bay's ability to sustain commercial and recreational fishing, provide jobs, and remain a source of enjoyment for generations to come.

I urge the Commission to adopt the **50% reduction option for the Chesapeake Bay menhaden harvest cap**, along with effective seasonal harvest limits, as a meaningful step toward protecting this essential forage fish and the broader ecosystem that depends on it. Given the multiple, interconnected stressors facing the Chesapeake Bay, a precautionary approach to menhaden management is both reasonable and necessary. Reducing harvest pressure would help safeguard the availability of menhaden for the Bay's predators, support the health of the food web, and contribute to the long-term sustainability of the Bay's fisheries and wildlife. While no single action can reverse the Bay's decline, stronger science-based management can make a real difference. We owe it to future generations to take meaningful steps now to ensure the Chesapeake Bay remains a healthy, productive resource for wildlife, fishing communities, local economies, and everyone who depends on and enjoys its waters.

Chris Arias
Ocean Research Project
http://www.oceanresearchproject.org/
chris@oceanresearchproject.org
804-387-5344

September 27, 2026

To the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

I am a committed conservationist and I have a particular focus on ospreys and other bird species. As a member of the Connecticut Audubon Society, I have been an osprey nest monitor for a number of years. Since 2014, the CAS has run the Osprey Nation Program in partnership with CTDEEP. It monitors the size, productivity and health of Connecticut's osprey population. Approximately 450 volunteer stewards monitor nearly 1,000 nests each season. In 2025, the program recorded its lowest breeding success ever. While we are waiting for the final report, it is already evident that this year is even more devastating. (Reports available online and upon request).

Menhaden play a key role in supporting Connecticut's osprey populations and it is becoming apparent that the decline in migrating menhaden populations from the Chesapeake Bay are having an effect on our waters in the Long Island Sound. This year, Connecticut's osprey monitors witnessed first-hand, too many young osprey starving to death because of inadequate supplies of menhaden.

I urge you to take the following decisive action:

Adopt Sub Option B4: a one-time 50% reduction in the bay cap

Adopt Quota Period B2: 25-25-50% allocations to delay seasonal harvests

Thank you for your serious consideration of adjusting the harvest quotas and timing to ensure the sustainability of osprey and other species within the menhaden food chain.

Amanda Baker
4 Somerset Lane
Old Lyme, CT 06371
amandabaker2036@gmail.com

Public Comment on Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 of the Atlantic Menhaden Interstate FMP

Chair and Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 of the Atlantic Menhaden Interstate FMP. After reviewing the alternatives presented in the Addendum, I support the following combination of options:

Section 3.1 – Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount Option C-Link Chesapeake Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC
Sub-option C1c – 21.8% of the coastwide TAC
Sub-option C2a – Maximum Bay Cap of 51,000 mt with no lower limit

This approach links the Chesapeake Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC while establishing a meaningful reduction from the current Bay Cap. A maximum of 51,000 mt prevents the Bay Cap from increasing above its current level while allowing it to decline proportionally if the coastwide TAC is reduced. C1c provides a 20% reduction from the current Bay Cap while maintaining a direct relationship between the Bay Cap and changes in the coastwide TAC.

Section 3.2.1-Quota Periods-Option B2-Three approximately equal-length quota periods with a 25% / 25% / 50% distribution

This option places greater emphasis on delaying harvest until later in the season by limiting the first two quota periods to 25% of the annual Bay Cap each and reserving 50% for the final period. Historical landings have been concentrated disproportionately in the middle portion of the season, while substantially less harvest has historically occurred during the final period. In my view, B2 is therefore the option most consistent with the stated objective of moderating reduction-fishery landings during the beginning and middle of the season as a precautionary measure supporting the availability of menhaden to other fisheries and predators.

Section 3.2.2 – Quota Period Accountability – Option B – Quota-period overage accountability

Among the alternatives presented, I support Option B because it provides accountability for quota-period overages rather than treating the separate quota periods as having no consequence unless the overall annual Chesapeake Bay Cap is exceeded. I do not support the underage sub-option that would redistribute unused quota from the first period into the middle period. Given the objective of moderating harvest during the beginning and middle portions of the season, shifting unused early-season quota into the middle period would work against that objective.

Section 3.3 – Bay Cap Revisit Provision – Option B – Revisit the Chesapeake Bay Cap every three years

I support periodic review of the Bay Cap and believe a three-year revisit provision is appropriate. The Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery and the operation of the new quota-period structure should be evaluated over time to determine whether these measures are achieving their intended management objectives and whether further adjustment is warranted.

Taken together, Option C, C1c, C2a, Option B2, the Section 3.2.2 Option B accountability approach, and the three-year revisit provision provide the most balanced approach among the alternatives presented in Draft Addendum II. This combination links the Chesapeake Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC, prevents the Bay Cap from increasing above its current level, provides for accountability within the quota-period structure, and places greater emphasis on moderating harvest earlier and in the middle of the season.

I have also attached a separate memorandum addressing the Board's earlier consideration of a no-rollover provision. That memorandum does not request that Draft Addendum II be reopened or delayed. Rather, it explains why I believe the decision not to retain that provision was a missed opportunity and why the issue should remain relevant to future evaluation of the quota-period structure.

Attachment: Comment on the Approved and Subsequently Rescinded No-Rollover Provision

The Board previously considered and approved a motion to add an option for a no-rollover provision to the quota-period structure. That motion was subsequently reconsidered and failed. In my view, walking back the inclusion of an option for a no-rollover provision was a missed opportunity.

It is important to note that the Board initially voted to include a no-rollover option in the draft specifically to provide the public and the Board with a more complete range of management alternatives for consideration. I believe the decision not to include a no-rollover option in the draft Addendum was ill-advised and warrants comment because it directly affects how the staged quota-period structure included in the Addendum might operate.

Separate quota periods should not simply divide the annual Chesapeake Bay Cap into administrative segments. The timing and distribution of harvest have management and biological significance, including the potential benefit of moderating harvest pressure earlier in the season and allowing menhaden greater opportunity to move out of Chesapeake Bay. Allowing unused quota from an earlier period to automatically become additional harvest opportunity later in the season can undermine the purpose of establishing separate quota periods by shifting harvest opportunity away from the period in which it was originally allocated.

An underage during a quota period should not necessarily be viewed simply as lost harvest opportunity or as a punitive consequence for the fishery. If menhaden are not available in sufficient quantity to support harvest during a particular period, that underage may itself provide useful information concerning changes in their availability and distribution within Chesapeake Bay. As was noted during the Board's proceedings, it may serve as a "canary in a coal mine." Automatically converting unused quota into additional harvest opportunity later in the season risks disregarding that signal. The fact that an unused allocation may not remain available later in the season should not, by itself, be characterized as punitive. A no-rollover approach would not impose an additional penalty beyond the annual Chesapeake Bay Cap. Rather, it would give practical meaning to the decision to establish separate quota periods by recognizing that the timing and distribution of harvest can themselves have management and biological significance.

For these reasons, I believe abandoning the no-rollover provision was a missed opportunity. I am not suggesting that Draft Addendum II should now be delayed or reopened. Rather, the operation of the staged quota-period structure should be evaluated with this issue in mind. If experience demonstrates that rollover alters the intended distribution of harvest or undermines the management benefits of establishing separate quota periods, the Board should be prepared to revisit the issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Beneventine
Recreational Angler NY

James Boyle

From: Roo Bentley <roobentley@aol.co.uk>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 12:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] DRAFT ADDENDUM II TO AMENDMENT 3 OF THE ATLANTIC MENHADEN INTERSTATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Hi. Although I am based in England, I have been conscientiously observing live cams on osprey (Pandion Haliaetus) specifically in the New Jersey area since 2019.
On a particular nest at Barnegat Light, the menhaden catch by ospreys over the last two years, the usual prey, has reduced by more than 80%.

In many nests, this has led to:
1. Failure in re-bonding due to the males being unable to provide for the females, leading to no or fewer eggs, and non-viable eggs.
2. Adults abandoning nests due to menhaden shortage.
3. Hatched chicks - significantly decreased in number anyway - dying of starvation.
4. Mature birds having to subsist on lesser-quality fish, e.g. flounder, thus not giving them the sufficient nutrition required for migration. (Several known adults have already failed to return.)

This food stress amongst ospreys is already extreme in its consequences and it can only be compared to the dire situation in the 1970s when DDT was prevalent, leading to the near-extinction of this species on the eastern seaboard of the USA.

Please consider a total moratorium on the harvesting of this vital fish species to allow for regeneration.

Yours sincerely,
Roo Bentley.

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Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC):

I strongly support reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by **50 percent—from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons per year—and establishing strict seasonal quota periods for menhaden.** The Chesapeake Bay is too important, and the ecological warning signs are too serious, to continue managing this critical forage fish as though the timing and location of harvest do not matter.

I have lived in St. Mary's County since 1996 and have developed a deep personal connection to the Chesapeake Bay. I am an avid boater and I spend considerable time on and around the Bay. I care deeply about the wildlife that depends upon it, particularly osprey, striped bass, and other species whose survival is tied to a healthy and abundant forage base.

We are seeing warning signs that should demand a precautionary response. Declining productivity, widespread osprey nest failures, and continuing concerns regarding the Chesapeake Bay striped bass population are not isolated issues. They are reasons to examine carefully whether we are removing too much forage from the Bay at the wrong time.

Menhaden are a foundational forage species. They feed an extraordinary range of predators, including striped bass and osprey. Yet the reduction fishery can remove **more than 100 million pounds of menhaden from Chesapeake Bay under the existing annual cap.** When a substantial portion of that harvest is concentrated into an intense summer fishing window, the issue is not simply how many fish are removed annually. **It is when and where those fish are removed.**

A menhaden harvested from a concentrated school in the Bay during the summer is no longer available to the predators that depend upon that school. Concentrated removal can create localized depletion during a biologically important period and can affect the availability of forage to other users of this shared public resource.

The consequences extend beyond the reduction fishery. Menhaden support the Bay's recreational fishing economy, commercial and charter fishermen, watermen, wildlife, and coastal tourism. **One user group should not be permitted to concentrate an enormous harvest of a shared forage resource during the period when that resource is most important to the rest of the ecosystem and to other Bay users.**

For that reason, I urge the Commission to take the following actions:

• Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent to 25,500 metric tons annually.

• Establish strict seasonal quota periods that distribute harvest throughout the year rather than permitting an intense summer harvest.

• Apply a precautionary management approach in light of uncertainty regarding localized menhaden abundance and the ecological condition of the Chesapeake Bay.

• Give greater consideration to the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the broader Chesapeake Bay economy.

The Chesapeake Bay is not simply a location on a fisheries-management map. It is a complex and interconnected ecosystem, and menhaden are one of its essential links.

We should not wait for further deterioration before taking action.

As someone who lives here, sails these waters, dives in them, and cares deeply about the wildlife that depends upon them, I believe the Commission has an obligation to manage menhaden conservatively and to recognize that the health of the Bay must take precedence over maximizing a concentrated industrial harvest.

Reduce the cap. Establish meaningful seasonal quotas. Protect the forage base. Give the Chesapeake Bay—and the people and wildlife that depend upon it—a greater margin for recovery.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Barbara Bershon
St. Mary's County, Maryland

James Boyle

From: Paula Brennan <pbrennan93@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 10:14 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Osprey in NJ

To Whom It May Concern,

My family and I live bayfront on Little Egg Harbor Bay in NJ. We have been watching osprey nests for a number of years on the channel marker just outside our back yard.

It was heartbreaking last year to see the parents fail to fledge any chicks from their nest. This year they do have fledgelings, but the competition for food and what they are able to catch is so distressing. We are watching them bring baby fluke back to the nest daily - but no bunker/menhanden - which is a much more substantial meal for them. Larger osprey constantly try to steal the fish that are being brought back to the nest by the parents - these poor birds are literally starving.

We implore you to drastically reduce the amount of commercial fishing allowed for menhaden. They are the backbone of the ocean - not only the osprey need them, but many other species do as well.

Please, please, please protect this resource which is so crucial to so many species, as well as fishermen and bait shops up and down the Atlantic Coast. Please dramatically reduce the amount of menhaden that is able to be taken and limit the timing of when they can be taken so that the menhaden can repopulate and flourish and in turn the osprey and other species that need them can flourish again, as well. Nature is telling us clearly that we need to stop this overharvesting of menhaden for commercial gain - please heed the warning and drastically reduce the amount of menhaden that the commercial fishermen can take.

Thank you for your consideration,

Paula Brennan
Long Beach Township NJ'

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 10:46 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Ted Broderson
Email
Tednmolly@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
The food chain for Chesapeake fish and foul begins with menhaden. The current reduction scale is not supportable. Chesapeake fish and foul are suffering because of the depletion. At the very least, a 50% reduction will provide an opportunity for the menhaden stock to begin recovering.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC):

I strongly support reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by **50 percent—from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons per year—and establishing strict seasonal quota periods for menhaden.** The Chesapeake Bay is too important, and the ecological warning signs are too serious, to continue managing this critical forage fish as though the timing and location of harvest do not matter.

I have lived in St. Mary's County since 2008 and am lucky enough to have an osprey nest just off my pier. We used to have two to three chicks annually fledge and migrate at the end of the season. Now, we are lucky to have one chick and the last three years they have all starved before fledging.

The evidence points to a decline in the number of menhaden that the ospreys, striped bass and other marine life in the Chesapeake watershed depend upon for their survival.

It is both when and where those fish are removed that matter. A menhaden harvested from a concentrated school in the Bay during the summer is no longer available to the predators that depend upon that school. Concentrated removal can create localized depletion during a biologically important period and can affect the availability of forage to other users of this shared public resource.

The consequences extend beyond the reduction fishery. Menhaden support the Bay's recreational fishing economy, commercial and charter fishermen, watermen, wildlife, and coastal tourism. **One user group should not be permitted to concentrate an enormous harvest of a shared forage resource during the period when that resource is most important to the rest of the ecosystem and to other Bay users.**

For that reason, I urge the Commission to take the following actions:

• Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent to 25,500 metric tons annually.

• Establish strict seasonal quota periods that distribute harvest throughout the year rather than permitting an intense summer harvest.

• Apply a precautionary management approach in light of uncertainty regarding localized menhaden abundance and the ecological condition of the Chesapeake Bay.

• Give greater consideration to the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the broader Chesapeake Bay economy, not just one Virginia based fishing company.

The Chesapeake Bay is not simply a location on a fisheries management map. It is a complex and interconnected ecosystem, and menhaden are one of its essential links.

We should not wait for further deterioration before taking action. There is no time for additional five-year studies to delay the decision. The severe drop in nesting pairs and the lack of surviving chicks will not replenish the specicies enough to survive that long.

As someone who lives here, fishes and sails these waters, swims in them, and cares deeply about the wildlife that depends upon them, I believe the Commission has an obligation to manage menhaden conservatively and to recognize that the health of the Bay must take precedence over maximizing a concentrated industrial harvest.

Reduce the cap. Establish meaningful seasonal quotas. Protect the forage base. Give the Chesapeake Bay—and the people and wildlife that depend upon it—a greater margin for recovery.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris Allen
18029 William Howard Way
Tall Timbers, St. Mary's County, Maryland

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ATLANTIC MENHADEN DRAFT ADDENDUM II

Support the Strongest Chesapeake Bay Protections Now - and Begin Moving the Industrial Reduction Fishery Out of Virginia State Waters

Submitted to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Atlantic Menhaden Management Board
October 2026

Submitted by: Debbie Campbell

Stakeholder interest: Bay-adjacent property owner in Northampton County, Virginia; Maryland property owner; recreational angler and conservation advocate; Editor and a founder of Menhaden Little Fish - Big Deal!; member of SMRFO and the Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association (VSSA).

Position: I support the most protective options in Draft Addendum II, including the maximum 50 percent reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap. I believe the Addendum should be treated as an important interim step toward ending industrial reduction fishing in Virginia state waters.

REQUESTED ACTION

I strongly support Draft Addendum II and urge the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board to adopt the most protective alternatives available for Chesapeake Bay.

At minimum, I support the maximum 50 percent reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons. I also support the strongest available measures to distribute harvest more evenly through the season and to prevent future coastwide Total Allowable Catch increases from automatically increasing industrial harvest pressure inside Chesapeake Bay.

I support the Addendum because precaution is warranted now. But I do not regard a 50 percent cap reduction as the endpoint. Based on the scientific record, the unresolved Chesapeake-specific questions, the ecological warning signs, and the experience of communities along the Bay, I continue to believe that industrial reduction fishing should ultimately be removed from Virginia state waters and conducted in ocean waters instead.

WHY THIS MATTERS TO ME

My interest in this issue is both personal and longstanding. I own Bay-adjacent property in Northampton County, Virginia, and property in Maryland, and I have watched and used Chesapeake waters for years. I am also the Editor and a founder of Menhaden Little Fish - Big Deal!, a member of SMRFO and the Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association (VSSA), a recreational angler, and a conservation advocate. Through this work, I have sought to increase public awareness of menhaden, their importance to the Chesapeake ecosystem, and the management issues surrounding the fishery.

Fishing is one of the ways I teach children conservation - respect for the resource, responsible angling, and proper catch-and-release practices. I want them to inherit a Chesapeake Bay in which conservation is something they can experience, not simply something they are told once existed.

The industrial menhaden operations along this shoreline have affected me greatly. Images of menhaden fish kills have stayed with me. I have watched the birds that drew me to this place and have seen some of those familiar sights diminish or disappear. These experiences are not substitutes for scientific evidence, and I do not offer them as such. They are why the scientific questions discussed in this comment are not abstract to me.

When I fish with children, I teach them that conservation means taking responsibility for what we remove from the water and leaving enough behind for the ecosystem and for those who come after us. I believe our fisheries-management institutions should operate according to the same principle.

1. A HEALTHY COASTWIDE STOCK DOES NOT ANSWER THE CHESAPEAKE BAY QUESTION

The latest Atlantic menhaden assessment is important and should be respected: coastwide, the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring.

But ASMFC itself cautions that this status applies to the Atlantic coast as a whole and that, because of the assessment methodology, no inferences can be made at a smaller regional scale such as Chesapeake Bay.

That limitation is central. The relevant management question is not simply whether Atlantic menhaden are abundant from Florida to Maine. It is whether Chesapeake Bay contains enough menhaden, in the right places and seasons, to support predators and other fisheries while a concentrated industrial reduction fishery operates inside the estuary.

ASMFC created the Bay cap as a precautionary response to localized-depletion concerns. Draft Addendum II itself now responds to concerns about concentrated reduction-fishery effort, effects on Bay bait fisheries, and potential ecological impacts. A coastwide finding of sustainability therefore should not be treated as proof that localized ecological risk is absent.

2. THE SCIENTIFIC UNCERTAINTY SUPPORTS PRECAUTION, NOT DELAY

ASMFC's Chesapeake Bay Work Group was directed to evaluate additional precautionary management, including time and area protections for predatory birds and fish. The Work Group did not determine whether the Bay has an adequate supply of menhaden to meet predator demand; instead, it identified management options and research needs.

The broader record underscores how much Chesapeake-specific information remains unresolved. Virginia Institute of Marine Science scientists have characterized important information concerning menhaden abundance and ecological effects within Chesapeake Bay as "woefully inadequate." At an April 2026 Virginia Marine Resources Commission hearing, this characterization was explained in the context of how far scientists remain from being able to quantify some of the Chesapeake-specific questions managers are being asked to answer.

Even representatives of the reduction fishery have acknowledged the need for additional research. At that same hearing, Ocean Harvesters CEO Monty Deihl/Diehl described cooperative tagging research with VIMS intended, in part, to help researchers determine what percentage of the menhaden present in Chesapeake Bay is being harvested by the fleet. He acknowledged that this work is a major undertaking that will take time.

That is precisely why action is justified. Where managers cannot yet quantify Bay-specific abundance, movement, predator demand, or localized effects with confidence, maintaining the existing level of concentrated industrial removal is not a scientifically neutral choice. It places the risk of uncertainty on the ecosystem.

The Commission should continue and accelerate tagging, abundance, migration, predator-demand, and spatial research. But "wait for more science" should not mean maintaining industrial-scale extraction until ecological damage can be proven conclusively after the fact.

3. OSPREY RESEARCH IS AN ECOLOGICAL WARNING THAT DESERVES WEIGHT

Recent peer-reviewed research from the Center for Conservation Biology and collaborators has documented serious reproductive deficits and food stress among Chesapeake Bay ospreys in high-salinity waters.

In the 2024 breeding season, all high-salinity study areas examined functioned as demographic sinks, while low-salinity areas functioned as demographic sources. The researchers concluded that several factors may influence productivity but identified reduced Atlantic menhaden availability as a primary driver of poor reproduction in high-salinity waters.

Earlier work in Mobjack Bay documented declining menhaden delivery to nests, declining reproductive performance, and increased food stress. Experimental supplementation with menhaden improved reproductive output.

These studies do not establish that commercial harvest alone caused the decline, and I do not claim that they do. They do establish that menhaden availability can be biologically consequential for Chesapeake predators.

The absence of proof that the reduction fishery is the sole cause of ecological harm is not evidence that concentrated harvest has no ecological consequence. That distinction should matter in precautionary management.

4. CONCENTRATED FISHING AND THE BAY ENTRANCE REMAIN UNRESOLVED MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

ASMFC's Work Group examined concerns that concentrated purse-seine sets near the mouth of Chesapeake Bay could function as an "intercept" fishery.

The available information did not establish that such an effect is occurring, and the report also discussed observations that could point the other way. That uncertainty should be stated plainly.

But the issue remains unresolved because the necessary movement and biomass information is incomplete. The appropriate response is not to convert uncertainty into an assumption of no effect. It is to reduce risk while obtaining the data needed to resolve the question.

Industry representatives have also explained that Chesapeake Bay provides protected operating conditions when offshore seas make purse-seine fishing difficult or unsafe. That is a legitimate operational and economic concern. It is not, however, an ecological justification for maintaining an industrial reduction fishery inside an estuary when the local forage consequences remain inadequately resolved.

5. ECONOMIC ANALYSIS MUST COUNT THE VALUE OF FORAGE LEFT IN THE ECOSYSTEM

The reduction fishery provides jobs, products, and economic activity. Those interests deserve consideration. But they are not the only economic interests connected to menhaden.

Dr. Ellen Pikitch and coauthors evaluated the global economic contribution of forage fish. Their peer-reviewed analysis estimated approximately $5.6 billion annually in direct global forage-fish catch value and approximately $11.3 billion in commercial fisheries supported by forage fish as prey.

The authors also noted that their estimate did not monetize recreational fisheries or non-fishery uses, so it did not capture the full economic contribution of forage fish.

These are global estimates, not a Chesapeake Bay valuation. They should not be presented as dollar values for Virginia or Chesapeake menhaden. Their relevance is the economic principle they demonstrate: a forage fish can generate value both when harvested directly and when left in the water to support predators, commercial and recreational fisheries, wildlife, tourism, and other ecosystem services.

ASMFC should therefore consider both sides of the economic ledger rather than measuring the consequences of conservation only as foregone reduction-fishery landings.

6. NORTHAMPTON COUNTY HAS DOCUMENTED THE LOCAL COMMUNITY INTEREST

On January 9, 2024, the Northampton County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution stating the County's position that industrial Atlantic menhaden fishing should be prohibited within Chesapeake Bay and within three miles of Commonwealth lands, and requesting that Virginia agencies establish and enforce such a prohibition.

The County's published explanation cites concerns involving sport fishing and charter businesses, tourism, fish spills and fish kills, private and public property, and the concentration of purse-seine activity near Northampton County.

This resolution does not substitute for ASMFC's scientific process. It does demonstrate that the economic and quality-of-life effects perceived by a directly affected Virginia locality extend beyond the reduction industry.

7. ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDER CONTEXT: WILLIAM McKEEVER'S DOCUMENTARY

I also encourage interested Board members and members of the public to view William McKeever's documentary, The Biggest Little Fish You've Never Seen.

The film presents an advocacy perspective on Chesapeake menhaden, industrial reduction fishing, wildlife, recreational fishing, and affected communities.

I do not offer the film as a scientific study, and its claims should be evaluated against the primary scientific and management record. Its value here is as stakeholder and educational context: it illustrates why this fishery has become a deeply felt Chesapeake conservation issue.

8. DRAFT ADDENDUM II SHOULD BE AN INTERIM STEP, NOT THE ENDPOINT

The Commission does not need to conclude that localized depletion has been proven in order to act cautiously.

The existing coastwide assessment cannot demonstrate that localized depletion is not occurring in Chesapeake Bay, and important Bay-specific questions remain unresolved.

I recognize that workers, vessels, processors, and communities depend economically on the reduction fishery. I do not dismiss those consequences.

But there are other people who depend upon this Bay as well - watermen, charter captains, recreational anglers, property owners, tourism businesses, families, and future generations.

For that reason, I support the strongest protections available in Draft Addendum II now, while urging managers to begin considering a longer-term framework under which industrial reduction fishing is removed from Virginia state waters.

REQUESTED BOARD ACTIONS

1. Adopt the maximum 50 percent reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap, reducing the cap from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons.
2. Adopt the strongest available seasonal and quota-period measures to reduce concentrated harvest during ecologically important portions of the fishing season.
3. Choose the option that prevents future increases in the coastwide TAC from automatically increasing industrial harvest pressure inside Chesapeake Bay.
4. Continue and accelerate Chesapeake-specific research on menhaden abundance, movement, predator demand, localized depletion, and the ecological consequences of concentrated harvest.
5. Treat these measures as interim protections and begin evaluating a management framework that ultimately removes industrial reduction fishing from Virginia state waters.

CONCLUSION

Menhaden are both a fishery resource and a foundational forage species.

The Commission's responsibility is therefore broader than maximizing sustainable coastwide removals. It must also consider whether management adequately protects the ecological functions menhaden provide in places such as Chesapeake Bay.

Please adopt the strongest protections available under Draft Addendum II. Continue the science. Reduce the risk while that science is being developed. And begin the process of moving the industrial reduction fishery out of Virginia state waters.

That approach would recognize both what the science tells us and, just as importantly, what the current science still cannot tell us about Chesapeake Bay.

SUPPORTING SOURCES AND DOCUMENTATION

1. Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II action page.
   https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
2. Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Atlantic Menhaden FAQ (October 2025), including the statement that coastwide stock status cannot support smaller regional inferences such as Chesapeake Bay.
   https://asmfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Menhaden-FAQ-Oct2025.pdf
3. Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Atlantic Menhaden Work Group Report on Chesapeake Bay Precautionary Management (April 2025).
   https://asmfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/AtlMenhadenWGReport_ChesapeakeBayPrecautionaryMgmt_April2025.pdf
4. Watts, B.D. et al. (2026). Chesapeake Bay osprey reproductive-deficit research, Frontiers in Marine Science.
   https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/marine-science/articles/10.3389/fmars.2026.1685158/full
5. Pikitch, E.K. et al. (2014). The global contribution of forage fish to marine fisheries and ecosystems. Fish and Fisheries 15:43-64.
   https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/faf.12004
6. Northampton County, Virginia. Legislative Priorities FY24 - Menhaden; documenting the January 9, 2024 Board of Supervisors resolution.
   https://www.co.northampton.va.us/news/archived_news/legislative_priorities_f_y24
7. William McKeever. The Biggest Little Fish You've Never Seen - film page.
   https://williammckeever.com/film-the-biggest-little-fish-youve-never-seen/

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Campbell
Editor and a Founder, Menhaden Little Fish - Big Deal!
Member, SMRFO
Member, Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association (VSSA)
Maryland Property Owner
Bay-Adjacent Property Owner, Northampton County, Virginia
Recreational Angler and Conservation Advocate

James Boyle

From: Debbie Campbell <debbiescampbell@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 10:33 AM
To: James Boyle
Subject: [External] Northampton County Resolution
Attachments: Northampton County Industrial Menhaden Resolution_Signed_1_9_2024.pdf

James,
Attached is the Northampton County resolution that I mentioned during the hearing/meeting. I will send the economic analysis information separately. I request that this be entered into the public record, and to be considered and referenced in discussions and considerations of economic impact of industrial menhaden reduction fishing.
Regards.
Debbie

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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

little fish
BIG IMPACT

Fact Sheet

The Economic Value of Forage Fish

From *Little Fish, Big Impact*, a report from the Lenfest Forage Fish Task Force

On April 3, 2012, the Lenfest Forage Fish Task Force released *Little Fish, Big Impact,* the most comprehensive global analysis to date of the biology and management of forage fish. One of its significant contributions is the first global estimate of the total economic value of forage fish to commercial fisheries, including their indirect, "supportive" value when left in the ocean.

The Task Force used 56 food web models from the scientific literature to estimate (1) the volume of forage fish catch and (2) the contribution of forage fish as prey to the catch of other commercial fish, such as tuna, salmon, and cod. By combining these results with a database of fish prices, the Task Force calculated both "direct value" from catch of forage fish and "supportive value"—their value when left in the water as food for commercially fished predators. The Task Force found that:

- Globally, forage fish are twice as valuable in the water as in the net. The report estimates that the supportive value of forage fish left in the water as food for commercially valuable predators is $11.3 billion globally (in 2006 dollars), compared to a direct catch value of $5.6 billion.[1] Supportive value is greater than direct value in 30 of the 56 ecosystem models studied.[2]

1. The estimate of supportive value is conservative because it does not include predators with no commercial value as catch, such as seabirds and marine mammals. It also excludes the economic value of recreational fisheries, ecotourism, and ecosystem services such as water filtration.
2. The Task Force used published models as a relatively rapid way to assess the global aggregate value of forage fish, but these models only provide a snapshot of direct and supportive value in each ecosystem. These values would change along with any change in prices or fishing effort.

Economic importance of forage fish

TOTAL $16.9 BILLION

Direct value of commercial forage catch

$5.6 billion

Supportive value of forage fish to other commercial catch

$11.3 billion

WHAT ARE FORAGE FISH?

Forage fish are small to medium-sized species that include anchovies, herring, menhaden, and sardines. They are food for numerous marine predators, including commercially important fish like cod, salmon, and tuna.

- Forage fish direct and supportive values vary tremendously across the globe. The Task Force found some patterns across latitudes and ecosystem types. For example, the direct value of forage fish is greatest on average near the equator and lowest at high latitudes. The reverse is true for supportive value, which is greatest at high latitudes and lowest near the equator, on average.[3] (The Task Force did not investigate possible explanations for these trends.)

- Managers can identify trade-offs. The Task Force's analysis provides a method for identifying the economic value of forage fish, both as a commodity and as prey for other commercial fisheries. Managers may use or expand upon this approach in specific ecosystems to examine potential trade-offs between harvesting forage fish and keeping them in the ocean.

- Management should focus on predators. Because forage fish tend to be more valuable as prey than as direct catch, the Task Force recommends that managers focus on the needs of predators when making decisions about forage fisheries. In addition to its economic analysis, the Task Force analyzed strategies to help ensure forage fishing does not unduly deplete predator populations. Based on this analysis, the Task Force recommends cutting catch rates by at least half in most ecosystems and doubling the minimum population size of forage fish, relative to conventional management.[4]

3. In order to compare across ecosystems, the report gives forage fish value in 2006 dollars per square kilometer per year ($/km^2/yr). Average direct value was about $880/ km^2/yr near the equator and about $166/ km^2/yr for high-latitude ecosystems. Average supportive value was about $153/ km^2/yr near the equator and about $631/ km^2/yr for high-latitude ecosystems.
4. The Task Force did not make ecosystem-specific recommendations. Rather, it made a set of recommendations based on the level of information available about the fishery and ecosystem.

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What the Menhaden Debate Is Really About

A point-by-point rebuttal to the American Small Pelagics Network's case against additional Chesapeake Bay protections

By: Debbie Campbell

The question is not whether Atlantic menhaden are healthy coastwide. The question is whether a coastwide assessment can establish that Chesapeake Bay contains enough forage, in the right places and seasons, while a concentrated industrial reduction fishery operates inside the estuary and at its entrance.

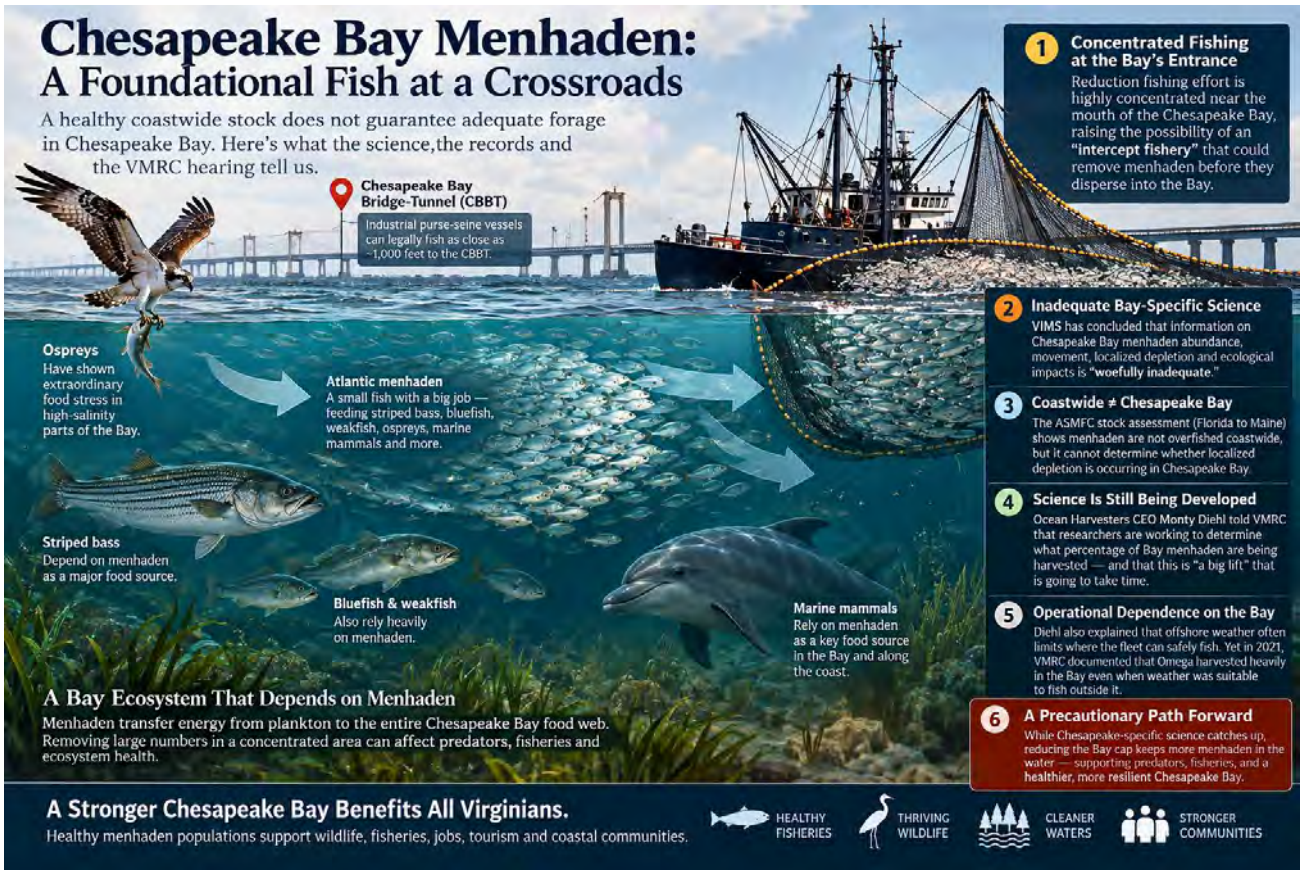

Illustration: the management problem is spatial. Coastwide stock status does not answer Bay-scale forage questions.

This response follows the argument advanced by the American Small Pelagics Network (ASPN) in its October 2026 public commentary and related reporting: stock status, ecological reference points, osprey science, striped bass, economics, corporate ownership, ongoing research, and the Chesapeake Bay cap. Where ASPN is correct, this rebuttal says so. Where its framing outruns what the evidence can establish, the distinction matters.

The Core Problem With ASPN's Argument

ASPN repeatedly answers a local ecological question with coastwide evidence. That is the central weakness in its case. The 2025 Atlantic menhaden assessment is important and reassuring at the stock-wide scale: the species is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. But the Chesapeake Bay controversy is not a claim that the coastwide stock is collapsing. It is a question about local abundance, distribution, migration, predator access and concentrated removals inside one of the Atlantic coast's most important estuaries.

ASMFC itself has preserved a separate Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap precisely because localized depletion has long been a management concern. Draft Addendum II now considers options including a reduction of that cap by as much as 50 percent. The Commission's own work acknowledges that available information is insufficient to comprehensively characterize Bay-wide abundance, distribution and fishing effects. That uncertainty does not prove harm. It also does not prove safety.

A sound rebuttal therefore should not claim that commercial harvest has been proved to cause every osprey, striped-bass or bait-fishery problem. The stronger scientific case is narrower: substantial ecological warning signs exist; industrial effort is concentrated; the Bay-specific science needed to quantify the risk remains incomplete; and precaution is a legitimate management response while that science catches up.

1. "The Stock Is Healthy, So Further Bay Restrictions Are Not Scientifically Justified"

> **ASPN'S CLAIM: The 2025 Atlantic menhaden stock assessment found the stock not overfished and not experiencing overfishing. ASPN presents that result as a major reason to resist additional Chesapeake Bay restrictions.**

REBUTTAL

The stock-status statement is true. The inference ASPN asks readers to draw from it is not.

A coastwide assessment estimates the status of a single stock unit spanning a vast geographic range. It does not measure how many adult menhaden are present in Chesapeake Bay at a given time, how schools move through the Bay mouth, how long they remain available to local predators, or whether intense harvest in a particular area can create localized depletion.

VMRC staff made this scale explicit at the April 21, 2026 hearing, describing the single-species assessment as generating estimates for the coastwide stock as a single unit from Florida to Maine. That is the appropriate scale for coastwide overfishing status. It is not a Chesapeake Bay forage assessment.

ASMFC's own public materials likewise caution against converting coastwide status into a local conclusion. The Bay cap exists as a separate management tool because localized depletion is a different question from coastwide stock collapse.

> **A healthy Atlantic stock and a locally stressed Chesapeake forage base can exist at the same time. One finding does not disprove the other.**

2. "Ecological Reference Points Already Protect Predators"

> **ASPN'S CLAIM: ASPN argues that ASMFC's ecological reference points already account for predator needs and emphasizes that the adopted 2026 catch level had a modeled zero-percent probability of exceeding the ecological overfishing threshold.**

REBUTTAL

Ecological reference points are an important advance and should be defended. But ASPN's presentation blurs two distinctions: threshold versus target, and coastwide ecosystem modeling versus local forage sufficiency.

ASMFC reduced the 2026 coastwide total allowable catch by 20 percent after the 2025 assessment showed fishing mortality above the ERP target and fecundity below the ecological target. The fact that the adopted catch level was modeled below the overfishing threshold does not mean the stock was at the preferred ecological target. A threshold is the boundary managers seek not to cross; the target is the management objective.

ASMFC's 2025 ERP analysis shows why the ecological target matters. The Board reduced the coastwide total allowable catch (TAC) from 233,550 metric tons in 2023–2025 to 186,840 metric tons for 2026, a 20 percent cut. Even at that level, projections indicated a 100 percent probability of fishing mortality exceeding the ERP target, though a zero percent probability of exceeding the overfishing threshold. ASMFC stated that a reduction of 50 percent or more from the prior TAC would be needed to lower the probability of exceeding the ERP fishing-mortality target. A 50 percent reduction from 233,550 metric tons would mean 116,775 metric tons—37.5 percent below the 2026 TAC, or roughly another 40 percent. These results reflect an ecosystem target designed around forage demands of striped bass; they do not establish that any one TAC change alone will recover striped bass. Nor does the coastwide ERP model establish a Chesapeake-specific quota. Nonetheless, the scale of the coastwide ecological gap strengthens the precautionary case for a significant reduction in concentrated Bay harvest while Bay-specific research is developed. (ASMFC, October 2025 TAC announcement and Atlantic Menhaden FAQ.)

Nor does the ERP framework certify that every predator in every region has adequate prey. The model is built around specified predator-prey relationships, with striped bass playing a central role. It does not establish an osprey forage requirement for high-salinity Chesapeake waters, nor does it calculate whether menhaden are sufficiently available near individual nesting areas or throughout the Bay.

> **The correct conclusion is that ERPs improve coastwide management - not that they eliminate the need to manage spatially concentrated forage risk inside Chesapeake Bay.**

3. "Osprey Studies Do Not Prove the Reduction Fishery Caused the Decline"

> **ASPN'S CLAIM: ASPN notes that Chesapeake osprey researchers identified food stress but did not design their studies to prove that commercial menhaden harvest caused the reproductive decline. It also points to osprey problems in other regions.**

REBUTTAL

This is partly correct and should be conceded. The published Chesapeake studies do not establish that commercial harvest alone caused poor osprey reproduction. A credible rebuttal should not say otherwise.

But that concession does not make the osprey evidence irrelevant. Recent Chesapeake research has documented declining reproductive performance, reduced menhaden deliveries to nests, brood reduction and nest failure in high-salinity areas. A food-supplementation experiment improved reproductive performance, directly supporting food limitation as an important mechanism. A 2026 Bay-wide study found the high-salinity study areas functioning as demographic sinks and identified reduced Atlantic menhaden availability as a primary driver of poor reproduction there.

The Center for Conservation Biology's 2026 reporting described the Bay's osprey breeding performance as the worst in its long-term record, with none of the monitored areas above 5 ppt salinity reaching productivity needed for population maintenance. Researchers also reported major declines in menhaden delivery to nests in some areas and a lower-energy diet as ospreys shifted to alternative prey.

Evidence of osprey problems elsewhere does not negate the Chesapeake mechanism. Different populations can experience food limitation for different reasons. The management question is whether managers should ignore a strong local forage signal until a study isolates one human activity as the sole cause.

> **"The fishery has not been proved to be the sole cause" is scientifically defensible. "Therefore local menhaden availability is adequate" is not.**

4. "Managers Should Wait for the Ongoing Chesapeake Studies"

ASPN'S CLAIM: ASPN urges managers to wait for several ongoing, publicly funded Chesapeake studies before imposing additional restrictions.

REBUTTAL

This sounds cautious, but it treats the status quo as if it were scientifically neutral. It is not. Continuing concentrated removals at the existing cap while waiting for better data is itself a risk-allocation decision.

The most important evidence here comes from Virginia's own scientific and regulatory record. VIMS characterized information on Chesapeake menhaden abundance, movement between the Bay and shelf, localized depletion from fishing, and ecological impacts of purse seining as "woefully inadequate." At the April 2026 VMRC hearing, VIMS scientific adviser Lyle Varnell explained that, compared with other species, managers are "way behind the curve" in determining the biomass needed to support the Bay food web.

Ocean Harvesters CEO Monty Diehl's testimony underscored the same information gap from the industry side. While opposing a moratorium, he described tagging research intended in part to determine what percentage of menhaden in the Bay the fishery actually harvests, calling the work a major undertaking that will take time.

That creates a straightforward management problem: if the science is not yet capable of measuring local abundance, movement and harvest fraction adequately, the absence of a demonstrated localized-depletion signal cannot be treated as proof that localized depletion is not occurring.

The precautionary question is therefore not whether research should continue - it absolutely should. It is who bears the risk while managers wait. A lower cap leaves more forage in the ecosystem while the studies proceed. Maintaining the current cap places more of the uncertainty on predators, competing fisheries and the Bay food web.

5. "The Bay Cap Was Political and Has Never Been Scientifically Quantified"

ASPN'S CLAIM: ASPN points to the history of the Chesapeake Bay cap and earlier ASMFC statements that the cap was not derived from a scientifically quantified local harvest threshold.

REBUTTAL

That history is relevant. The current cap is not the output of a Bay-specific biomass model that calculates a precise biologically necessary tonnage. But this does not make the cap scientifically meaningless, nor does it follow that a precautionary reduction lacks a scientific rationale.

The cap's purpose has always been different from a coastwide overfishing limit: it is a risk-management measure intended to constrain concentrated reduction harvest in the face of concern about localized depletion. Precautionary limits are often used precisely where managers cannot calculate a perfect local threshold.

More importantly, management conditions have changed since the older statements ASPN cites. Draft Addendum II is being considered against a current record that includes concentrated summer reduction effort, concerns about declining Bay pound-net harvest and catch per unit effort, new predator research, and explicit recognition that Bay-specific abundance and movement information remains inadequate.

A historical statement that managers could not quantify a biological benefit from the cap under conditions in 2012 is not a scientific finding that no localized risk can exist in 2026.

6. "There Is No Proof of an Intercept Fishery at the Bay Mouth"

ASPN'S CLAIM: Industry advocates dispute the idea that the reduction fleet forms a 'gauntlet' that prevents menhaden from reaching the upper Bay, noting that existing analyses do not establish a simple cause-and-effect relationship.

REBUTTAL

Again, the narrow proposition is fair: the available evidence does not prove that purse-seine sets near the Bay mouth systematically block menhaden from reaching Maryland. The rebuttal should not claim otherwise.

But ASMFC's Chesapeake Bay work group examined this exact concern because reduction-fishery effort is substantially concentrated near the mouth of the Bay. The group identified migration and biomass information needed to determine whether concentrated sets can function as an intercept fishery. In other words, the question is unresolved, not disproved.

That matters because the fleet is permitted to operate extremely close to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, at the estuary's principal marine gateway. Concentrated industrial removal at an entrance through which forage fish migrate presents a different ecological-risk profile from dispersed coastwide harvest. If managers cannot yet quantify migration timing, local biomass, predator demand or the fraction of Bay fish removed, a narrow buffer does little to resolve the underlying uncertainty.

The fleet's operational dependence on protected Bay waters adds context. At the April 2026 VMRC hearing, Diehl explained that offshore sea conditions often make purse-boat operations unsafe and argued that losing Bay access could threaten the business. That economic reality deserves consideration - but it is not an ecological reason to maximize Bay harvest.

A September 8, 2021 letter from then-VMRC Commissioner Steven G. Bowman to "Mr. Montgomery Diehl, Omega Protein" is particularly revealing. Bowman wrote that Omega had already taken 38,390 metric tons - 75.3 percent of the Bay cap - and criticized the fact that the harvest occurred despite weather suitable for fishing outside the Bay. The point is not that offshore weather never constrains the fleet. It is that Bay harvest cannot be explained solely as a rough-weather necessity.

The scientifically defensible position is not "the intercept effect has been proved." It is "the intercept risk is credible, spatially concentrated and unresolved - exactly the kind of uncertainty for which a precautionary cap exists."

7. "Menhaden Restrictions Will Not Rebuild Striped Bass"

ASPN'S CLAIM: ASPN notes that eliminating menhaden fishing alone would not rebuild striped bass and emphasizes that recreational harvest and release mortality account for a large share of striped-bass removals.

REBUTTAL

Both points can be true without resolving the forage issue. Striped bass face multiple interacting pressures. Direct fishing mortality, recruitment, habitat conditions, disease, temperature and prey availability do not cancel one another out.

No credible case for reducing the Chesapeake Bay cap requires claiming that menhaden harvest is the sole cause of striped-bass decline or that menhaden conservation alone will rebuild the stock. The question is whether a stressed predator population benefits from maintaining abundant, accessible forage in a major nursery and feeding estuary.

ASPN also cites analyses finding sampled striped bass in generally acceptable body condition. That is useful evidence about the fish examined. It does not measure menhaden availability throughout Chesapeake Bay, nor does it establish that forage is spatially sufficient for every predator or life stage.

"Menhaden conservation alone will not rebuild striped bass" is not a rebuttal to forage management. It is a reminder that ecosystem management must address more than one pressure at a time.

8. "Menhaden Are Not Necessarily Worth More Left in the Water"

ASPN'S CLAIM: ASPN challenges claims that menhaden are categorically worth more as forage than when harvested and emphasizes jobs, wages, bait, fishmeal, fish oil and other products created by the fishery.

REBUTTAL

The reduction fishery unquestionably creates economic value and supports real workers and families. A serious conservation argument should acknowledge that rather than treating Reedville jobs as disposable.

But the reverse simplification is equally problematic. Economic value is not created only when a menhaden crosses a dock. Menhaden left in the ecosystem support recreational and commercial predator fisheries, bait availability, wildlife viewing, tourism, nutrient and food-web functions, future spawning biomass and ecological resilience.

The correct economic question is therefore allocation: how should a public forage resource be divided among direct industrial harvest, bait fisheries, predators and ecosystem functions? A sales figure for processed menhaden products cannot answer that question by itself.

A temporary or precautionary cap reduction also is not equivalent to eliminating the fishery. Draft Addendum II is considering a range of options, including reductions short of closure. Economic impacts belong in the decision, but so does the economic value of forage retained in the Bay.

9. "Ocean Harvesters Is an Independent American Company"

ASPN'S CLAIM: ASPN responds to Canadian-ownership criticism by emphasizing that Ocean Harvesters operates the Atlantic vessels as a U.S. company, even though Omega Protein's parent, Cooke, is Canadian.

REBUTTAL

The careful response is not to deny Ocean Harvesters' separate corporate identity. The phrase "independent American company," however, is materially incomplete if it is used to imply an arm's-length separation from Omega Protein and the Cooke enterprise.

Omega's own corporate history states that Ocean Harvesters purchased vessels formerly owned by Omega and operates them under a long-term supply relationship with Omega. Monty Deihl/Diehl's employment history provides additional continuity: ASMFC and Omega records identify him in senior Omega fishing-operations roles before he later appeared as CEO of Ocean Harvesters.

The April 21, 2026 VMRC hearing makes the relationship unusually concrete. Diehl testified as "CEO of Ocean Harvesters." Industry attorney Sean Gehan told the Commission he was appearing on behalf of Omega Protein and Ocean Harvesters. And the 2021 VMRC correspondence supplied for this review was addressed directly to "Mr. Montgomery Diehl, Omega Protein" concerning Chesapeake Bay harvest by the same reduction enterprise.

Recent reporting has also described ownership links between Ocean Harvesters, Omega and individuals connected to Cooke. Those reports should be described as reported ownership facts rather than used to claim that Ocean Harvesters lacks a separate legal identity.

> **The fair formulation is that Ocean Harvesters is a separately organized U.S. fishing company with extensive historical, personnel, operational, commercial and reported ownership ties to Omega/Cooke. Readers should receive that context when "independent American company" is offered as an answer to the ownership issue.**

10. The Regulatory Record Is More Complicated Than a Simple Sustainability Narrative

> **ASPN'S CLAIM: ASPN emphasizes regulated harvest, working-waterfront history and the economic importance of the fishery.**

REBUTTAL

Those are legitimate parts of the record, but they are not the whole record. Omega exceeded the Chesapeake Bay cap in 2019 by roughly 15,000 metric tons, or about 30 percent, prompting federal noncompliance consequences and a temporary moratorium mechanism until Virginia addressed the issue.

Bowman's 2021 letter specifically invoked that history while warning about the pace of Bay harvest. It also expressed concern about fish spills/kills and stated that two incidents over the preceding two days involved an estimated 400,000 fish spilled and presumed dead.

Omega's response deserves equal treatment. It explained that net tears can occur during pumping, that the number of escaped fish is estimated, that the company reports and monitors incidents, and that roughly half of reported spills showed no observed evidence of dead fish. It also acknowledged that in other incidents some or all escaped fish later die.

Spills are not proof of localized depletion and should not be used that way. They are relevant to the regulatory history and to the broader question of whether landed catch captures every ecological removal associated with the operation.

11. "There Is No Scientific Basis for a 50 Percent Reduction"

> **ASPN'S CLAIM: ASPN stresses that Draft Addendum II presents a 50 percent reduction as a management option, not as the output of a scientific model proving that exactly 50 percent is biologically required.**

REBUTTAL

That distinction is correct. Science has not produced a Chesapeake model showing that 25,500 metric tons is a uniquely optimal number. But management decisions under uncertainty rarely arrive with that level of precision.

The question is whether a substantial precautionary reduction is defensible. The cumulative record says yes: the cap exists to address localized risk; industrial effort is concentrated; Bay-specific abundance and movement remain inadequately measured; predator food stress is documented; pound-net indicators have raised concern; the Bay-mouth intercept question remains unresolved; and even the industry acknowledges that researchers are still trying to quantify what fraction of Bay menhaden the fleet harvests.

A 50 percent option is therefore best understood as a risk-management choice, not a claim of mathematical biological precision. Managers can revisit the level as the $4.5 million research program and other studies produce better Bay-scale information.

> **The lack of a perfectly quantified local threshold cuts both ways. It is not evidence that the current 51,000-metric-ton cap is biologically optimal either.**

Conclusion: ASPN Is Right About Uncertainty - but Draws the Wrong Management Lesson

ASPN is right about several important facts. Atlantic menhaden are not overfished coastwide. The current research does not prove that the reduction fishery alone caused Chesapeake osprey reproductive failure. Menhaden conservation alone will not rebuild striped bass. The reduction fishery supports real jobs and produces economically useful products. And a 50 percent Bay-cap reduction is a management choice, not the output of a model identifying one biologically exact tonnage.

But none of those facts establishes the conclusion ASPN wants managers to reach.

The unresolved issue is local. Chesapeake-specific abundance, movement, localized depletion and ecological effects remain inadequately known. The coastwide assessment cannot fill that gap. Ecological reference points do not certify forage sufficiency for every Chesapeake predator. Osprey studies show serious food stress. Industrial reduction effort can be concentrated near the Bay mouth. And the research now underway exists precisely because managers still lack answers to fundamental Bay-scale questions.

Waiting for science while continuing the existing level of industrial removal is not neutral. It places the risk of uncertainty on the ecosystem. A precautionary cap reduction places more of that risk on the fishery while preserving the ability to adjust management as new evidence arrives.

> *That is why reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap - including serious consideration of the 50 percent option - can be both scientifically honest and appropriately cautious. The argument does not require exaggerating what the science proves. It requires recognizing what the science does not yet know.*

Sources and Primary Records

1. American Small Pelagics Network, “Washington Examiner Op-Ed Gets the Facts Wrong on Menhaden, American Jobs and Fisheries Management,” Oct. 2, 2026. Used as the principal ASPN argument rebutted in this document. Source

2. National Fisherman, “Menhaden industry group pushes back on forage fish claims,” Oct. 2, 2026. Summary of ASPN’s response and Chesapeake Bay cap debate. Source

3. ASMFC, Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II (2026) and public-hearing materials. Source

4. ASMFC, Atlantic Menhaden species page and ecological reference point materials. Source

5. ASMFC, 2026 TAC action following the 2025 stock assessment. Source

6. ASMFC, Chesapeake Bay Precautionary Management Work Group Report, April 2025. Source

7. ASMFC, Atlantic Menhaden FAQs, including limitations of coastwide conclusions and striped-bass context. Source

8. Center for Conservation Biology / Frontiers in Marine Science, 2023 Chesapeake osprey reproductive and diet research. Source

9. Frontiers in Marine Science, 2023 osprey food-supplementation experiment. Source

10. Frontiers in Marine Science, 2026 Chesapeake Bay osprey study. Source

11. Center for Conservation Biology, 2026 Chesapeake Bay osprey breeding-performance report. Source

12. Omega Protein corporate history describing Ocean Harvesters vessel ownership/operation and long-term supply relationship. Source

13. ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Management Board Proceedings, Dec. 2012, documenting Monty Deihl’s Omega Protein role. Source

14. VMRC April 21, 2026 meeting transcript supplied for this review. Primary record for testimony by VMRC/VIMS staff, Monty Diehl, industry counsel, petitioners and commissioners.

15. VMRC Commissioner Steven G. Bowman letter to Montgomery Diehl, Omega Protein, Sept. 8, 2021, and related Omega spill-response page supplied for this review. Primary records for Bay harvest/weather, 2019 cap history and spill procedures.

Method note: This rebuttal deliberately separates three categories: (1) findings established by stock assessments or peer-reviewed research; (2) unresolved risks identified by managers or scientists; and (3) advocacy claims or inferences. It does not treat lack of proof of harm as proof of safety, and it does not treat ecological warning signs as proof that commercial harvest is the sole cause.

AUTHOR’S NOTE

This commentary reflects my analysis and conclusions. I supplied the source article, public records and research direction; selected the issues to examine; reviewed and revised the arguments; and take responsibility for the final factual claims and opinions expressed here. I used ChatGPT as a research, fact-checking, drafting and editing tool. AI assistance does not replace my responsibility for the published work. The U.S. Copyright Office has stated that use of AI as an assistive tool does not, by itself, bar copyright protection for human-authored expression, while purely AI-generated material is not protected absent sufficient human authorship.

Authorship reference: https://copyright.gov/AI/

James Boyle

From: Bill Campbell <jiminyxmas@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:43 PM
To: James Boyle
Subject: [External] Public comment addendum II for inclusion in the public record

I support Addendum II, and the most restrictive section options, specifically:
Sec. 3.1, option C1e;
Sec. 3.2, option B2;
Sec. 3.3, option B.
Respectfully submitted,
William Campbell,
A bay front property owner in VA

Sent from my iPhone

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Date: October 6, 2026

Via Email To: Comments@ASMFC.org

James Boyle, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Subject: **Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II**

Dear FMP Coordinator James Boyle and Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in shaping the future of the Chesapeake Bay Cap.

I am Russ Comeau of Breezy Point, NY, and CEO of Bassdozer Worldwide Fishing, LLC.

I hereby submit my formal public comments regarding Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. As a stakeholder invested in the long-term ecological health of our coastal ecosystems, I strongly advocate for management actions that prioritize the forage needs of marine predators and coastal bird species, particularly within the critical habitat of the Chesapeake Bay nursery.

1. Alignment with the ASMFC Statement of the Problem

I align with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) in recognizing the escalating crisis within the Chesapeake Bay nursery, as stated in Draft Addendum II. This draft document was explicitly triggered by critical ecological warning signs:

- **Osprey Nesting Failures:** Unprecedented reproductive losses and severe food stress in the saltier portions of the Chesapeake Bay, directly linked by research to limited menhaden availability, corresponding to
- **Localized Fishery Declines:** Significant drops in catch rates and landings within the local pound net fishery, and
- **Concentration of Reduction Effort:** An unsustainable summer crowding of the commercial purse-seine fleet that threatens the wider estuarine food web.

By releasing this management action draft, the Board has acknowledged that the status quo is failing to safeguard the Bay's role as a critical national coastal nursery.

I ask the board to support the following options in Draft Addendum II. Especially, adopting Option B, Sub-Option B4 (50% reduction in the Bay Cap), managed independently, with no TAC linkage, is a clear, logical path to take to address the exact biological problems the Commission has identified.

2. Draft Addendum II: Chesapeake Bay Management Options

Addendum Section 3.1: Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount

- **Recommendation:** Support Option B, **Sub-Option B4** (50% reduction in the Bay Cap), managed independently, with no TAC linkage.

- A 50% reduction to a precautionary cap of 25,500 metric tons is the precise, protective management measure required right now to stabilize and rebuild the Chesapeake Bay menhaden bait fishery, predatory fish and bird populations in the Bay. The biological and economic stability of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem requires an immediate precautionary management response.

- Justification: Widespread osprey reproductive failure. Recent scientific surveys indicate the osprey is suffering catastrophic reproductive losses not seen since the era of DDT. Strong empirical evidence points to low menhaden availability as the primary driver behind poor nesting success in the saltier sections of the Bay. Proponents of a 50% reduction are citing the 81% reproductive failure rate in the Bay of saltwater nesting osprey due to food stress. See link to September 2026 milestone report by Dr. Watts cited further down.

- Justification: Commercial bait fishery data points to the localized scarcity of menhaden. As verified by the independent Maryland watermen operating pound nets, this fishery sector has fallen by more than 80 percent since 2020 and currently sits below 10 percent of their permitted localized bait quota. This persistent inability to fill bait quotas is a direct economic and operational indicator of localized menhaden unavailability, deserving of precautionary measures to reduce the status quo reduction fishing quota to leave sufficient menhaden biomass to support traditional local bait fisheries and the estuarine food web inside the Bay.

Addendum Section 3.2.1: Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period

- **Recommendation:** Support Option B1 Even Length & Even Harvest periods (for 33%, 33%, 34%).

- Justification: Dividing the fishing year into equal periods with equal harvest limits addresses summer crowding of industrial reduction fishing effort. Option B1 ensures a steady and required volume of forage remains available for predatory fish and for adults to feed young-of-year predatory birds during peak spring and summer seasons when they have the highest biological demand for food.

- Furthermore, the 33%; 33%; 34% split helps avoid placing fishing concentration into the fall period, unlike the alternative 25%; 25%; 50% option. Fall is a critical annual period when transient migratory fish and birds depend on menhaden availability in the Bay as they stop here to gorge on baitfish to replenish body fat reserves required to continue migrating. Wildlife monitoring records show that hundreds of thousands of migrating piscivorous (fish-eating) birds utilize the Chesapeake Bay in the fall on their flight paths to western hemispheric wintering grounds in southern USA, Mexico, Caribbean, Central and South America. This points to Option B1 as a clear precautionary measure to even out menhaden availability across spring, summer, and fall seasonal needs of wildlife.

Addendum Section 3.2.2: Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period Overages & Underages

1. **Recommendation:** Support Option B (for mandatory quota period overage payback).

2. **Recommendation:** Support Underage Sub-Option 1 (Even Split and Rollover).

- Justification: A mandatory payback rule for overages ensures accountability and keeps the industrial fleet from overshooting period limits. The even split and rollover sub-option 1 for underages ensures that unused allocations do not result in highly concentrated fishing later in the season.

Addendum Section 3.3: Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision

- **Recommendation:** Support Option B (for a review at least once every three years).

- Justification: A mandatory triennial review requires the Board to regularly evaluate the cap against updated stock assessments and the shifting ecological needs of dependent predator species inside the Bay.

3. Independent Chesapeake Nursery Management vs. TAC Linkage

- Justification: The Chesapeake Bay Cap should NOT be tied to changes in the coastwide TAC. The Chesapeake Bay is a nursery, and a distinct estuarine ecological system with its own unique patterns of fishing pressure and predator forage demands. As stated in a story by the American Saltwater Guides Association, "Tying the Bay Cap to the ocean quota removes the Board's ability to manage the Bay independently and on its own scientific merits."

- The future of localized menhaden management in the Bay should start now - with a vote for a precautionary 50% reduction. Fisheries management policies explicitly allow for a precautionary approach when wildlife populations show clear signs of distress. The evidence on the osprey nesting platforms, corresponding to documented dwindling menhaden catch rates in Bay pound net fisheries, and depletion of striped bass (rockfish) makes it abundantly clear that immediate precautionary management action is the proper response to tighten sustainable limits to protect the resource before menhaden and stripers crash, and local breeding osprey colonies collapse entirely. A fishing industry argument against this is that a precautionary management approach for tighter, localized catch limits in the Bay lacks scientific justification. But waiting for absolute mathematical proof while the menhaden pound net fishery, sportfish and raptors exhibit clear signs of localized distress would be a failure of basic resource conservation.

4. Public & Private Chesapeake Bay Menhaden Research Projects

- A standalone Bay Cap under Option B, Sub-Option B4 serves as a necessary, immediate safeguard for this unique nursery. This standalone baseline will provide immediate precautionary protection during the timeframe when three independent scientific studies of menhaden inside the Bay can come up to speed. Pending Chesapeake Bay menhaden research projects include:

1. **Project 1** (the VA state track): *Chesapeake Bay Menhaden Population and Ecological Interactions Study*. With $2.0 million in state funding granted by the Virginia General Assembly directly to Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) with Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) to assess localized menhaden population and ecological interactions inside the Bay.

2. **Project 2** (the fishing industry track): *Development of a Research Roadmap for Atlantic Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay*. With private funding primarily from the commercial fishing industry channeled through National Science Foundation's Science Center for Marine Fisheries (SCEMFIS) to VIMS and University of Maryland (UMD) to carry out the project.

3. **Project 3** (the federal track): With $2.5 million in Federal Congressional Appropriations awarded to NOAA Fisheries, transferred to the ASMFC, and allocated via an ASMFC workgroup to fund a new, independent Chesapeake Bay menhaden abundance survey designed to analyze menhaden abundance, distribution, and forage roles within the Bay ecosystem, to evaluate forage baseline data and Ecological Reference Point (ERP) modeling parameters.

- Mandate that these major scientific initiatives come online posthaste within the timeframe of the first mandatory three-year review provision. It's desirable to have the initial "scientifically defensible and ecologically meaningful" localized metrics needed to adjust the cap independently, starting with the Board's next triennial review. Going forward, the Board should rely on these new sources of targeted bay science findings, rather than permanently locking the Bay Cap into a simple fixed ratio TAC coastwide linked formula that does not account for the Bay's uniqueness as a nursery.

5. The Ecological Necessity of a Standalone, Reduced Bay Cap

The Chesapeake Bay functions as a nursery and an anchor point from which migratory baitfish species, predator fish, birds, and systemic risks move up and down the Atlantic coast. Recent declining osprey reproductivity in the Northern Mid-Atlantic (NJ, NY, CT) and into New England (RI, MA, ME) is directly linked to the health of this nursery.

Menhaden are a critical keystone forage species for the Chesapeake Bay and for the total Atlantic coast marine food web. Protecting the keystone forage fish, menhaden, in the Chesapeake Bay immediately benefits the following local and coastwide migratory species:

- **Predator Fish:** Striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, fluke, tuna, shark, cod, and more.
- **Predator Birds:** Over 65 coastal bird species, not just osprey, depend on menhaden as forage inside the Bay and along the Atlantic coast. Full list of all 65 available upon request.
- **Predator Marine Mammals:** Whales, dolphins, porpoises, seals.
- **Ecosystem Interconnected Species**: Independent Bay Cap management and monitoring trends in the Bay's menhaden population also serves as an indicator of the Bay's ecosystem

health to sustain species of high conservation concern, including Rufa Red Knot (ESA Threatened), Horseshoe Crab (ASMFC Managed Species of Concern), Black Rail (ESA Threatened), Saltmarsh Sparrow (IUCN Endangered), Atlantic Sturgeon (Chesapeake Bay DPS; ESA Endangered)and other Bay species that all benefit from a balanced ecosystem.

6. Incorporate new September 2026 Meta-Analysis Findings

A new comprehensive September 2026 report published by Dr. Bryan Watts, Director of The Center for Conservation Biology at William & Mary in Williamsburg, VA covers the Bay and the total coast from Virginia to Maine. The sweeping scope of this powerful multi-state meta-analysis points to a stark, sadly inescapable reality: the catastrophic reproductive losses first documented in the saltier areas of the Chesapeake are no longer isolated there. Across our Atlantic states, saltwater breeding pairs that depend on menhaden availability are facing an unprecedented, widespread crisis. The full report can be downloaded at:

- ***Osprey Starvation Reaches Northern Mid-Atlantic and Southern New England*** https://ccbbirds.org/2026/09/22/osprey-starvation-reaches-northern-mid-atlantic-and-southern-new-england/

Of importance to Bay Cap Addendum II , the 2026 breeding season marked the worst reproductive productivity ever recorded for osprey in the Chesapeake Bay, with average productivity dropping to 0.25 young/pair in waters above 5 ppt salinity. This severe decline is primarily driven by acute food stress and a drastic reduction in Atlantic menhaden availability. In stark contrast, pairs nesting in low-salinity tidal freshwater reaches where menhaden availability is not as critical, achieved 1.04 young/pair, surpassing the threshold required for population maintenance.

The localized findings of this report that are specific only to the Bay and to Addendum II can be downloaded at:

- ***2026 Osprey Breeding Performance Worst Ever Recorded for the Chesapeake Bay*** https://ccbbirds.org/2026/09/14/2026-osprey-breeding-performance-was-the-worst-ever-recorded-for-the-chesapeake-bay/

I align with this report. It reinforces my support for an independent Bay Cap and a 50% precautionary reduction.

In conclusion, adopting a precautionary 50% reduction and an independent Bay is a prudent path to address the exact biological concerns the Commission has identified in Addendum II. The Board must act decisively to protect the Chesapeake Bay nursery and its localized marine life, by setting precautionary menhaden reduction fishing limits. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Russ Comeau

Russell Comeau
Breezy Point, NY 11697
Russ@Bassdozer.com | (928) 614-9186

James Boyle

From: Mara Crossin <maracrossin@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 10:53 AM
To: James Boyle
Subject: [External] Bunker cap

Mr. Boyle,
Please reduce the amount of bunker menhaden that are fished off of our shores.
The impact is far reaching. Animals starve to death. They claim whale deaths r caused by turbines and ship strikes. The reality is that the majority have starved to death and are floating dead in the shipping lanes.
Death by starvation has been proven by autopsy.
In the matter of osprey; another sad, slow death.
In the past, osprey hunted in the bay. Now they commute to the oceanside. The fledgelings don't survive.

Fish oil is a hoax. The vitamin companies are the biggest offenders
I stopped taking fish oil and my cholesterol was reduced. CAP THEIR QUOTA!
More ice cream for me.

Kindly consider.

Sincerely,

Mara Crossin

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James Boyle

From: anne cummings <anne_cummings@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 9:46 AM
To: James Boyle
Subject: [External] Menhaden Quotas

Dear ASMFC,
I am writing to express my concern about the decline in the osprey populations on the Atlantic seaboard, which appear to have a direct causal link to the fisheries quotas for menhaden take. Effects of climate change on the fish migration patterns, along with many other factors in the ecosystem are obviously at play, but perhaps it would be best to reduce quotas while more research is done to assess all the reasons for this precipitous decline. The osprey may be serving as the “canaries in the coal mine” and perhaps we should be paying closer attention to this warning.
Thanks for your serious consideration of this matter.
Yours,
Anne Cummings
Plainfield, CT

eARTh - without ART, eARTh is just “eh.”
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Sept 28, 2026

Dear ASMFC,
Jame Boyle,

The Omega Plant has been over-fishing menhaden for decades and are dishonest with the excessive millions of menhaden they take and where they fish them. The CEO sends antagonistic, threatening letters to the home addresses of any residents whom express or write opinion letters to the editor in local newspapers. This over harvest is very destructive to the Bay health and many many species that feed on menhaden.

They need a cap or they will continue to harm the Bay.

Thank you

RECEIVED
OCT 07 2026
By: .....

Sept. 27, 2026

Dear James Boyle
ASMFC,

Please consider our concerns: Ocean Harvesters Seine boats fishing is devastating the Bay. The adverse impacts to osprey reproduction, dolphin food source, many species of fish, the health of the Bay are destructive and possibly irreversible. We have witnessed hundreds of factory ships taking millions of menhaden. We've seen them seine net fishing directly in tiny Ingraham Bay.

Many people here did not feel comfortable attending the Northumberland hearing because the CEO of Ocean Harvesters is antagonistic, threatening if an opinion to reduce their TAC is presented. Please know that many, many people here feel Ocean Harvesters has overfished the Bay for years and years with destructive results. Thank you for considering our comments also.

Debra Frith
Tom Frith
Reedville, VA

RECEIVED
OCT 07 2026
By: .....

James Boyle

From: ELLEN DEVINE <teajt@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 10:44 AM
To: James Boyle
Subject: [External] Bunker Fish

Please reduce the amount of fishing for bunker fish. The huge amount of fishing is reducing the most important food for Osprey and many other animals. If fishing rates stay the same , then a catastrophic decline of Bunker will leave no fish for the large fishing companies to fish, anyway. They will soon be out of business! It is in their interest to decrease their take so the fish can establish their numbers. A win win! Thank you for this opportunity to speak the truth.
Sent from my iPhone
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October 6, 2026

Dan & Karen Doherty
PO Box 988
St. Mary's City. MD 20686

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC):

We are Maryland residents who have lived in St. Mary's County since 1972 and have developed a deep personal connection to the Chesapeake Bay. We live on the St. Mary's River and are avid boaters, crabbers and not so lucky fish feeders. We are deeply interested in the wildlife that depends upon this remarkable ecosystem, particularly osprey, striped bass, sharks, whales, and other species whose survival is tied directly or indirectly to a healthy forage base. We installed an osprey nesting piling in 2004 and watched our osprey families expand over the years. In the past 2 years our osprey did not produce chicks. This is clearly due to problems with food sources.

We strongly support a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons annually. I also strongly support establishing seasonal quota periods for menhaden so that harvest is distributed throughout the year rather than concentrated in an intense summer fishing window.

The Chesapeake Bay is facing an ecological crisis that should not be minimized or postponed. Declining productivity, widespread osprey nest failures, and continued concerns about the condition of the striped bass population are warning signs that demand a precautionary approach to the management of one of the Bay's most important forage fish - **menhaden.**

Menhaden are not merely another commercial commodity. They are a foundational component of the Chesapeake Bay food web. They provide critical forage for striped bass, osprey, bluefish, weakfish, dolphins, and numerous other predators. Removing very large quantities of menhaden from the Bay during the period when they are most concentrated and most biologically important deserves particularly careful scrutiny.

The scale and timing of the reduction fishery are especially troubling. More than 100 million pounds of menhaden can be removed under the existing Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap. When that harvest is concentrated into a relatively short summer period, the ecological effect is not simply a matter of the annual tonnage. **Where and when the fish are removed matters.**

An intense summer harvest can create localized depletion at precisely the time when menhaden are serving as forage for other species. It also potentially deprives recreational anglers, commercial watermen, charter operators, and the broader coastal tourism economy of access to a shared public resource. These competing interests deserve meaningful consideration in the management process.

We are particularly concerned about allowing an annual quota to be treated as though the timing of harvest is irrelevant. It is not. A fish removed from the Bay in June is not ecologically equivalent to that same fish being harvested months later. The Bay's predators have seasonal feeding requirements, and the availability of forage during critical periods can matter greatly to their survival and reproductive success.

For that reason, we urge the Commission to establish **strict seasonal quota periods that distribute the allowable harvest more evenly throughout the year and prevent the reduction fishery from concentrating an extraordinary volume of harvest into the summer months**. Seasonal management

would provide a more precautionary approach and would better recognize the fact that Chesapeake Bay is a dynamic ecosystem rather than simply another geographic allocation within a coastwide fishery.

There is also an important management issue that deserves attention. The Commission's coastwide menhaden assessment does not provide the same level of quantitative information about menhaden abundance and availability specifically within Chesapeake Bay. That uncertainty argues for caution—not for assuming that the Bay can safely sustain the maximum allowable harvest.

The Chesapeake Bay belongs to all of us. It belongs to the watermen who have made their living here, the recreational fishermen who pursue its species, the sailors and boaters who enjoy its waters, the communities whose economies depend upon it, and the wildlife that has no voice in these proceedings. Menhaden management should reflect that broader public interest.

We respectfully urge the Commission to:

1. Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons per year.

2. Establish firm seasonal quota periods for menhaden.

3. **Prevent excessive concentration of reduction harvest during the summer months.

4. Apply a precautionary approach in light of ecological uncertainty and the importance of menhaden as forage.

5. Give meaningful consideration to the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the Bay's broader tourism economy.

The prudent course is to reduce the intensity of the reduction fishery now, protect menhaden as a critical forage resource, and distribute harvest in a manner that gives the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem a better opportunity to sustain the wildlife and fisheries that depend upon it.

While our immediate focus is on our Chesapeake Bay we must consider the broader down-stream impacts on the entire ecosystem extending to the Atlantic Ocean. As the stewards of the Chesapeake our decisions have a much broader impact to our region and the entire east coast.

We appreciate that some families in Virginia may be impacted by implementing the changes that are essential. We strongly encourage all the political entities involved to develop a plan for citizens in Virginia who are impacted by the necessary changes are supported in a transition to new opportunities. A coordinated effort by the states to secure support from the federal government for affected families is strongly encouraged.

Thank you for your consideration and for your responsibility to future generations of Chesapeake Bay users and stewards.

Sincerely,

Dan and Karen Doherty

August 12, 2026

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
jboyle@asmfc.org

Re: Public Comment in Support of the Proposed 50% Reduction to the Chesapeake Bay Menhaden Reduction Fishery Cap (ASMFC Addendum II)

I strongly support the proposed 50% reduction to the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery harvest cap, including distributing the allowable catch more evenly throughout the fishing season. This measure is consistent with the ASMFC Plan Development Team's own April 2026 draft recommendations and is supported by 92% of Virginia voters, according to a 2026 poll conducted by New Bridge Strategy and FM3 Research.

While I believe a broader review of purse seine netting in Virginia waters is warranted in the future, my primary request today is focused on the 50% cap reduction currently under consideration.

The ecological evidence for this reduction is compelling. The 2025 ASMFC stock assessment update revealed a 37% decline in menhaden biomass compared to previous models. Virginia's own reported menhaden bait harvest collapsed from 5.4 million pounds in 2019 to less than 1 million pounds in 2024, according to VMRC data. The consequences are visible throughout the food web: striped bass, cobia, bluefish, whales, dolphins, pelicans, and osprey all depend on menhaden as a primary food source. In the lower Chesapeake Bay, menhaden depletion is already causing measurable population-level harm to these species.

The data supporting this action is robust. A 2024 peer-reviewed study by Dr. Bryan Watts at the Center for Conservation Biology documented that only 17 of 167 monitored osprey nests in high-salinity areas of the lower Chesapeake Bay were successful, producing just 21 surviving chicks. The researchers directly linked this unprecedented reproductive failure to menhaden depletion. A subsequent 2025 study confirmed the crisis worsened Bay-wide. These findings, combined with the ASMFC's own stock assessment showing a 37% biomass decline, led the Plan Development Team to recommend the 50% cap reduction now before you.

Industry representatives continue to cite wildlife recovery data from the 1960s through 1990s, attributing population gains to the DDT ban. These references are misleading in our current context: osprey populations recovered decades ago and are now declining again specifically due to food scarcity, not pesticide exposure.

I am sympathetic to concerns about economic impact in Reedville. However, the facts are instructive: when the coast-wide quota was cut 20% for 2026, industry sources confirmed zero layoffs and no reduction in the working fleet (still six fishing boats and two run boats). A 50% Bay cap reduction is manageable. Moreover, Virginia hosts the last industrial reduction fishery on the Atlantic coast, operated by a single company (Omega Protein) owned by Canadian-based Cooke Inc. The economic benefits of this operation are concentrated in one foreign-owned firm, while the ecological and economic costs are distributed across all Virginians.

The broader economic picture favors conservation. In Virginia Beach alone, continued menhaden depletion threatens:

- Commercial fishermen's livelihoods and the restaurants they supply
- Whale and dolphin observation cruises that depend on healthy prey populations
- Recreational fishing charters and tourism
- Restaurant, hotel, and retail revenue tied to coastal tourism

These sectors represent hundreds, if not thousands, of jobs in our community alone.

The 50% cap reduction is a precautionary management measure grounded in the best available science. Even those who dispute individual studies cannot argue against the prudence of protecting our most valuable ecological resource while research continues. The cost of inaction, should the biomass decline prove as severe as current models indicate, would be irreversible.

I urge the Commission to approve the 50% reduction to the Bay cap. Thank you for your consideration of this comment.

Chrysta Donatelli
228 50th St
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Sources

1. ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Stock Assessment Update, 2025 - documenting 37% biomass decline and basis for 20% coast-wide quota reduction.
2. ASMFC Plan Development Team, Draft Addendum II Recommendations, April 2026 - recommending up to 50% Bay reduction fishery cap cut with seasonal distribution.
3. Watts, B.D., Center for Conservation Biology, 2024 - peer-reviewed study documenting osprey reproductive failure (17/167 nests successful) linked to menhaden depletion in lower Chesapeake Bay.
4. Center for Conservation Biology, 2025 - expanded Bay-wide study confirming worsening osprey breeding performance.
5. Virginia Marine Resources Commission landing data, 2019–2024 - menhaden bait harvest decline from 5.4 million lbs to under 1 million lbs.
6. New Bridge Strategy & FM3 Research, 2026 - poll finding 92% of Virginia voters support leaving more menhaden in the Bay (commissioned by Chesapeake Bay Foundation).
7. National Fisherman, May 2026 - industry confirmation of zero layoffs following 20% coast-wide quota reduction.

James Boyle

From: G2W2
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 3:14 PM
To: James Boyle; Comments
Subject: FW: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Amendment II

From: RomanAround5246 <romanaround5246@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 8:33 PM
To: G2W2 <G2W2@asmfc.org>
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Amendment II

Hi ASMFC,

I want to say Thank You for giving me the opportunity to voice my opinion. Being a recreational in Connecticut and spending plenty days on the water, it has been noticed the past couple of seasons that the schools of Atlantic Menhaden have been decreasing and so have the size of the fish. I fish the area between the Connecticut River and Niantic Bay out to the Race Area, which is basically the Eastern Long Island Sound. The places that we would find schools of Atlantic Menhaden like the mouth of the Connecticut River, Hatchets Reef, Black Point, Bartletts Reef, the Race and the Sluiceway have slowly become empty. I know that they are a Migratory Species but the places like Hatchets Reef, Black Point and Bartletts Reef and become thin or desolate of Atlantic Menhaden. The mouth of the Connecticut River use d to hold Atlantic Menhaden from the Spring until the Fall. Now the Atlantic Menhaden have shown up late in June and have been sporadic until the beginning of September.

I've been attending the webinars dealing with issue and have a few questions. They claim to have scientific data claiming that there is not a problem with Atlantic Menhaden, are any of these people out on the water? What's written on paper isn't a true representation of water is really happening in everyone's eyes. And also, someone funding a research doesn't always get you a fair picture either. I know that by fact as I go thru a Worker's Compensation issue dealing with work. Having Omega Protein hire their scientists has a possible Conflict of Interest. Also, if there is not an Atlantic Menhaden problem in the Chesapeake than why do they need spotter planes to find the schools to send their ships in order to catch them? What other species does the commercial sector need spotter planes to get their quota? Also in one of the graphs it should the 75% of Atlantic Menhaden is caught in Virginia, can you tell me how much is that by Omega Protein? How much is caught by their hired boats? And how about the TAC, how much do retain with both their boats and their hired boats?

Another gentleman from Virginia, with no ties to either side made a great comment about stabilization of this fishery.His comment was for the need for stabilization for that fishery for the future which they claim keeps that town employed. He sides on the side of conservation like I do. Have they ever said what these people would do for work if the Atlantic Menhaden population crashed and we needed put put very strict restrictions on Atlantic Menhaden or the resource disappeared altogether?

This species isn't just an argument about Commercial versus Recreational Sectors. This species is an important food source for many things. This is the beginning of the food chain for many fish, birds and animals. By only thinking of one impact, Omega Protein is not looking at the entire picture and evading

your responsibility of protecting a species that many depend on and need for life. That should be what we are considering and not what is good for one company.

I also attended the webinar on the TAC and one thing that I did notice is that the options that have been put out don't go far enough. None of the graphs show lines that fall below the orange and blue lines? I think the board needs to take action to stabilize the population and think about how important Atlantic Menhaden is across the board. My recommendation for the TAC is to reduce by at least 50%. We talk about the Chesapeake Bay but the Atlantic Menhaden is in trouble everywhere. The Reduction Fleet will move further out with their spotter planes and create the same situation somewhere else. My recommendations are as follows:
Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount(Section 3.1) is Option B4 25,500mt..
Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution (Section 3.2.1) is Option B:3 Uneven length/Uneven harvest.
Quota Period Overages and Underages. I don't think the options go far enough. Overages payback but no rollover on underage. We need to save as many of these fish as possible.
Bay Cap Revisit Provision (Section3.3) Option B Bay Cap Revisited Every Three Years.
The TAC should be reduced by 50%. From the people out on the water that see this up close and personal, there is an issue with Atlantic Menhaden out here. The lack of Osprey on and along the Niantic River is another indication of a real problem. I know there will be an argument that the dominant chick will survive but when the Osprey don't return at all the following year, what does that mean? What it means is that there is no food source there. You have turned your back on River Herring, let's not do it on Atlantic Menhaden. The River Herring have not a comeback in how may years.

Thank You for giving me the opportunity to voice my opinion. Remember what nature has to lose if we don't do the right thing, Stabilization.

Sincerely,

Roman Dudus

Sent from my Galaxy

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James Boyle

From: kfilauro <kfilauro@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 5:18 PM
To: James Boyle
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Dear Mr.Boyle:

I am writing as a deeply concerned Long Island resident to submit public comments regarding Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II.

Atlantic menhaden are far more than a commercial resource. They form the foundation of the Atlantic coastal food web and provide essential forage for osprey, striped bass, bluefish, whales, and many other predators. Management decisions must place the ecological importance of menhaden ahead of maximizing industrial reduction harvest.

Although Draft Addendum II focuses on the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery, the consequences extend beyond the Bay. Menhaden are migratory, and protecting them within this vital nursery and forage area supports the health and resilience of the broader Atlantic coastal ecosystem.

I therefore urge the Board to adopt the strongest protective provisions under Draft Addendum II:

1. Select Sub-Option B4, reducing the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap by 50%, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons.
2. Establish three enforceable quota periods and select Sub-Option B2, allocating 25% of the cap to the first period, 25% to the second period, and 50% to the final period. This would help prevent an intense concentration of industrial harvest during the biologically critical spring and summer months.
3. Select the quota-period overage-payback provision under Option B so that exceeding a seasonal allocation results in a meaningful consequence rather than becoming an unenforced limit.
4. Select Option B for the revisit provision, requiring the Board to reconsider the Chesapeake Bay cap at least once every three years as scientific information develops.

I also urge the ASMFC to continue strengthening ecological reference points and to ensure that future coastwide quotas leave sufficient menhaden in the water for predators. A population cannot be considered adequately managed solely because it is not classified as overfished. Menhaden must also be available in sufficient numbers, sizes, locations, and seasons to fulfill their essential ecological role.

The coastwide 20% reduction in the 2026 total allowable catch was an important step, but stronger localized protections are still necessary. When scientific uncertainty exists, the Board should choose the precautionary alternative that protects the ecosystem rather than placing the risk on wildlife and coastal communities.

Our coastal ecosystem cannot afford passive management. The osprey, whales, recreational fisheries, and people who value the Atlantic coast are counting on the Board to protect the base of the marine food web.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Karen Filauro
Massapequa, New York

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James Boyle

From: Rob Foley <rfoleysons@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 4:08 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] The Bay

I support a reduction in the amount of fish harvesting. We had Omega boats at the mouth of the Rappahannock River last week. They take too much.

Robert & Vickie Foley

Robert J Foley/Owner
540-522-7811

Robert Foley & Sons, LLC
Home Repair, Inspections and Carpentry Services
151 Catch Penny Lane
Lancaster, VA 22503
www.foleyhomeinspection.com

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Robert Frantz
864 Holly Drive S
Annapolis, Maryland
robertfrantz@mac.com

RECEIVED
OCT 01 2026
By: .....

September 20, 2026

James Boyle, FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, Virginia 22201
comments@asmfc.org

Re: Public Comment on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II — Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap

Dear Mr. Boyle and Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board:

I am a Maryland resident and business owner writing in strong support of the most protective action available under Draft Addendum II, and to urge the Board to go further than the range the draft currently contemplates. I ask the Board to end the industrial reduction fishery for Atlantic menhaden inside Chesapeake Bay entirely, and to pursue additional coastwide reductions of at least 50% from present levels.[1,2]

Requested Action

1. Eliminate the reduction fishery in Chesapeake Bay — a 100% reduction of the Bay Cap. If the Board concludes a full closure cannot be accomplished within this addendum, I ask that it (a) adopt Option B4 (50% reduction; Bay Cap of 25,500 mt) in a single step rather than a phase-in, as an immediate interim floor, and (b) simultaneously initiate the amendment or adaptive-management process needed to phase the Bay reduction fishery out completely on a defined schedule.
2. Reject Options A, B1, B2, and B3 as inadequate to the documented ecological emergency in the Bay, and reject any phase-in of whatever reduction is adopted.
3. Reject any Option C linkage that could permit the Bay Cap to rise above 25,500 mt. If linkage is adopted, pair C1e (13.6% of the coastwide TAC) with a hard upper limit at that level. Options C2c and C2d, which would allow a Bay Cap as high as 87,216 mt, should be rejected outright.
4. If quota periods are adopted, select Option B2 (25% / 25% / 50%), which shifts the greatest share of harvest out of the critical spring and early-summer window, together with the quota-period overage payback option so the period limits are enforceable rather than advisory.

5 Pursue coastwide reductions of at least 50% from current levels through the appropriate action, beyond the 20% reduction already adopted for the 2026 TAC of 186,840 mt.[8] Bay measures alone cannot protect a migratory coastwide stock whose Bay-bound adults are also harvested in nearshore ocean waters.

1. Menhaden are a keystone species, and the Bay's dependent predators are now failing

Menhaden are the principal energy link between plankton and the Bay's higher predators. The Commission's own management framework already recognizes this: ecological reference points for menhaden were developed using striped bass as the indicator species precisely because striped bass proved most sensitive to menhaden harvest.[9] The evidence of predator failure is no longer speculative or anecdotal.

Osprey

The Center for Conservation Biology at William & Mary reports that 2026 was the worst osprey breeding season ever recorded in the Chesapeake Bay. Productivity in waters above 5 ppt salinity averaged 0.25 young per pair across 769 monitored pairs, against a threshold of roughly 0.8 young per pair needed merely to hold the population stable. Fully 81% of those pairs failed to fledge a single chick. Productivity has fallen in each of the last three years — 0.51 in 2024, 0.35 in 2025, 0.25 in 2026 — and current reproductive rates are less than half those recorded at the height of the DDT crisis. Under current demographics the breeding population is projected to decline roughly 14% per year, about 50% over the coming decade.[3]

The cause is food, and the food is menhaden

The same monitoring documents emaciated chicks, stunted development, sequential brood reduction, abandoned clutches, and young starving in nests. In parts of the Bay, the rate of menhaden delivery to osprey nests has declined by more than 80% since the 1980s, and the resulting dietary shift has cut the energy content of osprey diets by 50%.[3] Peer-reviewed work in Frontiers in Marine Science links osprey breeding performance in the lower Bay directly to the menhaden stock index across a 1974–2021 period in which that index fluctuated more than 35-fold,[4] and monitoring of 571 nests found reproductive deficits concentrated in exactly the higher-salinity waters where ospreys depend most on menhaden.[5]

Striped bass

Atlantic striped bass has been overfished since 2019 and remains overfished under the 2024 assessment update, with a rebuilding deadline of 2029.[6] The Board is at the same time considering Striped Bass Addendum III specifically to support that rebuilding.[7] It is inconsistent to impose repeated restrictions on striped bass anglers, charter captains, and the businesses that depend on them while leaving intact an industrial fishery that removes the striped bass's primary forage from its most important nursery.

2. Menhaden also improve the Bay's clarity and water quality

Menhaden are filter feeders. Feeding in dense schools, they consume plankton and remove algal biomass from the water column. Reducing algal density improves water clarity, which in turn supports submerged aquatic vegetation and the crabs and juvenile fish that shelter in it, and lessens the oxygen depletion that follows algal die-off. Every metric ton of menhaden removed from the Bay is both forage lost to predators and filtration lost to the ecosystem. That dual service is unique to this species and is not replaced by the alternative prey on which ospreys and striped bass are now forced to rely.

3. The Bay Cap has never been an ecological limit

The current 51,000 mt cap is not derived from any Bay-specific assessment of menhaden abundance or of predator demand. It is simply an approximation of average reduction landings in the Bay from 2012–2016.[2] The caps that preceded it — 109,020 mt and 87,216 mt — were likewise set from historical landings rather than ecological need. A limit built from what the industry happened to catch a decade ago is not a conservation standard, and the Board should stop treating it as one. For the same reason, Options C2c and C2d are indefensible: they would authorize a Bay harvest roughly 70% larger than today's cap at the very moment the Bay's predators are collapsing.

It is also worth stating plainly that the Bay Cap currently equals 27.3% of the entire coastwide TAC.[1] More than a quarter of the coastwide allowable catch may be taken from a single estuary that serves as the principal nursery for the coastwide striped bass stock and hosts the largest osprey breeding population in the world. No defensible ecosystem rationale supports concentrating removals that way.

4. Scientific uncertainty argues for less harvest, not more delay

The reduction industry argues that the causes of declining menhaden availability in the Bay are unresolved and that more data is needed before the cap is cut.[10] The Commission's own record confirms the gap: the Work Group could not determine whether menhaden supply in the Bay is adequate to meet predator demand.[2] That is an argument for precaution, not for preserving the status quo.

I recognize that the 2025 single-species assessment update found the coastwide stock is neither overfished nor experiencing overfishing. But the Board itself reduced the 2026 TAC by 20% notwithstanding that finding, because fishing mortality exceeded the ecological reference point F target and fecundity fell below its ERP threshold.[8] A coastwide status determination says nothing about localized depletion within a single estuary — and localized depletion is precisely what osprey diet data, striped bass condition, and observations throughout Bay tributaries all indicate. The burden of proof belongs on the party seeking to continue large-scale industrial removals from a nursery estuary, not on the public seeking to protect it.

The asymmetry of the risks is decisive. If the Board closes the Bay to reduction fishing and menhaden availability proves to have been driven mainly by climate or distribution shifts, the cost is the reallocation of one company's harvest to ocean waters. If the Board holds the status quo and harvest is in fact a contributing factor, the Bay loses the world's largest osprey population, striped bass rebuilding by 2029 fails, and both outcomes may take decades to reverse — if they are reversible at all.

5. Timing matters as much as tonnage

Ospreys require abundant fish in April, May, and June to raise broods, and cannot shift their breeding chronology when menhaden do not arrive in quantity until late June or July.[3] Yet the landings data in the draft show roughly 30% of Bay reduction landings and 39% of effort occurring in the May 3–July 4 window, with another 54% of landings between early July and mid-September.[1] Harvest is therefore concentrated exactly when predator demand peaks. If any Bay reduction harvest is permitted to continue, Option B2's 25/25/50 distribution — which pushes half the quota into the September 13–November 19 period — is the only sub-option that meaningfully relieves that bottleneck, and it should be paired with quota-period overage payback so the periods bind in practice.

6. A Bay closure is a modest change for one company and a large one for the Bay

The operator affected here is a single vertically integrated enterprise: Ocean Harvesters, which fishes the Reedville vessels under contract to Omega Protein, reports harvesting on the order of 437,000 metric tons across its Chesapeake and Gulf operations and generating roughly $300 million in sales.[11] The Bay Cap is a fraction of that footprint, and menhaden remain available in Virginia's ocean waters. Weighed against it are the Bay's recreational striped bass fishery, its charter fleet, marinas, tackle shops, and tourism economy — including here in Annapolis — all of which depend on a functioning forage base. The company's past conduct also bears on how much confidence a lightly enforced approach deserves: in 2019 Omega Protein publicly announced it would exceed the Bay cap, and did so.[12] Whatever the Board adopts should be backed by mandatory payback provisions and meaningful accountability.

Conclusion

The Chesapeake Bay is not merely one more harvest area. It is the nursery for the coastwide striped bass stock, home to the largest osprey breeding population in the world, and a water body whose clarity depends in part on the very filter feeders being removed from it by the millions of pounds. Three consecutive years of record-low osprey productivity, an overfished striped bass stock facing a 2029 rebuilding deadline, and an 80% decline in menhaden delivered to osprey nests since the 1980s together establish more than sufficient basis for decisive action.

I respectfully urge the Board to end the industrial reduction fishery in Chesapeake Bay altogether; to adopt Option B4 without phase-in as an immediate floor if a full closure cannot be accomplished in this addendum; to reject any linkage option that could allow the Bay Cap to increase; and to pursue coastwide reductions of at least 50% from current levels.

Thank you for considering these comments and for the opportunity to participate in this process.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Frantz

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864 Holly Drive S, Annapolis, Maryland
robertfrantz@mac.com

Sources

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James Boyle

From: Kathy Fritz <mkfritz80@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 8:46 AM
To: James Boyle
Subject: [External] Atlantic menhaden

Dear Mr Boyle,
please help save the Atlantic in Hayden from Extinction and the resulting collapse from many birds such as the osprey! Please stop these reduction fleets from destroying our ocean!
Respectfully,
Kathy Fritz
Millsboro Delaware formerly from New Jersey

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: G2W2
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 3:16 PM
To: James Boyle; Comments
Subject: FW: [External] Spring run

-----Original Message-----
From: Pat Gallen <patgallen@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 7:18 AM
To: G2W2 <G2W2@asmfc.org>
Subject: [External] Spring run

I wanted to add to the comments that I surf fish often. During the spring run in LBI I fished approx 40 days between early April and June. I have a network of friends on the island that share information daily. No adult bunker spotted. We saw a a cupcake sized small Pod one morning and that was it. Thank you Patrick A Gallen
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mark R. Gibson

Contact Information

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October 6, 2026

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Dear Mr. Boyle

I am pleased to submit comments on draft addendum 2 to the ASMFC menhaden fishery management plan. I am a fisheries scientist and administrator, retired from the RI Division of Fish and Wildlife (41 yrs). I have a strong background in population dynamics, having worked on numerous fish and wildlife species and issues in my career. I have represented the state on many scientific committees as well as at both the ASMFC and NEFMC. I am a past recipient of the ASMFC scientific award of excellence and my Departments distinguished service award and have served as chair of the RI Marine Fisheries Council. The osprey-menhaden issue is important to the citizens of Rhode Island as we have both a menhaden fishery and a recovering osprey population. RI once hosted a commercial reduction plant for menhaden at Pt. Judith and 1000's of Ocean State citizens treasure osprey viewing. Evidence for osprey food stress and brood reduction in RI is accruing. A supporting technical document for my comments (Gibson 2026) is available upon request.

In my analysis, I find that the osprey-menhaden tension can be distilled down to two phenomenon. First, both species collapsed in the 1960's; menhaden from overfishing and osprey from DDT contamination. Both stressors have been relieved and both species have responded with population growth. However, the magnitude of recovery is uneven with osprey achieving a much greater relative abundance. By analogy to the national debt, expenditures have grown faster than the GDP. Much of this is due to the provision of man-made nesting structures, be they cell towers or dedicated nesting structures. No additional food supply was provided to the osprey but the additional structures have incentivized conversion of osprey floaters to breeders. The birds have simply outgrown their food supply, particularly in marine waters. Brood reduction is the natural raptor response. Known as resource tracking, it has happened many times before in osprey in both the US and Europe.

Second, changing phenology is occurring in both species, exacerbating the problem in a classic match-mismatch or "wicked" problem. Studies show that climate change is causing osprey to arrive earlier to the breeding grounds. Conversely, fishery data show later arrival of menhaden in both Chesapeake and Narragansett Bays. It is not that menhaden are being depleted, they are just somewhere else when needed most by the birds. I emphasize that this is not happening in inland areas where the fish food supply is land locked under restricted connectivity. Also, food stress and

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brood reduction are not yet apparent north of Cape Cod in the coastal Greenbelt region of Massachusetts.

I do not have a preferred alternative in A2. I do suggest that the action require the menhaden fishery to be separated in space and time from the critical male provisioning period of the osprey. Osprey hatchlings exhibit sigmoidal growth in their first month and energy demands are at their highest. Menhaden harvest should be delayed until after hatchlings have approached their asymptotic weight. Unfortunately, the need for and appropriate protection period may vary longitudinally along the coast. I suggest the Commission configure default options in A2, perhaps by region. The usual allowance for conservation equivalency could be afforded with state proposals vetted by a joint menhaden-osprey technical committee. You would need to establish need and osprey-menhaden overlap criterion for the defaults and custom state proposals. Although outside of ASMFC purview, I also suggest that the deployment of artificial nesting structures for osprey cease unless an enhanced food supply can be provided.

The Commission cannot change the climate responses of the fish or bird. You can only manage the outcome. My proposal will reserve locally occurring menhaden for provisioning osprey while continuing the fishery, albeit constrained to a later start. I believe this approach could be viewed as precautionary, pending results of new research funded by the Virginia General Assembly. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I will attend the Board meeting and hope to comment in person.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Gibson

Gibson, M.R. 2026. Post-DDT population dynamics of osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) in Rhode Island with analysis of menhaden food supply limitation. Unpublished manuscript. 33 p. Available from author upon request.

Post-DDT Population Dynamics of Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) in Rhode Island with Analysis of Menhaden Food Supply Limitation.

By

Mark R. Gibson, Fisheries Scientist (RIDFW, RIDMF retired)

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October 6, 2026

"*The more you look, the more you will see*".

Roger Tory Peterson.

Introduction-

Once nearly extirpated, osprey are now abundant, returning to RI near the Ides of March along with river herring (*Alosa sp*.). Prior to population collapse, there were 140 nesting pairs in RI around the shore of Mt. Hope Bay and along the eastern shore of Narragansett Bay (Bierregaard et al. 2014). The 1st scientific account of the osprey collapse was reported by Ames and Mersereau (1964) for the Connecticut River where populations plummeted under failing reproduction (Henny 1975). The recovery of osprey from DDT poisoning is a magnificent success story and human achievement. We are indebted to early scientists like Rachel Carson and Roger Tory Peterson who sounded the alarm. Osprey have a near worldwide distribution and are divided into four genetic groups; America, Indo-Australia, Asia and Euro-Africa (Monti et al. 2015). The America lineage is believed ancestral with splitting occurring 1.16 mya during the Pleistocene era. Based on the North American Breeding Bird survey conducted by the US Geological Survey (Sauer et al. 2020), osprey have increased in the USA at an instantaneous rate of 0.038 (SE=0.002) per year since 1966 (Figure 1). A similar rate of 0.039 (SE=0.015) has been reported for European populations (Saurola 1997). Data in Bierregaard et al. (2014) indicate the rate for the New England-Atlantic coast region was higher at 0.081 (SE=0.007). The Cornell University eBird citizen science program (Fink et al. 2023) shows important differences within that region. Northern states (DE to ME) had positive rates of increase in 2012-2022 while states from MD to FL were negative (0.099 vs. -0.027), perhaps reflecting the reproductive problems in the Chesapeake Bay and Delmarva areas. In Chesapeake Bay, population growth rate was higher in freshwater areas than marine and the two groups depended on different fish species (Glass and Watts 2009). That study showed Atlantic menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*) dominated in the marine diets comprising 45% of caloric intake.

Charismatic raptors are one bright spot in an otherwise pessimistic trend in North American birds (McClure et al. 2018, Rosenberg et al. 2019, Johnson et al. 2025). The data in Figure 1 hint at a double logistic pattern, a property discussed later. Good summaries of the species are given in Henney (1975) and Poole (1989, 2019). Poole's 2nd effort includes information from modern satellite tracking studies that have shed light on the heretofore poorly understood

winter migration. New England osprey follow the Atlantic coast, fly south across Cuba and on to south American wintering grounds in the fall (Martell et al. 2001). Population recovery has been very strong in Southern New England and Long Island where the DDT pesticide residues were highest (Henney et al. 2010, Bierregaard et al. 2014). The pesticide was 1st authorized for use in 1945 and was banned by the EPA in 1972. Studies showed that it biomagnified in fish, transferred to predating osprey and inhibited calcium mobilization to their eggs (Ratliff 1967). Thin egg shells were subject to crushing and loss in the nests (Weimeyer et al. 1975). Reproduction subsequently failed and populations crashed. Production of fledglings fell to below replacement levels (Henney 1975, Spitzer 1980). The RI population declined from 140 pairs in 1940 to just 7 in 1970 (Henney 1975, Gibson 2026). Recovery began soon after cessation of DDT use in both central (Ewins 1997) and coastal areas of the US (Henny 1975, Bierregaard et al. 2014). The American eagle (*Haliaetus leucocephalus*) also benefitted from the DDT ban (Grier 1982). Sampling from 2011-2013 showed that the halogenated contaminants were no longer impacting raptor reproduction (Lazarus et a. 2016). RI osprey have increased in abundance reaching 319 nesting pairs in 2024. They are also expanding their spatial distribution since near extirpation (Dark and Clarkson 2023). The RI population at its ebb was limited to less than a dozen pairs centered in three areas; the Great Swamp in West Kingston, Chapman Pond in Westerly and in Barrington (L. Gibson, RIDFW retired- pers. comm.). Of note, Dark and Clarkson (2023) predicted eventual habitat limitations in the semi-colonial nesting species, invoking the "Information Center Hypothesis" of Ward and Zahavi (1973). Succinctly, colonies serve as information nodes to efficiently exploit patchy food resources (Greene 1987). In northern Scotland, nearly perfect logistic population growth has been accompanied by punctuated range expansions, effectuated by rare pioneering males (Maxted et al. 2026). The rate of expansion in that population was 53 km^2 per year. Given a land area of 2,678 km^2 and a similar rate, much of RI was recolonized by 2025 (Figure 2).

Osprey population growth has been fueled by the proliferation of artificial nesting platforms (Henney et al. 1974, Watt et al. 2004, MacLeod 2010, Evens and Brake 2022) apparently subverting the natural "Moffat equilibrium" (Moffat 1903, Hunt 1998). Human produced structures now dominate (95%) in the southern New England area (Bierregaard et al. 2014). Artificial structures in Finland were estimated to increase the osprey population to twice what was sustainable with natural habitats (Saurola 1997). Recovery is associated with a centennial scale reduction in anthropogenic mortality with the steepest decline since 2000 (De Pascalis et al. 2020). In that study of European migratory raptors, osprey mortality was lowest from April 10 to July 19, the breeding season. Today, anthropogenic mortality occurs mainly through fishing nets (31%), wind turbines (24%) and electrocution 18% (Garcia-Macia et al. 2024). The species is tolerant of proximity to human landscapes (Poole 1981, Forys et al. 2021) although fledgling production may be reduced to near the breakeven point (Forys et al. 2016). Well established populations can discriminate low performing sites and switch to higher performers (Harmata et al. 2007, Petersen et al. 2020). Dynamics in early recovery are dominated by philopatric behavior, high reproductive success and high female survival (Wahl and Barbraud 2005, Garcia- Macia et al. 2026, Thalhammer et al. 2026). As with most success stories, there are aberrations in osprey. Recent research in the lower, saline waters of Chesapeake Bay shows that reproduction has again fallen below that needed for sustainability (Academia and Watts 2023, Watts et al 2024, Watts et al. 2026). A 9/14/2026 press release from the CBL at William and Mary states that 2026 was the worst breeding season ever in Chesapeake Bay with reproductive success at a record low 0.25 young per pair (https://ccbbirds.org). A second 9/18 release summarizes 2026 rates from the south Atlantic to New England, showing widespread deficits mainly in saline waters. Saline areas with adequate reproduction are located north of Delmarva and south of Chesapeake Bay. Long-term monitoring data in the Bay show that the shortfall began no later than 2006 (Watts and Paxton 2007, Watts et al. 2026). They reported a decline in reproductive rate from 1.70 in 1974-1975 to 0.80 in 2006-2007 while fishing success for male osprey dropped from 2.4 to 0.4 menhaden per hour between 1985 and 2021. The researchers linked reduced menhaden abundance to chick starvation and osprey reproductive failure despite coastwide menhaden biomass increasing from 1974 to 2001 (ASMFC 2025). Food stress conclusions were reached much earlier by Spitzer and Poole (1980), Poole (1982), and Bierregaard et al. (2014) for Gardiners Bay, NY where osprey only partially recovered from

DDT but are again declining under low reproductive success. The problem is not apparent north of Cape Cod where an osprey monitoring program has been run for decades by a private land trust, the Essex County Greenbelt Association (Rimmer 2026). In this coastal region of MA (E. Boston to NH), reported data show uninterrupted exponential growth through 2026 (r_m= 0.12, SE=0.01 per year) with a mean fledge to pair ratio of 1.25 (SE=0.06) since 2013 at 18 sites. It is not known if this robust condition extends through all the Gulf of Maine but I found no agency or news media reports of current food stress north of the Greenbelt region. A Maine osprey trend was assembled for consideration in ecosystem reference points by Patel (2025). The 1966-2022 time series shows exponential growth with abundance peaking in 2016 followed by a plateau suggesting attainment of carrying capacity. In another study of Casco Bay ME osprey, DeSorbo and Gray (2015) found that reproductive success was higher in the 1980's (1.45) than in 2011-2013 (0.90) which could explain the attenuation of population growth. They suggested but did not demonstrate food limitation, possibly reduced river herring abundance.

Menhaden shortage conclusions were challenged as premature and lacking statistical rigor by Latour et al. (2024). A clear problem with the Watt et al analysis is that their integrated menhaden abundance index was for young of the year (YOY) fish whereas osprey utilize fish age II-IV. I don't know why the authors did not use the coastwide estimate of age 1+ biomass from ASMFC (2025). The YOY index displays strong hyperstability with the BAM assessment model recruitment. This means that large changes in the YOY index are not reflected in later recruits (see Appendix). Latour et al. did not dispute food induced reduction in reproductive success, aware that nesting osprey offered supplemental food had performed better (Academia and Watts 2023). Menhaden are a key prey species for osprey owing to their ease of capture and high calorie content (Durbin et al. 1983, McLean and Byrd 1991, Glass and Watts 2009). Osprey population limitation by food scarcity is not a novel observation in obligate piscivores. In Yellowstone Lake MT, osprey declined under failing reproduction when their primary prey, cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii*), collapsed (Baril et al. 2013). Interestingly, sympatric bald eagles with a more diverse food supply, endured. In an Oregon reservoir treated with rotenone to eradicate undesirable fish, osprey reproduction was adversely impacted, and food limited brood reduction occurred (Henny and Kaiser 2022). Acidification that reduced lake fish populations, temporarily reduced breeding success in Sweden and Finland until liming restored fish production (Eriksson and Kellin 1994, Saurola 1997). In the Missouri River, MT osprey selected nest sites in accordance with fish availability, more near shallow reservoirs and less near rivers (Harmata et al. 2007). Finally, Murry River osprey in Australia were extirpated when invasive carp clouded the water preventing prey detection (Detmar and Dennis 2018). Growth of young osprey is very rapid with chicks approaching adult weight in just 40 days (Steidl and Griffin 1991, Schaadt and Bird 1993). Weight gain is critical given the long migrations they face after fledging, highlighting the importance of abundant fish prey. Food shortage and starvation can lead to osprey brood reduction (Poole 1982, Hagan 1986). It has been estimated that a breeding pair raising two young need 375 pounds of fish per season (Nordbakke 1980) or 1.75 pounds per day (Academia and Watts 2023). Prey size is important, requiring optimization between energy content and handling constraints. In Scottish lakes, prey size distributions were unimodal with most prey between 26 and 30 cm in length (Carss and Godfrey 1996). Similarly, Glass and Watts (2009) reported mean prey lengths of 23.7 cm and 22.2 cm in upper and lower regions of Chesapeake Bay, well above YOY menhaden length. Growth curves in Reintjes (1969) indicate ages 2-4 menhaden would be preferred.

The menhaden-osprey tension may be part of a much larger dynamic in osprey. While reviewing the Cornell University eBird data, I noticed an unusual pattern on a large scale across the Americas. In 49 US states, osprey trends from 2012 to 2022 were positive in 41 cases (P= 0.837, SE=0.053), with the Atlantic coast hosting the negative outliers. However, in Canada all 13 cases across the provinces showed negative trends. This is contrasted with Mexico where 28 of 30 jurisdictions had positive trends (P=0.933, SE=0.046). Similar positive proportions were found for countries south of Mexica and in the Caribbean islands. More detailed analysis is beyond the scope of this work but weakening populations in the northern range and strengthening in the south suggest climatic effects on population biology. This

is reflected in counts of fall osprey migrating south at Hawk Mountain, PA (Figure 3). The citizen count time series is remarkably long, recapitulating the pre-WW II recovery from persecution, the DDT effect and recovery but a recent downward trend not explained by a standard logistic model. A substantial new mortality agent or alias in 2003 is needed to model the data. These are birds from the north not the Chesapeake Bay-Delmarva area that is ground zero for food stress. A possible explanation is shortening of migration routes that has been observed in Europe (Martin et al. 2019). It is well known that some osprey populations are not migratory (Poole 1989). These generally occur in the southern range for example on the Canary Islands (Rodriguez et al. 2013), in Baja Mexico (Castellanos et al. 2018) and in south Australia (Detmar and Dennis 2018). Northern, migrating populations "leap frog" the resident populations to overwinter (Monti et al. 2018a). Intermediate populations exist in Florida and the Mediterranean where some migrate, some do not, and those that do move shorter distances (Monti et al. 2018b, Forys et al. 2021). These observations suggest great plasticity in osprey migratory behavior, varying spatially and temporally (Martell et al. 2001). It is possible that osprey writ large are eschewing long-distance, demanding migrations in favor of more localized distributions. This would explain the rarefaction of Canadian populations, diminished fall migrants from the north and the concentration in Mexico. It begs the question what selection pressure could cause this? Migration is an evolutionary adaption to enhance fitness in the face of seasonal changes in resource availability (Gu et al. 2024). Among the benefits are; access to food, predator avoidance and reduced competition. As a specialist piscivore with longevity and delayed maturation, osprey life history is finely tuned to accommodate a long migration. If one or more benefits are lost, natural selection may adjust migration (Winger et al. 2025. Satellite telemetry has revealed that north American osprey are sedentary energy conservers on their wintering grounds (Washburn et al. 2014). The obvious 800-pound suspect is climate change (Zurell et al. 2018). Widespread advances in spring avian migration are occurring in response to increasing temperature (Usui et al. 2017) but phenological tracking by the birds is delayed (Adams et al. 2025). It may be that the winter southern range was ancestral in osprey with spring, northward migration developing as constrained by annual winter ice conditions and periodic glaciation (Zink 2011).

In this study, I revisit and extend the Bierregaard et al. (2014) and Gibson (2025) analysis for RI osprey. Those studies covered pre and post DDT periods, the latter directly incorporating DDT application as a sink term in a logistic population model. It showed that RI osprey reached a low of 6 breeding pairs in 1972 but recovered to over 300 by 2025. This study is restricted to the post-DDT, 1974 to present period. I use the RIDFW census data, continued by the Audubon Society of Rhode Island (ASRI- Dark 2025). I augment that data with information from other populations as necessary in the spirit of the Punt at al. (2011) Robin Hood approach. An extensive literature search was done using key words "osprey population dynamics, decline and recovery, survival rates and modeling". I apply a two-stage, catch-survey type model to the combined RIDFW-ASRI data set (Collie and Sissenwine 1983, Mesnil 2003). Given the findings of Bretagnolle et al. (2008), Wahle and Barbraud (2013), and Garcia-Macia 2026) I test for evidence of density dependence in the growing RI population. They found that fledgling survival was inversely related to floater abundance in recovering populations in Corsica and France while in Spain population growth was arrested by density in just over a decade. I also examine menhaden stock status as it relates to performance of RI osprey. The forage species has been called the "most important fish in the sea" in a popular book (Franklin 2007). In recognition of their great ecological value, the Rhode Island Division of fish and Wildlife (RIDFW) developed an assessment and management system for menhaden in Narragansett Bay (Gibson 2007). Ironically, RI was the first state to host a menhaden reduction plant (Anstead et al. 2021) and a large commercial fishery operated in the 1960's and 1970's (Oviatt et al. 2003, Gibson 2007).

Methods and Data Sources-

RI Osprey Population- Data for the RI osprey population was taken from RIDFW federal aid reports (L. Gibson- Osprey Newsletters), Henny (1975), Henny et al. (2010), ASRI reports (Dark 2024) and Bierregaard et al. (2014). These data covered the period post-DDT, 1977-2026. RI data for 2026 is preliminary but included because of growing awareness

of a change in osprey demography along the Atlantic coast (S. Brown, ASRI- pers. comm.). Other vital rates such as survival, population growth, longevity and brood size were summarized from the literature. I note that the ASRI data may reflect a methodological change for 2023-2026 making it more difficult to parse the nesting data by stage (Dark 2025, pers. comm. 2025). Difficulty in enumerating raptors has been discussed by Fuller and Mosher (1981) and cautions about citizen science expressed (Panuccio et al. 2019, Steiner et al. 2022). For the 1977 to present data set, I extracted the number of active, breeding nests and fledglings produced. Active nests are those with adult breeding activity noted while housekeepers and "floaters" are believed to be age II birds returning from wintering grounds for the 1st time but not breeding (Henny and Van Vilzen 1972, Poole and Agler 1987, L. Gibson-pers. comm.). They differ in that housekeepers pair and build nests while floaters remain single and cryptic. ASRI reports enumerated housekeepers from 2010 to 2022. The average count was 11.31(SE= 1.94) compared to an average breeding pair count of 152.0 (SE= 6.93) for the same years, a percentage of 6.9%. That is consistent with the 5% to 10% range given in Henny and Van Velzen (1972). It is also consistent with publicly available information on Marthas Vineyard where housekeepers, enumerated by experts Gus Ben David and Dr. R.O. Bierregaard, where they constituted 3.5% to 11.1% of the nesting population from 1998 to 2006 (https://ospreymigration.org). In a rare enumeration in Corsica, floaters increased from 3.7% to 16.4% of the population as it approached carrying capacity (Bretagnolle et al. 2008).

In theory, housekeepers (and floaters) are important as they constitute the replacements for lost breeders. However, the existing ASRI housekeeper enumeration was terminated in 2023 so I could not include them in modeling. I am not aware of any study or quantification of osprey floaters in RI. They tend to be younger than breeders (Vali et al. 2021) and are notoriously hard to study because of their cryptic, secretive behavior (Sergio et al. 2009, Hunt and Law 2023). Accounting for these groups in RI is a prime topic for future research. Much has been made of floating strategy in the raptor literature since the linkage between territorial and floater component dynamics was illuminated (Moffat 1903, Brown 1969, Penteriani et al. 2005). The scientific understanding of floating has shifted from a view of floaters as failed, nuisance individuals to an essential population component (Penteriani et al. 2011). They function as a reserve of potential breeders (Hunt 1998, Penteriani et al. 2011) unless they decline to breed under food shortage as shown for northern goshawk (Rutz and Bijlsma 2006). Replacement of lost osprey breeders by floaters occurs rapidly, within 48 hrs. along the Yellowstone river (Restani 2023). A growing proportion of surviving but recruitable non-breeders create density dependence in reproduction (Bretagnolle et al. 2008, Lenda et al. 2012, Sergio et al. 2017).

To model the RI recovery, I modified the fisheries catch-survey model (CSA) of Collie and Sissenwine 1983, and Mesnil 2003) for the two, quantified age groups, fledglings and adults:

$$N_{t+1} = [N_t * \exp(M_1) + R_{t-3} * (\exp(M_2) * (\exp(-M_1 * 2))^{\wedge}\beta)] * \exp(\delta_p) \qquad (1)$$

where: N= adult nesting pairs

R= number fledglings

M_1= adult mortality rate

M_2= 1st year fledgling mortality rate

β= density dependent term

δ= process error term

t= time

and

$$R_t = \alpha * N_t \hat{} b * \exp(\delta_p) \quad (2)$$

where: α= slope at origin

b= curve shape parameter.

Eq.1 allows for density dependence in the period from fledgling to adults. Eq. 2 is a nonlinear curve where alpha is the maximum rate of fledgling production subsuming clutch size and early brood survival. The parameter b is the shape parameter imitating density influence. It is not commonly used in parent-progeny relationships as it lacks a theoretical limit but is flexible and able to model proportional (β=1.0), negative (β<1.0), or positive (β>1.0) relationships between adults and fledglings over the data range. The latter could occur for example under Allee effects. Eqs.1 and 2 are the population dynamics process. State variables are related to observed quantities as:

$$n_t = q_n * N_t * \exp(\delta_o) \quad (3)$$

and

$$r_t = q_r * R_t * \exp(\delta_o) \quad (4)$$

where:

q= catchability or detection probability

n,r = observed counts

δ= observation errors.

Substitution of eqs.3 and 4 into eqs.1 and 2, combining error terms, yields the full estimation model. Note that there is no harvest term in eq.1 as in a fisheries-oriented CSA. Osprey are a protected species so the sink harvest term in CSA is replaced with constant instantaneous mortality rates. Note also that without housekeeper and floater counts, the fledglings (recruits) enter the breeding population at lag 3 through a compound mortality rate. “Knife edge” recruitment is assumed which is technically incorrect but necessary without age-structure and breeding history data. It is known that some age 2 osprey participate in breeding (Englund and Greene 2008) and some delay 1st reproduction beyond age 3 (Morandini et al. 2019). The effect of a knife-edge assumption when recruitment is actually platoon is the reverse of the aging error problem in catch-age analysis. Aging error in catch attenuates recruitment variability aka the “smearing” effect (Bradford 1991). Knife-edge recruitment in eq.1 focuses incoming recruitment on a single fledgling cohort rather than a platoon of cohorts thereby increasing the variance in modeled adult pairs. Because of the extended longevity in adult osprey, this is not expected to be a significant source of bias. As formulated, the mortality rates in eq.1 are confounded and need a constraint to separate. This was done by using the mean juvenile to adult mortality ratio from the Newton et al. (2016) raptor compilation i.e. M2≈ 2.614*M1. Housekeepers and floaters could be modeled if reliable data becomes available. Model parameters were estimated by minimizing the squared residuals between observed and model estimated N and R using SOLVER assuming log-normal error. The modified Gauss-Newton GRG algorithm was employed in Excel Solver for nonlinear problems. Uncertainty in parameters was assessed using the jackknife procedure of Tukey (1958). This nonparametric method was preferred over the usual inverse Hessian calculation of asymptotic variances because of the distorting effect of imposed constraints (Efron and Tibshirani 1993). Full estimation of eqs.1 and 2 i.e. separating process and observation errors would require additional information and a state-space, Bayesian treatment. That is beyond the scope of this study and data set so only combined error was considered.

Without harvest losses, there is no scaling information to inform q parameters so they were constrained to 1.0. This effectively renders eqs. 3 and 4 identical to 1 and 2 under only process error. I did not regard this as a major issue as the ratio of observation to process error tends to decline with time series length (Ahrestani et al. 2013) although precision on abundance may be reduced (Thorson and Minto 2015). The RI time series is long, encompassing at least 5 generations of osprey. A high and constant detection probability can certainly be challenged (McCallum 2005) but further advance on this front require details on the evolution of the RI counting program that transitioned from a government agency to a non-profit entity. Particularly important is how counting effort has been deployed as the population grew and dispersed (Nolte et al. 2016). A detection requires that a counter be present (availability) and actually see a nest (detection). If spatial deployment of counting effort has not kept pace with population dispersion, detectability would decline. In fisheries, climate induced population redistribution is causing progressive misalignment of fish with fixed survey strata (Bell et al. 2022). Additional information for full estimation could include Bayesian priors for mortality rates and detection probabilities from other raptor studies. Additional osprey abundance indices say from the North American Breeding Bird Survey or Cornell University e-bird program could be considered for model tuning. Future analyses will need to consider changes in survey effort. Participation in the ASRI osprey counting program has grown over time increasing from 60 to 152 individuals from 2010 to 2026 (5.5% per year). Consultation with the RIDFW former project leader indicated it is much higher now than when she took over the program in 1978 (L. Gibson- pers. comm.). If a robust counting effort series can be developed, it could be used in the assessment. A temporal tally of artificial nesting structures deployed would also help in considering changes to carrying capacity. Under a q=1.0 assumption, populations estimated via eq.1 and 2 are minimum estimates. If q is changing, the steepness of population increase could be biased. For example, the ASRI nesting count from 2010 to 2025 increases at an exponential rate of 0.076 per year but if raw counts are adjusted by count participants, the rate drops to 0.027. Drone monitoring could be an effective addition from the agency to augment and enhance the ASRI human effort particularly in remote areas (Murphy et al. 2026). A random-stratified design with ranging detection could support a line transect estimation of RI osprey. Alglave et al. (2022) provide a method to combine design-based scientific surveys with spatial harvest data generated by searching fishers.

In ecology, the intrinsic rate (r_m) is considered akin to Newton's 1st law of motion (Turgeon 2001). It is foundational to population dynamics (Sible and Hone 2002), determining a species ability to sustain harvests as well as recover from disturbances (Cortes 2016). The intrinsic rate is defined as the difference between birth and death rates and is best estimated in populations recovering from low abundance as is the case for osprey (Caughley and Birch 1971). They emphasize and I reiterate that realized rates of increase may be less than the maximum depending on abundance relative to carrying capacity. R_m is related to alpha of eq. 2 as $r_m = \ln(\alpha)$. Intrinsic rate is inversely related to body mass across many animal taxa and orders of magnitude in mass (Fenchel 1974, Brown et al. 2004, Brammer et al. 2022). For example, Neil and Lebreton (2005), found that r_m declined from 0.77 per year in the 20-gm rock sparrow (*Petronia petronia*) to 0.09 in 8,000 gm Griffon vultures (*Gyps fulvus*). Published regressions predict a r_m of 0.101 for 1,700 gm osprey. Both Houghton and Rymon (1997) and Watts et al. 2004) provide estimates of population recovery rate in osprey, the former nationwide and the later in Chesapeake Bay for context.

Because of the considerable controversy over the state of the Atlantic Menhaden population and osprey food supply, I examined the long-term data on the coastwide and local stock. I understand the nuance between overfishing and localized depletion having dealt with it for a time as RI administrative commissioner to the ASMFC. Still, concerns about menhaden supply and osprey have been expressed beyond Chesapeake Bay (Bierregaard et al. 2014, NJDEP 2026). The ASMFC conducted a benchmark menhaden assessment in 2019 that was updated in 2025 including a change in the natural mortality rate, M used (ASMFC 2025). That change has been challenged (Ault and Luo 2026) and will be reconsidered in a new benchmark to be conducted in 2027. The disagreement centers on the magnitude of the age-specific but time invariant vector. More important in my view is the possibility of time varying M (Drew et al. 2021).

For now, the ASMFC (2025) results are the best available science. I downloaded biomass estimates, fishery landings, and recruitment data for years 1955-2023. I also examined information from the RI Division of Marine Fisheries (RIDMF) on menhaden abundance in Narragansett Bay from surveys and spotter pilot counts (Gibson 2007, N. Lengyel-Costa, RIDMF 2026- pers. comm.). Adult menhaden appear seasonally in the Bay and their abundance was recently shown to vary with water quality (Ianniello 2026).

Case Study Florida Osprey- The case study examined osprey data from the Florida breeding bird survey from 1966 to 2020 (Tringali 2023). The length of the time series encompasses part of the DDT era (1966-1972), and some peculiar demography relevant to RI warranted review. The FL population has spread geographically and increased by a factor of five in association with use of artificial structures and reservoir construction (Tringali 2023). This suggests changes in habitat carrying capacity in addition to relief from DDT. Following Gibson (2025) and Maxted et al. (2026), I obtained the count data and fit a discrete time step, logistic population model. Assuming detection probability is 1.0, the model is:

$$n_{t+1} = n_t + r_m * n_t * (1 - n_t/K) \qquad (5)$$

where: n= population size in survey units

r_m= intrinsic rate

K= carrying capacity

t= time.

The estimated model was subject to residual diagnostic analysis including autocorrelation.

Results and Discussion-

CSA Model- Figure 4 shows the trend in active osprey nests in RI along with the estimated CSA model. They increased from 12 in 1977 to 302 by 2025. Contrast this with the 140 pairs reported from the 1940's prior to DDT usage (Henney 1975, Bierregaard et al. 2014). The preliminary 2026 estimate is shockingly low at 204, falling well off the model trend. It suggests either a major adult mortality event, failure of housekeepers and floaters to recruit, or abandonment of nests. Fledgling production increased long-term, from 19 to 295 young (Figure 5). As with the adults, 2026 fledgling production (176) is well below the model trend. The two-stage model fit was acceptable with most parameter coefficients of variation of 9% or less. The intrinsic rate coefficient (r_m) was less certain (CV=26%). There is a strong residual pattern with an opposing trend between adults and fledglings becoming extreme in 2024 (Figure 6). Importantly, neither residual set was correlated with coastwide or RI menhaden abundance. The midway expansion in variance coincides with takeover of the monitoring program by ASRI. This is not a criticism of the ASRI effort, simply acknowledgment of model diagnostics and the possibility of nonstationary in the population dynamics. Trial CSA model runs with either changes in catchability or mortality were needed to moderate the residual pattern. I cannot discount either factor given the change in data collector and ongoing osprey food shortages. A more advanced, state-space CSA model integrating auxiliary data would be useful to evaluate competing hypotheses. Additional data that could be brought to bear include menhaden abundance and the number of artificial nesting structures deployed. Model parameter estimates are given below in Table 1.

Table 1- Parameter Estimates to RI Osprey CSA Model

Parameter	Symbol	Estimate	SE	CV
Alpha	α	1.07600	0.06400	0.05948
S-R Beta	b	1.05300	0.01640	0.01557
Initial Nest	N0	12.22900	1.11870	0.09148
Adult M	M1	0.23100	0.01260	0.05455
Juvenile M	M2	0.60400	0.03690	0.06109
Juv M Beta	β	0.89300	0.02100	0.02352
Intrinsic Rate	rm	0.07400	0.02000	0.27027

The adult mortality rate of M1= 0.231 corresponds to a survival rate of 0.794. The Newton et al. (2016) compilation of raptor rates produced a mean adult S= 0.773 (SE= 0.015) for 75 raptor species, good agreement with the CSA. Longevity models based on maximum age (Dureuil and Froese 2021) estimate S=0.81 to 0.85 for an osprey longevity of 20 to 25 years (Henny and Wight 1969, Ryttman 1994, Maxted et al. 2026). The RI juvenile M2 rate corresponds to S=0.547. Newton's juvenile data was more limited, with a higher mean of S= 0.686 (SE= 0.047) for 22 cases. Survival rate in birds is correlated with body mass and birds have higher survival than fish and mammals for a given mass (McCoy and Gillooly 2008). The CSA model results suggests that RI osprey have mortality rates typical of raptors writ large, at least through 2024. Vali et al. (2021) and Anderwald et al. (2021) also found that juvenile osprey survival was less than in adults in Baltic and Polish populations. The difference between the RI (0.55) and Baltic and Polish (0.21-0.33) estimates may frame a critical juvenile survival threshold since both European populations were in decline. Survival rates are critical life history traits in long-lived raptors with low reproductive output (Tack and Noon 2017, Monzon and Fredenberg 2018, Thalhammer et al. 2026). Using the approach in Bird et al. (2020), I estimated a generation time of 8.2 years for RI osprey.

The relationship between RI nesting pairs and fledglings produced is plotted in Figure 7. Non-linearity is evident and an asymptote or carrying capacity may be manifesting. The estimate of b was 1.053, significantly greater than 1.0, suggesting positive density dependence at low breeder abundance. The 2025 and preliminary 2026 data suggest a retreating population, possibly showing hysteresis. To properly fit the fledgling data in Figure 7, a generalized stock-recruitment model with an additional inflexion parameter would be needed such as the logistic offered by Maunder (2022). The sigmoidal pattern in Figure 7 could be explained by an Allee effect at low population size. A plausible mechanism for positive density dependence at low population size is group benefits as initially proposed for goldfish by Allee and Bowen (1932) and for osprey by Hagan and Walters (1990). Neophyte animal populations may benefit from increasing numbers through several mechanisms including mutual defense, assisted care, and information exchange (Muir et al. 2024). Birds may show lags in the onset of exponential growth (Aagaard and Lockwood 2014) with newly established osprey populations in both France and Spain showing lags of one generation (Wahl and Barbraud 2014, Garcia-Macia 2026). Chen et al. (2002) shows how to incorporate an Allee effect in common stock-recruit models. The fledgling to pair ratio or slope at the origin was estimated at 1.076 (SE= 0.064), in the range needed for sustainability (Henny and Wight 1970, Spitzer 1980, Poole 1989). Reproductive success in RI was not always sustainable. During the DDT era, RI fledgling per breeding pair plunged to a low of 0.27 in 1960 (Henny and Byrd 2010). Two decades of low reproductive success were catastrophic for the population (Figure 8). Following cessation of DDT use, success climbed and from 1994 to 2021 the rate averaged 1.44, well above the 1.15 standard adopted for Chesapeake Bay (Watts et al. 2024). Of concern are the recent RI rates from 2022-2026 where a clear decline to below

this standard is evident. This decline is associated with a drop in the proportion of successful nests. Because of brood failure or nest desertion, the proportion has dropped from a long-term mean of 0.84 (SE=0.07) to 0.66 (SE=0.03) from 2023 to 2026. Long-term RI osprey reproductive success was positively correlated with the local menhaden abundance index but only weakly so (r=0.29, P=0.046). However, the correlation is much stronger when considering only recent data for 2010 to 2026 (r=0.66, P=0.003). Recent low success is coincident to a reduction in RIDFW spotter pilot menhaden abundance. This suggests that as the RI osprey population has grown, so has the importance of menhaden. Data from the CT Audubon also shows a recent decline in reproductive success. This may reflect asymmetric brood reductions under food stress. Evidence is growing that this problem stretches beyond Chesapeake Bay (Watt et al. 2026, NJDEP 2026). Food stress in coastal, as opposed to inland areas, seems to be the cause. The phenomenon should be watched closely in RI for evidence of food shortage and asymmetric brood reductions.

Dark and Clarkson (2023) used a general linear model (GLM) to explore relationships between several abiotic and biotic variables influencing successful nesting in RI. Their best predictor of nesting pairs was fledgling production two years before reflecting a year sabbatical of age one birds (Poole 2019). That relationship is shown in Figure 9 with a more realistic three-year lag. The CSA model estimated a density dependence effect in the juvenile mortality rate with β= 0.893 (SE= 0.021). The estimate is significantly less than 1.0 suggesting that fledgling survival has an inverse relationship with abundance as found in a recovery population in France (Thalhammer et al. 2026). Because of model structure and data limitations, it cannot be determined exactly where in the recruitment lag the effect manifests. Based on satellite tracking, the spring migration is the year quarter where the greatest mortality occurs in osprey (Klaasen et al. 2014). The estimated RI density effect could occur anywhere between 1st migration and recruitment back to the breeding population. Admittedly, this is not very satisfying as the recruitment lag covers three years over a large spatial expanse from RI breeding to Caribbean overwintering grounds (Martel 2001). It is the penalty of not having reliable census data on the age 2 housekeeper/floater contingent.

The intrinsic rate of increase in RI osprey since 1977 was estimated at 0.074 (SE=0.020). This is above the realized 0.060 (SE= 0.002) average for 16 sites around the Chesapeake Bay in Watts et al. (2004) but below the nationwide realized mean of 0.090 (SE=0.010) for 34 states in Houghton and Rymon (1997). It is below the 0.101 maximum rate predicted from various allometric models based on body weight (Fenchel 1974, Brammer et al. 2022). A lower r_m than predicted by life history may reflect residual DDT effects. The Houghton and Rymon (1997) compilation shows a wide range with highest rates where DDT usage was minimal. Osprey are a long-lived species that produce one brood per year, have low clutch size and delay reproduction; all factors associated with low r_m (Brewer and Swander 1977). It is possible that r_m is nonstationary in Atlantic coast osprey given the emerging food supply issues (Watts et al. 2024, 2026). Figure 7 suggests a nonstationary and backward-bending production curve. These are common in exploited fish stocks such that the recovery path differs from the decline path i.e. hysteresis (Walters et al. 2008). In fish stocks, the pattern emerges when there is a decline in recruitment unrelated to parental stock level as would be the case under food stress and brood reduction. Replication of low fledgling production in 2027 and beyond could be revealing.

Deterministic 10-year projections of the RI population made under several recruitment scenarios are shown in Figure 10. The CSA 2026 estimated number of breeding pairs was projected ahead 10 years using the CSA mortality rates and three recruitment scenarios; 2026 RI breeding success, mean RI success, and the 2026 Chesapeake Bay rate. If RI breeding success remains at the 2026 reduced rate of 0.86, the population is projected to decline to 255 pairs by 2036. Under average success (1.38), the population grows to 381 by 2036. Under a doomsday scenario of the 2026 Chesapeake Bay success rate (0.26) the population declines to only 125 pairs. A break-even point for RI stability was determined to be 1.03 fledglings per nesting pair. These findings are in general accord with Henny and Wight (1969) who found osprey sustainable rates of reproduction are inversely related to survival and longevity. A tradeoff between 1st reproduction and longevity is a fundamental element of life history theory (Stearns 1992) but correlative studies

have not found strong evidence (Winder et al. 2025). However, selective breeding experiments have demonstrated it (Tschirren et al. 2026). While a short-term RI population decline seems inevitable, the longer-term response is unclear. A reduced population could vacate territories allowing for remaining osprey to breed earlier (Stewart et al. 2025) thereby increasing population growth rate (Cole 1954). The interaction between living spaces and food supply will likely be determinate as was the case in German red kite (Katzenberger et al. 2021). Without knowledge on the cryptic RI floater population, more precise predictions cannot be supported.

Atlantic Menhaden and Osprey Food Supply- Biomass of age 1 and older Atlantic menhaden from the most recent update of the benchmark assessment (ASMFC 2025) is shown in Figure 11. Menhaden biomass dropped substantially from 1959 to 1973 under overfishing which was coincident to the DDT effect on osprey. Biomass then rose until 1992 in synchrony with osprey recovery nationwide (Figure 1) and has stabilized well above the 1970's low point. Menhaden abundance in Narragansett Bay shows a somewhat different pattern (Figure 12). Ichthyoplankton data, fishery data, and fishery independent surveys described in Gibson (2007) and Ianniello et al. (2026), updated and blended by Z-score method shows high abundance in the 1970's, collapsing during 1984 to 1996 before recovering to medium levels in 1997-2023. Recent abundance, driven by the RIDFW spotter pilot school counts, is low. The menhaden collapse and recovery are approximately a decade later in Narragansett Bay than coastwide. Asynchrony in menhaden population dynamics on a north-south axis has been shown before by Buchheister et al. (2016). Narragansett Bay menhaden have not achieved former levels of abundance possibly due to a long-term decline in Bay plankton abundance and strength of the winter-spring bloom (Friedland et al. 2011, Thibodeaux et al. 2024). During menhaden recovery, the osprey population in Chesapeake Bay was increasing from 1,450 pairs in 1973 to 3,500 by 1995 (Academia and Watts 2023). It now stands at approximately 10,000 (Watts et al. 2026). Combined with the ASMFC (2025, 2026) menhaden assessments, the ratio of coastwide menhaden biomass to Chesapeake Bay osprey numbers has declined from 0.66 kilotons per pair to 0.16, not because of a decline in menhaden but rather osprey have increased more in abundance. A quadrupling of the coastwide menhaden stock is needed to restore the ratio, assuming the proportion entering Chesapeake Bay is constant. It is not surprising that the proportion of menhaden in osprey diets has declined (Glass 2008). A similar increase in menhaden entering RI waters would be needed to restore the local menhaden/osprey ratio to that which existed during initial RI osprey recovery in the 1970's when menhaden were abundant and up to 20 KT were taken annually from Narragansett Bay (Durbin and Durbin 1998). These observations gives me pause with regard to the hypothesis of menhaden depletion by commercial fishing. I do not understand the Watt et al. (2024) conclusion that we must return to the 1975-1985 menhaden population status. As is clear in Figures 11 and 12, that was a low point for menhaden relative to 1990-2023. Achieving the 1975-1985 prey/predator ratio, would require a massive increase in coastwide menhaden biomass from roughly 1,900 KT to 7,600. Evidence for density-dependent growth (Reish et al. 1985, Houde et al. 2016, Schueller and Williams 2017), dome-shape production (Schaff and Huntsman 1972) and over compensatory recruitment (Vaughan and Merriner 1991) in menhaden suggest this is impossible (see Appendix). An overlooked finding in Glass and Watts (2009) is that upstream reaches where osprey reproduction is sustained, gizzard shad (*Dorosoma cepidianum*) not menhaden dominate, and prey energy density was 66% higher. This suggests an energy acquisition problem not menhaden per se.

Climate change is having widespread and diverse effects on marine fish (Nye et al. 2009) and raptors (Martinez-Ruiz et al. 2023). In addition to recovery from overfishing, menhaden may have changed their phenology and distribution, causing localized shortages i.e. the proportion utilizing certain areas has not been constant. Menhaden distribute latitudinally by body size (June 1972, Ahrenholtz 1991) so recovery of age structure from overfishing may be occurring, favoring the Gulf of Maine. A new paper, using hydroacoustic and mid-water trawl surveys, documented a dense overwintering population off the coast of NJ dominated by age 3-4 menhaden (Nesslage et al. 2026). Climate warming is inducing a northward shift in distribution of many fish species (Nye et l. 2009, Langan et al. 2021) and it has

occurred before in menhaden during a 1950's warming trend (Dow 1977). The species demonstrates a north-south difference in recruitment pattern that is out of phase and correlated with the Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation (AMO), a low frequency pattern in sea-surface temperature (Buchheister et al. 2016). Larval distribution and timing has changed in the NE US continental shelf to an earlier and more offshore distribution (Walsh et al. 2015). Consequently, Chesapeake Bay no longer produces a majority of recruits to the population supporting a distribution shift (Anstead et al. 2017). A latitudinal shift is supported by index residual patterns in ASMFC (2025). The northern adult index trends to positive residuals in recent years while the southern index trends negatively. The mid-Atlantic adult index shows no trend overall or in recent years. In the Gulf of Maine, menhaden abundance is periodic with menhaden being absent from 1994 to 2015 but present in fishable quantities since 2016 (Cieri 2024). The reappearance of menhaden in the Gulf is associated with a shift to a warmer temperature regime in 2012 (Chang et al. 2026). Changing timing and spatial availability of menhaden could have significant impacts on an obligate piscivore in coastal nesting areas. NJDEP (2026) has reported that food stress occurs in marine areas of NJ but not in their inland ospreys, confirming Watts et al. (2026). The lack of evidence of food stress in the Greenbelt region of coastal MA cited above is noteworthy.

More evidence of changing menhaden phenology can be found in ASMFC (2026) where the prosecution of the reduction fishery in Chesapeake Bay is shifting to later periods within the year. From 2018 to 2024, the date of 50% cumulative landings has shifted later by approximately 6 weeks. Presumably, industry fishing under a regulated quota and start date (51 KT, May 1st), fishes economically when menhaden are in quantity. Historically, menhaden primarily overwintered south of Cape Hatteras, NC (Nicholson 1972, 1978) however the large winter aggregation recently discovered off NJ (Nesslage et al. 2026) suggest a northward shift that could change arrival times in Atlantic estuaries. Menhaden peak abundance in Narragansett Bay based on spotter data has shifted to later in the year from 2008 to 2026 at the rate of 2.33 (SE=0.78) days per year or a total of 6.3 weeks. With regard to osprey, Solonen 2008, Sullivan et al. (2016) and Therrien et al. (2017) found earlier spring migrations under climate change, a phenomenon common in north American migratory birds writ large (Horton et al. 2020, Neate-Clegg et al. 2024). Asynchrony in menhaden occurrence and osprey migration could create Cushing-like trophic mismatches, causing food stress absent an overall stock decline in menhaden. Interestingly, osprey fall migration timing along the Atlantic coast (Therrien et al. 2017) and interior US (Steiner et al. 2022) has not changed. These findings suggest a longer occupancy of and foraging demand on the breeding/fledging grounds.

Widespread deployment of manmade structures, including those dedicated to osprey, is likely to have exacerbated the above problems. In a May 2025 letter to the US House of Representatives, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) director stated explicitly that "populations cannot grow indefinitely because the resources they depend on are finite" and that "nesting structures are now at surplus". This ecological axiom suggests a growing disconnect between burgeoning osprey populations and their food supplies. Figure 11 shows that menhaden abundance since 2020 has been slightly less than from 1990 to 2000 when exponential growth in osprey was occurring (Watts et al. 2004). Osprey have benefitted greatly from deployment of artificial nest structures (Bierregaard et al. 2014, Poole 2019, Petersen et al. 2020) where productivity is often higher than at natural sites (Canal et al. 2018, Airola and Estep 2022). I note that carrying capacity (K) and intrinsic rate (r_m) are not independent parameters in logistic population dynamics. A review of Verhulst's derivation of the logistic equation reveals they are positively related through the strength of density dependence or $r_m=K*\beta$ (Marschall et al. 2023). In territorial raptors, K has both physical (nests) and energetic (food) components i.e. $K=K_1*K_2$. Either component can be limiting (Newton 1988, Monzon and Fredenberg 2018). The dynamic is powerfully demonstrated in new reservoirs where both the physical (flooded trees) and energy (new fish population) needs of ospreys are simultaneously provided (Henny 1978). Another example is in kites (*Milvus sp.)* where anthropogenic food augmentation for cultural reasons allows kites to fully utilize nest sites (Kumar et al. 2019, Nageli et al. 2022). Food supplementation is most effective in marginal habitats colonized later in population recovery i.e. an ideal despotic distribution forms (Lohmus 2011, Ferrer et al. 2017). This knowledge is not new. A century ago, RI

farmers around Mt. Hope Bay erected nesting poles next to their fishy farm ponds. They were occupied by ospreys that in turn chased away chicken hawks (Poole 2019). Substitution, rearrangement and analysis of the Verhulst formulation show that if nest sites increase but food supply does not, offsetting adjustments to r_m (decrease) or β (increase) are needed to balance the Verlhulst differential equation. Watts et al. (2026) recently reported on widespread reproductive failure in osprey but dismissed density dependent factors. They acknowledged increased placement and use of artificial nesting structures as having reduced mammalian predation but did not contemplate the link of carrying capacity and intrinsic rate. The authors know that structures have proliferated in the Bay region (Watts and Paxton 2007). Their logic that osprey cannot deplete or control their food supply is theoretically wrong on the 1st count and irrelevant on the 2nd. Unless the menhaden taken by osprey are continuously replaced, depletion surely occurs albeit at a lower rate than by fishery. It is not clear what they mean by "control" but regulation of menhaden population size manifests beyond Chesapeake Bay. It seems they have not considered the possibility of a structure induced overshoot, outstripping a static food supply. Territory size is inversely related to food supply in raptors so density dependence should emerge when density exceeds food supply (Sells and Mitchell 2020). A new population in Spain "stabilized" or reached capacity just 13 years after reintroduction (Garcia-Macia 2026). A despotic free distribution resulted in a recovering Estonian population where osprey 1st utilized prime nesting sites followed by inferior sites such that average reproductive success declined (Lohmus 2001).

Clearly, artificial structures have elevated the physical component of osprey habitat and what was once an adequate food supply may no longer be so. This is formalized in the resource tracking hypothesis (Lack 1954, Bizberg-Barraza 2024). Birds with altricial young may produce an excess which only survives when resources allow. Siblicide improves prospects for remaining raptor progeny (Simmons 2002). A natural osprey progression could be; add attractive structures, cause transition of floaters to breeders, overload the food supply, engage asymmetric brood reduction, and finally capable but energy deficient birds cease reproduction altogether. To wit, Watts et al. (2026) observed an order of magnitude increase in non-breeders (27%) in 2024. Similarly, preliminary 2026 ASRI data show that 24% of nesting pairs abandoned their nests (S. Brown, ASRI- pers. comm.). Capable raptors, declining to breed, is known as the 'acceptance threshold' and occurs under extreme food stress even in generalist species (Rutz and Bijlsma 2006). It is believed to be a trade-off between cost/benefit of current reproduction vs survival for long-term reproduction. Habitat provisioning is not always beneficial to territorial birds as it can create ecological traps (Mainwaring 2015) when site selection is not matched with site quality (Bai et al. 2009). Artificial structures can lure low food demand floaters and convert them into high food demand breeders (Bjorklund et al. 2013). This typically happens when structure placements are; at odds with a limiting resource distribution (Martin et al. 2005), are near hazards (Murphy et al. 2024) or are otherwise unsuitable (Watchorn et al. 2023). Watt et al. (2026) dismissed increasing floater (non-breeder) interference but present no data on this population component. Interference is a well-known and critical component of raptor population dynamics (Bretagnolle et al. 2008, Wahl and Barbraud 2013, Penteriani et al. 2015) and has been observed in sympatric Chesapeake Bay eagles (Turrin 2014). Floating components of bird populations are revealed when additional habitat is provided (Ainley 2024). There is compelling evidence of an osprey food shortage but it may be that the egg came before the chicken i.e. added structures have spurred osprey numbers more than their food supply.

Florida Case Study- Figure 13 shows the FL series with the usual logistic model fit. The intrinsic rate of increase was estimated at 0.057 (SE=0.004). I note that the three bursts of growth showed a much faster rate, averaging 0.18. K was estimated at 3.09 survey units (SE=0.55). The overall trend is near linear but with a sinusoidal pattern superimposed. There is clear autocorrelation in the residuals with a low-frequency, decadal period. A maximum negative correlation occurred at lag 10 ($r=-0.67$, $df=42$, $P<0.01$). The wavelength (20 yrs) approximates the species lifespan. Tringali (2023) noted that the FL abundance increase and inland range expansion were associated with provision of artificial structures and reservoir construction suggesting increased carrying capacity. Presence of a sinusoidal residual

pattern is present in the US and RI trend albeit lesser in amplitude (Figures 1,4). Relevance to RI is that FL osprey have experienced multiple episodes of population contraction followed by expansion. RI osprey (and others) may have entered a contraction phase. The pattern in Figure 13 may represent waxing and waning of the floater pool as shown for Bonelli's eagles by Badia-Boher et al. (2025). In the FL scenario, discrete upgrades in habitat would draw from the floater pool for colonization, temporarily depleting it and suspending further growth in nesting pairs until the pool refilled. Unfortunately, no information is available for this crucial population component in RI osprey however the geographic expansion is clear (Dark and Clarkson 2023). An intriguing possibility is that the mathematics of traffic flow i.e. the inch worm effect (Wen et al. 2023) or laminar-turbulent flow transitions (Stokes 1851) could be used to analyze this pattern in osprey. In both cases, flow variance (distance per time) is a key initiating factor. This might be reinterpreted as density variance (number per time) between osprey breeding and floating population components.

Management Recommendations- A study of menhaden and osprey was recommended by the ASMFC and has been approved and funded by the Virginia legislature in their 2026 session. Hopefully, it will provide some sorely needed answers. In the interim, menhaden management should emphasize sequencing fishery harvest to follow, not overlap, the period in the osprey breeding season where energetic demands are at maximum. Newly hatched osprey follow a sigmoidal growth pattern in weight, achieving 90% of the asymptote in 32-37 days (Stinson 1977, Poole 1989, Schaadt and Bird 1993). Survival and energetic studies indicate that days 11-16 (before the inflexion point) are critical (Ricklefs 1974, Hagan 1986, Academia and Watts 2023). These findings argue for a 2–5 week buffer between fledge provisioning and menhaden harvesting that would be a precautionary action. An interesting parallel exists in the Southern ocean where concentrating commercial krill fishing may be limiting great whale foraging and recovery. Space-time separation strategies have been recommended (Savoca et al. 2024). In addition to fishery regulation, osprey managers should cease provision of artificial nesting structures in areas with static food supplies. Continued deployment will further activate the largely benign floater pool without additional food to sustain it triggering more brood reduction. I close by observing that brood reduction is a natural process that is widespread in avian species, known at least since the time of eminent ornithologist David Lack.

Conclusions-

1) Rhode Island ospreys were nearly extirpated following DDT use, declining to only 6 breeding pairs in 1972. DDT was a lethal factor reducing fledgling production to just 23% of that needed for population sustainability.
2) RI Population recovery has occurred at a rate of 0.077 per year since 1977 reaching 302 nesting pairs in 2025. Although a decline may have occurred in 2026, the population is still considerably larger than in the 1940's prior to DDT usage. The RI recovery is part of a nationwide trend with the US population increasing at 3.9% per year since 1966.
3) RI osprey reproduction has been good averaging 1.35 fledglings per breeding pair long-term although very recent estimates are lower and should be monitored. Projections indicate a 16% decline in nesting pairs under continued low reproductive success.
4) Ospreys have low intrinsic rates of increase compared to other birds and animals because of low fecundity and delayed reproduction, emphasizing the importance of adult survival and longevity.
5) First signs of density dependent regulation are emerging in RI although increased use of artificial nesting structures and their effect on carrying capacity needs more study. Food supply limitations are occurring in other osprey populations and should be monitored in RI.
6) The RI data set and conspecific knowledge has matured enough so that a spatially explicit, state-space, integrated modeling effort can be attempted including the cryptic floater component.
7) RI osprey reproductive success is positively correlated with a local index of menhaden abundance with the correlation growing stronger in recent years. Low reproductive success in recent years is coincident to a decline in spotter pilot menhaden school counts in Narragansett Bay.

8) There are several inconsistencies in the menhaden-osprey relationship that need clarification. A chicken and egg conundrum is presented between not enough menhaden or too many osprey. The available data indicate a growing mismatch between osprey and their food supply in marine waters that is progressing from south to north.
9) Because of divergent phenologies, prosecution of the menhaden fishery should be separated in space and time from the critical period of osprey food provisioning. In addition, deployment of artificial osprey nesting structures should cease unless new food supplies are provided.

Conflict of Interest Statement-

The author received no compensation and declares that he has no competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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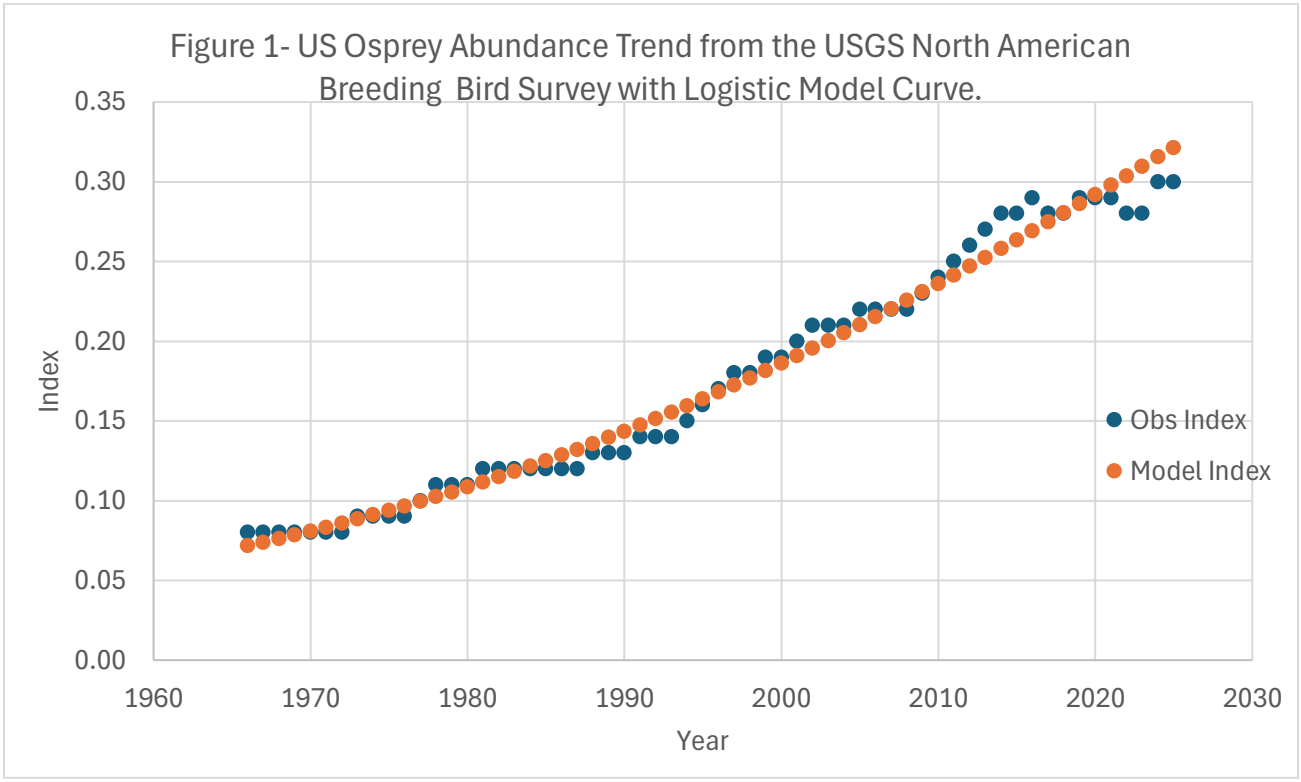
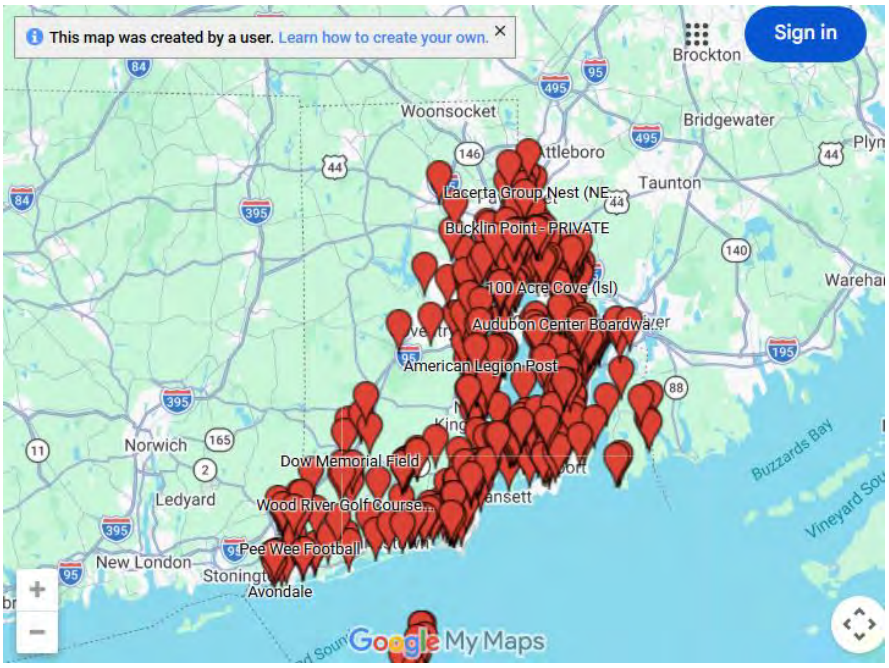
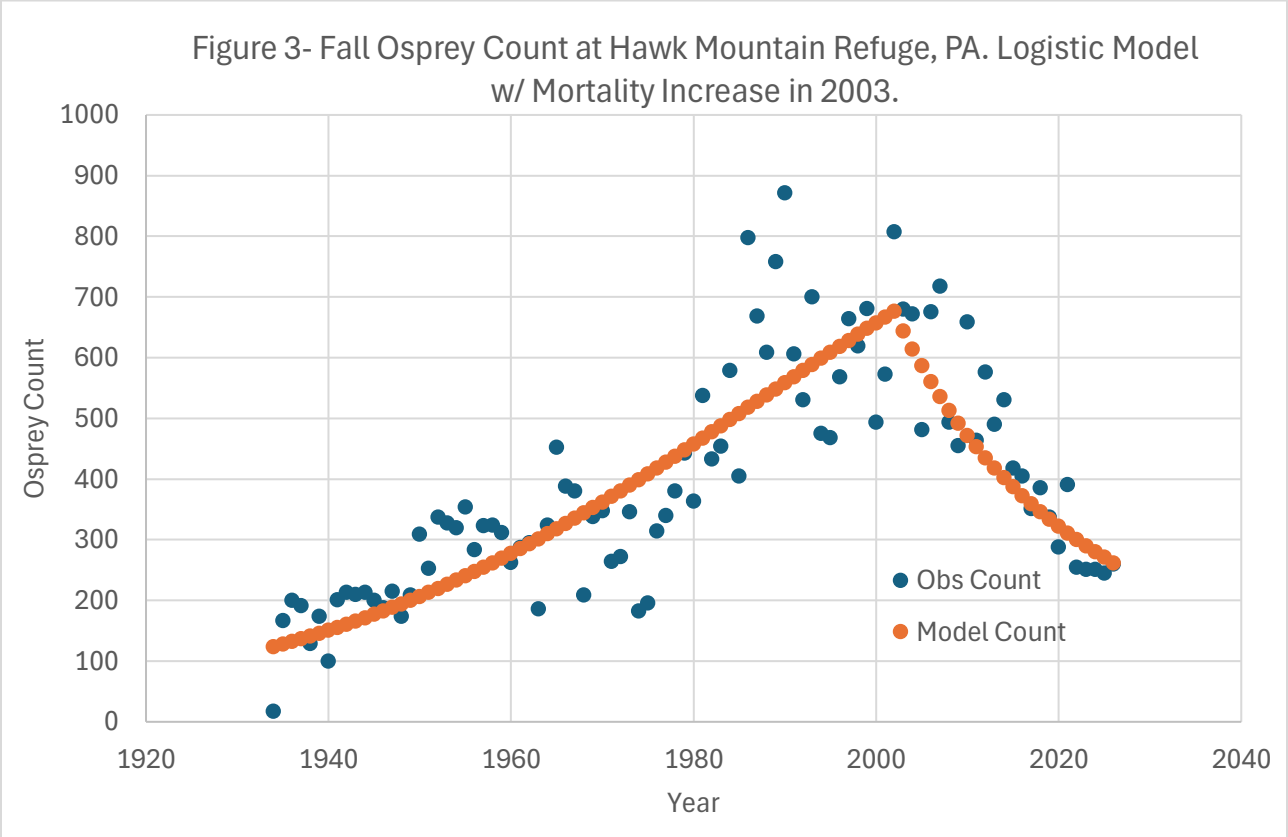


Figure 2- Map of Rhode Island Osprey Nest Sites in 2025 Courtesy Audubon Society





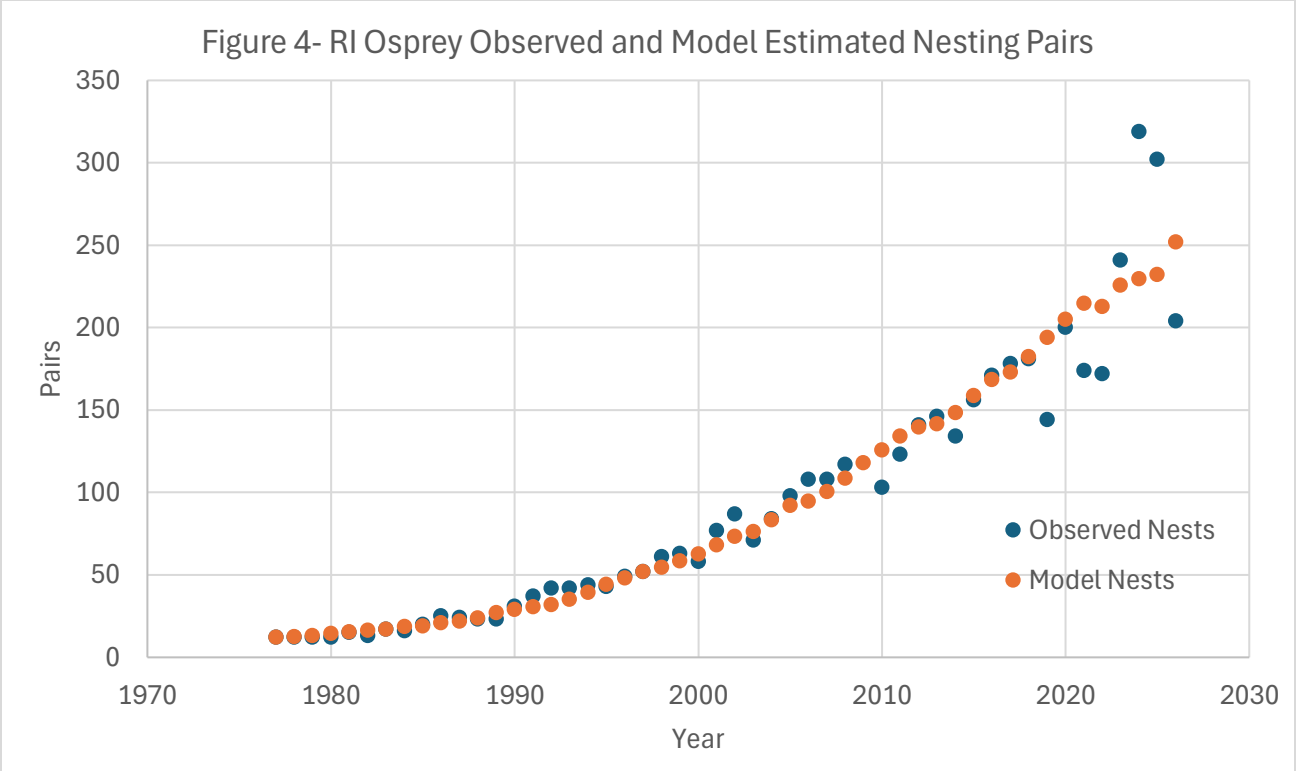


Figure 4- RI Osprey Observed and Model Estimated Nesting Pairs
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
Pairs
1970
1980
1990
2000
2010
2020
2030
Year
Observed Nests
Model Nests

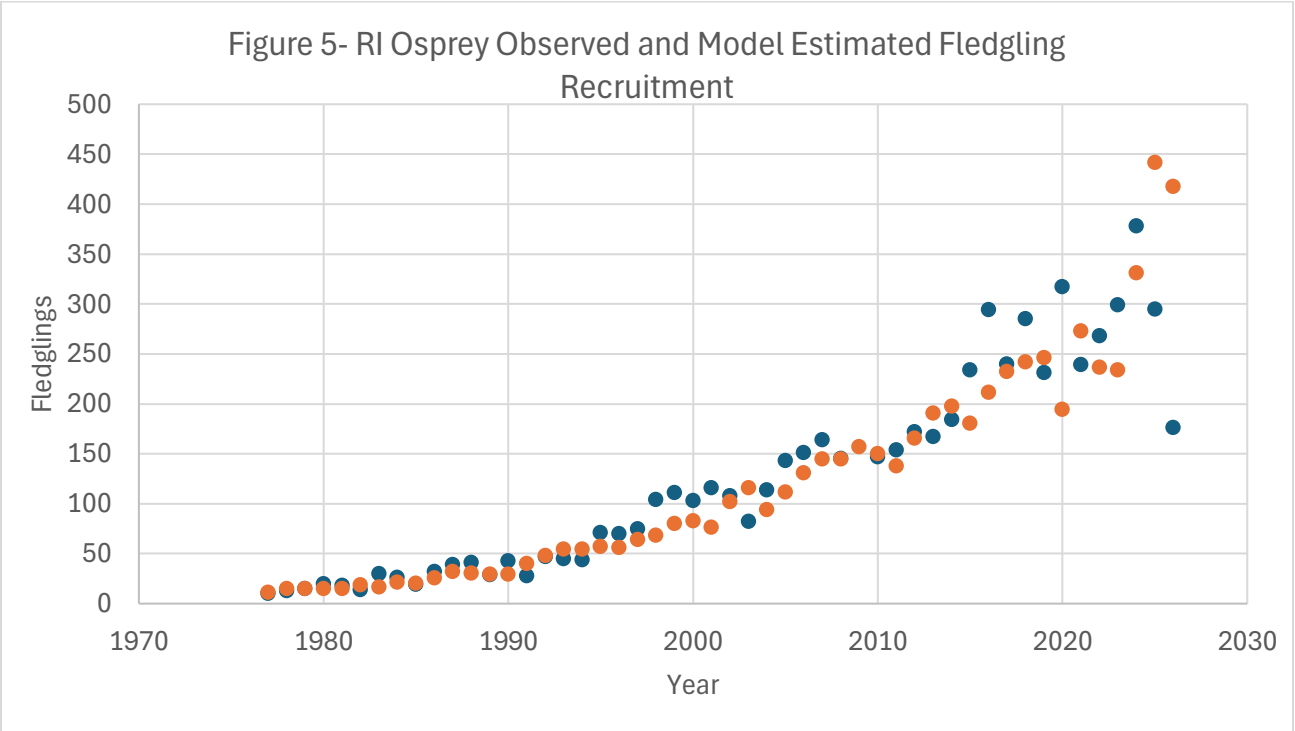


Figure 5- RI Osprey Observed and Model Estimated Fledgling Recruitment
500
450
400
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
Fledglings
1970
1980
1990
2000
2010
2020
2030
Year

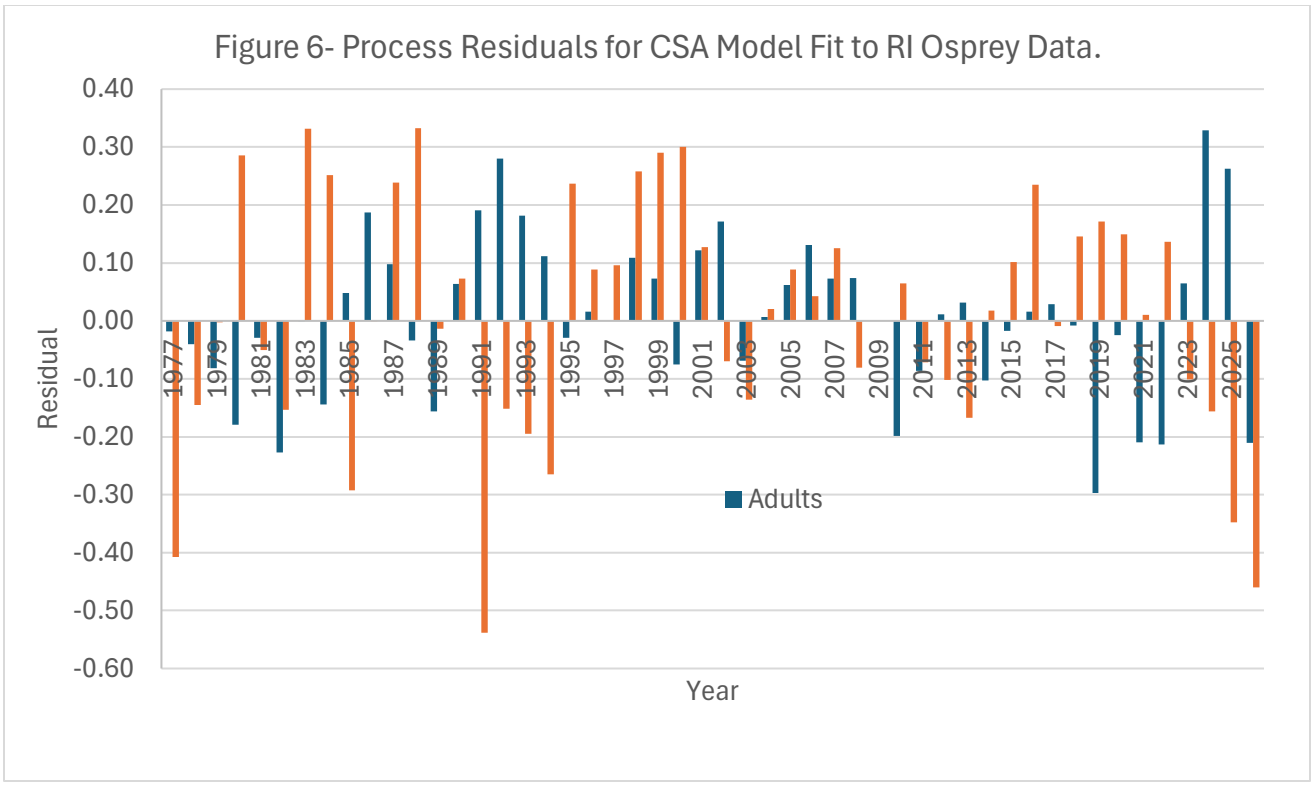


Figure 6- Process Residuals for CSA Model Fit to RI Osprey Data.
0.40
0.30
0.20
0.10
0.00
-0.10
-0.20
-0.30
-0.40
-0.50
-0.60
Residual
1977
1979
1981
1983
1985
1987
1989
1991
1993
1995
1997
1999
2001
2003
2005
2007
2009
2011
2013
2015
2017
2019
2021
2023
2025
Year
Adults

Figure 7- Observed and Model Estimated Relationship Between Adult Nesters and Fledglings in RI Osprey.

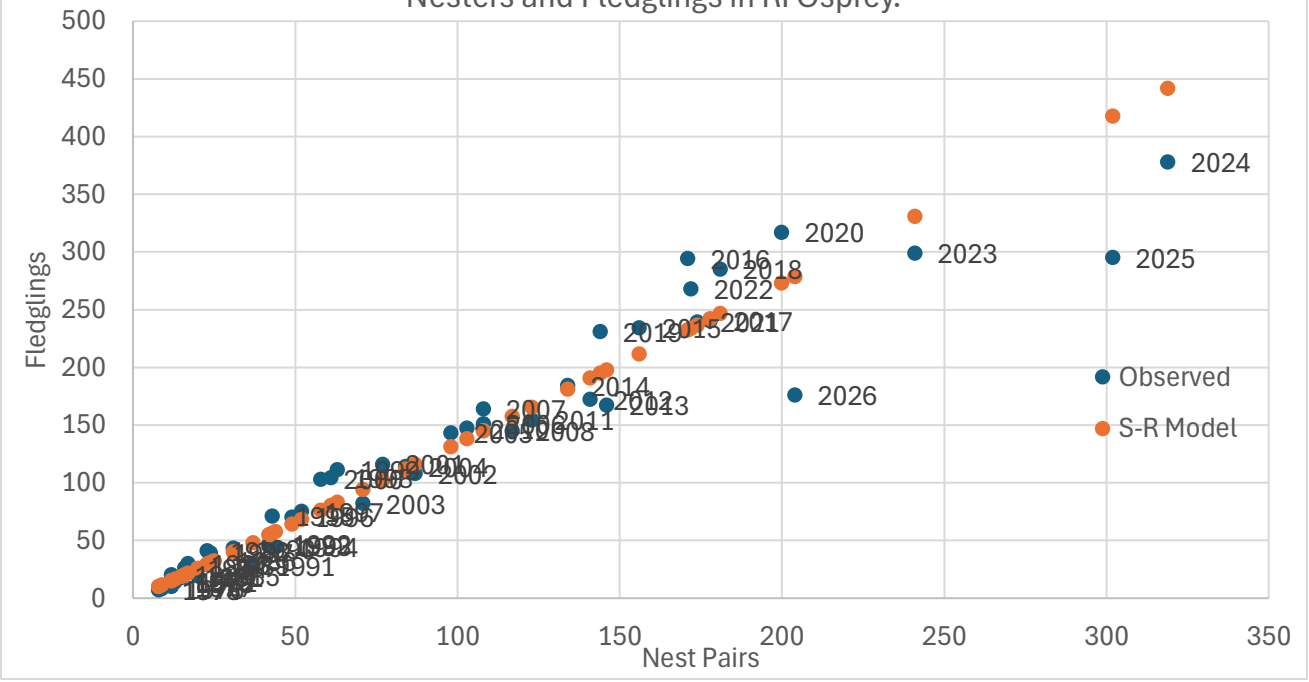


Figure 8- RI Osprey Reproductive Success, 1950-2026. Data from Henny and Byrd (2010), RIDFW and ASRI. Arrow Denotes DDT Ban.

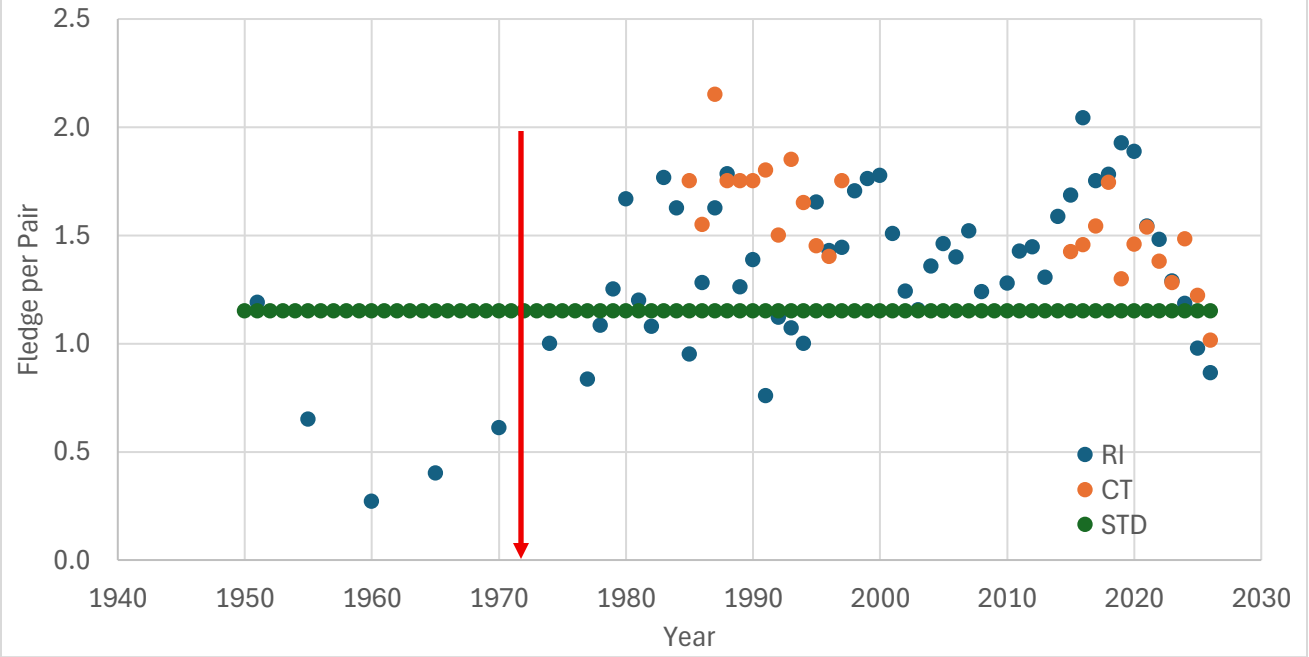


Figure 9- Number Nesting Osprey Pairs vs. Fledgling Production Three Years Earlier.

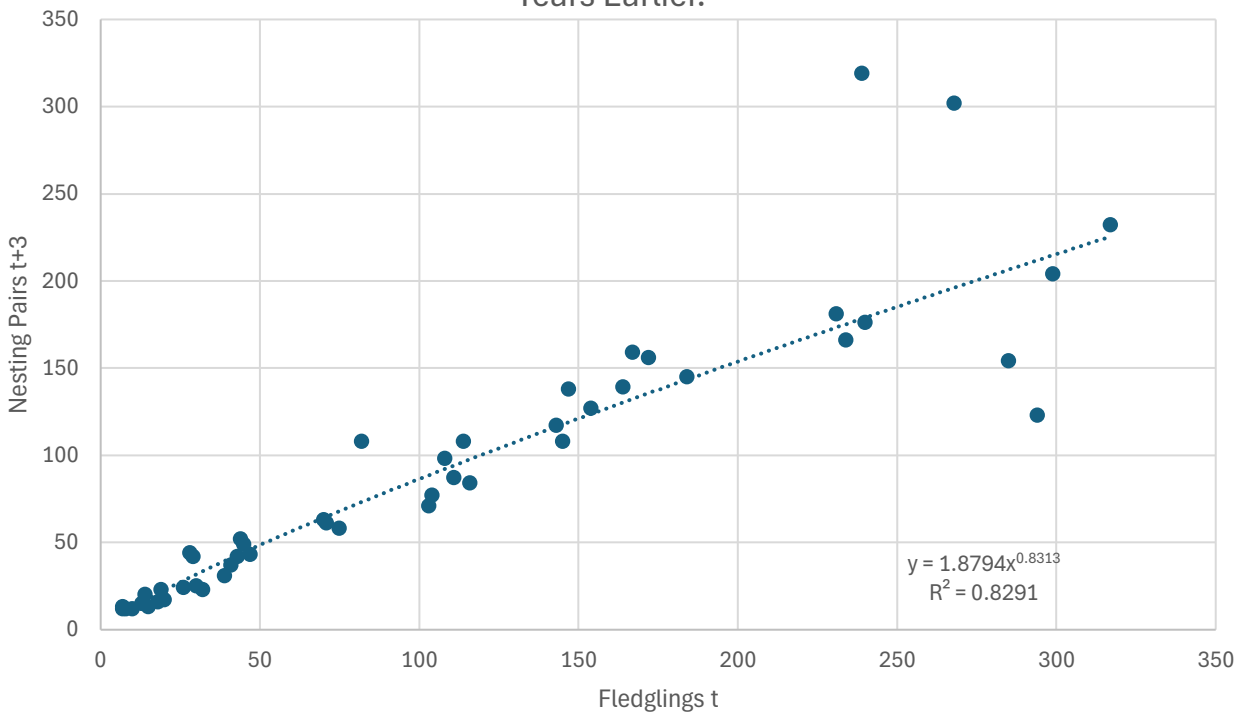


Figure 10- Rhode Island Osprey Population Projection Under Several Recuitment Scenarios.

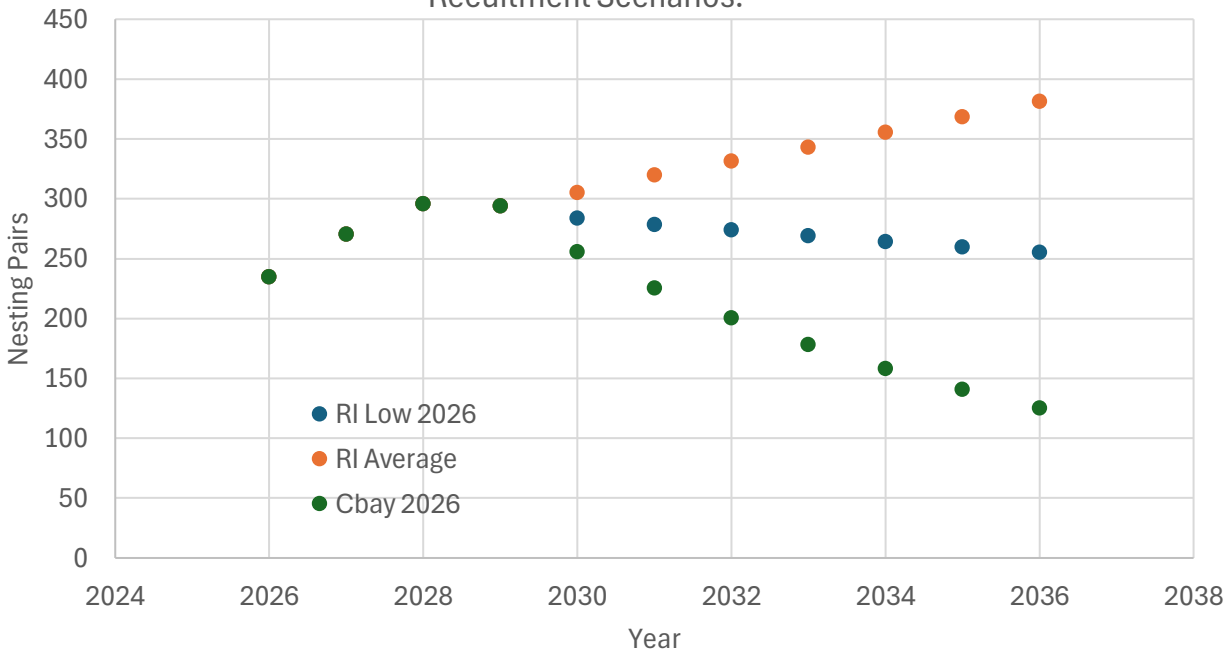


Figure 11- Atlantic Menhaden Age 1+ Biomass from ASMFC 2025.

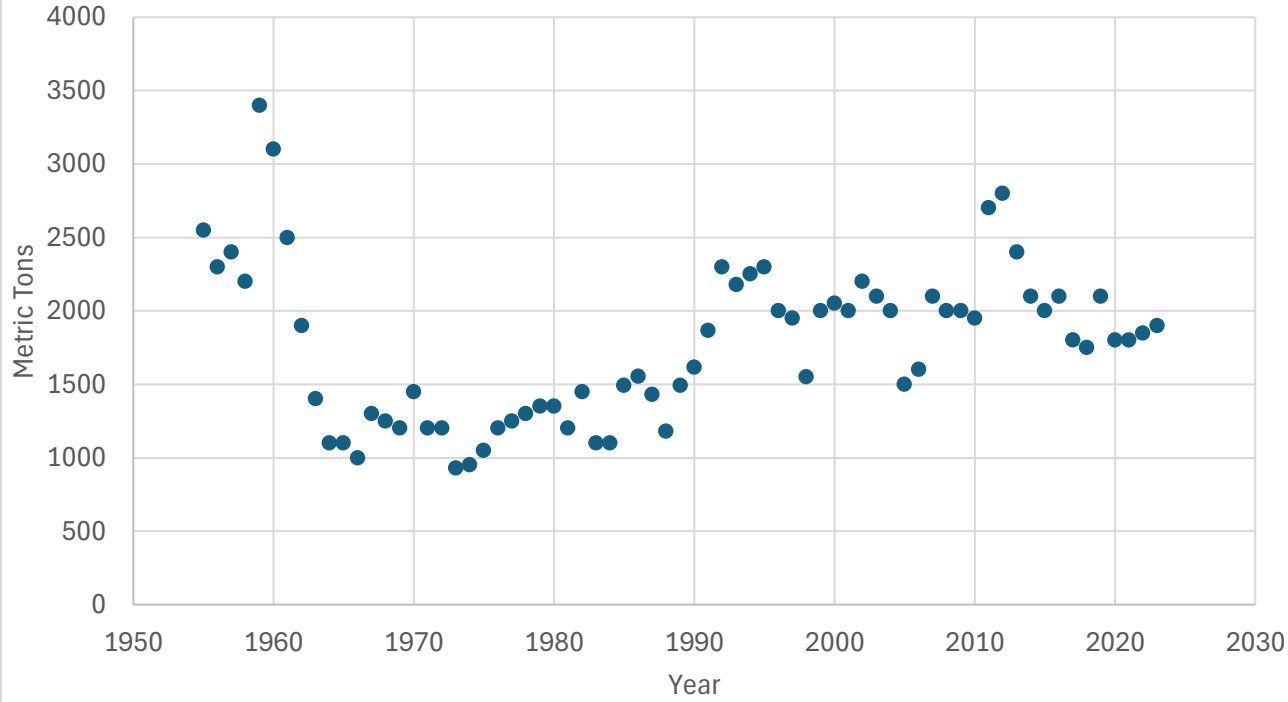


Figure 12- Long-term Trend in Menhaden Abundance in Narragansett Bay

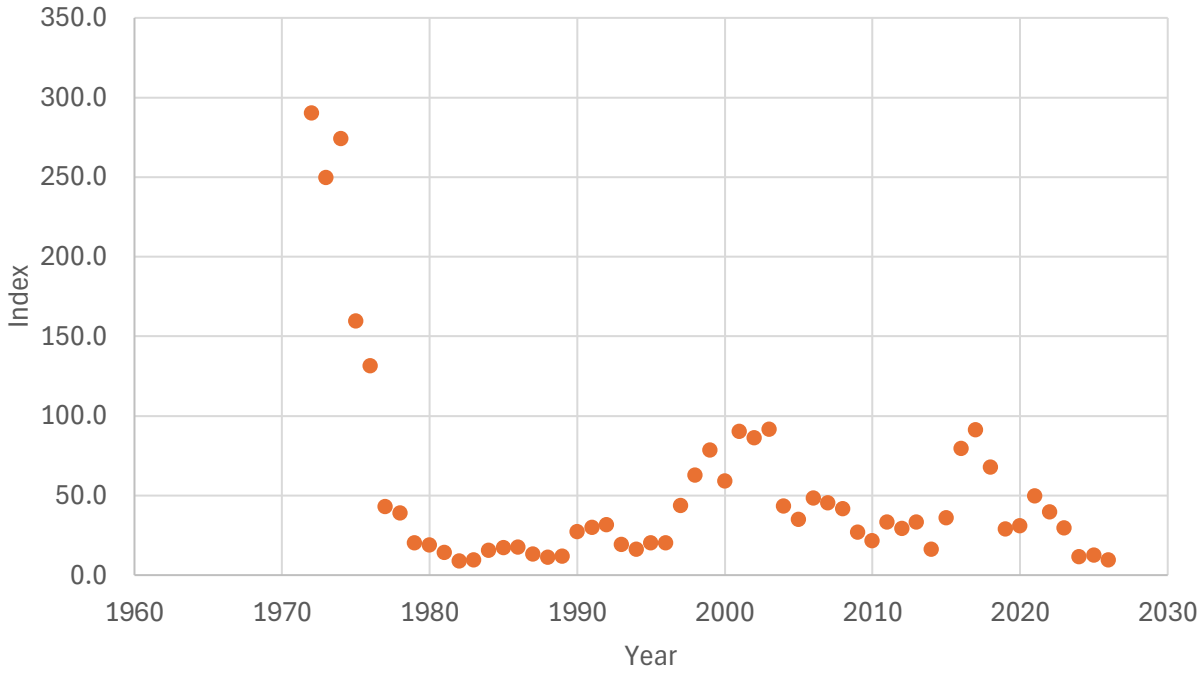
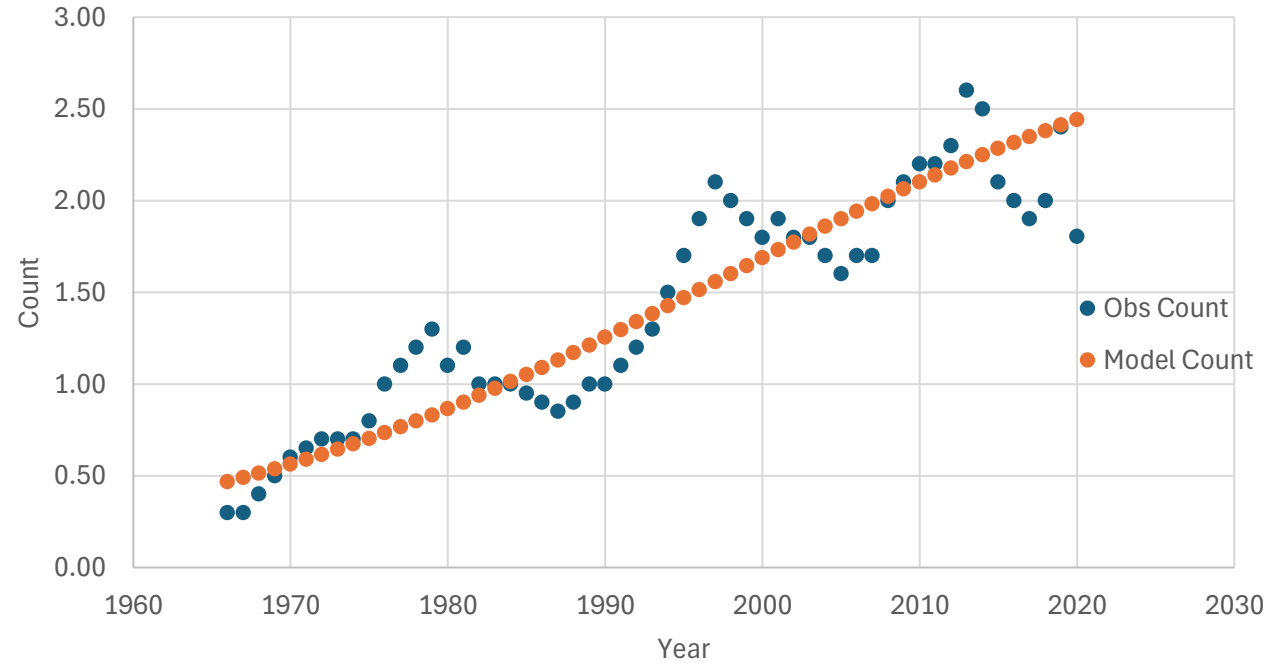


Figure 13- Osprey Abundance in the Florida Bird Count w/ Logistic Fit.



Appendix - Atlantic Menhaden Stock and Recruitment and Potential Population Size

The issue of osprey reproduction and menhaden abundance begs the question of how much menhaden there can be under current fishery and environmental conditions. As noted above, restoring the historical ratio of coastwide or local menhaden to osprey would require a massive increase in menhaden or a reduction in osprey numbers. The latter is unlikely to be a serious policy objective but the birds may accomplish it on their own through brood reduction. The historical analysis of Ervin et al. (2026) using stock reduction analysis suggest a maximum menhaden biomass of about 4,000 KT in 1880. Uphoff and Sharov (2018) used a Steele-Henderson production model applied to modern data and estimated an unfished biomass of 3,950 KT. To evaluate the current potential for menhaden population growth, I analyzed the relationship between menhaden abundance and resulting recruitment using the ASMFC (2025) BAM assessment results. Specifically, I used the 1955 to 2023 estimates of population fecundity (trillions) and recruitment (billions). I included the AMO climate index given the studies indicating its wide influence on the marine production systems (Edwards et al. 2013) and menhaden specifically (Buchheister et al. 2016, Midway et al. 2020). As noted above, the index has been in a positive phase for two decades but was in negative phase during the early portion of the menhaden assessment period. Annual AMO, unsmoothed data was accessed at the NOAA climate/weather website (Figure A1). Following Nelson et al. (1977) and Vaughann and Merriner (1991), I fit a Ricker type stock recruitment model including the AMO as a covariate:

$$R_t = \alpha * S_t * \exp(-\beta 1 * S_t + \beta 2 * A_t) \qquad (1)$$

where: R= recruitment in billions

S= population egg production in trillions eggs

A= the AMO index as deviations from long-term mean

α= alpha slope at origin

β1= strength of density dependence

β2= AMO effect parameter

t= year.

Eq. 1 was fit to the data using Excel Solver with parameter uncertainty evaluated with the jackknife method.

Figure A2 shows the S-R data plot along with the estimated climate-dependent model. Population fecundity varied by approximately 5-fold with a maximum of 2.55 trillion in 1955. With the exception of the extraordinary 1958-year class, recruitment has varied between 13 and 80 billion fish. Alpha was estimated at 115.72 (SE=13.11) while beta was estimated at 1.014 (SE=0.101), both significantly greater than zero. Note that these estimates may differ in absolute value and scale from past results depending on S-R units used and the natural mortality rates specified in the assessment. The AMO parameter was negative at -0.0066 as expected but not significantly different from zero (95% CI -0.234 to 0.221). Although NS here, other analyses support a negative effect including lags (Deyle et al. 2018). Higher larval survival was associated with a negative AMO phase in Simpson et al. (2016). Surplus production modeling in Drew et al. (2021, Fig.4) shows a decline in menhaden intrinsic rate coincident to the AMO shift to positive phase. Growth of age 1 menhaden was found inversely correlated with the AMO (Midway et al. 2020). The reciprocal of beta corresponds to the fecundity resulting in maximum recruitment. It was estimated at 0.961 (SE=0.077) trillion eggs. Menhaden were last assessed at 1.24 trillion eggs in 2023 and more recent index data suggest it is less than that (ASMFC 2026). The over compensatory curve in Figure A2 suggests two things. First, fecundity is trending toward the 1/β point where the probability of good recruitment is higher, the outlier 1958-year class notwithstanding. Second, the dome-shaped S-R curve projects very low recruitment under the large fecundity increase needed to restore the

menhaden/osprey ratio. Further, Vaughan and Merriner (1991) reported a range for maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for Atlantic menhaden of 370 to 570 KT at a fishing mortality rate (F_{msy}) of 0.47. Since the fishing mortality rate at MSY is ½ the intrinsic rate of increase, carrying capacity or unfished biomass in the legacy production models is only K= ($4*MSY/r_m$) or 1,574 to 2,426 KT. Current fully recruited F rate is about 0.20 under a total kill of 200 KT (ASMFC 2025). This represents a great reduction since the late 1960's when F reached 0.95 (Dryfoos et a. (1972). The assessment team has only presented short-term projections of overfishing risk to date. However, the current F and retrospective stock performance suggest some population growth above 1,900 KT is possible with a limit of about 3,400 KT but only following extraordinary year classes as in 1955 and 1958. To summarize, there is no evidence now or in the historical record that menhaden stock size can grow to a magnitude where the existing Chesapeake Bay osprey population (and others) have the same food availability as during the 1970's recovery of the predator and prey. That would require more than a quadrupling of menhaden biomass to over 7,000 KT. Reference to Figure A2 shows that level in a high AMO phase is unlikely.

Watts et al. (2024) used the ASMFC coastwide YOY index in their calculations which in turn was criticized by Latour et al. (2024). The mismatch between YOY menhaden length and preferred osprey prey size notwithstanding, a potent criticism was that YOY indices "do not accurately reflect the abundance of age 1 and older fish and therefore are not a reliable proxy for the abundance and availability of menhaden". Uphoff (2003) demonstrated a good correlation between the MD component to the YOY index and age 0 abundance estimates from the operational catch at age assessment. However, substantial modifications have been made to the assessment model, including the natural mortality rate that drove hindcasts of age 0. Moreover, YOY shifting between index regions has occurred (Buchheister et al. 2016). To examine this further, I accessed the 1959-2023 coastwide YOY index from ASMFC (2025) and compared it to the BAM recruitment estimates via regression analysis. Linear models indicated a positive y-intercept implying nonsensical spontaneous generation of recruits at zero YOY. A power function through the origin made more sense and is shown in Figure A3. The correlation is weak with only 16% of the variance in recruitment explained by YOY. More importantly, the slope (b=0.161, SE=0.035) to the power function is significantly less than 1.0. This indicates strong hyperstability in BAM recruits. Putative YOY could decline to near zero, without much change in recruitment. Love et al. (2006) explained this with a shift in Chesapeake Bay YOY production from northern to southern Bay tributaries. Moreover, YOY were negatively correlated with BAM population fecundity at lag zero (r=-0.60, Fig. A4). Since the fitted Ricker S-R curve in A4 must originate at zero, externe overcompensation is suggested i.e. steepness (h) approaches 1.0. This was also apparent in early S-R data in Ahrenholz (1987) where obsolete VPA approaches used constant M= 0.45 in the analyses. In that study, good recruitment was evident at only 6% of maximum egg deposition. A mechanism this strong is generally unlikely (Mangel et al. 2009) and hard to explain in menhaden given a life history which was recently shown to be "slower" than heretofore thought (Ault et al. 2026). In support, Simpson et al. (2016) showed that oceanic larval menhaden abundance was correlated (r=0.56) with BAM assessed spawning biomass but the larvae did not translate through to YOY. They struggled to explain an apparent decline in larval survival with density dependence and environmental factors. More likely YOY survey abundance is not reflective of recruitment to the stock but more the vagaries of larval supply to the sampled estuaries (Love et al. 2006, Houde et al. 2016, Simpson et al. 2017). I concur with Latour et al. (2024) that the YOY index was not a good metric of osprey food availability in Watts et al. (2024). That is not to say that food supply, including menhaden, has not been limiting in Chesapeake Bay and elsewhere. A spatially stratified BAM assessment will be needed to show that.

Figure A1- Annual Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation, 1854-2026.
Source NOAA Climate Center.

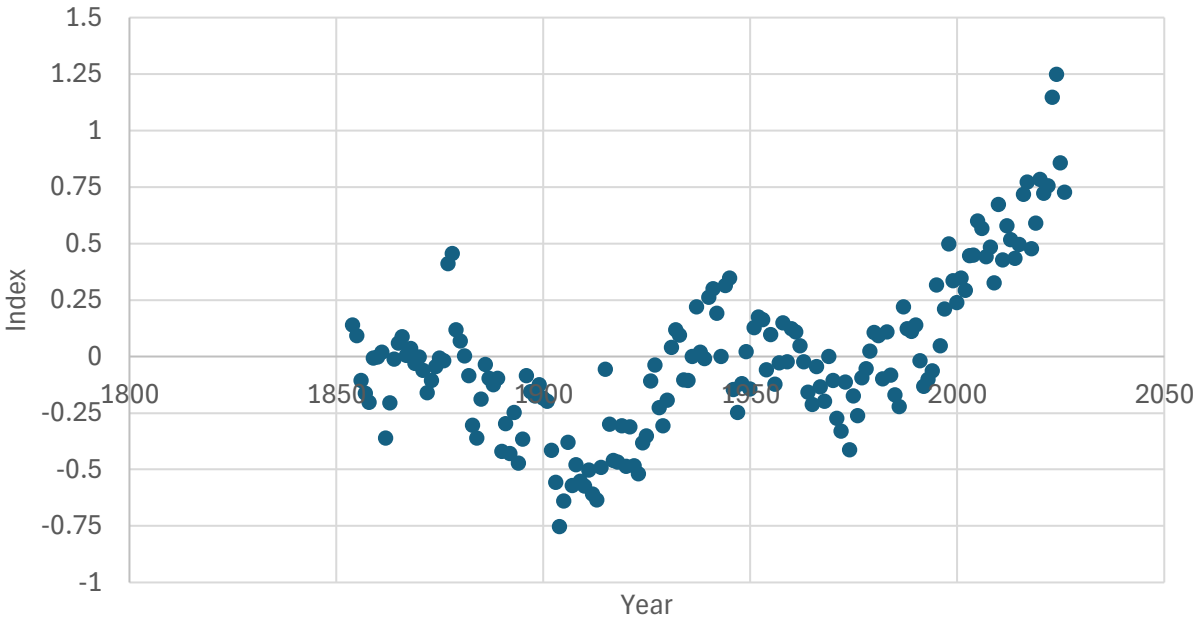
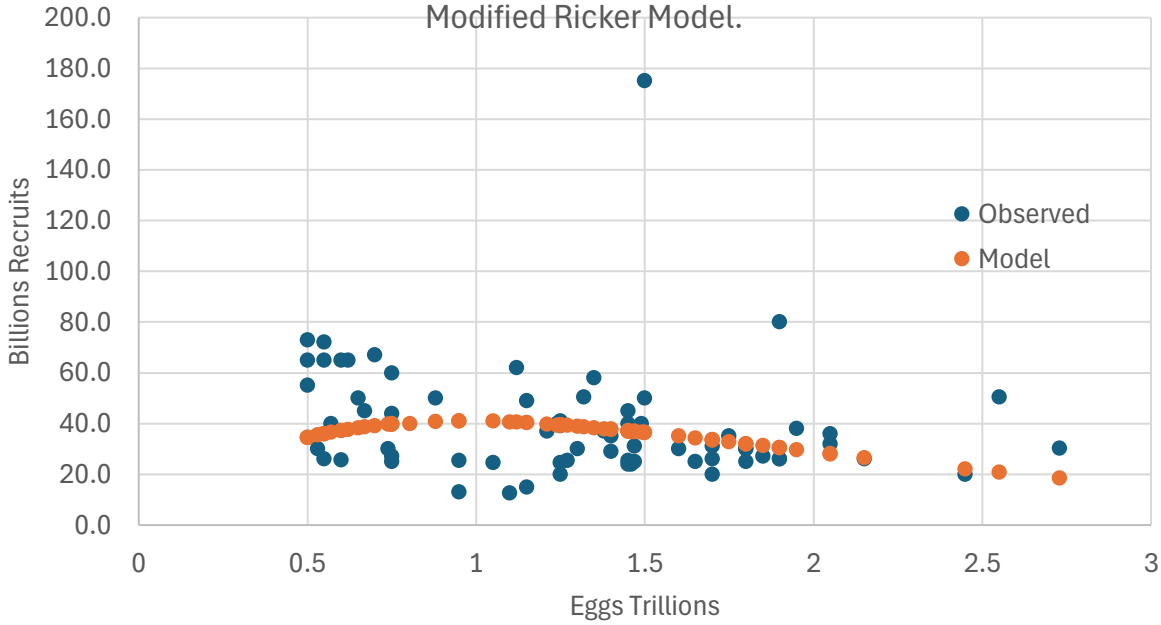
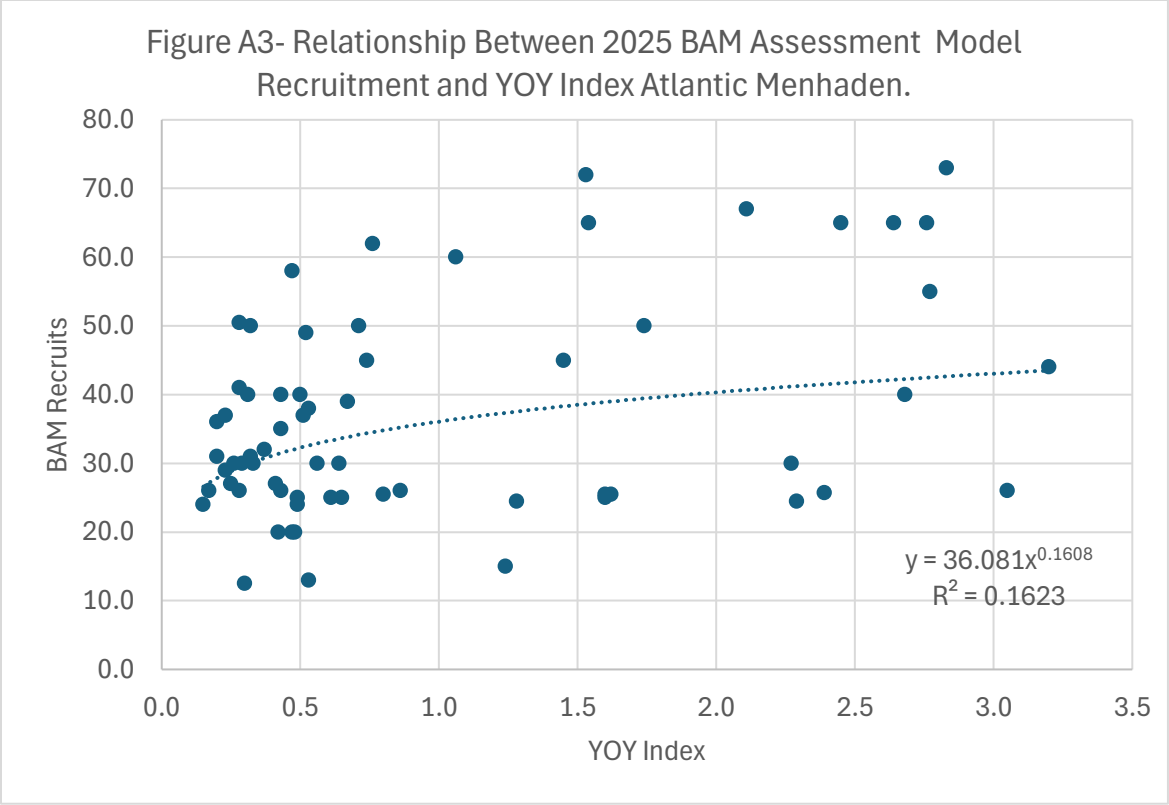
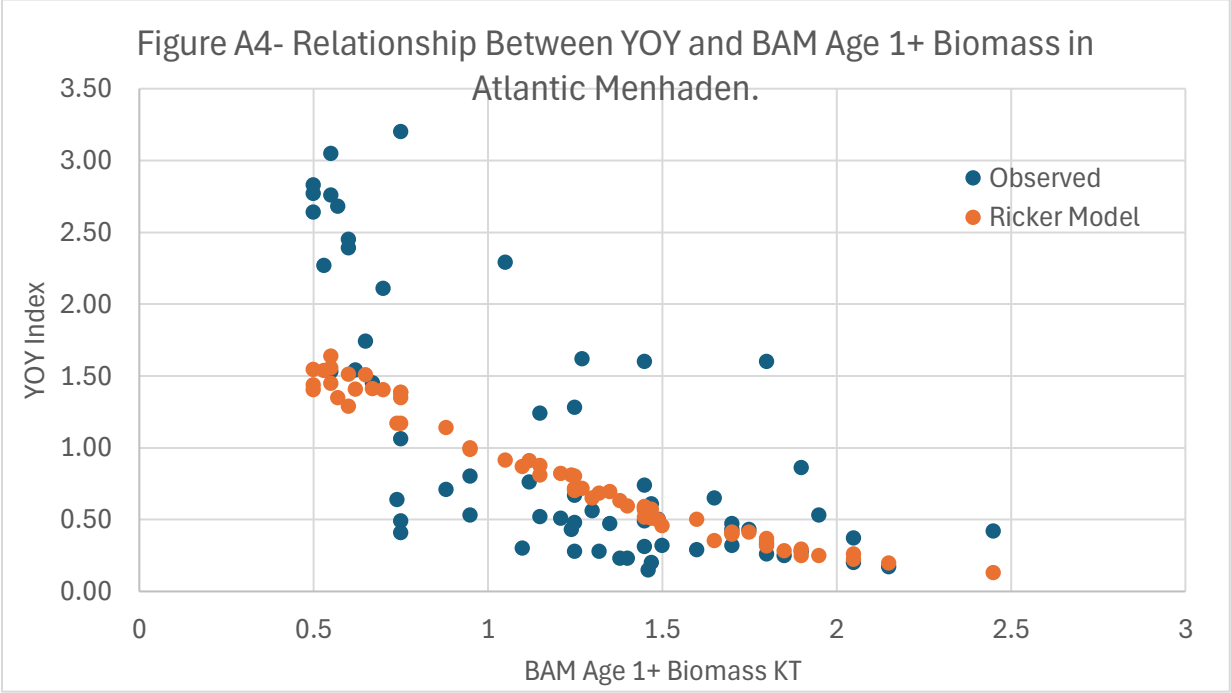


Figure A2- Atlantic Menhaden Stock and Recruitment with AMO Modified Ricker Model.







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James Boyle

From: James Glenn <james.glenn360@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:33 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Request to reduce the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery cap by 50%

Dear Sir or Madam:

I respectfully urge the commission to reduce the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery cap by 50%.

Best regards,
James Glenn
330 Shore Road
Old Lyme, CT 06371
T: (808) 927-4586

James Boyle

From: Brian Goldstein <bjgold96@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 3:23 PM
To: James Boyle
Subject: [External] Addendum 1 Comment for the Public Record

Dear Sir:

I support Addendum II and the most restrictive options.

The future of our wildlife must be protected and preserved, and if not now, when! There must be at minimum, a 50% reduction in the overfishing of menhaden. No additional studies are needed. It is time to act.

Sincerely,
Brian Goldstein
110 west 96th street #12A
New York, NY 10025

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James Boyle

From: Caitlin Gritt <caitlin.gritt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 9:02 AM
To: Comments; James Boyle
Subject: [External] Support for Atlantic Menhaden Conservation (Draft Addendum II)

Good morning, Mr. Boyle:

As a devoted advocate for the health of our coastal waters and the daughter of two residents of Reedville, Virginia, I am writing in fervent support of stronger conservation measures under the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II. I vigorously support the approval of a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap and establish seasonal quota periods.

Atlantic menhaden are a foundational forage fish. Ecologically, they are critical to the survival of sportfish like striped bass and blue fish, as well as avian predators like ospreys, which are currently suffering from historic nest failures and starvation due to localized food depletion. In addition, an over-concentration of industrial reduction fishing by Ocean Harvesters/Omega Protein has devastated local bait watermen and small-scale commercial operations who rely on stable menhaden populations.

The current industrial cap of 51,000 metric tons allows a highly centralized fleet to extract massive quantities of this ecological anchor from sensitive nursery grounds. Implementing a 50% cap reduction and spreading the remaining harvest evenly across the season will protect the broader Atlantic marine ecosystem and support the coastal economies tied to recreational fishing and tourism.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments in support of protecting our vital public marine resources.

Sincerely,
Caitlin Gritt
1423 Woodstock Road
King George, VA 22485
(202) 747-4860
caitlin.gritt@gmail.com

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10/4/26

ASMFC Menhaden Board,

Regarding Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II, my comments are as follows:

I am an avid saltwater fisherman who fishes 50-75 times a year out of Barnegat Inlet, NJ. I fish anywhere from Sandy Hook to Holgate and as far east as the canyons. I have been out on my boat more than 50 times already this year and I have not seen a single school of adult bunker. In fact, they have been declining for the last several years and that has caused much poorer fishing, especially for striped bass. Gone are the days when I used to regularly see National Geographic moments, bass, whales and other predators spraying bunker with gannets and seagulls diving into the fray. We have a serious problem here and you need to take action to correct it.

Reduction fishing for menhaden should not be allowed at all. I hear about how that would hurt all those who work for Omega Protein. However, you must consider the negative economic impact that is being caused by the lack of bunker. Private, charter and party boats are taking less trips due to the lack of fish. Tackle stores, marinas, motels and other businesses that depend on fisherman are also suffering. However, it's not just the fishing sector that is suffering, it's those who enjoy bird and whale watching as well. Whales may have moved to other areas seeking alternative food sources, but they certainly miss eating bunker. However, shorebirds, particularly ospreys have been dying off and failing to nest successfully.

There are many factors that the ASMFC cannot control that are negatively affecting our fisheries and environment. However, this issue is one that you can control and therefore I urge you to take most restrictive action possible. **The coastwide TAC must be decreased significantly** but specifically regarding this addendum, please vote in favor of the following options:

- **Bay Cap Amount: Sub-Option B4** - a **50% reduction**, resulting in a **25,500 mt cap**.
- **Quota Periods: Option B1** - even-length periods with evenly distributed harvest.
- **Quota Period overage/underage payback: Option B** - payback and rollover.
- **Underage Provision: Underage Sub-Option 1** - roll Period 1 underage evenly into Periods 2 and 3.
- **Revisit Provision: Option B** — revisit the Bay Cap every three years.

Sincerely,

Paul M. Haertel

James Boyle

From: NANCY HART <nanjohart@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 5:33 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] atlantic menhaden Draft Add II

I am very concerned about the lack of science, and conscience of the overfishing of menhaden. not only does it affect marine life, those who rely on this for employment, but its also very detrimental to avian world. Osprey in NJ have a terrible nest failure with either only one egg viable, to the nests being abandoned and the young Ospreys dying of starvation. there isn't enough focus on the plight of the Osprey especially since we joined as a nation to return that balance due to DDT deaths.

please fight for less harvesting or a year moratorium on menhaden for everything that relies on it for life

Nancy Hart

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October 2026

Dear Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board:

I am a Virginia resident living in Middlesex County near the southern end of the Chesapeake Bay. I am a boater, recreational angler, oyster gardener, and conservation advocate. I spend considerable time on and near the Bay and have a strong personal interest in protecting its ecological health and the public resources upon which its wildlife, fisheries, businesses, and communities depend. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on Draft Addendum II.

I strongly support and urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to adopt the most protective alternatives available under Draft Addendum II, including the following specific measures:

1. **Section 3.1, Option C, including Sub-option C1e**, setting the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap at 13.6% of the coastwide Total Allowable Catch, initially resulting in a cap of 25,500 metric tons, a 50% reduction from the current cap.
2. **Section 3.1, Sub-option C2a**, establishing a 51,000-metric-ton upper limit with no lower limit.
3. **Section 3.2.1, Option B, Sub-option B2**, establishing three quota periods with allocations of 25%, 25%, and 50%.
4. **Section 3.2.2, Option B**, requiring quota-period overage payback and providing for in-year rollover of unused quota.
5. **Section 3.2.2, Underage Sub-option 1**, dividing unused Period 1 quota equally between Periods 2 and 3.
6. **Section 3.3, Option B**, requiring the Commission to revisit the Bay cap every three years following implementation.

I. A 50% Reduction Should Be the Minimum Protective Action

The current Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap is 51,000 metric tons. Section 3.1, Option C, including Sub-option C1e, would initially reduce the cap to 25,500 metric tons and link it to a fixed proportion of the coastwide Total Allowable Catch. This is the largest reduction presented in Draft Addendum II, and the Commission should adopt it without a multiyear phase-in.

The current Bay cap is not based on a scientifically determined estimate of the forage needs of Chesapeake Bay predators. Rather, it was derived from historical harvest levels. While historical harvest data are informative, they do not establish that such harvest levels were ecologically sustainable or that they left sufficient menhaden available to support predators and other fisheries throughout the Bay.

The central weakness in the arguments that support the current data is the assumption that coastwide population status adequately reflects conditions with the Chesapeake Bay. Coastwide stock status dos not resolve Chesapeake Bay concerns, and shouldn't be used to conclude that current harvest levels are harmless or that further reductions are unnecessary.

II. Coastwide Assessments Have Significant Scientific Limitations

For years, local fishermen, boaters, birdwatchers, conservation organizations and scientists have raised concerns that intensive harvests can reduce local availability of menhaden even if coastwide metrics appear healthy. The very existence of the Chesapeake Bay cap reflects past recognition by the Commission that localized depletion is a legitimate management concern. In short, coastwide stock status does not answer the central question before the Commission: whether sufficient menhaden remain available within the Chesapeake Bay to fulfill their ecological role.

Draft Addendum II explicitly acknowledges that sufficient scientific information is not presently available to comprehensively characterize the abundance and distribution of menhaden throughout the Chesapeake Bay or the influence of fishing pressure on Bay-specific menhaden availability.

The coastwide TAC and the Chesapeake Bay cap serve different purposes. The coastwide TAC addresses coastwide stock status. The Chesapeake Bay cap was created because the Bay is a critical nursery area and because of longstanding concerns regarding localized depletion. These concerns remain relevant today.

Accordingly, a determination that the coastwide stock is not overfished should not be interpreted as proof that current harvest levels within Chesapeake Bay have no localized ecological impacts.

III. Recent Ecological Indicators Support Precautionary Action

Scientific uncertainty is not evidence that current harvest levels are harmless. It is a reason to manage cautiously, particularly where the resource is an important forage species and fishing effort can be concentrated geographically and seasonally.

Draft Addendum II reports that more than 50% of Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery landings occurred during a six-week midsummer period in both 2023 and 2024. The Commission states that such concentrated harvest may affect the availability of menhaden to predators and other fisheries.

The draft also documents:

- A 60% decline in Maryland Chesapeake Bay pound-net harvests in 2024 compared to the 2018-2022 average.
- Declines in pound-net catch-per-unit-effort in Maryland, Virginia, and Potomac River Fisheries Commission waters.
- Reduced catch rates in Maryland during the latter portion of 2024.

- A substantial decline in a fishery-independent menhaden index in Maryland's Choptank River beginning in 2024.

While these observations do not prove that the reduction fishery caused these changes, or eliminate other potential explanations. They do demonstrate that substantial uncertainty exists and that the possibility of ecological impacts cannot be dismissed.

The appropriate response to uncertainty in the management of a foundational forage species is caution, not delay.

IV. Seasonal Quotas Should Limit Concentrated Harvest

I support **Section 3.2.1, Option B, Sub-option B2**, allocating 25% of the Bay cap to the first quota period, 25% to the second period, and 50% to the third period.

This option places greater emphasis on delaying harvest until later in the season, reducing the risk of concentrated removals during critical spring and summer periods when predator demands may be greatest.

I also support **Section 3.2.2, Option B**, which requires overage accountability. Seasonal allocations will be meaningful only if harvesters are held accountable for exceeding them.

Likewise, I support **Section 3.2.2, Underage Sub-option 1**, which distributes unused first-period quota between the second and third periods rather than concentrating all unused quota into the final period.

V. Osprey Reproduction Provides an Important Ecological Warning

Atlantic menhaden are among the Chesapeake Bay's most important forage species. They are a critical food source for striped bass, bluefish, red drum, cobia, ospreys, and many other predators.

A recent peer-reviewed study monitored 571 osprey nests across the Chesapeake Bay and found widespread reproductive deficits in high-salinity portions of the Bay. The researchers observed greater food stress, higher nest failure, and reduced reproductive success in these areas and suggested that reduced availability of Atlantic menhaden may be a primary driver of those patterns.

While this study does not establish that reduction fishery caused these deficits. It does, however, document significant ecological concerns that deserve serious consideration.

The Commission need not wait until every cause-and-effect question is resolved before taking action to reduce a known and manageable source of risk.

VI. The Commission Should Not Delay Protection While Additional Research Proceeds

Additional Chesapeake Bay-specific research is clearly needed, and I strongly support efforts to improve understanding of menhaden abundance, distribution, and ecological function within the Bay. However, the Commission should not postpone precautionary management while new studies are being developed, conducted, analyzed, and incorporated into future management decisions.

Maintaining current harvest levels during a period of acknowledged uncertainty is itself a management choice. Waiting for perfect information is not a prudent management strategy when substantial uncertainty already exists. The precautionary principle indicates that management should reduce risk while new information is being gathered.

The better course is to reduce the cap now, manage harvest more conservatively, continue collecting better data, and revisit management decisions as improved science becomes available.

For this reason, I strongly support **Section 3.3, Option B**, requiring the Commission to revisit the Chesapeake Bay cap every three years.

VII. Menhaden Are a Public Resource

We constantly hear about the economic impacts on the Reedville menhaden industrial processing facility if any reductions or restrictions are imposed. But, other associated business impacts pale in comparison and deserve equal consideration.

Atlantic menhaden are a **public trust resource managed for the benefit of all users and the ecosystem itself, not any single company or industry sector**. They are often called the most important fish in the sea because they serve as a critical forage species for numerous predators.

The Commission must also consider the broader public benefits supported by healthy menhaden populations, including:

- Recreational fishing;
- Charter fishing businesses;
- Tourism;
- Boating;
- Waterfront communities;
- Wildlife viewing;
- Predator-dependent commercial fisheries; and
- Countless other economic activities linked to a healthy Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

The economic analyses summarized in Draft Addendum II primarily evaluate impacts on the reduction and bait fisheries. They do not constitute a complete valuation of the Bay's broader

ecological and economic interests. The benefits generated by abundant menhaden and a healthy ecosystem extend far beyond the balance sheet of a single industrial fishing company. Atlantic menhaden are a foundational forage species and a public resource. Their value extends far beyond their value as fish meal and fish oil. Management decisions should therefore prioritize the long-term health of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and the broad public interests and benefits derived from it.

VIII. Conclusion

For these and the other reasons cited above, I urge the Commission to **adopt the following management measures to protect the long-term health and resilience of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem:**

- Select **Section 3.1, Option C, including Sub-option C1e**;
- Select **Section 3.1, Sub-option C2a**;
- Implement the 50% reduction without a phase-in;
- Select **Section 3.2.1, Option B, Sub-option B2**;
- Select **Section 3.2.2, Option B**;
- Select **Section 3.2.2, Underage Sub-option 1**;
- Select **Section 3.3, Option B**; and
- Continue developing Bay-specific science while managing conservatively in the face of uncertainty.

The Chesapeake Bay is one of the most important estuaries in North America. When uncertainty exists regarding a critical forage species, the prudent course is to protect the resource while additional science is developed.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Heinzman
Hartfield, VA 23071

James Boyle

From: TwoHerrons <twoherrons@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 3:30 PM
To: Comments
Cc: James Boyle
Subject: [External] MENHADEN & THE ATLANTIC MENHADEN DRAFT ADDENDUM II

To the Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.
comments@asmfc.org

As a Member of the Great Bridge Fisherman's Association, of Chesapeake, Virginia
I would like to see these Options adopted from **The Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II**

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount
Support option C1e: that reduces the CAP by at least 50 percent in 2027 and limits the future Bay Cap to 13.6% of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC).
Also, support option C2a, which sets an upper limit of 51,000mt for the Bay Cap (the current level).

3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution
Support option B2, which establishes three even length quota periods for the Bay Cap, but distributes harvest 25% in period 1, 25% in period 2, and 50% into period 3.
Also, support option B, which establishes quota period overage and underage provisions within a fishing
year.

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision
Support Option B to revisit the Bay Cap every 3 years.

The over harvesting of Menhaden in The Chesapeake Bay is finally getting support from a broader audience. Please support the options listed above to allow the Menhaden population to increase and to provide food for the species that count on them in and around Chesapeake Bay. ***Save the Menhaden & Save the Bay***

Thank you for your attention to this matter.
Sincerely,
Tom Herendeen, Concerned Citizen,
Working & Living on and around the BAY since 1976

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⭐ FINAL UNIFIED PUBLIC COMMENT PACKAGE
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Submitted October 7, 2026

To the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Draft Addendum II. My connection to coastal ecosystems began in childhood. I saw my first osprey at age five while fishing at Forge Pond in Brick, New Jersey, and I remember wondering why they suddenly disappeared during the same years our neighborhood in Birchwood Park was being sprayed for mosquitoes. It wasn't until my first Earth Science class that I learned about DDT and understood what had happened to the ospreys I grew up watching. I have been a shore girl with sand in my shoes ever since, and that lifelong connection to coastal wildlife is why the current concerns about forage availability resonate so strongly with me.

The information presented in Draft Addendum II is deeply concerning. The document states: "Recent observations… suggest that availability of menhaden in Chesapeake Bay may be changing."

This is not theoretical. In 2023 and 2024, we saw clear, measurable impacts:

• Maryland pound net harvest declined 60% in 2024.
• CPUE dropped sharply across Maryland, PRFC, and Virginia.
• Independent surveys (Choptank River) show menhaden abundance collapsed in 2024 and remained low in 2025.
• Predators such as striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, and osprey are already experiencing stress.

These indicators point to a forage shortage with ecosystem-wide consequences.

⭐ Menhaden as Filter Feeders — Water Quality Matters

Atlantic menhaden also play a critical role in maintaining water quality. As filter feeders, they help remove excess nutrients and particulate matter from coastal waters, improving clarity and reducing the risk of harmful algal blooms. Protecting menhaden abundance is not only about supporting predators; it is also about preserving the water quality that sustains the broader Chesapeake and coastal environments.

⭐ Documented Predator Impacts: Barnegat Light Osprey Nest (2023)

As a former moderator for the Barnegat Light Osprey Cam, I witnessed a severe food-stress event at the nest during the 2023 season. The first-hatched chick remained alive while her nestmates died during extended periods without fish deliveries. The adult female, Daisy, ultimately removed the deceased chicks and carried them to Barnegat Bay. This was a timestamped, publicly accessible example of how forage shortages directly affect predator survival and reproductive success.

⭐ Four Consecutive Years of Osprey Reproductive Failure (2023–2026)

From 2023 through 2026, the Barnegat Light Osprey Cam documented four consecutive seasons of reproductive failure, each coinciding with periods of reduced forage availability. In 2023, two of the three chicks starved to death during extended gaps between fish deliveries, and only one fledged successfully. In 2024, although Daisy and Duke continued their long-term pair bond, Daisy was unable to lay eggs despite multiple successful meetings. In 2025, Duke bonded with a new female after Daisy did not return; she laid three eggs, but a nor'easter and limited fish availability forced her to leave the nest to feed, allowing a gull to take two eggs while the third deteriorated in the elements despite Duke's attempts to incubate it. In 2026, several females visited the nest, but none remained, and Duke spent the season as a bachelor.

These four years of consecutive reproductive failure illustrate how forage shortages — especially when reduction harvest is concentrated into short, high-intensity periods — can affect predator behavior, nesting success, and overall ecosystem stability. While multiple environmental factors influence osprey reproduction, the timing and availability of menhaden remain central drivers, consistent with the concerns outlined in Draft Addendum II.

⭐ Recreational Fishing Impacts

My family has fished in New Jersey waters for generations. Between my brother and me, we have caught only one striped bass in recent years — unprecedented in our decades of experience. Despite using adaptive equipment that allows me to fish from party boats in my electric wheelchair, the lack of striped bass encounters has been unmistakable.

⭐ Family Crabbing Traditions

My niece and nephew grew up crabbing in the same places our family has used for generations, and in recent years they have asked why the crabs are no longer showing up in the traps the way they used to. Their children even asked whether the crabs are “really going to eat chicken now”, reflecting the confusion many coastal families feel as familiar patterns disappear.

⭐ Tourism, Water Quality & My Summers on the Boardwalk

During the summers of 1977 through 1979, I worked as a lifeguard at the Casino Pool in Seaside Heights. After the pool closed at 4:00 PM, I helped run the Ocean Peak restaurant and the fishing pier on the Casino Pier. Those summers made it clear how closely water quality, fishing success, and tourism are linked.

⭐ Volunteer Work at the Barnegat Light Osprey Cam

After my accident, I found new ways to stay involved in coastal conservation. One of the most meaningful opportunities came when Ben Wurst trusted me to take over as the moderator (“Beach Girl”) for the Barnegat Light Osprey Cam after our first moderator, Twist, passed away in 2021. Moderating the cam allowed me to contribute directly to public education and wildlife observation.

⭐ Continued Osprey Monitoring & Educational Outreach

Although I no longer moderate the cam, I remain an active supporter of the Barnegat Light community. I continue watching the nest, sharing video clips and screenshots, and preparing educational content for the YouTube channel I am building.

⭐ Terrapin Nesting Project & Mosquito Ditch Habitat Impacts

I am also an active supporter of the Terrapin Nesting Project on Long Beach Island. The Barnegat Light marsh beneath the Osprey Cam contains mosquito ditches created in the 1930s that now serve as vital terrapin habitat. Since 2019, viewers have watched female terrapins emerge from the bay, travel through the marsh barrier, cross Bayview Avenue, and enter a protected nesting area.

⭐ Winter Waterfowl & Marsh Wildlife Observations

The Barnegat Light marsh supports a diverse wintering population of Atlantic Brant, ducks, geese, herons, and red foxes. These species depend on the same interconnected system of marsh hydrology, forage availability, and water quality that supports menhaden, terrapins, and osprey.

⭐ Winter Predator Interactions: Bald Eagle Pursuit (Feb 13, 2023)

On February 13, 2023, a young Bald Eagle pursued a diving duck across the marsh. The chase was recorded and shared publicly, illustrating the complexity of winter marsh dynamics.

⭐ Raptors & Marsh Predators Observed at Barnegat Light

Regularly observed species include Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, and American Bittern.

⭐ Shorebirds, Wading Birds & Diving Ducks of Barnegat Light

Regularly observed species include Piping Plovers, Yellowlegs, Black Skimmers, American Oystercatchers, and diving ducks such as scoters, bufflehead, and mergansers.

⭐ Marsh Mammals & Predator Behavior

The marsh also supports small mammals such as marsh rats. One notable observation involved a Great Egret capturing a marsh rat and dunking it repeatedly to exhaust it before swallowing it whole.

⭐ Ecological Richness of the Barnegat Light Osprey Cam Area

Fish delivered to the nest provide a real-time record of forage availability, including menhaden, bluefish, weakfish, fluke, black sea bass, tautog, dogfish, spotfish, blowfish, oyster toadfish, needlefish, sea robins, eels, and mummichogs.

⭐ Concerns About the Current Bay Cap

The current Bay Cap of 51,000 mt is no longer aligned with the coastwide TAC. As the Addendum notes:
"The 20% reduction applied to the TAC in 2026… increased the percentage of possible reduction fishery quota taken in the Chesapeake Bay from 32% to 40%."

⭐ Recommendations

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1. A meaningful reduction in the Bay Cap (Section 3.1 – C1e and C2a)
2. Implementation of quota periods (Section 3.2 – B2)
3. Mandatory payback for overages (Section 3.2 – B)
4. Required review every three years (Section 3.3 – B)

Additional Recommendation:
If forage availability continues to decline, or if reductions to the Bay Cap do not stabilize predator impacts within the next review cycle, the Board should consider a temporary commercial pause (1–2 years) as a contingency measure. This would allow the ecosystem to recover while ongoing research improves understanding of menhaden availability, predator needs, and seasonal harvest dynamics.

⭐ Closing

Menhaden are not simply a commercial commodity. They are the foundation of the Chesapeake Bay food web. When their availability collapses, everything above them suffers — from small commercial fishermen to iconic species like striped bass and osprey.

Menhaden decline is not inevitable. It's preventable — but only if we act now.

Draft Addendum II is a critical opportunity to correct the course. I urge the Board to adopt the strongest possible measures to protect menhaden availability within the Bay and ensure a sustainable future for all user groups.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Ann Higgins
833 10th Ave
Toms River, NJ 08757-2436
Email: higginsla79@gmail.com
Home Phone: 732-914-1785
Google Voice (text only): 732-854-4069

James Boyle

From: Craig Holberger <craigholberger@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 7:31 PM
To: Comments; James Boyle; Russell Dize; David Sikorski; Michael Luisi; Del. Dana Stein; Max Appelman; Scott Simmons
Subject: [External] Public Comment on Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 to the Atlantic Menhaden Fishery Management Plan: Modifying the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap

From: Craig Holberger, craigholberger@gmail.com

To: comments@asmfc.org; JBoyle@asmfc.org

Copy To: MARYJDIZE@GMAIL.COM; DAVIDSIKORSKI@CCAMD.ORG; MICHAEL.LUISI@MARYLAND.GOV; DANA.STEIN@HOUSE.STATE.MD.US; MAX.APPELMAN@NOAA.GOV; SCOTT.SIMMONS@MARYLAND.GOV

Subject: Public Comment on Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 to the Atlantic Menhaden Fishery Management Plan: Modifying the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap

To: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

I am writing to express my strong support for significant, precautionary reductions to the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap under Draft Addendum II that consists of the recommendations of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Atlantic menhaden play a foundational role in the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, serving as a primary food source for striped bass, osprey, marine mammals, and other sportfish and wildlife. Given the ecological importance of menhaden within the Bay's nursery grounds, industrial reduction fishing in these confined waters poses a distinct risk of localized depletion.

To protect the Bay's food web, I strongly urge the Commission to adopt the following measures in Draft Addendum II:

Maximum Cap Reduction: Select the option that achieves the highest possible reduction—up to 50%—from the current cap of 51,000 metric tons. Reducing the cap to the maximum extent permitted under this addendum provides essential interim protection against localized depletion.

Seasonal Quota Distributions: Implement seasonal management limits to prevent industrial harvest from being concentrated during key months when resident predators, particularly breeding osprey and migrating striped bass, rely most heavily on menhaden as forage.

Precautionary Approach & Science-Based Limits: Continue moving toward full ecological reference points (ERPs) specific to the Chesapeake Bay, maintaining a precautionary stance or moratorium on industrial reduction fishing inside the Bay until localized depletion studies confirm that harvesting does not compromise ecosystem health.

The health of the Chesapeake Bay food web depends on maintaining robust menhaden populations in estuarine waters. I ask the Commission to prioritize ecosystem health and adopt the strongest conservation options presented in Draft Addendum II.

I have witnessed personally the impact of overfishing of menhaden on the Osprey population. I have participated in the Osprey Watch documenting sightings of ospreys at nesting stands, sightings of mating and nesting ospreys and seen firsthand the limited populations and infrequent nesting and mating and offspring around the Maryland central bay.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Craig Holberger

Stevensville, Maryland

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 12:59 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Mike Horan
Email
g600fa@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Please work to limit the permissible annual commercial menhaden limit. It's always perplexing to me when people work against their own best interest. Would you rather catch all of a species make some $$$ and collapse the fishery, (cod in the North Atlantic) or show constraint to maintain a sustainable fishery to ensure a long career for yourself and those that follow? If the products that use the reduced menhaden increase in price due to more stringent catch limits then that higher price is a more accurate representation of the commodity's "true" cost. These fish are one of the foundational species for the bay. Their health and availability determines the general overall health of the bay. My voice will surely be faint compared to the larger commercial concerns, but I bet there are many that share my sentiment who simply don't, or don't know how, to express their concerns. I imagine that the commercial folks show up at meetings and conferences to make themselves heard. But just because they have a bigger megaphone doesn't mean they speak for everyone.

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Oct 9, 2026

James Boyle
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland St., Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Re: Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Dear Mr. Boyle and Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board:

As the Alderman for Ward One in Annapolis, I write in support of Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. While I am only speaking for myself in this letter, I have introduced a resolution—cosponsored by the Mayor and the Chair of the Environmental Matters Committee--expressing the entire city's support for Draft Addendum II, which I expect will pass before the board makes its decision.

Menhaden sit at the base of the Bay's food web. They are dense in calories and nutrients, and they make up a large share of the diet of striped bass, bluefish, dolphins, and osprey. When menhaden decline, the species that eat them will follow. In the Severn River, which borders Annapolis, I'm told that the 100 nesting pairs of ospreys only had 6 chicks survive during the most recent season. Many of the rest starved to death.

Annapolis depends on a productive Bay. Our charter captains, recreational anglers, watermen, marinas, and waterfront restaurants are a large part of our economy, and the Bay is central to the city's history and identity. Strong conservation of this little oily fish is an investment in all of it.

By reducing the Bay Cap by 50 percent, splitting it into three even-length quota, and requiring the Board to revisit the Bay Cap every three years, we can proactively protect our Bay while additional research is conducted. I ask the Board to adopt these measures at its November meeting.

Sincerely,

Harry M Huntley
Ward One Alderman
Annapolis, MD City Council

Dear Mr. Boyle,

Please do not approve an increase in the fishing of nearby atlantic shores. The egrets are suffering from small catches. They are not able to feed their young. The population has dropped severly this year.

I appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Davidson
519 Harvest Commons
Westport CT 06880

Sept 4, 2024

JULIE FLAHERTY
ROBERT CULKA
18929 MANOR CHURCH RD.
BOONSBORO, MD 21713

OCTOBER 1, 2026

Dear Mr. Boyle —

As members of The Chesapeake Bay Foundation and 20+ years subscribers and supporters of The Chesapeake Bay Journal, my husband and I have gotten a good education over the years regarding the menhaden/Omega Protein controversy.

We are very frustrated that after all the years of research and continued studies at taxpayer expense nothing has been done with the scientific data. Meanwhile, the can gets kicked down the road while menhaden stocks decline and the osprey population crashes. We are also sponsors of Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research in Newark, DE and they have been admitting more starving and sick osprey over the past 2 yrs. Since menhaden is a primary food source for them can we make a deduction? If starving and dead chicks (est. 5500) can't move the commission in the right direction, we hope alot of pissed off people will !!

We do get a real kick out of how Omega Protein portrays itself as a real "Mom and Pop" operation out of Reedville, Va. Thanks to the Internet a deep dive into Omega Protein reveals what it really is: A Canadian Mega-operation running a global industrial fishing fleet. And this is what we're suppose to be

helping? And 260 jobs in jeopardy in Reedville, Va? How many jobs are created along the Atlantic coast and the Chesapeake from healthy menhaden fish populations? And then — how many jobs will be lost as menhaden fish populations continue to decline?

Omega Protein has consistently violated our environmental laws and regulations. They are fined nothing compared to the damages done and the ecological impacts from menhaden dumps and over-fishing. Omega Protein seems to have an inordinate amount of influence over committees and the outcomes of countless taxpayer funded studies which never seem to have a conclusion based on the science of those studies.

We definitely want at least a 50% reduction on the allowed take of menhaden. AND that take needs to be spread over the season to minimize the impacts on the Osprey nesting and fledging season. This should also be applied to other species reproduction periods in the Bay. Years of research will back this reduction need up.

Finally, instead of always waiting for species to crash why doesn't the ASMFC try to play Offense instead of Defense with the menhaden and other critical Bay species?

Thank you —

Julie Slichter

Bob Cudda

James Boyle

From: Edward Kingman <edward.kingman.it@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 9:27 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden cap

Stop letting corporations destroy the ecosystems that our local livelihood relies on!

We see the ships out there, stealing everything that belongs to us and our waterways! This feeds the local animals and keeps the whole system healthy and functioning. It also feeds all of us, indirectly or directly, through food on our tables or paychecks and cash flow.

Look at all the dead Osprey chicks starving! Parents cant explain to their kids why the nests they see each year are becoming empty. Our wildlife is starving. It is our responsibility to protect the whole of our system from people that want to scrape its entire value to send elsewhere.

Look out your window and tell me if you want to save life or be responsible for death and suffering

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC):

I strongly support reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap on menhaden and establishing strict seasonal quotas to lessen the effect of fishing over a longer period. Menhaden are critical to the Chesapeake Bay and the decline in the number of menhaden that the ospreys, striped bass and other marine life depend upon for their survival has been dramatic. Menhaden are at the lower end of the food chain and their numbers must be protected to save the ecosystem that they support.

For that reason, I urge the Commission to take the following actions:

1. Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent to 25,500 metric tons annually.
2. Establish strict seasonal quota periods that distribute harvest throughout the year rather than permitting an intense summer harvest.
3. Apply a precautionary management approach in light of uncertainty regarding localized menhaden abundance and the ecological condition of the Chesapeake Bay.
4. Give greater consideration to the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the broader Chesapeake Bay economy, not just one Virginia based fishing company.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian Kulczycki
Valley Lee, St. Mary's County, Maryland

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC):

I live in St. Mary's County and have watched the number of nesting pairs dwindle. Now it is a rarity to see chicks that fledge as they almost all die beforehand.

I strongly support reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by **50 percent—from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons per year—and establishing strict seasonal quota periods for menhaden.** The Chesapeake Bay is too important, and the ecological warning signs are too serious, to continue managing this critical forage fish as though the timing and location of harvest do not matter.

The evidence points to a decline in the number of menhaden that the ospreys, striped bass and other marine life in the Chesapeake watershed depend upon for their survival.

It is both when and where those fish are removed that matter. A menhaden harvested from a concentrated school in the Bay during the summer is no longer available to the predators that depend upon that school. Concentrated removal can create localized depletion during a biologically important period and can affect the availability of forage to other users of this shared public resource.

The consequences extend beyond the reduction fishery. Menhaden support the Bay's recreational fishing economy, commercial and charter fishermen, watermen, wildlife, and coastal tourism. **One user group should not be permitted to concentrate an enormous harvest of a shared forage resource during the period when that resource is most important to the rest of the ecosystem and to other Bay users.**

For that reason, I urge the Commission to take the following actions:

• Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent to 25,500 metric tons annually.

• Establish strict seasonal quota periods that distribute harvest throughout the year rather than permitting an intense summer harvest.

• Apply a precautionary management approach in light of uncertainty regarding localized menhaden abundance and the ecological condition of the Chesapeake Bay.

• Give greater consideration to the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the broader Chesapeake Bay economy, not just one Virginia based fishing company.

We should not wait for further deterioration before taking action. There is no time for additional five-year studies to delay the decision. The severe drop in nesting pairs and the lack of surviving chicks will not replenish the species enough to survive that long.

As someone who lives and sails on the Potomac and the Chesapeake, I believe the Commission has an obligation to manage menhaden conservatively and to preserve health of the Bay.

Reduce the cap. Establish meaningful seasonal quotas. Protect the forage base. Give the Chesapeake Bay—and the people and wildlife that depend upon it—a greater margin for recovery.

Thank you,

Henrietta S. Kundert
Tall Timbers, St. Mary's County, Maryland

Tina Berger

Subject: FW: [External] Comments on proposed AddendumII

From: Tom Lilly <foragematters@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 1:53 PM
To: Comments <comments@asmfc.org>; Tina Berger <TBerger@ASMFC.org>; James Boyle <JBoyle@ASMFC.org>; Joe Cimino <joseph.cimino@dep.nj.gov>
Cc: Tom Lilly <foragematters@icloud.com>
Subject: [External] Comments on proposed AddendumII

Tina Could you please enter these comments on Addendum II for the menhaden board And if possible let me know if the attachments can be printed out OK and if you receive this.
Thanks Tom L.

To James Boyle, Joe Cimino and the menhaden board members.

We wish we could enthusiastically support proposed Addendum II. We could if this Addendum followed the recommendations of your own protective options study group and its osprey subgroup that the season had to be closed in May and June.., See page 10 attachment one, . But, very unfortunately for our Chesapeake bay baby ospreys, this proposal drops the ball because it does not include the May-June closure that is absolutely necessary to prevent the baby Ospreys from starving again this spring. Unless you act to prevent this is this will your responsibility. You and only you can fix this.

This board has been researching the ways and means to take protective action to safeguard menhaden forage during the critical life stages of Bay wildlife for the last two years. You Concentrated

on the Osprey collapse. But, when the time came to do something with this Addendum the recommended option for a seasonal closure was left out. As a student in law school many years ago we were taught to look at legislative history of rule making to determine what the agency intended to do.... when we look at this we see that for the last two years the board has focused on the Osprey starvation problem , because in the words of the protective option group (attachment 2.) ospreys are a proxy for all the other Bay wildlife that rely on menhaden Forage, including striped bass. But, as we have said. when the time came for this addendum the specific seasonal closure for to June was not made an option. The Protective Options group studied And made recommendations based on ospreys because they are the most visible proxy for the condition of other Bay wildlife including stiped bass. See what was said at pg 1-2 0f their report to this board more that two years ago. Attachment 2.

There at least two options that you have if you want to protect Chesapeake Bay osprey babies from starvation this spring with this Addendum.

(1.) The enabling language from the board on this addendum allows you to pass rules to help the Bay ecology. So if you choose to do that you can put a zero cap for Virginia waters for the reduction fishery for May and June.

(2.) the second option is to amend the existing Addendum after the public hearings to add the May June closure. I believe the striped bass board made substantive changes and additions after the public hearings in their last addendum process so I believe there is precedent for you to do this if you care to.

I strongly believe that it is your responsibility with this Addendum to carry out the intent of the board to protect menhaden forage during the critical time of Chesapeake Bay wildlife and osprey babies in particular. That is the May June time According to your own protective options group and the Osprey scientists in the Osprey subgoup formed by your action. Will you consider that? Thank you for your consideration Thomas Lilly Whitehaven MD

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Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 N. Highland Street • Suite 200A-N • Arlington, VA 22201
703.842.0740 • 703.842.0741 (fax) • www.asmfc.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Atlantic Menhaden Management Board

FROM: Atlantic Menhaden Work Group

DATE: April 23, 2025

SUBJECT: Precautionary Management of Chesapeake Bay

Executive Summary

At its August 2024 meeting, the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board (Board) agreed to form a Work Group of Board members to "consider and evaluate options for further precautionary management of Chesapeake Bay menhaden fisheries, including time and area closures to be protective of piscivorous birds and fish during critical points of their life cycle." This charge asserts there is an inadequate supply of menhaden to support overall predatory demand in the Bay. However, the Work Group addressed this charge without determining if there is or is not an adequate supply of menhaden to support predatory demand in the Bay. Instead, it has developed feasible management approaches, and it is the responsibility of the Board to determine if or when it is necessary to implement them. The Work Group represented a balance of different backgrounds, regions, and perspectives; the members were:

Martin Gary (NY, Chair), Ray Kane (MA), Rob LaFrance (CT), Loren Lustig (PA), Joe Cimino (NJ), Allison Colden (MD), Pat Geer (VA), Spud Woodward (GA).

The Work Group met nine times between September 2024 and April 2025 via webinar and in-person to discuss alternatives for precautionary management in Chesapeake Bay that could be considered if the Board chooses to initiate a management document. Additionally, the Work Group created two subgroups, which each met once in September 2024, to begin evaluating data sources for piscivorous bird and fish species, respectively. In addressing the Board task, the Work Group developed the following questions to guide their consideration of potential management approaches:

1. What is the problem any management action would address?
2. What are the priority species to consider, and what are the critical points of their life cycle?
3. What data can be used to support this discussion?
4. For each management strategy discussed, what are the benefits and implications?
5. How would the performance of potential measures be evaluated?

The availability of menhaden may be affected by changes in total abundance, size distribution of the population, and timing of presence and spatial distribution in the Bay, which can be caused by fishing pressure, environmental conditions, habitat suitability, and/or changing predation pressures on a limited spatial and temporal scale. Such changes in menhaden availability may affect the species' ability to fulfill its ecological and/or economic functions. Recent observations of below average commercial fisheries landings and declining population reproductive rates of ospreys within the mainstem Chesapeake Bay suggest that availability of menhaden in Chesapeake Bay is likely changing due to one or more of the above drivers.

Potential Management Approaches

Based on the life history of the predators examined, the nature of Chesapeake Bay menhaden fisheries, and recent changes in menhaden availability, the Work Group discussed a number of precautionary management options that the Board could consider for further action. The approaches listed below could be implemented individually or in combination, depending on the Board's risk tolerance and management goals. A full description of the background information considered and the potential management options under each approach can be found in the Work Group report.

A. Seasonal Closures

Many of the species examined are seasonal inhabitants of Chesapeake Bay, utilizing the area as spawning and nursery grounds. Some species, like striped bass, have population contingents that are full-time residents in the Bay while other individuals leave the Bay to join the coastal migratory stock. Bird predators, particularly osprey, show high consistency in their arrival and departure times in the Chesapeake Bay, with only slight variations from year to year due to weather patterns.

Due to the seasonality of predator demand in the Bay, seasonal closures may be a management option that could reduce menhaden harvest during certain times of the year that are critical to predators' life cycles. This option presumes that decreasing menhaden harvest during these times of year will allow more menhaden to be available as forage for predators. Although, the Work Group noted concerns that implementing seasonal closures may lead to a concentration of harvest effort during other times of the year with unknown or unintended consequences. The Work Group discussed a suite of possible seasonal closure options, which focus primarily on the needs of the osprey population as a proxy for other predators as they exhibit relatively predictable seasonal habits and are showing signs of food stress. Ospreys have the highest and most critical bioenergetic requirements between May 1st and August 15th, and the range of options discussed includes subsets of this timeframe with considerations for the impacts to ospreys and menhaden fisheries.

March 20, 2025

Response to Questions on Chesapeake Bay Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) Foraging Needs

Workgroup Members
Bryan Watts, Center for Conservation Biology, William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA
Peter McGowan, U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, Chesapeake Bay Field Office, Annapolis, MD
Elissa Richmond, U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, Chesapeake Bay Field Office, Annapolis, MD
Greg Kearns, Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission, Croom, MD
Alexander Pellegrini, Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission, Croom, MD
Allison Colden, Maryland Executive Director, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Annapolis, MD
Barnett Rattner, U.S. Geological Survey, Eastern Ecological Science Center, Laurel, MD

What is the general timeframe of residence of ospreys in Chesapeake Bay?

Residency is generally 1 March through 15 September.

When do they typically arrive and when do they typically leave? How variable are those timelines?

Ospreys begin to arrive in the lower Bay in late February and arrival peaks by mid-March, and slightly later in the more northerly portions of the Bay (Bent 1937; Reese 1991; Watts and Paxton 2007). Most breeders are here by late March. A cutoff for arrival of breeders is typically taken to be 15 April. A second wave of birds arrives in the Bay in late May. These are subadults that are prospecting for territories that will be used the following year. These birds pair up and will often build a partial nest but do not lay eggs (referred to as house sitters; Poole 1989). Since these house sitters have not recruited into the breeding population, these pairs are not considered in estimates of population size or in calculating demographic rates.

Departure schedules for breeding adults and hatch-year birds differ by as much as a month with adults initiating migration in late August through mid-September and hatch-year birds leaving later (Poole 1989; Watts and Paxton 2007). It should be noted that during the early fall there is a mix of resident birds and migrants (from northern breeding populations beyond the Bay).

Arrival and departure are consistent year to year with some adjustments for weather, and the schedule could shift with climate change over time. It is likely that arrival time in the Bay advances with age of bird up to some stable point. Many resident birdwatchers who observe pair arrival report that birds have arrived at "their" nest often on the same date for years.

What is the general sequence of events during residency and when do they typically occur?

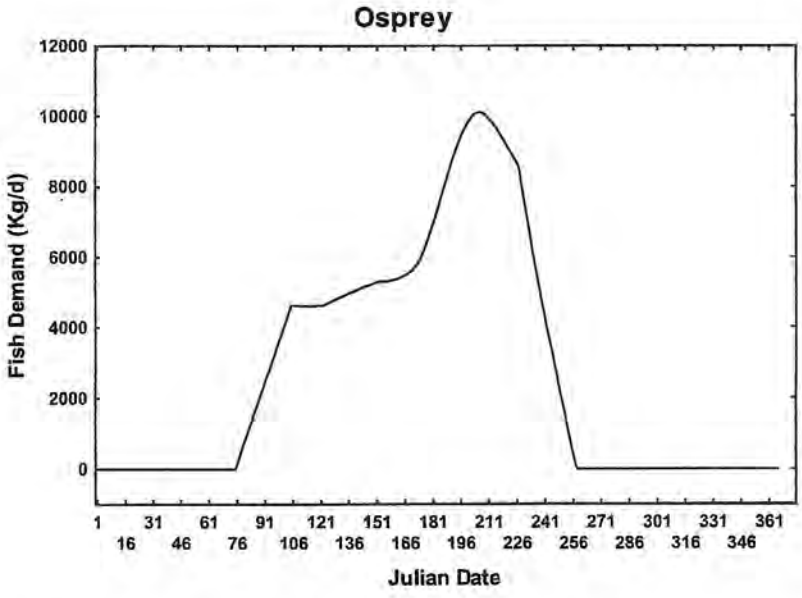
Adult Arrival – Late February through mid-April.
Nest Building – Peak 15 March – 15 April, but nest work can occur anytime.
Female Preparation for Laying – 1 to 31 March – effort includes female provisioning by male.

1 3/20/25

Laying – Early April through early May – Late layers are less successful; 2024 had both a high percentage of non-nesting adults and late clutches, observations that have not been previously documented.
Incubation – 39-day incubation period, both adults share duties, but female does more.
Hatching – Peaks during the second half of May.
Brood Rearing – First 3 weeks is the most critical period, male does most of the hunting, female does most of the brooding and care of young (referred to as nestlings or chicks), with the brooding period lasting 7-8 weeks.
Fledging – Most young (around 55-60 days old) in the Bay fledge in July (fledglings are young that are learning to hunt), and in 2024 some broods fledged later.
Post-fledging Period – Period between fledging and migration is a very vulnerable time for offspring. During the early part of the period, young are dependent on adults for food but less so over time as they learn to forage on their own.

Are there certain aspects of osprey life history during their residency in Chesapeake Bay that are more bioenergetically demanding than others? When do those activities occur? Are there estimates of consumption rates/needs?

The most bioenergetically demanding period during the annual cycle is when osprey pairs are raising broods. Historically, this period has been from mid-May through mid-July. In terms of population-level metabolic demand, estimates of the seasonality from years ago appear in the graph below (B.D. Watts, The Center for Conservation Biology, William and Mary, written communication, December 4, 2024). This graph was for a population size that is basically equivalent to that in the main stem of the Bay - the menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*)-dependent area. Overall demand was estimated to be only about 1.2 million kg/year (seasonal peak is only around 10,000 kg/d). This indicates that the period of highest energy demand at the population level is from mid-May through mid-August. It is important to note that the period of peak demand is not necessarily the period of critical demand. Most broods are lost within the first 2 weeks of development. Their demand is relatively low at that age, but the adults must meet that demand, or they will die. Older chicks have more energetic reserves and can overcome short periods of food deficit. Young chicks cannot. It is critical that enough fish be available that can be captured by adults and delivered to the nest during the May period so that broods can make it through this bottleneck.



How does forage availability relate to consumption rate (how much biomass is needed relative to consumption to account for encounter rate, handling time, etc.?)

This is really the central question that remains to be resolved to understand the relationship between the stability of the osprey/consumer population and management of the fish stock. We know from various piscivorous bird studies around the world that reductions in fish stock can lead to reductions in avian provisioning rates that result in brood reduction and low reproductive rates (e.g., osprey: Poole 1982; Hagan 1986; Eriksson 1986; Bowman et al. 1989; Steidl and Griffin 1991; Machmer and Ydenberg 1998). Observations of declines in provisioning rates in parts of the Bay have resulted in reproductive rates below maintenance. Osprey very likely have a Type II functional response curve (i.e., consumption rate rises with prey density, but gradually decelerates until a plateau is reached at which consumption rate remains constant irrespective of prey density), such that a rapid increase in foraging rate with increasing prey density leads-to a population asymptote (B.D. Watts, The Center for Conservation Biology, William and Mary, written communication, December 4, 2024). If we could understand where along that curve osprey need to be to break even demographically, we could then solve for what density of fish they require. An independent assessment of fish abundance for a few osprey pairs (n = 15-20) could enhance our understanding of this relationship. Currently, such fish abundance data are not available to describe this relationship. One approach may be to develop a catch-per-unit effort foraging model and solve for relative fish abundance. This approach could support a better understanding of spatial and temporal variation in menhaden availability and its relationship to reproductive rates.

How do osprey typically identify and select nest sites?

Little is known about the nest selection process itself, but quite a bit is known about patterns of substrate use. Ospreys prefer to nest over water when appropriate substrates are available,

presumably related to the "escape from ground predator" benefits (Poole 1989). Use of duck blinds has been studied throughout the Bay and the probability of occupancy increases dramatically around >25-m offshore Watts and Paxton 2007). Prior to the 1960s, the majority of nests were on snags and live trees. Since the 1960s, the majority of nests have shifted to human-made structures (Watts et al. 2004; Watts and Paxton 2007). There have been a couple of waves of the appearance of human-made structures including the rapid expansion of aids to navigation during the 1970s, and then later the rapid expansion of private osprey platforms since the 1990s. Thus, there have been shifts in substrate use over time, but the general requirements remain unchanged. Ospreys prefer stable structures that offer protection from predators and are near adequate sources of fish (Poole 1989; Watts and Paxton 2007).

Are they well-established over time or do they move annually?

Ospreys exhibit high nest site fidelity. Generally, once a nest site has been established, the pair will use it for many years or until there has been a change to the structure (Poole 1989). If the nest is lost to weather or to human removal, the pair will rebuild the nest. However, if the structure itself is lost or altered in some functional way, the pair is forced to select another structure typically within a short distance of the original nest. Loss of nest substrate happens regularly due to various forces, such as ice flows eliminating duck blinds in particular years or more systematically as in the recent removal of many aids to navigation throughout the Bay by the U.S. Coast Guard (Watts and Paxton 2007). If no appropriate structure is available after its loss, the pair will move and find a new place. Nest substrate can certainly be limiting in various parts of the Bay, but more so historically than now due to the proliferation of nestable human-made structures.

What is the typical foraging range for osprey?

The distance that adult osprey forage from the nest varies from site to site. In some populations most of the foraging is within site of the nest (< 2 km), but in others it can range much further (15-20 km). Some individuals have preferred hunting areas and spend quite a bit of their time in those areas, while others are much more variable in where they forage. Across pairs, a high proportion of prey come from within 10 km of the nest site (Poole 1989).

What is the behavioral response if sufficient forage is not found within the typical range – looking farther afield, prey switching, something else?

Ospreys are adaptable foragers and certainly will adjust their hunting strategy as conditions change. This includes switching to less preferred prey, spending more time foraging, foraging farther away from nests, changing hunting tactics, etc. However, like all predators, ospreys have to maintain a positive energy balance. If they must travel too far or spend too much time to obtain the forage they need, then costs may exceed returns and their location is not viable. The limit to viability during the brood rearing period requires that adults meet the energetic demands of the brood. If they cannot, then the nest will fail. Recent diet simulation research suggests about 60% of the diet must be in the high-lipid category (including menhaden, eel, mackerel, etc.) to break even (B.D. Watts, The Center for Conservation Biology, William and Mary, written communication, December 4, 2024). This is not the case in some parts of the Bay. Prey

switching is not a panacea. Diet quality in terms of energy density has declined by 50% since the 1980s due to increased use of low-lipid prey (e.g., striped bass, white perch) by osprey (McLean and Byrd 1991, Glass and Watts 2009, Academia 2022).

What are the individual and population level impacts of insufficient forage for ospreys?

If an individual is not able to obtain enough fish to meet its basal metabolic demands, it will either emigrate or die. This presumably is what drove the evolution of their migration and also why they live in proximity to bodies of water. In terms of reproductive rate and broods, osprey have like many birds evolved a behavioral mechanism to match the brood demand to the available food. Many pairs in the Bay hatch three chicks. If there is enough food to provision all of the chicks, then all will develop and grow synchronously and survive. If there is not enough food to sufficiently provision the three chicks, then a dominance hierarchy will form, and the most subordinate young will be fed last. If this chick does not get enough food, it will die. If the second chick does not get enough food, it will also succumb to starvation. This process is referred to as brood reduction – reducing the brood and associated metabolic demand to match food availability. If the dominant chick does not get enough food, the nest will fail. Brood reduction on a large scale is an indicator of food stress (Poole 1982; Hagan 1986; Eriksson 1986; Bowman et al. 1989; Steidl and Griffin 1991; Machmer and Ydenberg 1998).

At the population level, the principal driver is whether or not adult pairs are producing enough young to offset average adult mortality. If they are producing just enough on average, then the population is expected to be stable. If they are producing a surplus, then the population is either stable or increasing depending on the circumstance. If the population is in deficit, then it would be expected to decline unless it is receiving immigration from another population. Net dispersal is why population size alone does not always follow local reproductive success.

How are those impacts typically measured?

There are a number of metrics that have been quantified that may be related to food stress. Some of these are generic (e.g., reproductive rate, brood reduction) and do not isolate food stress from other causes and other metrics are too costly to implement at scale (e.g., provisioning rate, nestling growth rate).

Notably, osprey nests have been monitored throughout fairly large portions of the Bay since the 1960s (Reese 1968; Reese 1969; Reese 1970; Henny 1974; Reese, 1975; Reese 1977; Rattner et al. 2004; Watts et al. 2004; Lazurus 2015; and Lazarus 2016). Coverage has been less consistent since the 1990s, but over the past couple of years there has been greater effort to increase geographic coverage of osprey reproduction in the Bay. This information is used to generate a number of metrics that are used to gauge impacts, including nesting success rate, reproductive rate, chick loss rate (brood reduction), percent one-chick broods, etc. Efforts are planned to develop some metrics that are practical, can be implemented at scale and reflect food deficit stress.

How have those indicators changed in Chesapeake Bay over the past 10-20 years?

For at least Mobjack Bay, substantial declines in reproductive rates, overall provisioning rates, provisioning rates with menhaden, proportion of the diet comprised by menhaden and diet quality have been documented. An increase in male foraging time and brood reduction has also been observed. Importantly, reproductive rates have transitioned from surplus to deficit (Academia and Watts 2023; Watts et al. 2024).

In 2024, 12 study areas were monitored in the Bay including 10 within the main stem of the Bay (salinity >10 ppt) and 2 in the lower salinity reaches (<1 ppt). All of the 10 sites were in reproductive deficit, while the 2 lower salinity reference sites were in reproductive surplus. It is believed that ospreys nesting in much of the main stem of the Bay are menhaden dependent. Osprey in the low salinity sites do not depend on menhaden as prey (Glass and Watts 2009; Lazarus et al. 2016).

In 2025, we plan to work across four salinity zones to examine reproductive rates to see if the Bay-wide population is at risk due to the low reproductive rates in the main stem of the Chesapeake. The four salinity zones would include low salinity (0 to <5 ppt), low mesohaline (5 to <12 ppt), high mesohaline (12 to <18 ppt), and polyhaline (18 to 30 ppt).

Is there a comprehensive list of osprey nest sites in the Chesapeake (which are natural and which are artificial)?

The last systematic survey of the Chesapeake Bay osprey population was completed in 1996 (Watts et al. 2004). This survey has been converted to a digital coverage with all nests mapped and all substrate types indicated. We do not have an updated coverage for the entire Bay. We have nest locations and substrate types for select study areas throughout the Bay totaling approximately 1,000 nests. As described previously, ospreys reproducing in the Chesapeake Bay nest primarily on human-made structures. As of the 1990s, greater than 90 percent of Chesapeake Bay osprey nests were located on human-made structures (Watts et al. 2007). Osprey pairs are distributed throughout the entire tidal portion of the Bay and beyond, wherever appropriate conditions are available.

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS TO MORE FULLY CHARACTERIZE THE RELATION OF MENHADEN TO THE SUSTAINABILITY OF OSPREYS IN THE CHESAPEAKE

Establishing a menhaden monitoring program for the Chesapeake Bay

Currently, there is no effective and biologically robust monitoring scheme of menhaden within the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. This lack of a fisheries-independent assessment prevents evaluation of the potential impact of harvest on menhaden, which is required to set appropriate harvest regulations with respect to the needs of osprey. The lack of monitoring data on the scale of natural consumer populations also prevents directly linking changes in consumer populations to menhaden stock. Designing a menhaden monitoring program could support detection of spatial variation in menhaden abundance and identification of trends over time.

Summarizing and evaluating long-term historic data for the osprey in the Chesapeake Bay

Osprey breeding performance has been monitored throughout a large portion of the Chesapeake Bay for more than 50 years, including tens of thousands of nests and reproductive observations. A few papers have been published that address a specific list of questions. Gathering and compiling the existing raw monitoring data will create a . dataset that could allow for the evaluation of spatial and temporal patterns in breeding performance over a long time period.

Examining the historic relationship between osprey demographics and menhaden stock along the Atlantic Coast

Dozens of osprey monitoring programs exist along the Atlantic coast. Many of these programs were initiated during the DDT era and have continued for decades. Other monitoring efforts have been initiated in recent years or decades. An ongoing project by the Center for Conservation Biology (B.D. Watts, William and Mary, written communication, August 20, 2023) is to merge range-wide osprey monitoring efforts into a single dataset that may be used to evaluate the demographic response of breeding osprey to menhaden fluctuations. We plan to 1) develop an overview of existing monitoring data using a metadata template, 2) invite researchers with datasets to join a coalition and submit nest by nest data in a standardized format, 3) archive datasets in a common repository, 4) merge all data into a single centralized dataset and 5) evaluate the response of osprey demographics to menhaden and other explanatory variables within the appropriate spatial scale.

Investigating the role of climate in menhaden abundance in the Chesapeake Bay and related consumer populations

There is mounting evidence that natural events such as the Atlantic Multi-decadal Oscillation (AMO) may be shifting the center of biomass of menhaden to the north and may also be changing the phenology of entry into the Chesapeake Bay (Ney et al. 2014; Midway et al. 2020). Changes in abundance and phenology of menhaden related to climate change effects may be directly linked to recent shifts in consumer populations like osprey. Understanding these changes is critical to understanding options for mitigation.

Developing a metric of food stress in osprey that may be used as a monitoring tool for ecosystem conditions

Compile both recent and historic monitoring data to screen a number of candidates for development of a metric that may be measured economically and at scale for use as an effective indicator of food stress in osprey.

Developing an osprey catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) model for menhaden

One of the challenges in understanding the relationship between osprey brood provisioning, demography and menhaden stock is that we have no estimates of menhaden availability on the local scale. One potential work around for this void is to develop a CPUE model (prey capture/time spent hunting) for males provisioning broods. Development of a CPUE model for menhaden (and other fish species) would allow us to better define the state space where osprey may meet demographic requirements within the time available for hunting. A CPUE-

demographic framework could lead to a simple monitoring program based on male hunting that would inform whether or not stock levels are adequate to sustain a viable osprey population. The intent in building the CPUE model would be to develop a metric that would be practical to apply on a broad scale to indicate when/where menhaden abundance is adequate to sustain the osprey population.

During the 2023 breeding season, we completed a proof-of-concept for pairing high output, three-dimensional tracking of males with nest cameras (B.D. Watts, The Center for Conservation Biology, William and Mary, written communication, August 20, 2023). This pairing can allow for quantifying male time budgets, determining the time allocated to hunting, estimating the duration of hunting forays (both length and time), identification of hunting areas, determining captures/attempts ratios and the identification of fish captured. These metrics could allow for the assessment of species-specific provisioning rates and the development of species-specific CPUE models.

OTHER ISSUES OF CONCERN

Overlap between menhaden harvest sites and osprey breeding

One approach to evaluate the relationship between commercial harvest of menhaden and impacts to osprey reproduction could be to quantify overlap between menhaden net sets and osprey study areas (i.e., locations where we have recently quantified reproductive rates). This approach assumes that menhaden are spatially static such that the impact of harvest is restricted to the locality of capture. Most of the net sets are concentrated around the lower eastern shore where menhaden enter the Bay. In effect, menhaden are being intercepted as they migrate into the Bay. This activity impacts downstream consumers just as dams restrict the migration of fish up into tributaries and impact consumers above the dam. A more realistic assumption could be that there is high connectivity between localities throughout the Bay, such that actions in one place are likely to impact availability of menhaden to consumers elsewhere. If there is high connectivity throughout the Bay, then we would expect low correspondence between where fish are taken and impacts to other specific locations.

Density-dependence in osprey reproductive rates

The decline in osprey reproductive rate may be driven by the increase in osprey numbers such that the increased numbers are cropping down the menhaden stock - a density-dependent process that is likely playing out. As has been indicated elsewhere, osprey do not have the capacity to crop down menhaden. McLean and Byrd (1991) point out that osprey consumption represents a fraction of one percent of the commercial harvest. Even if we consider all of the bird consumers during the breeding season, the consumption is less than five percent of commercial harvest (B.D. Watts, The Center for Conservation Biology, William and Mary, written communication, January 28, 2025). This is consistent with an "upper-limit" estimate of double-crested cormorant consumption of menhaden along the coast of North Carolina (Watts et al. 2023). Osprey simply do not have the metabolic capacity to exert control of menhaden stock.

Although it is possible that behavioral interactions among nearby pairs of nesting ospreys could reduce time spent foraging and impair productivity, this has not been apparent in the

COMMENTS ON MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Seasonal Closures

Osprey and other bird species that depend on menhaden within the Chesapeake Bay are most sensitive to food shortages in the May and June time period. Mitigation measures designed to protect osprey or other bird species could attempt to insure high menhaden availability during this seasonal window.

Spatial Restrictions in Harvest

The current distribution of harvest appears like an intercept fishery, where fish are being harvested just before or as they enter the Bay. This effectively places the entire Bay in a compromised downstream position. If spatial restrictions are imposed, they could be around the mouth of the Bay where menhaden gain entry.

Use Osprey as Formal Ecological Reference Point

Osprey are a sensitive indicator of menhaden abundance within the main stem of the Bay. They could be formally listed as an ecological reference point and included within ecosystem management strategies. Specific reference conditions could be formally developed for osprey.

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James Boyle

From: Steve Lombardo <stevelombardo@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 11:22 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Dear Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am writing in support of stronger protections for Atlantic menhaden through Draft Addendum II. I urge the Board to adopt the following measures:

- **Reduce the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap by the full 50%.**
- **Link the Bay Cap to the coastwide catch limit**, so any reduction in the coastwide limit automatically reduces the Bay Cap.
- **Distribute Bay harvest across quota periods** to prevent concentrated removals in spring and summer and help maintain forage availability throughout the season.
- **Reduce the coastwide catch limit by 40% for 2027 and beyond**, as part of a science-based approach to protecting menhaden and the predators that depend on them.

As a Massachusetts recreational fisherman, I care deeply about maintaining healthy forage populations along the Atlantic coast. I ask the Board to prioritize the long-term health of the ecosystem and the fisheries it supports.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Stephen Lombardo
Milton, Massachusetts

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Stephen P. Lombardo
M: 617-699-3657

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By: .....

James Boyle
FMP Coordinator
1050 N. Highland St.
Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, Virginia 22201

September 8, 2026

Dear Mr. Boyle,

Each month, Longwood Public Library hosts a Teen Sustainability Club in which students in grades 7 through 12 explore environmental issues, often with guest speakers who discuss our local ecosystem and wildlife. In September, we had the pleasure of welcoming a representative from Group for the East End to learn all about ospreys! After learning about these magnificent fish hawks, including where they are often spotted in our Suffolk County community, teens felt enthusiastic about protecting not only our local ospreys, but also their primary source of food: the menhaden fish.

Enclosed are letters written by some of our teen attendees. Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity for our youth to exercise civic engagement and environmental advocacy!

With thanks,

Shelby Broderick and Megan Karaptis
Teen Services Librarians
shelby@longwoodlibrary.org
megank@longwoodlibrary.org
(631) 924-6400 ext. 249

Dear, Mr. Boyle

I live on Long Island, and I'd like for you to listen to us. Ospreys, a bird who lives on LI, mainly eat Bunkers. But their diet is 99% fish. This is the reason we're asking you guys to please decrease fishing quotas, due to the fact that an increased quota causes fish populations to plummet, and in turn, puts Ospreys' primary food source in danger.

THANK YOU!

- Joshua Battaglia

Dear Mr. Boyle,

I [redacted] live on long Island and I think not only wildlife but osprey are important to the environment and [redacted] that Bunker fish should be preserved for [redacted] a grow in population. I also value Osprey and the population status and an ongoing issue is the amount of Bunker fish be fished. It would be very appreciated if there was a limit in Bunker fish fishing to help Osprey.

- Gavin

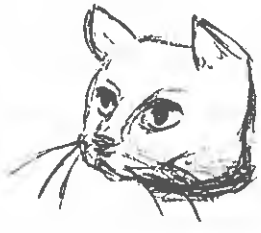
menhaden James Boyle James Bogle
a
bunker

bruh

Dear Mister Boyle

By reducing the percentage of how much menhaden / bunker fish, due to how this fish impacts the food chain & how it's a primary food source of the Osprey, the decline and reduction of these fish will impact the Osprey and any variety of other species that find these fish to be important to them in one way or another. Plus, those who enjoy birdwatching like to observe them, and if their primary food source were to be depleted- or worse- vanish- their population would, too.

Please consider decreasing the amount of Menhaden fish you allow fishers to take...



-Sincerly, Bella B.

Richard S. Mattison
1314 Pleasant Meadow Road
Crofton, Maryland 21114
443-699-0333

October 5, 2026

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

re: Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you to express my deep concern for the ultimate survival of the osprey population in the Maryland Chesapeake Bay region, which is being rapidly depleted due to the commercial over-fishing of their main source of nutrition… the menhaden fish population. This species of fish was previously naturally abundant in the Chesapeake Bay, but is now being commercially over-fished by a Canadian controlled fishing operation, with a direct impact on the survival rate of the osprey population. I beg you to please impose the proposed 50% reduction in the fishery cap (the "Bay Cap") of the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II.

My wife and I own a home on Mill Creek in Calvert County, Maryland. My parents actually purchased this waterfront property, and I enjoyed summers there as a small child more than 75 years ago. I grew up exploring the beautiful nature of the area year after year, and more recently, my wife and I rebuilt the original cottage into a retirement home. We have enjoyed and cherished this property for decades, as have our children, and our grandchildren.

We have enjoyed crabbing and fishing off of our dock, and we built a nesting platform for ospreys years ago. To our delight, the very first spring after we built the platform, a pair of osprey took the platform as their home, and have returned there year after year. Every year they produced two or three chicks and all members of our family have enjoyed watching the osprey parents hunt for fish, feed their young, and then watch those young chicks grow strong, test their wings, and then eventually fly off to form their own families in following years. The original osprey pair has returned each year to our nesting platform on Mill Creek in front of our property.

In the last three or four years, however, we have noted a decline in the production of chicks, and ultimately, the survival of the chicks produced. The last two years, no chicks have survived. We have heard similar tales from those in the area, and we have become desperately alarmed for the continuation of the osprey population in Maryland.

I recently attended a talk about this growing concern and came to learn of the essential need of the osprey for Omega-3 fatty acids for their strength and survival. Without this essential nutrient, they are simply not strong enough to seek fish for their food to the level required, nor are they able to obtain and

provide this rich, strengthening, food to their young chicks. The adult osprey become weakened, they either produce frail chicks who are, in turn, under nourished and die, or they produce no chicks at all.

The problem clearly leads back to the dramatic decline in the menhaden fish population. This fish contains the Omega-3 fatty acid at levels that no other species of fish even comes close to. The osprey eat fish…. only fish! When they ate previously abundant menhaden (with their high omega-3 fatty acids) the osprey survived. When they are forced to eat other fish (because of the absence of menhaden due to over-fishing of that specific fish), they perish.

This is not just my concern, or the concern of a handful individuals who have followed the osprey that nest near their property. The Center for Conservation Biology at William & Mary University confirmed that the 2026 osprey breeding season was the worst ever recorded in the Chesapeake Bay. Similar studies have noted a steady and dramatic decline in the osprey population over the last several years.

The primary culprit for this over-fishing of the menhaden population is a giant Canadian seafood corporation based in New Brunswick, Canada, known as Cooke, Inc. In 2017, Cooke, Inc. purchased an American company (Omega Protein), which operates a fleet known as Ocean Harvesters, out of Reedville, Virginia. This Canadian purchase of an American company was made to exploit Virginia fishing grounds, and siphon profits back to Canada.

Even setting aside the legal issues of possible violations of the American Fisheries Act, (which requires that commercial fishing vessels that operate in US waters be owned and controlled by American citizens), this company's purse-seine fishing boats literally vacuum up tens of thousands of metric tons of menhaden from the Virginia lower portions of the Chesapeake Bay every year. When fished to such extensive and complete levels at the mouth of the Chesapeake, little or no menhaden make their way up the Chesapeake to Maryland waters, as they used to naturally do.

Virginia is the only state on the east coast that still allows this industrial menhaden reduction inside its state waters.

To save the osprey from disappearing, we must allow their natural food source of menhaden to exist at sufficient levels. We are NOT asking for a ban on menhaden. We understand the commercial viability of their omega-3 fatty acids in a number of products. We are simply asking for an approval of the proposed "Bay Cap" under consideration by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Draft Addendum II, which could lower the current 51 metric tons harvested to as low as 25,500 metric tons.

Thank you for your attention to this serious issue.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Mattison

To the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission:

The health of Long Island Sound is directly tied to the Atlantic fisheries. This impacts local waterways like the Mystic River Watershed, Niantic River Watershed, Connecticut River Watershed, and all along the coast of Connecticut.

I volunteer with folks at the Alliance for the Mystic River Watershed who have directly observed what CT Audubon has already researched and discovered, that osprey populations are in decline because of starvation. Additional observations have been made of Great Blue Heron and Snowy Egret having to travel further inland to lakes for trout.

The Atlantic Marine Conservation Society and the Mystic Aquarium have noticed a sharp increase in the number of large mammals in Long Island Sound as well as an increase in woundings and deaths as they search for food following menhaden schools into the sound.

Osprey and other species that rely on menhaden do not have years longer to wait. Decisive action is needed now. **I am writing to request that the Commission reduce the fishery cap by fifty percent to ensure menhaden**, a foundation fish and key food source for Connecticut's ospreys, harbor seals, striped bass, otters, and whole ecosystems are not put into even greater danger.

Sincerely,

Dr. Meagan J.K. Moore
East Lyme, CT
Co-Coordinator
Mothers Out Front Connecticut

September 27, 2026

James Boyle, FMP Coordinator,
Atlantic Menhaden Management Board
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Re: Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Dear Mr. Boyle,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the "Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II". I am encouraged by the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board's (the Board) proposal to reduce fishing by 50 percent. Specifically, I align with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's request to "reduce the Bay Cap by 50 percent in 2027 and implement quota periods to more effectively distribute reduction fishing pressure throughout the season". I urge the Board to finalize this proposal at its upcoming meeting later this Fall.

As a resident of Silver Spring, Maryland, I find myself in the Chesapeake Bay region not infrequently. My reason for encouraging the Board to adopt these measures is because I am an avid birder and am very concerned with what is happening to the Chesapeake Bay population of ospreys. As I am sure you and the Board are aware, recent reporting has shown a sharp decline in successful breeding pairs of osprey on the Chesapeake Bay, which has historically been the largest breeding population of osprey in the world.[i] Menhaden are crucial to the osprey's survival, and it is clear that a shortage of Menhaden is harming the osprey population.

I align with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in advocating that the Board adopt the following within Addendum II:

> 3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount: Support option C1e that would reduce the Bay Cap by 50 percent and limits it to 13.6 percent of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC). Also, support option C2a which sets an upper limit of 51,000mt for the Bay Cap, which is the current level.
>
> 3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution: Support option B2 which establishes three even length quota periods for the Bay Cap, but distributes harvest 25 percent in period 1, 25 percent in period 2, and 50 percent into period 3. Also, support option B which establishes quota period overage payback and rollover of unused quota within a fishing year.
>
> 3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision: Support option B Revisit Provision to reassess the efficacy of these new management tools every 3 years.

Osprey are one of the most cherished birds of our region and the Menhaden are critical to their survival. I love seeing the osprey over the bay and in surrounding areas, and to lose this

population would be heartbreaking. Please adopt these protective standards so our osprey can thrive.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Paul Melmeyer
Resident of Silver Spring, Maryland

---

[i] Watts BD, Hines C, Byrd MA, Lukei Jr. RF, Paxton BJ, Duval L, Spiewak KE, Kearns GD, Day DD and Rattner BA (2026) Widespread reproductive deficits in Chesapeake Bay ospreys. Front. Mar. Sci. 13:1685158. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2026.1685158

James Boyle

From: Natalie Menage <fmenage@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 7:51 PM
To: James Boyle
Subject: [External] Addendum 1

I, Frederick C. Menage vote for the following:

3.1 - option C1e

3.2 - option B2

3.3 - option B

Thank You!

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James Boyle

From: Charles Metzgar <cmetzgar0931@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 4:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden vs osprey population

This summer season we have had 2 osprey along our riverfront house on approximately 8-10 platforms they nest on vs 14+ last summer.

It is my understanding that osprey catch menhaden for food but that has diminished this summer due to the over fishing of menhaden by the entity located in Reedville, Va.
I read an article on this topic recently & I don't understand why the appropriate Va governmental entity continues to allow that level of fishing by this entity. Can some Va governmental entity not put some limits on them?

I believe that is possible & the proper thing to do as the osprey have disappeared as a result of not limiting that fishing activity which is an unfortunate & disappointing trend.

Thanks for reading.
Chuck Metzgar
Sharps, Va

Sent from my iPad
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RECEIVED
OCT 15 2026
By: .....

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

I am a full-time charter captain based out of Old Saybrook, Connecticut, at the mouth of the Connecticut River. I have been running charter fishing operations for 16 years and currently employ four other fishing guides. I am writing because I am seriously concerned about the future of my business and the future of the recreational fishing industry throughout the Northeast.

For more than 25 years, I have watched the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound support an enormous population of Atlantic menhaden. Historically, millions of bunker have entered the Connecticut River and surrounding waters every year. They are the foundation of our inshore ecosystem and, more importantly to my business, they are what drives our striped bass fishery.

Over the past three years, I have watched the menhaden population decline to the point where there is now **virtually no bunker left in the Connecticut River, Long Island Sound, or the adjacent rivers.**

The consequences are already being felt.

There are significantly fewer striped bass. We have virtually no bluefish. The lack of menhaden has directly correlated with the decline in the abundance of the predatory fish that depend on them. There simply isn't enough forage here to support the fishery we have historically had. **This is no longer a warning about what might happen. We are watching it happen right now.** The fishery is on the verge of collapsing, and I believe immediate action is necessary. We need to dramatically reduce the amount of menhaden being removed by the industrial reduction fishery and put the health of the ecosystem ahead of the interests of the reduction industry.

The economic consequences extend far beyond charter captains. Striped bass are the number-one target species for the majority of inshore recreational fishermen in the Northeast. The striped bass fishery supports charter captains and guides, but also tackle shops, marinas, boat dealers, fuel docks, restaurants, hotels, boat manufacturers, and countless other local businesses.

I employ four other guides. If this continues, **my business and hundreds of other charter operations and fishing guides throughout the Northeast are at risk.** The economic impact of a healthy recreational striped bass fishery reaches thousands of people and businesses.

We need to look at the scale of the economics here. We are allowing a relatively small industrial sector to remove enormous quantities of a forage species that supports an entire coastal ecosystem and a massive recreational fishing economy.

The Atlantic menhaden fishery needs to be managed for the health of the entire ecosystem—not simply for the benefit of the companies harvesting them.

I am urging the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to take immediate action to dramatically reduce industrial removal of menhaden and increase protection of this critical forage species.

Please listen to the people who are on the water every day. For those of us who make our living on these waters, the decline is impossible to ignore. We have watched the bunker disappear, and we are now watching the fishery that depends on them disappear with it.

We need to protect the bunker. We need to reduce the industrial harvest. And we need to do it now, before the recreational striped bass fishery and the businesses that depend on it are pushed beyond the point of recovery.

I would welcome the opportunity to speak with the Commission or its staff and provide firsthand observations and information from the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Captain Michael Roy
Reel Cast Charters
Old Saybrook, Connecticut

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 11:57 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Henry Miller
Email
henry.miller@rbc.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support anything to reduce or eliminate the harvesting of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay. Anytime I fish in the bay or mouth of the Rappahannock River after the menhaden fleet have been in the area, the fishing is reduced to nothing. The Bay is suffering from the lack of menhaden and the other fish they catch as a byproduct of netting the menhaden. Please do anything you can to save the Bay from the menhaden fishing fleet.

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FORMAL COMMENTS ON ATLANTIC MENHADEN MANAGEMENT

Draft Addendum II and 2027–2029 Coastwide TAC Specifications

Submitted by Niels E. Moore | North Carolina | October 2026

To	Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission — Atlantic Menhaden Management Board
Position	Maintain the 51,000 mt Chesapeake Bay Cap; reject mandatory seasonal quota periods and automatic Bay Cap:TAC linkage; avoid further coastwide TAC reductions absent a demonstrated conservation need.
Deadline	October 9, 2026, 11:59 p.m. EST

Dear Chairman and Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board:

I respectfully oppose further coastwide Atlantic menhaden TAC reductions that are not necessary to prevent overfishing, and I oppose additional Chesapeake Bay controls that would reduce the Bay Cap, automatically link it to the coastwide TAC, or divide it into mandatory seasonal quota periods. I support ecosystem-based management and scientifically defensible conservation. My concern is that precautionary objectives should not become de facto biological thresholds without a clear evidentiary basis.

I have worked professionally on Atlantic menhaden issues, including service as Director of the Menhaden Resource Council and participation in ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Management Board matters. I offer these comments from the perspective of both conservation policy and practical fisheries management.

Executive Summary

- Atlantic menhaden are not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. ASMFC distinguishes the ERP F threshold, which determines overfishing status, from the lower F target, which functions as an additional buffer and management objective.[1]
- The 2026 TAC of 186,840 mt is already 20% below the prior TAC and was projected to have a 0% probability of exceeding the ERP F threshold in 2026; the 2025 projection table likewise shows 0% threshold exceedance for 2026–2028 at 186,840 mt.[2]
- Draft Addendum II itself recognizes significant uncertainty concerning Chesapeake Bay abundance, distribution, and the localized effects of fishing. The present 51,000 mt Bay Cap is already a precautionary measure, not a Bay-specific biological threshold.[3]
- Recent pound-net declines deserve investigation, but temporal co-occurrence with concentrated reduction harvest does not establish causation. Permanent spatial and seasonal

[1] ASMFC, Atlantic Menhaden species page (2026 stock status: not overfished; overfishing not occurring), https://asmfc.org/species/atlantic-menhaden/.

[2] ASMFC, 2025 Atlantic Menhaden Stock Assessment Update, Table 5 (ERP F threshold projections), October 2025.

[3] ASMFC, Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 (August 2026), Chesapeake Bay Cap background and discussion of scientific uncertainty.

restrictions should follow—not precede—analysis capable of separating fishing effects from movement, recruitment, environment, predator abundance, and other factors.

1. Do Not Convert the ERP F Target Into a Second Threshold

The most important management distinction in this debate is the difference between the ERP F target and the ERP F threshold. A target is an appropriate objective toward which managers may seek to move the fishery; it is not synonymous with overfishing. ASMFC currently classifies the stock as not overfished and not experiencing overfishing.

That distinction has practical consequences. If every excursion above the target automatically requires successive TAC reductions until F reaches the target, the target effectively becomes a binding ceiling. Before taking that approach, the Board should identify the incremental ecological benefit expected from each additional reduction and weigh that benefit against the associated economic and operational costs.

ASMFC's 2025 projection table illustrates the point. At the former 233,550 mt TAC, projected probabilities of exceeding the ERP F threshold were only 1% in 2026 and 4% in 2027 and 2028. At the reduced 186,840 mt TAC, those probabilities are 0% in all three years, while F is still projected to remain above the ERP target. The Board therefore should not characterize additional reductions as necessary to "end overfishing." Overfishing is not occurring. The policy question is how aggressively to pursue a lower target when threshold risk is already extremely low.

2. Further Coastwide TAC Reductions Require a Demonstrated Incremental Benefit

The 2026 TAC represents a substantial reduction from 233,550 mt to 186,840 mt. ASMFC explained that this 20% reduction was selected even though a reduction of roughly 50% or more would have been needed to materially lower the probability of remaining above the ERP F target.[4] That decision appropriately recognized that reference-point optimization is not costless.

For the 2027–2029 specifications, the Board should require a specific showing of what additional conservation benefit would result from any further reduction below 186,840 mt. It is not enough to say that a lower TAC moves F closer to the target; virtually any reduction does that mathematically. The relevant question is whether the additional reduction materially improves ecosystem outcomes in a manner proportionate to its costs.

3. Chesapeake Bay Restrictions Rest on a Much Weaker Quantitative Foundation

The scientific foundation for Bay-specific limits is materially different from the foundation for the coastwide TAC. The coastwide TAC is informed by a coastwide stock assessment and ecosystem reference points. By contrast, Draft Addendum II acknowledges uncertainty in the ability to characterize menhaden abundance, distribution, and fishing effects within Chesapeake Bay at the spatial scale necessary to resolve localized-depletion concerns.

That uncertainty does not mean ASMFC lacks authority to act precautionarily. It does mean that a numerically precise Bay reduction—10%, 20%, 30%, or 50%—should not be presented as though a Bay-specific stock assessment has identified a corresponding biological requirement. The current 51,000 mt Bay Cap itself resulted from a precautionary management history and was

[4] ASMFC, "Atlantic Menhaden Board Reduces 2026 TAC by 20% and Initiates Addendum for Chesapeake Bay Cap," October 2025.

reduced in 2018 to approximately reflect recent average reduction landings, not because a Bay-scale F threshold had been calculated. [3]

Accordingly, the Commission should retain the existing cap unless the record demonstrates that a lower level is necessary to address a defined conservation problem. Layering new precaution upon an already precautionary cap should require more than the existence of uncertainty.

4. Correlation With Pound-Net Performance Does Not Establish Causation

Draft Addendum II was initiated in response to concerns that more concentrated reduction-fishery effort may be affecting other fisheries and producing other ecological effects in the Bay.[5] Those concerns warrant research and monitoring. They are not equivalent to proof that reduction harvest caused recent changes in pound-net landings or CPUE.

Menhaden availability within a particular portion of Chesapeake Bay can be affected by recruitment, movement, temperature, salinity, habitat, predator abundance, school size, weather, fishing effort, market conditions, and other factors. A management action that attributes pound-net declines principally to reduction harvest should therefore be supported by analysis capable of separating those effects. Where the current data cannot resolve the mechanism at the necessary spatial and temporal scale, the appropriate response is additional research rather than permanent controls built around an assumed causal relationship.

5. Reject Mandatory Seasonal Quota Periods

The proposed quota-period alternatives would prescribe how much of the annual Bay Cap may be taken during specified portions of the fishing season.[6] That approach imposes calendar precision on a highly mobile schooling species whose availability can vary substantially among years and within seasons.

If the annual Bay Cap remains unchanged, redistributing the same allowable annual removals among calendar periods does not necessarily reduce annual fishing mortality. It may instead prevent efficient harvest when fish are available and push vessels and processing operations into less efficient periods. Before adopting such restrictions, the Board should identify the ecological mechanism through which the timing controls are expected to produce a measurable conservation benefit, and the evidence supporting that mechanism.

6. Reject Automatic Bay Cap:TAC Linkage

Draft Addendum II also considers linking the Chesapeake Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC so that future coastwide TAC changes automatically produce corresponding Bay Cap changes.[7] That would create an appearance of scientific precision without demonstrating that Chesapeake Bay abundance, localized fishing pressure, or predator forage availability changes in the same proportion as the coastwide TAC.

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[5] ASMFC, Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II Action Tracker (2026).

[6] ASMFC, Draft Addendum II Action Tracker and Draft Addendum II (2026), management options for seasonal quota periods.

[7] ASMFC, Draft Addendum II Action Tracker and Draft Addendum II (2026), management options for Bay Cap linkage to the coastwide TAC.

The two controls address different spatial questions and rest on different analytical foundations. Until the relationship between coastwide stock conditions and Bay-specific abundance or ecological risk is quantified, the Board should evaluate the Bay Cap on its own evidentiary record rather than mechanically tying it to future TAC changes.

Requested Board Action

- Do not further reduce the coastwide TAC solely to move F toward the ERP target while F remains below the ERP threshold; require a demonstrated incremental conservation benefit for any additional reduction.
- Select Draft Addendum II Section 3.1, Option A (Status Quo), and maintain the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap at 51,000 mt.
- Select Section 3.2.1, Option A (Status Quo), and reject mandatory seasonal quota periods.
- Reject automatic linkage of the Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC.
- Prioritize Bay-specific research on abundance, movement, fishing pressure, predator demand, and localized depletion before imposing additional permanent spatial or temporal controls.

Sound fisheries management requires matching restrictions to demonstrated biological need. Here, the stock is not overfished, overfishing is not occurring, the current TAC already provides a very large modeled buffer against the ERP threshold, and the Commission recognizes substantial uncertainty concerning Chesapeake Bay-specific effects. The defensible course is to retain existing Bay controls, complete the necessary research, and require a clear conservation rationale before layering additional coastwide, spatial, and temporal restrictions on the fishery.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Respectfully yours,

/s/

Niels E. Moore
North Carolina
Former Director, Menhaden Resource Council
M.S., Marine Science, Virginia Institute of Marine Science

James Boyle

From: Jennifer E. Nanni <nannije@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2026 8:23 PM
To: James Boyle
Subject: [External] Public comment - cap on bunkers/menhaden

I just read a piece in the Sandpiper that rightly called out the concerning loss of baitfish like bunker/menhaden in East Coast waters, but particularly in New Jersey waters.

Not due to environmental changes or natural disasters, but a commercial fishing cap that is devastating the population. This is a critical species for survival of osprey and others. In a year when multiple duck species are seeing a fall-off in surviving offspring due to starvation.

We have seen the mistake of overfishing happen decade after decade elsewhere, with permanent losses that will never be recovered.

Residents of New Jersey want to PREVENT a tragedy from happening. The caps are set for a reason, and must serve their purpose.

The "aggressive" 50% reduction is the bare minimum. Our wildlife is a crown jewel of our state.

We are responsible for not destroying it any more than we already are - especially not to foreign multi-million-dollar companies.

https://www.thesandpaper.net/articles/bunker-population-is-in-trouble/?fbclid=Iwb21leAUinEpjbGNrBSKcR2V4dG4DYWVtAjExAHBkb2YFc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQMMzUwNjg1NTMxNzI4AAEeU5WMYl394krf0QoeiLjDasxWMgXwRVsgkrJUim-dIWQL-ezA0vuKLc9T7iA_aem_6QDwpy2cZfIlj8iIIhqPoQ

Jennifer Nanni
Clinton, NJ

Nannije@gmail.com

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James Boyle

From: T <terrioro@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 3:03 PM
To: Rep. Joseph P Gresko; Sen. Craig A. Miner; William Hyatt; Robert Lafrance; Shanna Madsen; Matthew Gates; Comments
Subject: [External] Comments regarding the Osprey and the Draft Addendum
Attachments: Osprey Comment Document - Google Slides.pdf

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

RE: Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden

My name is Terri O'Rourke, I am an Audubon Steward residing in a Connecticut coastal community. This past year has been catastrophic for the Osprey in Clinton due to starvation. I have created a brief presentation documenting both Clinton's Osprey nest failure rate as well as my neighborhoods. I strongly urge the Commission to enact quickly the most significant caps to reduction fishing of menhaden, and any other menhaden fishing that warrants it, both in the Bay and the Atlantic. Anything less may result in a complete failure for the Osprey. Most statistics refer to nest failures, but that doesn't capture the full picture of the die off. I know data about hatchlings and success at that level, rather than nest level, is limited, but it more accurately reflects the urgency of the situation. We are all simply devastated by what's happening, Please, enact significant caps to protect the supply of menhaden for the birds, sea life and other wildlife.
Respectfully, Terri O'Rourke, Audubon Steward, 7 Harbor Pkwy, Clinton CT 06413
Below is a link to the Google Presentation, as well as a pdf copy.
Osprey Comment Document

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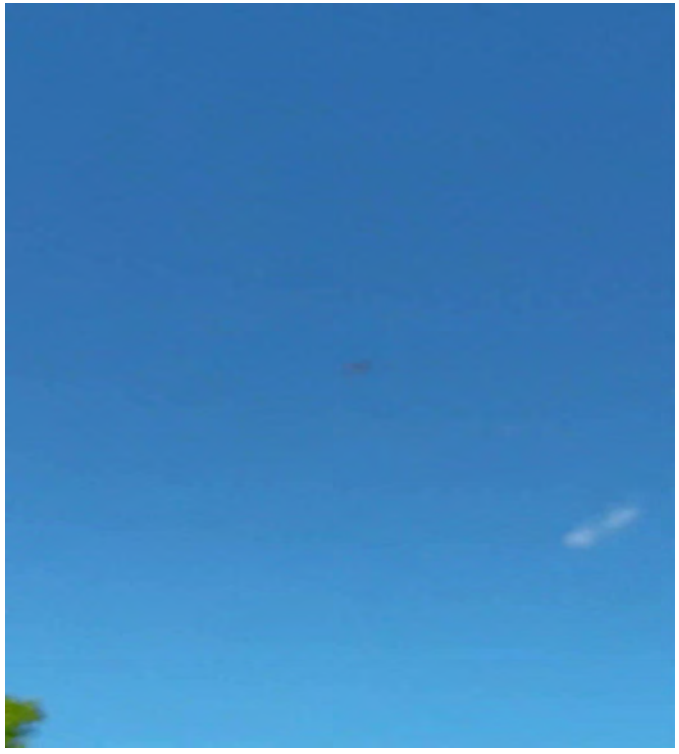
Clinton CT Osprey

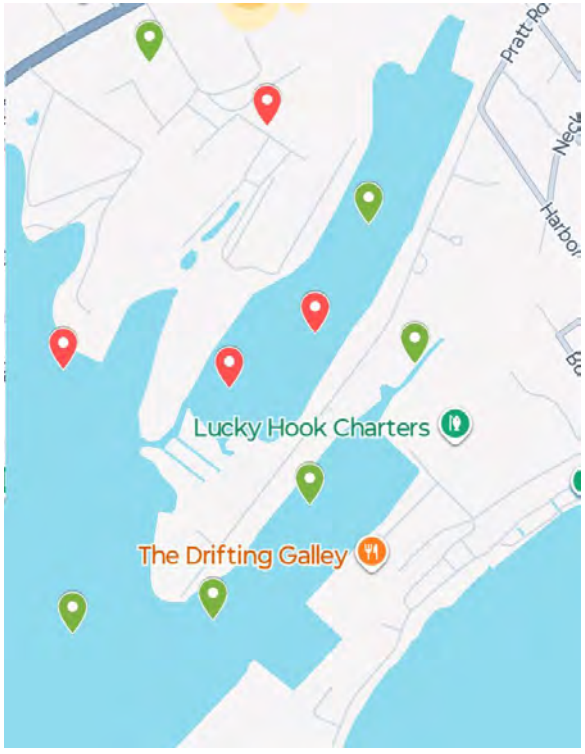
The Pratt Road Nests
Summer 2026

Terri ORourke
CT Audubon Steward
7 Harbor Pkwy, Clinton, CT 06413

One Neighborhood's Osprey

Pratt Road, Clinton Connecticut





Clinton Connecticut is home to 40 nesting sites. The Pratt Rd neighborhood has 8 of these nests in close proximity to residents homes. One of these has a live audubon camera.

The short video is what our skies typically sound like, May 2026

Clinton Nests

- Clinton has 40 nests. Observations indicated 28 were active this year. On those nests, 42 chicks were hatched. By July, only 7 chicks were observed.
- 7 chicks on 28 nests looks like 25% success.
- 7 chicks out of 42 hatchlings is really 16.7% success.

Pratt Road Nests

- There were 7 platform nests at the start of the season, 1 new tree nest was discovered mid season. 6 nests were observed as active, producing 15 hatchlings. By July, only 2 chicks were observed. 4 nests that are normally highly successful lost 13 chicks.

- 2 chicks on 6 nests looks like a 33.3% success rate.

- 2 chicks of 15 hatchlings is really a 13.3% success rate.

Nests normally highly successful, failed this year, most failed very early. Stewards in very close proximity to their nests were devastated watching parents struggle to catch fish, feed themselves and their chicks. Fish being caught appeared to be very small. Observers noted adult Osprey were out fishing for hours. Some Osprey parents gave up, abandoning their chicks.

Statistics tell one part of the story, but these birds are well loved. It is shocking to witness such a fast and catastrophic decline. It is especially upsetting when a camera feed bares witness to starvation, and the actions survival requires. What follows are some screen captures of loss and survival.

Camera Nest - 3 Chicks hatch by mid June.
June 26 Chick 1 dominates feeding time, denying 2 and 3 any food until it is gorged.

June 28 Dad brings fish back and consumes it completely.
All while Mom calls repeatedly.
She often leaves chicks unattended to fish.

June 30 As fewer and smaller fish are brought in, as Chick 1 and 2 grow, Chick 3 gets less and less.

July 3 - This Osprey Mom is experienced, and a very protective mother. Pictured providing some shade for the chicks, but few fish are brought to the nest.

July 3 – evening – Mom leaves to get fish. Chick 3 in foreground hasn't eaten at all that day. Note Chick 1 has a full crop.

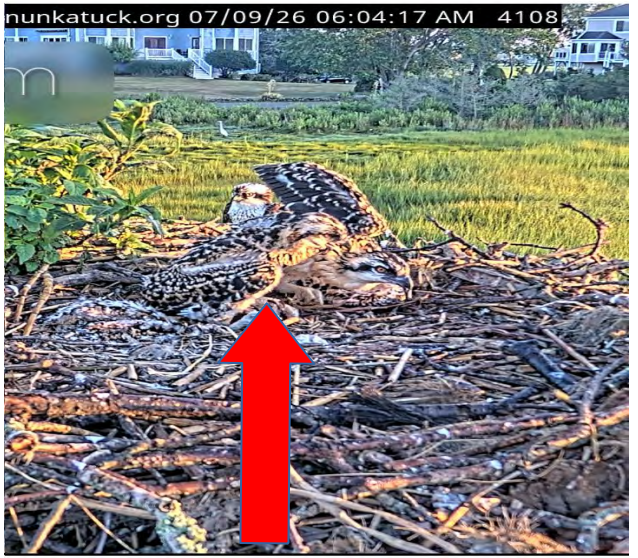
July 4 – evening – Chick 3 in foreground, got some food, pictured with a full crop, all three chicks were fed.

July 5 – Chicks 1 and 2 are preventing Chick 3 from receiving any food. Mom goes to find Dad at 5:45 pm to get him out for some fish. A feeding takes place at 7:45, but 3 goes the entire day without food and 2 gets very little.

July 6 – is a stormy day, with heavy rain. Mom uses her body and the plant to provide some protection to the chicks. Neither she nor the chicks eat at all during the day. Chick 3 dies during the storm. The other chicks are exhausted.

July 7 – sometime between 5 and 7 am, Mom leaves the nest. She does not return for more than 24 hours. The chicks did not eat July 6 and will not eat at all on July 7.

July 8 – around 9 am Mom returns and resumes feeding the chicks. Chick 1 is now blocking Chick 2 from getting much more than a few bites.



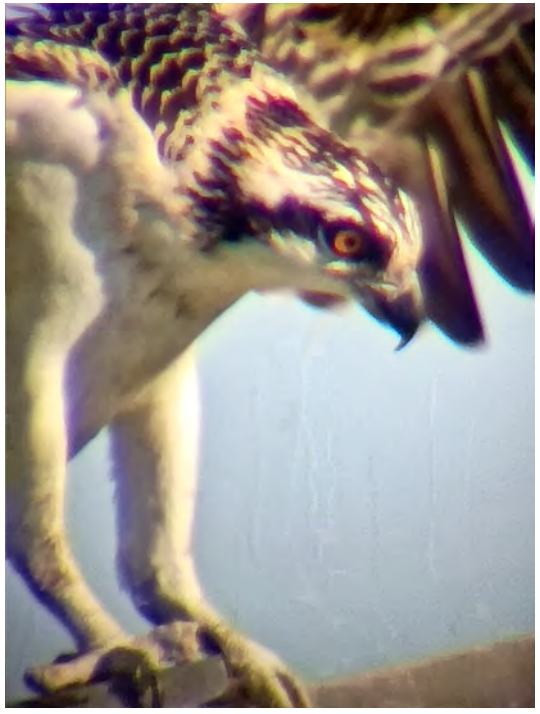
July 9 – Chick 2 is actively dying. It dies during the day, slowly on camera for all to see. It literally starves to death in front of us.

Of 15 hatchlings in this neighborhood there are now only 2 surviving.

In prior years, and in other nests with multiple chicks, the fight for food among chicks lessens as the supply of fish is consistently sufficient for the nest. In the camera nest, the behavior with Chick 1 battling the other 2 for food was very hard to watch and only intensified as the size of the fish and the volume of fish wasn't enough.

The adults spend the rest of July feeding the remaining chick, though some days are tough and some days are filled with multiple feedings.

The skies above the neighborhood are very quiet. Only when the two remaining neighborhood chicks near fledging do we hear a few ospreys enjoying the sky again.



August 4 Chick 1 fledges. And on its very short 2nd flight scares itself by flying into a flag and flagpole.

August 11 – 13
a visitor joins Chick 1, aka chickzilla, and stays a few days. They tussle and eventually the visitor leaves after getting some food from Dad.

Observations on social media from other stewards note the occurrence of visitors to other nests for several days is happening in multiple locations.

Sept 2– Chick 1 was still visiting the nest during the day calling for food. No observations noted as to whether the chick is catching fish on its own.

Dad has been encouraging the chick to fish, delaying food delivery for hours.

Chick acts ferocious and protective of the fish, but Dad delivered it!

While Clinton focuses on 7 surviving chicks, what will our population look like in two years. We had at least 56 adults in the area this summer, what will that look like next year if there is no food during their migrations?

It is clear there was a serious problem with menhaden for the shoreline osprey. Fishermen throughout the area reported the absence of menhaden/bunker fish for most of the summer.

It is urgent for the commission to do something now to reduce the volume of menhaden being removed from the food supply for the birds and other sea life.

The skies went silent this year; it's a human caused problem and it requires an immediate human solution.

Comments regarding specific Addendum:
3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount
Option C. Linking the Bay Cap to Coastwide TAC
C1e 13.6% 50% reduction to 2026 Bay Cap : 2026 TAC 25,500 mt
C2a. 51,000 mt Lower: None Upper: Current Bay Cap
Option B. Three Quota Periods
B2 Even Length & Uneven Harvest 9 weeks May 3–Jul 4 25% 10 weeks Jul 5–Sep 12 25% 9 weeks and 5 days Sep 13–Nov 19 50%
Option B. Quota period overage payback with rollover of unused quota within a fishing year.
Option B. Revisit Provision. The Chesapeake Bay Cap will be revisited every three years following implementation of this draft addendum. AT A MINIMUM

It was my intent to specify the most significant reductions proposed, both for Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic.

Regarding the Harvest period, I know our birds migrate in September, leaving throughout the month. I want to ensure that harvesting in the 3rd period still protects the birds food supply.

Jonathan R. Peters, Ph.D.
Ph.D. Program in Earth and Environmental Science
Ph.D. Program in Economics
365 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10016-4309
718.982.2958
Jonathan.peters@csi.cuny.edu
http://www.gc.cuny.edu

THE GRADUATE CENTER
CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Council
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

October 4, 2036

Dear Members of the Marine Fisheries Council,

I write to recommend significant reductions in the Atlantic Menhaden catch due to a significant risk in the stability of the fish stocks and the short and long term negative impacts on the environment.

As an economist, I will particularly focus on the economic analysis provided in the draft impact statement (Section 2.3: Social and Economic Impacts). In my view, it is quite deficient in terms of capturing the real economic impacts as well as the significant risks that are likely to occur based on an overfishing of this resource.

In detail, the economic analysis focuses on the potential negative impact of the harvest changes that may cause a reduction of 98 direct jobs in the fish meal & oil (reduction) industry in Virginia and yet has no analysis of the significant potential gains or preservation of value due to a reduced fish meal & oil harvest.

In reality, the fish meal & oil process harvests the vast bulk of the catch of menhaden in an industrial fashion that yields an effective catch that is 100% of the allowable harvest limits. Yet, undiscussed in the economic analysis is the potential risk of overfishing of the menhaden stocks and the potential loss of the other areas of economic value created and supported by the menhaden stock. This includes the commercial collection of menhaden for bait in support of the recreational fishing industry and recreational anglers. Also, the stock of menhaden supports and sustains the population of recreational game fish and commercial food fisheries. Further, the stock of menhaden provides the food stocks for many other species including birds, gamefish and other littoral species.

I also note that no value is provide for the benefit caused by the reduction in bycatch losses of other fish species if there was a reduction in the fish meal & oil catches. This would be a positive impact of significant value that is not valued in the Draft Addendum II (August 2026). Even given a very conservative value ($4.00 a pound) of the bycatch (3.6% of menhaden tonnage) and a small percentage (20%) of the bycatch that turns into food fish stocks – the economic value of these landings could be twice the value of each pound of menhaden.

CUNY

The economic value of tourism, recreational fishing, bird watching and nature visits should and must be included in the economic analysis of the impact of the menhaden catch reduction. The reduction in economic activity caused by the reduction in the fish meal & oil industry take of menhaden should be properly compared to the significant potential gain in value and reduction in risk to the economic activity and jobs that are potentially at risk due to the overfishing of the menhaden stocks.

No analysis of the risk of the higher catch limits and the resulting downstream impacts of the loss in recreation activities as well as the significant disruption in the natural environment are included in the report. This should be corrected and evaluated in the decision process.

Sensible economic analysis would speak to conservation of the fish stocks and implementing a harvest target that is highly likely to result in a stable and growing fish stock as the prudent course of action. If we have a significant overfishing of the stock that leads to a subsequent collapse of the fishery – we then face a recovery process with negative impacts that may last a decade or more. Underfishing has significantly more economic potential as compared to overfishing – as a strong fishery can be managed for long term value with improved future catch limits – as opposed to an overfished stock – where negative impacts spill over into other sectors and dramatic actions are then needed to rebuild stocks.

The recent Presidential Executive Order 14430 of September 17, 2026 appears to me to suggest a course of action for the management of the menhaden fishery focusing on preserving recreational fishing and the natural environment.

I would be happy to work with your staff on the quantification of these impacts as well as a full discussion of the risk quantification that should be performed to fully value the proper management of this important natural resource,

Please feel free to reach out to me if you want to discuss this further or have any questions.

Yours truly,

Jonathan R. Peters, Ph.D.
Professor of Finance & Data Analytics
The College of Staten Island Chazanoff School of Business
&
Member of the Doctoral Faculty
The Ph.D. Program in Earth and Environmental Science &
The Ph.D. Program in Economics
The CUNY Graduate School
Email: Jonathan.peters@csi.cuny.edu

James Boyle

From: G2W2
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 3:17 PM
To: James Boyle; Comments
Subject: FW: [External] Follow up Comment

-----Original Message-----
From: Susan Petit <horse5879@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 10:12 AM
To: G2W2 <G2W2@asmfc.org>
Subject: [External] Follow up Comment

As a follow up to the conference I wanted to reiterate that ospreys are an indicator species. Their decline reflects the complete overfishing of Menhaden which are essential to their health and to the heath and survival of other marine life. We in Connecticut have worked hard to restore the osprey population not to see them starve. In Great Island only seven fledglings survived, out of over one hundred nests, an unsustainable and unheard of loss. The Chesapeake Bay needs to be protected as a nursery for Menhaden not to be subject to unsustainable fishing. Please put the most restrictive limits on Menhaden fishing to protect our ospreys and all the other life that depend on them.

Susan Petit
Old Saybrook, Connecticut

Sent from my iPad
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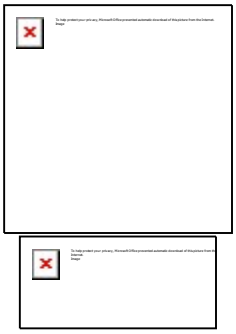
James Boyle

From: Brittany Powell <Brittany@mcknight.law>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 9:02 AM
To: James Boyle
Subject: [External] Please protect the osprey from overfishing

Mr. Boyle,
As Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, I was writing just to let you know how critical our avian populations are right now. The decline of osprey in this area will have lasting impacts. I hope you guys are aggressive with the policy to manage overfishing. Thank you!



Brittany A. Powell
Civil Trial Attorney | McKnight Law Group

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My name is Amy Glotfelty. I'm an Anne Arundel County resident and wildlife photographer. For the last 4 years, I've spent approximately ten hours a week observing osprey throughout their season, including two nests at Fort Smallwood Park in Pasadena, MD and from water access near my home nearby. My dedication to their ongoing conservation grows with each year I spend watching another season of osprey life unfold.

I have noticed a concerning trend of negative outcomes for the 2 nests I have observed, as have studies completed by The Center for Conservation Biology (CCB) (https://ccbbirds.org). Their tracking has revealed a severe, compounding, multi-year reproductive collapse along the high salinity mainstem of the Bay:

- 2024: .51 young per pair
- 2025: .35 young per pair
- 2026: .25 young per pair

2026 was officially documented as the worst productivity year ever recorded in Chesapeake Bay history due to widespread starvation.

Personal Observations

Over these 4 years of observation, I observed the following in these Fort Smallwood Nests:

	2026	2025	2024	2023
Nest #1	1	1	1	2
Nest #2	2	0	2	1
Total	3	1	3	3
Detail of chicks with uncertain outc	One juvenille from the 2nd nest fledged in early August, but then was not seen again after 8/11, subsequent survival unknown		The sole juvenille from nest 1 became entagled in fishing line (impacting one leg/talon), later survival unknown	
# of Likely Successful Chicks	2	1	0	3

The two nests showed substantial annual and nest-specific variation. However, the 2026 record contains repeated observations consistent with feeding difficulty. The most concerning behaviors were concentrated in late July and August 2026. Specific changes in behavior included the following:

- Juveniles calling for their parents for prolonged periods.
- Fewer deliveries of fish that I identified as menhaden and more deliveries of other fish species. On some days, I watched for approximately four hours without observing a single fish delivery. That does not establish that they went the entire day without food, but those extended periods were concerning.
- Adults appeared to travel further (bringing fish from open water instead of shoreline) and remain away longer during fishing trips. Repeated aborted dive attempts.
- Reduced adult perching at nest later in season.
- Sibling competition, and later aggression when fish was delivered. The stronger juvenile monopolized the fish, refusing to share with its sibling, resulting in the 2nd juvenile spending

noticeably more time sleeping and it appeared more lethargic than young birds I had observed in previous years.
- Juveniles did not begin to flap their wings or attempt to fledge until beginning to mid-August, compared with approximately mid-July in previous years

The most significant period of the above behavior developments was observed between July 24 through August 22.

- July 24, adults were rarely seen perching at either nest from this date forward, juveniles were begging frequently, and only one nest delivery had been observed during approximately seven hours of observation over the preceding week.
- July 26, juveniles at both nests were observed begging continuously during morning and evening observation periods. Sibling competition was observed at Nest 2, with one juvenile consuming most of the food and the other lying down between begging periods.
- August 1, adults were observed aborting some dives before entering the water. Two fish were nevertheless delivered to Nest 2 during that visit and significant sibling aggression was observed.
- August 11 – The stronger juvenile from nest 2 disappeared after fledging a few days earlier. It was no longer seen at the nest or nearby for the remainder of the time. It's subsequent fate is uncertain.
- August 22, the remaining observed Nest 2 juvenile caught a fish, ate only a few small pieces, abandoned it, and then begged from an adult

Together, these observations establish a coherent period of concerning feeding and juvenile behavior. I realize theses are repeated personal observations and not a controlled scientific study. They are specific to 2 nests and cannot necessarily be extrapolated to the full osprey population. However, my history with these nests gave me a clear baseline to evaluate the 2026 behavior changes against. I cannot establish that food shortages caused these behaviors or that menhaden harvest caused a shortage, but I believe these observations warrant attention and reinforce the need to monitor whether forage is available where and when osprey need it.

Additional Contextual Research/Data Analysis

Throughout the period of my 2026 observations, I gathered additional data to try to better understand what all the factors were that could be contributing to the changes I had observed. In addition to fish availability, I also wondered if changes in water quality, pollution, extreme heat or the frequency/severity of strong storms could also be contributing to the apparent reduction in forage ability and nesting outcomes. I pulled data for 2023-2026 as specific to the nests I was observing and have included what I found below for additional context.

<u>Fish Availability</u>

Bay-wide indices varied considerably by species from 2023 through 2025 rather than showing one uniform trend. Menhaden and spot indices were lower in 2025 than in 2023, while herring increased modestly and white perch increased substantially.

Species	2023	2024	2025	2023–2025 change	2025 vs. 2013–2022 median
Menhaden	3.782	3.659	2.536	-32.9%	96.9%
Spot	0.844	3.815	0.71	-15.9%	59.6%
Herring	0.088	0.019	0.129	46.1%	-7.0%
White Perch	0.981	1.227	5.125	422.5%	-17.6%

Source: Maryland DNR Juvenile Striped Bass Survey data (2026 not yet available) *for Bay and Head of Bay Locations. (https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/striped-bass/juvenile-index.aspx)*

Weather

A simple, consistently worsening trend across weather measures could not be identified.

Year	Weather Conditions	Avg. High	Total Rain	Avg. Wind	Peak Gust	Thunder Days	Days ≥90°F
2023	Moderate weather	78.1°F	27.31 in.	6.42 mph	63.1 mph	38	35
2024	Higher storm activity	78.5°F	23.10 in.	6.53 mph	53.0 mph	38	45
2025	Heavy rainfall and storms	77.6°F	26.38 in.	6.53 mph	53.9 mph	34	29
2026	High temperatures and storm events	78.3°F	24.90 in.	6.49 mph	59.9 mph	34	35

Source: NOAA daily weather data for BWI March 1 - Oct 3 for 2023-2026 (https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/cdo-web/datatools)

Water Quality

Average dissolved oxygen remained relatively similar across the four comparison periods. However, the data also show recurring short-duration low-oxygen readings that are not apparent from the annual averages. In 2026, 104 monitored station-days included a dissolved-oxygen reading below 5 mg/L, and 52 included a reading below 2 mg/L, the highest number of below-2 mg/L station-days in the four-year comparison. Water temperature, salinity, turbidity, chlorophyll, and pH also varied materially among years, although the data do not demonstrate one uniformly worsening trend across all measures.

Year	Avg. DO	Station-days below 5 mg/L	Station-days below 2 mg/L	Avg. water temp.	Avg. salinity	Avg. pH	Avg. turbidity	Avg. chlorophyll
2023	8.02 mg/L	77	44	67.97°F	8.58 ppt	7.92	6.49 NTU	17.37 µg/L
2024	8.42 mg/L	102	45	70.50°F	4.40 ppt	7.95	6.91 NTU	21.79 µg/L
2025	8.69 mg/L	110	34	69.36°F	7.12 ppt	7.99	7.51 NTU	33.16 µg/L
2026	8.03 mg/L	104	52	70.00°F	8.3			

Source: Eyes on the Bay data exports for *station WT5.1 and Patapsco River - Masonville Cove Pier for 2023-2026 (eyesonthebay.dnr.maryland.gov)*

Conclusions/Public Comment Support

My personal observations, conversations with others who have noticed the negative impact on local osprey populations and research of alternative possibilities have led me to believe that food shortages have a high probability of contributing to the negative impact on osprey populations. However, I also think that new implementations are most successful when approached moderately, with further changes supported based on analysis of results.

For the specific management options, I support:

Section 3.1, Option B, Sub-option B2, with phased implementation of the 20 percent reduction. I request an initial reduction of 10 percent from the current cap, followed by a public evaluation before proceeding to the full 20 percent reduction from that original cap.

3.2.1, Option B1, to distribute harvest more evenly across three seasonal periods, with allocations of 33, 33, and 34 percent. I support Section 3.2.2, Option B, to provide accountability for quota-period overages while allowing unused quota to move later in the season.

Section 3.3, Option B, requiring the Bay cap to be revisited every three years. In addition to that three-year review, I request annual monitoring reports and an explicit evaluation before further reduction phases. That evaluation should consider actual harvest changes, local forage availability, osprey feeding and nesting outcomes, environmental conditions, and economic effects on fishing communities. Monitoring, review dates, and criteria for further action should be established at the outset, allowing enough time to assess results while preserving the ability to respond sooner if conditions worsen.

Thank you for considering my observations and comments.

Amy Glotfelty

Amy.lynn.cpa@gmail.com

James Boyle

From: Donna Ransome <djransome13@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 9:43 AM
To: James Boyle
Subject: [External] Bunker Off NJ: Public Comment Period

Do whatever it takes to restore the bunker populations to their previous numbers.

Donna Ransome
8 Stagecoach Drive
Little Egg Harbor, NJ 08087
201-637-2628

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James Boyle

From: Michael Santoro <msantoro@brielleyachtsales.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 10:24 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Attachments: IMG_1467.tiff

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello,

It is clear that the bunker stocks off NJ's coast is being negatively impacted. Sure there were days where the bunker was hard to find in the fall but it is much worse now than it has ever been. Only able to find peanut bunker for the entire summer. Went Striped Bass fishing yesterday and saw 0 bunker schools in around 30 miles. These fish are surviving on sand eels currently, so half of their normal diet during the fall.

Best,
Mike

Michael Santoro
Sales Representative
Brielle Yacht Sales
201 Union Lane
Brielle, NJ 08730
Cell: 732-703-2089
Office: 732-612-3584

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James Boyle

From: Loretta <ljoschwab@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:55 PM
To: James Boyle
Subject: [External] Subject Line: Addendum 1 Comment for the Public Record"

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my strong support for Addendum II and the most restrictive options under consideration. Sufficient research has already been conducted, and the evidence clearly demonstrates the need for an immediate reduction or moratorium rather than further studies.

Decisions regarding Atlantic menhaden have far-reaching impacts on entire ocean ecosystems. Often referred to as the most important fish in the sea, menhaden serve as a vital food source for osprey, whales, dolphins, and striped bass, while also supporting commercial and recreational fisheries that sustain coastal economies. As a coastal resident, the decline in osprey populations and the broader health of our marine environment are matters of great concern to me.

Thank you for your time, attention, and consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Loretta Schwabenland
533 Oakmont Dr.
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579

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Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC):

I am writing as a Maryland resident who has lived in St. Mary's County since the mid 1970's and has developed a deep personal connection to the Chesapeake Bay. I am an avid boater who has lived on the Patuxent River for almost 25 years and someone who spends considerable time on and around the Bay. I am also deeply interested in the wildlife that depends upon this remarkable ecosystem, particularly osprey, striped bass, sharks, whales, and other species whose survival is tied directly or indirectly to a healthy forage base. We have a pair of Ospreys who have a nest right off our pier and while they always produced 2-3 offspring every year, they have been unable to produce any offspring over the past 4-5 years.

I strongly support a 50 percent reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons annually. I also strongly support establishing seasonal quota periods for menhaden so that harvest is distributed throughout the year rather than concentrated in an intense summer fishing window.

The Chesapeake Bay is facing an ecological crisis that should not be minimized or postponed. Declining productivity, widespread osprey nest failures, and continued concerns about the condition of the striped bass population are warning signs that demand a precautionary approach to the management of one of the Bay's most important forage fish - **menhaden.**

Menhaden are not merely another commercial commodity. They are a foundational component of the Chesapeake Bay food web. They provide critical forage for striped bass, osprey, bluefish, weakfish, dolphins, and numerous other predators. Removing very large quantities of menhaden from the Bay during the period when they are most concentrated and most biologically important deserves particularly careful scrutiny.

The scale and timing of the reduction fishery are especially troubling. More than 100 million pounds of menhaden can be removed under the existing Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap. When that harvest is concentrated into a relatively short summer period, the ecological effect is not simply a matter of the annual tonnage. **Where and when the fish are removed matters.**

An intense summer harvest can create localized depletion at precisely the time when menhaden are serving as forage for other species. It also potentially deprives recreational anglers, commercial watermen, charter operators, and the broader coastal tourism economy of access to a shared public resource. These competing interests deserve meaningful consideration in the management process.

I am particularly concerned about allowing an annual quota to be treated as though the timing of harvest is irrelevant. It is not. A fish removed from the Bay in June is not ecologically equivalent to that same fish being harvested months later. The Bay's predators have seasonal feeding requirements, and the availability of forage during critical periods can matter greatly to their survival and reproductive success.

For that reason, I urge the Commission to establish **strict seasonal quota periods that distribute the allowable harvest more evenly throughout the year and prevent the reduction fishery from concentrating an extraordinary volume of harvest into the summer months**. Seasonal management would provide a more precautionary approach and would better recognize the fact

that Chesapeake Bay is a dynamic ecosystem rather than simply another geographic allocation within a coastwide fishery.

There is also an important management issue that deserves attention. The Commission's coastwide menhaden assessment does not provide the same level of quantitative information about menhaden abundance and availability specifically within Chesapeake Bay. That uncertainty argues for caution—not for assuming that the Bay can safely sustain the maximum allowable harvest.

The Chesapeake Bay belongs to all of us. It belongs to the watermen who have made their living here, the recreational fishermen who pursue its species, the sailors and boaters who enjoy its waters, the communities whose economies depend upon it, and the wildlife that has no voice in these proceedings. Menhaden management should reflect that broader public interest.

I respectfully urge the Commission to:

1. Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons per year.

2. Establish firm seasonal quota periods for menhaden.

3. **Prevent excessive concentration of reduction harvest during the summer months.

4. Apply a precautionary approach in light of ecological uncertainty and the importance of menhaden as forage.

5. Give meaningful consideration to the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the Bay's broader tourism economy.

I have spent years watching, enjoying, and caring about the Chesapeake Bay. I have seen firsthand what makes this ecosystem extraordinary, and I am increasingly concerned about the signs that its productivity and resilience are being strained.

We should not wait until the consequences are unmistakable before acting.

The prudent course is to reduce the intensity of the reduction fishery now, protect menhaden as a critical forage resource, and distribute harvest in a manner that gives the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem a better opportunity to sustain the wildlife and fisheries that depend upon it.

Thank you for your consideration and for your responsibility to future generations of Chesapeake Bay users and stewards.

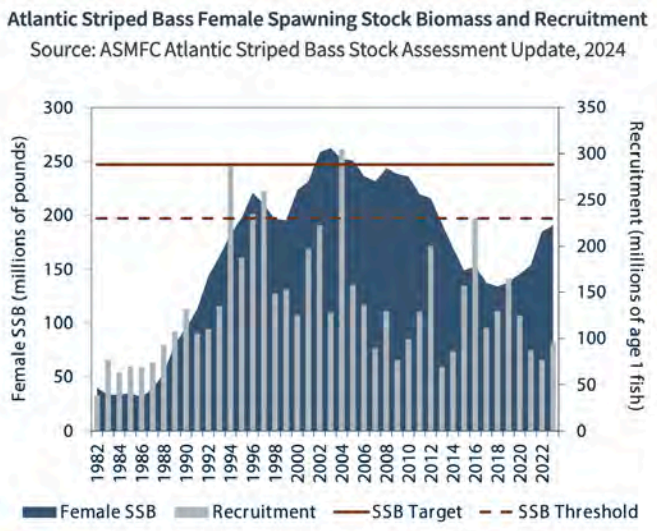
Sincerely,

Donald & Karol Selby
St. Mary’s County, Maryland

To: Atlantic Menhaden Management Board 9 September 2026
Subject: Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

First, I will offer some anecdotal evidence from my view as a recreational fisherman on the Lower Potomac River since 1997. As a test pilot at Patuxent River NAS, I have flown over the middle bay, from Calvert Beach, MD to just south of Smith Point, VA, for over 20 years and observed its changes in terms of Menhaden abundance. In my early years of flying out of Patuxent River NAS, I saw with amazement, large dark schools of menhaden, miles-long at times, with slashes of white through them from the predatory fish. In recent years, these schools have been reduced to small spots here and there and it is rare that I can pick-up predation on the schools at all as compared to the past. This would argue against the ASMFC 2024 statement that the stock continues to be successfully managed with the species not overfished nor experiencing overfishing.

Another anecdotal observation that I will offer is that in the early 2000's we recreational fishermen in our area on the Lower Potomac River, saw large numbers of schoolie rockfish (striped bass) that offered plenty of catch-and-release action for even the most amateur fishermen. That is not the case now. I also watched the precipitous decline of catches for larger striped bass in the spring, since I personally kept track of the catches for opening season in our neighborhood at Tall Timbers, MD for years. This agreed with the Chart from the ASMFC 2024 Annual Report showing the decline from 2012 to 2018. As the catch declined, I argued with my neighbors that we should release all large fish, and then eventually I argued to not fish at all in the early spring around the spawn. Since then, the regulations have changed to agree with my position. The regulators also placed a moratorium on targeting Striped Bass in August, and further restricted creel limits, which I whole-heartedly agree with. These measures have been big moves from what we were held to years ago. I fear they are still too little, too late in restoring the abundance of spawning stiped bass in the Potomac River. The correlation to menhaden reduction and the decline of the stiped bass population appears linked, in my mind, with the noticeable diminishment of menhaden in those years. Therefore, I must question why I have not seen similar magnitudes of restrictions in the reduction fishery.



One last anecdotal observation that I will offer, is that in fishing with charter captains from 1998-2012, we would pull-up to local pound-netters that were flush with mounds of menhaden that we would then purchase and use as chum for fishing. I see almost none of that abundance now in our local pound nets. A tradition that is on the wane, sadly.

Early morning October 2011 pound net in the Lower Potomac (the boat was full of menhaden)

I offer the following suggestions on the particulars of the Addendum II.

Section 2.1.
In the first paragraph, as a Statement of the Problem you refer to the Ecological Reference Point (ERP), which sounds a lot like a leading rationalization of why you might think the menhaden is not linked to declines in species such as Stripped Bass. Right up front this leads one to believe the Addendum will be biased in its approach. While overfishing is contributing to the decline in Striped Bass, the lack of abundance of menhaden should still be highlighted and referenced directly as a possible contributor to predator species decline. This would help address the chief concerns of those, like myself, that are concerned about that linkage, and which drove the concerns expressed in the ASMFC 2024 Annual Report. This last sentence in this paragraph, referring to the ERP, belongs elsewhere in the document as part of an analysis on correlation of Menhaden abundance to decline of predator fish stocks.

In section 2.1 you reference ASFMC 2024, but do not cite it in section 5.

In the second paragraph of section 2.1 you seem to scope the discussion to 3 issues, as management of the fishery, which may not adequately address one of the chief concerns from the ASMFC 2024 Annual Report, “Public concern about possible localized depletion of Atlantic menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay and the effects of the reduction fishery on menhaden predator species in the Bay.” This is in fact a statement of the Problem as many a fisherman sees it. The things I was looking for in the upfront discussion:

1. Correlation of menhaden numbers to predator fish stocks. If there is not strong data for this then a simple statement of acknowledgment that it is likely, or may be a factor, would help address the public concern. While acknowledging that many other factors such as overfishing has contributed to the decline of predator fish stocks like the striped bass, as discussed in the ERP, it is important to affirm that improving forage fish availability may have a positive impact on predator fish stock, and that this can have a positive effect on improving the lucrative sportfishing industry of the Chesapeake Bay. From ASMFC Memorandum April 23, 2025, the predators included in the ERP assessment model were chosen because of their dependence on menhaden as forage, though the dependence on menhaden varies by species with striped bass having the largest dependence (15.9% by weight; 11.7% by number). Additionally, other sportfish have been increasing in numbers in the Chesapeake Bay and placing demands upon forage fish. All of the species increasing in abundance in Chesapeake Bay are known to prey on menhaden, with the relative importance varying by season or ontogeny. Large spotted seatrout and Spanish mackerel had the highest diet composition of menhaden (31.5% and 40%, respectively) followed by small red drum (27.4%), and cobia (1.53%).
2. Acknowledge harvest restrictions for Bay Cap, and respectively TAC, that work in concert with the various recreational and commercial restrictions on predator fish stocks to support improving those predator fish stocks,
3. Then the options such as those discussed in the Addendum can be addressed and have better context.

I must ask why the chart in Figure 1 shows the number of landings for the bait fishery while the reduction fishery does not show actual numbers, which is argued for confidentiality. The depiction of this data in this way is questionable at best in that the less obvious note for figure 1 states that the reduction fishery takes 10 times that of the baitfish industry. This leads one to believe that the reduction fishery is either not reporting their numbers correctly or purposely exceeding their allocations. I would state why there is such confidentiality. I would also recommend you use similar timelines for comparison in Figure 1. Showing reduction fishery peaks of 1958, while the bait fishery is shown from 1985, distracts from the overall comparison and is at worst misleading. I think it irrelevant to point out the reduction levels in the early years which looks like another unnecessary rationalization for arguing against further restrictions.

Table 1. It is interesting to note that the TAC and Bay Cap were relatively the same from 2018 onward, even though there was a precipitous decline in the predator fish stock (striped bass) going into 2018. No action was evidently taken with respect to acting on the declining predator fish stocks.

Section 2.2.4
I would be interested in seeing pound net harvests from 2012-2018, toward correlating striped bass declines with Menhaden abundance. The Choptank data in section 2.2.5 would indicate that Menhaden abundance increased in 2018, but too late for helping recovery of predator fish stocks.

I would also be interested in a chart that compares the results of Figure 5, Bait fishery pound net harvest, to TAC and Bay Cap limits that are expressed in Table 1. It begs the question as to what data was driving the TAC and Bay Cap limits and how that process works.

I am extremely concerned about the 2022-2024 drop-off in CPUE found in Figure 5 and further confirmed in Figure 9. If this data is used as a proxy for determining menhaden abundance, this is going the wrong way for aiding in the recovery of predator fish stocks. It would also argue for major cuts in Bay Cap in upcoming years.

I find that the various metrics for determining TAC and Bay Cap are confusing at best. Is there a measure of the total actual landings of (bait fisheries + reduction fishery) compared to the TAC? Is there a measure of total actual landings of (bait fisheries in the Chesapeake Bay + reduction fisheries in the Chesapeake Bay) to the Bay Cap and is the Bay Cap predicated on data such as CPUE from pound nets.

Section 2.3
An offsetting argument for the loss of jobs and revenue in the reduction fishery should be offered. Here I would discuss the impact on the bait-fisheries, the recreational anglers, commercial fisherman and charter-boat captains with recovery of menhaden stocks and respectively the predator fish stocks. Recreational anglers provide a huge amount of income to various entities in the Chesapeake Bay area which would only improve with greater opportunities to catch target species. An economic impact study of 2016, commissioned by the Southwick Associates for the Striped Bass Coalition, showed that the striped bass recreational fishery supported $7.8 billion in total economic output toward the U.S. Gross Domestic Product. The fishery supported more than 68,000 jobs across the United States, ranging from bait and tackle shops to charter boat captains and coastal hospitality workers. The first paragraph hints at this but no further discussion is offered in reference to the benefits of improving predator fish stocks.

Section 3.
First paragraph: The reference to “harvest above the Bay Cap” would indicate that this is common and the penalty is to subtract from the next year’s limit. Are there other punitive measures for overharvest which might be mentioned?

I am concerned that the TAC is not representative of the menhaden stocks in the Chesapeake Bay and therefore tying a Bay Cap to the TAC may not be sufficiently restrictive to help in replenishment of menhaden stocks in the bay. If the majority of menhaden harvest is from the Chesapeake Bay, acknowledged in section 2.1 as the critical nursery for menhaden, then the Bay Cap should be predicated on a more direct measurement of Bay health such as a measure of total actual landings of (bait fisheries in the Chesapeake Bay + Reduction fisheries in the Chesapeake Bay) compared against estimated abundance with measures such as CPUE, and then translated into a Bay Cap. The Bay Cap then would be the biggest driver for determining the TAC, reverse of what has been proposed in some options.

As far as staggered quota periods, I would support such an initiative with regard to restricting the catch early in the season as compared to later in the season. The reasoning is simple in that fish size is proportionally smaller in the early season so that measures of weight will take more fish

in that season. One other standard that may apply here is the amount of by-catch that is taken in the different times of the year. I didn't see any discussion in that regard and would strongly recommend analysis of quota period with these factors in mind. With what I have gathered from the data I would expect that the one-time reduction in Bay Cap would look like 30-50% and ramp in quickly until further data shows a proper trending in abundance. This would argue for more periodic monitoring based on the magnitude of restrictions applied.

For your consideration,

Marty Shubert
Fly fisherman and Nature Artist
Tall Timbers, MD 20690
Shubertmw@gmail.com
Martyshubert.com (301) 481-8688

207 South 17th Street

Morehead City, NC 28557

October 5, 2026

Atlantic Menhaden Management Board

Atlantic States Marie Fisheries Commission

Board Members,

I am a retired federal fishery biologist. For most of my career (1983-2015), I worked at NOAA's Beaufort Laboratory where I managed the fishery-dependent data bases for the Atlantic and gulf menhaden fisheries. I am writing to oppose any cuts to the Chesapeake Bay Menhaden Cap or to the Coastwide Menhaden Quota as proposed in Addendum II to Amendment 3 of the Atlantic Menhaden Fishery Management Plan. I am also opposed to creating quota periods for the purpose of distributing menhaden harvest in Chesapeake Bay. I am for maintaining the *status quo* of the coastwide quota on menhaden landings and also the Chesapeake Bay Cap.

As many senior Board members may recall, the original Chesapeake Bay Cap measure of 2006 was a toss-of-the-dart with no underlying scientific basis for the Cap value. The Cap approved by the Board in November 2006 of 109,020 metric tons (t) was merely an average of removals by the reduction fishery from the Bay for the previous five years. If the truth be known, much of the build up to the original Chesapeake Bay Cap was couched with the false accusations that the new fish oil facility at the Reedville (VA) menhaden factory would increase the fish plant's processing capacity and that Omega Protein Inc. was planning to move some of its vessels from the Gulf of Mexico to Reedville. Neither of which were true. In fact, Omega Protein was in the long-term process of reducing its Virginia fleet from eleven vessels in 2006 to seven by 2013. Likewise, the new oil plant was simply a refining facility for raw fish oil; it did not increase overall processing capacity of the factory. Subsequent reductions to the Cap after 2006 were equally arbitrary. Diminutions of the Cap to its current level of 51,000 t were again, simply an average of removals from the Bay for recent years with no biological basis.

Now, twenty years later and as a run-up to the Board's vote on Addendum II of the Atlantic Menhaden FMP, the disinformation abounds, much of which has to do with the health of striped bass in Chesapeake Bay and starving ospreys. I have listened to many sides of these Atlantic menhaden controversies during my career and post-career. However, there is one question which I have that no one seems capable of answering:

> If Atlantic menhaden are so important to striped bass in Chesapeake Bay, how did the Bay produce three of the most successful year classes (1993, 1996, and 1997) of striped bass in recent history during the 1990s?

Recall that during the 1990s, two menhaden factories existed at Reedville with a combined fleet of up to 24 vessels. Moreover, between 1990-1996 menhaden removals from the Bay averaged 148,100 t and reached 168,500 t in 1993[1]. This was a period when the stock assessments tell us that the menhaden population along the Atlantic coast, in terms of numbers of fish, was extremely low and recruitment of young-of-year menhaden

was poor to mediocre. Nevertheless, striped bass in Chesapeake Bay rebounded to near historically high levels. How was this so, if menhaden are so important to striped bass?

Likewise, a similar argument can be made regarding the starving osprey issue in lower Chesapeake Bay. From the data on osprey hatchling success which I have seen in print, osprey reproduction in the Bay was quite successful during the 1990s, a time when menhaden removals from the Bay were at record levels; all the while, the coastwide population of menhaden had contracted and juvenile recruitment was low. Again, if menhaden are so important to ospreys, what accounts for good hatchling success during the 1990s?

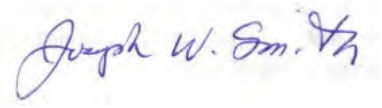
Currently, the Reedville menhaden fleet for reduction has been trimmed to six vessels (and one factory), plus two run boats. *In toto*, they account for 51,000 t or less of menhaden removed from Chesapeake Bay annually – *one-third of the removals from the Bay during the 1990s,* a time when both striped bass and osprey thrived. Clearly, there are other factors driving poor striped bass recruitment and poor osprey hatchling success.

In the near future, $4.5 million are to be available from state and federal sources for menhaden research in Chesapeake Bay. Indeed, a pilot tagging study is currently underway with assistance from the menhaden industry; if successful, a more robust tagging study should reveal much about menhaden ingress/egress into and out of Chesapeake Bay. Frameworks for aerial and hydroacoustic studies are also in the works; results of studies such as these will tell us much about menhaden seasonal abundance in the Bay. Perhaps, the Commission would be wise enough to recommend funding a stable isotope study of predator-prey groups in the Bay as was recently performed in the Gulf of Mexico[2]; results of the extant study indicated that gulf menhaden are not as important to food webs in the northern Gulf as many detractors of the menhaden fishery would have one believe.

In closing, I am asking the Board to seriously consider the pending menhaden research and 1) refrain from reducing the Chesapeake Bay Cap; 2) do not link the Chesapeake Bay Cap to coastwide quota reductions; and 3) avoid creating quota periods for Chesapeake Bay harvest. Moreover, let's not put the cart before the horse. Do not allow Addendum II to become a referendum via emails and postcards. Above all, follow the science. Let the Commission's preface on its web site guide your decision making:

> "…to protect essential marine species, ensuring vibrant fisheries, thriving communities, and resilient ecosystems, all through science-driven, cooperative management."

Sincerely,



Joseph W. Smith

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[1] Smith, J.W. 2025. Menhaden, A Biologist's Thirty-Two Year Journey with the Fish and the Fishery. Palmetto Publishers, Mt. Pleasant, SC; p. 43.

[2] What Do Gulf Predators Really Eat? Groundbreaking Study Finds Menhaden Play a Smaller Role Than Expected. https://www.usm.edu/news/2025/release/menhaden-research.php, accessed October 3, 2026.

James Boyle

From: Mary Steggles <maryannsteggles@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 7:46 PM
To: James Boyle
Subject: [External] "Addendum 1 Comment for the Public Record"

Dear Sir:

"I support Addendum II and the most restrictive options."

My name is Mary Ann Steggles. I am a retired Professor living in Winnipeg, Canada, who studies Osprey Mortality. As you are aware, the quota for the Reduction catch of Menhaden is such that ospreys are either choosing to not breed or their chicks are dying on the nest. We are facing a worse threat of extinction than during the DDT crisis and many of us have been aware of this for several years. No one listened, until this year. There are many other species and many livelihoods at stake besides the staff at Reedsville, Virginia.

Please consider not another study but very restrictive limits or - I would propose - a complete moratorium by Reduction fishing of Menhaden by the Canadian corporations (or any others using gill netting) for at least ten years to allow the ecosystem to recover.

Yours Sincerely,

Mary Ann Steggles, PhD.
CRO, International Osprey Data Project

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James Boyle

From: bunkiethomas3@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 8:02 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Omega must go!

I live on the Eastern Shore and have witnessed over the last 40 years

Sent from myMail for iOS

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James Boyle

From: Richard Williams <rw1463027@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 3:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External]

Stop commercial fishing of menheden in the bay

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James Boyle

From: Sean Hughes <shughes@hughesandcronin.com>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 3:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Bunker Comments

We need to significantly reduce the harvesting of bunker across the entire east coast.

I support the following options: sub option B4, Option B1, Underage sub option1, and Option B

Thank You!

Sean Hughes
Hughes & Cronin Public Affairs Strategies
455 Boston Post Rd, Ste 203 B
Old Saybrook, CT 06475
O: 860.346.7978 | C: 860.853.8748
Hughesandcronin.com

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James Boyle

From: Keyen <keyen.farrell@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 8:30 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] My comments on menhadden addendum II

To the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

I'm submitting my comments on Draft Addendum II for Atlantic Menhaden. As an angler, I want to see real protection for the Chesapeake Bay and the game fish and birds that depend on menhaden.

Here are the specific choices I back:

- **3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Amount: Sub Option B4 (50% Reduction – 25,500 mt)** The Bay is the nursery for striped bass, bluefish, and weakfish. Slashing the current cap in half down to 25,500 metric tons is common sense. We need to stop large industrial operations from wiping out local schools of bait and starving out everything else.
- **3.2.1 Quota Period: Option B1 (Even Length & Even Harvest)** Breaking the cap into equal periods spreads out the commercial fishing pressure. It stops the fleet from hammering the Bay all at once early in the summer and leaving zero bait behind for the fall run.
- **3.2.2 Overages and Underages: Underage Sub Option 1 (Split Underages Evenly)** If they don't catch their full limit in the first period, splitting that extra allowance evenly into Periods 2 and 3 keeps the pressure steady. It prevents sudden, massive spikes in net effort later in the year.
- **3.3 Revisit Provision: Option B (Review Every 3 Years)** Things on the water change fast. Checking in on this cap every three years ensures management stays current instead of letting outdated numbers sit on the books for a decade.

If you clean out the bottom of the food chain, the whole fishery collapses. Please lock in these options to keep menhaden in the water and give our game fish and birds a fighting chance.

Respectfully,

Keyen Farrell

135 Amity St, Apt 4A

Brooklyn, NY 11201

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James Boyle

From: Michael Casey <mcaseywfd61@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 1:30 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Bunker being depleted

Do not let this happen
Definitely not good for the environment
Positive action is needed
If Virginia citizens are catching bunker in the Conn river that means they have depleted stock in their own rivers since transportation costs must be more.
Please fix this

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James Boyle

From: Brian Lynch <lynchbriang@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 11:13 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Draft Ammendment II

To the commission. Regarding Menhaden management.

I am not party to any of the scientific research, I am simply a concerned, citizen and fisherman. I've lived in Westport Connecticut for 23 years. 10 years ago I felt that the fishery was improving, I regularly saw schools of Bunker that covered acres of the water. The last three or four years, the situation has changed drastically. I thought maybe it was cyclical and then I learned about the reduction, fishery fleet, and the crazy volume of MENHADEN that they are extracting from the ocean. It is inconceivable that you can take that much biomass out of the ocean and expect it to recover and remain healthy. We are depleting our planet. You need to make the right choice for the future of this amazing ecosystem, you have an opportunity to stop the craziness. .

Thank you
Brian.

Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Info (ASMFC)
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 3:20 PM
To: Comments
Subject: menhaden public comment

From: denny seabright <dennyseabright@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2026 11:45 AM
To: Info (ASMFC) <info@ASMFC.ORG>
Subject: [External] Nov meeting

To Chair Cimino and the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board, re: Draft Addendum II.

My name is Denny Seabright. I'm a licensed guide operating out of Onancock, Virginia, on the seaside and bayside of the Eastern Shore. I make my living putting clients on striped bass, and striped bass make their living on menhaden.

I'm writing in support of Option 4, a 50% reduction to the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap to 25,500 metric tons, with seasonal distribution across 4 quota periods and automatic linkage to the coastwide TAC. At a minimum, the Board should adopt a 30% cut.

On the water here, we see localized depletion every spring. Omega's fleet can take the bulk of the Bay cap in May and June before menhaden have a chance to disperse up the Bay and into the tributaries. That leaves us in July and August searching for bait that should be everywhere, finding skinny, mycobacteria-marked rockfish, and watching osprey nests fail on the main stem. The Potomac River Fisheries Commission data and the osprey studies that have been entered into the record match exactly what we see from the poling platform.

You adopted Ecological Reference Points in 2020 for a reason, and your own 2025 benchmark said fishing mortality is above the ERP target for

striped bass forage. The law says you should manage toward the target, not just stay above the threshold. A 20% coastwide cut that leaves the Bay cap at 51,000 mt does not achieve that in the Bay. A 50% cut does, and splitting it into periods prevents the early pulse that causes the most damage.

For guides, bait shops, crabbers, and hotels from Wachapreague to Onancock, menhaden in the water are worth more than menhaden reduced into meal and oil in Reedville. I respect the reduction fishery's history, but Virginia is the only state that still allows industrial-scale reduction harvest inside an estuary nursery. New Jersey ended it for this exact reason.

Please approve the maximum reduction in Draft Addendum II this November. Keep more menhaden in the Chesapeake, spread the harvest through the season, and give striped bass, osprey, and the small businesses that depend on them a chance to recover.

Thank you for your time and for opening this to public comment.

Denny Seabright

Onancock

Sent from my iPhone

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James Boyle

From: Ben Whitehead <bwhitehead16@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 11:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden 2027-2028 TAC

cut it as much as possible to keep more menhaden in the water

I would love to see a run of menhaden in Maine like I did when I was 8 years old. Stop this decline!
Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: mike jacquemin <mike_jacquemin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 9:01 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Bunker harvesting

Hi
I have been fishing Long Island sound for about 10 years over those 10 years I have experienced the Bunker population declining dramatically and in turn the Striped bass and Blue fish population also declining please!! Limit the amount of bunker being harvested by commercial fleets to bring back the world class fishing that Long Island sound once was. I was recently blessed with my first grandchild and can't wait to take them fishing Thank you
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James Boyle

From: Justin Walters <justinwestport20@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 3:08 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Long Island sound bunker

Hi there, I live on the LI Sound in Westport CT and want to express major concern with the dramatic drop off in bunker schools in the sound. This is the third season in a row of effectively zero bunker seen. Prior to this, bunker and wildlife were everywhere. The lack of bunker has to be impacting the entire ecosystem significantly, and something needs to be done!!!

Justin Walters

Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Andrew Gregor <agregor48@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 4:55 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Andrew Gregor
Subject: [External] Striped Bass fishery degradation in eastern Long Island Sound

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to support reduced large scale menhadden fishing on the east coast.

As a long time recreational fisherman for striped bass, I have noticed a dramatic reduction in bait fish in long island sound over the previous few years. In my view, this has led to significantly fewer migratory striped bass populating the northern east coast, It has seriusly degraded the fishery over the last few years.

i am writing to encourage reducing the intensity of factory fishing menhadden and other bait fish along the mid and nothern east coast area.

Thank you for your considering soultions for this degraded fishery.

Andrew Gregor
Old Saybrook, CT

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James Boyle

From: Denise Monesteri <denisemonesteri@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 4:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Draft Addendum, II

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

I am writing as a New Jersey resident after learning about the concerns surrounding menhaden and the unusually poor osprey reproduction reported in the Chesapeake Bay this year.

While I am not an expert in fisheries management, I have taken the time to learn more about this issue and have come to understand how important menhaden are as a food source for ospreys and many other fish and wildlife.

The 2026 Chesapeake osprey results have raised a very serious red flag. There are several factors that may be involved, including water temperature, salinity, weather, changes in where and when menhaden are available, fishing pressure, and other environmental factors. We don't yet know exactly how these factors are interacting, and that ambiguity warrants a precautionary approach.

That uncertainty is exactly why I am asking the Commission to take action now rather than waiting until the problem becomes difficult or impossible to reverse.

New Jersey has worked so hard to bring its osprey population back. I would like to see that success protected while we have the opportunity to do so.

I respectfully ask that the Commission support a meaningful reduction in the Chesapeake Bay menhaden harvest and a harvest schedule that leaves more fish in the water earlier in the season, while continuing to monitor the science and revisit the decision as more information becomes available.

To me, this is simply a matter of being careful with an important part of the food chain.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Denise Monesteri
25 Danna Way

Saddle Brook, New Jersey 07663

C)973-489-4102

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James Boyle

From: Fernandez Jenaro <jenarofer@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 5:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Draft Addendum II

Dear Board,

I just want to let you know that I support a 50% reduction in the current menhaden Bay Cap, resulting in a Bay Cap of 25,500 mt. I have read and agree with the American Saltwater Guides Association recommendations in order to reduce the risk of overfishing, and promote resilient futures for the resource and its communities. We need to avoid the risk of over fishing our oceans, and we need to leave more forage for game fish, whales, ospreys and other predators.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jenaro A. Fernandez
Lindenhurst, NY
jenarofer@yahoo.com
(7870 677-1839

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James Boyle

From: Adam Jannetti <adamj109109@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 5:42 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Dear Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am writing to comment on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II.

I strongly support reducing the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap by 50% to 25,500 metric tons (Sub-Option B4). The Chesapeake Bay is an extraordinarily important nursery and feeding area, and management of industrial menhaden harvest within the Bay should reflect the Bay's unique ecological importance rather than simply following coastwide harvest levels.
I also support Option B1 for the quota period, providing for even-length periods and even harvest; Underage Sub-Option 1, under which an underage from Quota Period 1 would be divided evenly between Quota Periods 2 and 3; and Option B for the revisit provision, requiring the Chesapeake Bay Cap to be reviewed at least once every three years.
I strongly oppose linking the Chesapeake Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC. The Bay Cap should function as an independent conservation measure for the Chesapeake. A coastwide increase in allowable harvest should not automatically permit increased industrial harvest inside the Bay.
At a coastwide TAC of roughly 112,000 metric tons, leaving the current 51,000-metric-ton Bay Cap in place could allow approximately 45% of the entire coastwide harvest to occur within the Chesapeake Bay. A 25,500-metric-ton cap would instead represent roughly 23% of that TAC and is much more consistent with recent historical harvest patterns.
Menhaden are a critical forage species, and their value extends far beyond their value as a commercially harvested commodity. I urge the Board to take a precautionary approach that recognizes the importance of abundant forage to the Chesapeake ecosystem, recreational fisheries, and coastal communities.
Please support a 25,500 metric ton Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap and reject any mechanism that automatically links the Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sent from my iPhone

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James Boyle

From: BRUCE LONG <ibelong8@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 3:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Coastal Asprey

I am alarmed at the plummeting Coastal Asprey population. Please do all in your power to reduce the over-fishing of Menhaden so they have a chance to come back.

Thank you

Bruce Long
Morristown, NJ
Sent from my iPad
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James Boyle

From: Debbie Gritt <debbg44@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 7:20 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Reduce TAC

I want option C1e. The 50 percent cut to TAC in the Bay is needed. It is critical. Over harvesting is destroying other species. Please don't allow factory fishing at millions of pounds to damage the Bay so significantly.
Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Natalie Menage <fmenage@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Addendum II

I vote to the following: 3.1 = option C1e 3.2 = option B2 3.3 = option B

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James Boyle

From: carcione@access.net
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 8:30 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Draft Addendum, II

Please reduce the allowable menhaden catch by at least 50%. They are being seriously overfished, endangering not only menhaden survival, but also osprey and marine animals who need to eat menhaden.
The Chesapeake Bay Foundation supports
-- 3.1C;e – a 50% reduction in the allowable Chesapeake Bay harvest and a 13.6% proportional cap on the coastal harvest, referred to as TAC
--3.2.1B2:3 which is a quota catch percentage of 25%, 25% and 50% during the three harvest periods. Delaying the largest harvest until the last catch period will hopefully provide some time for the menhaden to grow.
--revisit the catch limits in three years or sooner.

The menhaden population is crashing. We don't have time for years of research, while giant commercial operations continue to grab as much as they can.
Take action now while there's still time to stabilize the population.
Tracy Carcione
667 Chestnut Avenue, Teaneck, NJ, 07666

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James Boyle

From: jtjersey@verizon.net
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:52 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Draft Addendum II

Dear Sir:

Osprey populations are crashing and urgently need our attention and support now. If the current trends continue, the effect will likely be irreversible.

Research from the Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary shows that osprey reproduction in the salty portions of the Chesapeake Bay crashed to 0.25 chicks per pair in 2026. Studies of osprey nests on the Chesapeake Bay conclude that the osprey breeding efforts are now less successful than the years before the pesticide DDT was banned.

The absence of menhaden was observed by: American Bird Conservancy, Conserve Wildlife Foundation, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary, osprey nest observers, charter boat captains and recreational fishermen from Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Connecticut. Many bait shops had little to no menhaden to sell and the fish they could obtain was usually smaller than in prior years. These smaller fish are called peanut bunker. New Jersey fishermen report seeing zero schools of menhaden this summer in coastal and bay water of New Jersey.

As a member of Bergen County Audubon I support the initiative by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation as outlined in their proposal to reduce the menhaden catch over the next three years and to help restore the osprey population which is under severe stress.

-- 3.1C;e – a 50% reduction in the allowable Chesapeake Bay harvest and a 13.6% proportional cap on the coastal harvest, referred to as TAC
--3.2.1B2:3 which is a quota catch percentage of 25%, 25% and 50% during the three harvest periods. Delaying the largest harvest until the last catch period will hopefully provide some time for the menhaden to grow
--revisit the catch limits at least in three years.

Thank You,

John A. Trosky
Rutherford, NJ

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James Boyle

From: flowerbill@aol.com
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 1:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Comment on Draft Addendum II

I am very concerned by the negative effect that over-fishing for Menhaden is having on bird populations in the Chesapeake Bay region. Notably, Osprey have been abandoning nests containing their eggs or even hatchlings when they are unable to adequately fish to support their young. Therefore, I strongly support Addendum II and the most restrictive options.

Thank you,
Bill Flower
5447 Theresa Way
Livermore CA 94550

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James Boyle

From: J G <judithrachelleg@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 7:56 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] No fishing!

Please stop harming fish and other ocean animals! Leave the ocean to be enjoyed by all of us and them, not just those who fish and destroy it.

Judith Gottesman, MSW
California

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James Boyle

From: Margaret Cristofalo <Margaret.Cristofalo@advocates.nwfactionfund.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 8:08 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] NWFAF Advocate re Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: NWFAF Advocate Auto and sort

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC)
Attn.: Mr. James Boyle, FMP Coordinator

Dear Mr. Boyle:

As the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) updates the Atlantic menhaden fishery management plan and considers changes to menhaden management in the Chesapeake Bay through Draft Addendum II, I urge you to please strongly consider precautionary management measures and conservation-minded reforms to better protect menhaden and support a healthy Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. This includes reducing the Bay Cap by 50 percent in 2027 and implementing quota periods to more effectively distribute reduction fishing pressure throughout the season.

Specifically, I support the following options in Draft Addendum II:

Section 3.1 – Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount

Options C1e and C2a: Link the Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC TVgogoBas
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: Peter Paton <Peter.Paton@advocates.nwfactionfund.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 2:22 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC)
Attn.: Mr. James Boyle, FMP Coordinator

Dear Mr. Boyle:

As the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) updates the Atlantic menhaden fishery management plan and considers changes to menhaden management in the Chesapeake Bay through Draft Addendum II, I urge you to please strongly consider precautionary management measures and conservation-minded reforms to better protect menhaden and support a healthy Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. This includes reducing the Bay Cap by 75 percent in 2027 to protect key ecosystem functions that menhaden provide for the Bay.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,
Peter Paton,
Hope Valley, RI
ppaton@uri.edu
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James Boyle

From: Stephen Saniewski <ssaniewski@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 5:43 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden management

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am submitting this email as my written comment on the draft addendum regarding possible reductions to the industrial reduction fishery in the Chesapeake Bay as well as the coastal waters along the eastern seaboard. I am a NJ recreational fisherman, charter boat mate and tackle shop employee. The removal of 100's of millions of pounds of menhaden by the reduction fleet essentially contracted by Omega Protein/Cooke Seafood has essentially eliminated the summer/fall migration of menhaden along the NJ, NY, and Long Island Sound coasts and tributaries. The few fish left never reach full adult size anymore prior to the Ocean Harvester's purse seine boats mopping them up. The lack of forage fish has affected fishing opportunities for the large NJ charter fleets, has caused serious economic problems for tackle shops that depend on them for bait sales as well as the commercial fishermen that harvest them for bait and now the issue is affecting the breeding success of ospreys. Omega is responsible for in excess of 70% of the menhaden harvest and the signs can not be more clear that they are removing FAR more menhaden than the stock can handle. I know harvest reductions of up to 50% are currently being considered and my question would be is that enough? Omega is currently fishing under quota due to the scarcity of the resource caused by years of overfishing. Cutting their quota leaves the possibility that they will still continue to land what they currently do. At the very least a 50% reduction of the reduction fishing quota along with staggering the harvest to allow the bait to reach the upper bay along with closing off some of the tributaries would be a possible starting point. Honestly a moratorium on the industrial harvest until more accurate scientific data is available would be the better option in my opinion. At least this could help protect what is left, once the resource is gone it will be too late.
Respectfully,
Stephen Saniewski
612 Cedar Grove Rd
Toms River, NJ 08753

732-779-1089

Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS

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James Boyle

From: preston cochran <cochranp67@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 6:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden in Chesapeake bay

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom it may concern,

As a lifelong Virginia resident I feel very strongly that no menhaden should be harvested inside the Chesapeake bay. Do like other states and do not allow harvest. There are plenty of other jobs available for the folks that work on the menhaden boats.
Do not let the Omega people continue to buy off state politicians like they have done for many years.
No menhaden harvest in the bay!
Thank you.

Preston Cochran
1655 Mill pond dr
Salem va 24153

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James Boyle

From: Bo McBee <mcbee.bo@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:28 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden limits please!

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I have watched and experienced the dramatic decline in Menhaden for several years to the point where it is truly a crisis not only for the osprey but the health of our schools of game fish which depend so much on this food source.
We must learn to control our harvest of these all important elements of the food chain or suffer the environmental collapse of one of the East Coasts greatest resources.
Please put limits on those seeking to merely profit from this devastating trend.
William McBee

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James Boyle

From: Meg Francis <megwfrancis@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:48 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Limits

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

In 2025, Connecticut Audubon's Osprey Nation recorded its lowest breeding success since the program launched in 2014. There is growing concern that Osprey populations along the Eastern seaboard are declining due to a lack of food.

By Aug. 1, 2025, out of 706 nests with up-to-date reports, 113 had failed — about 1 in 6. In the same timeframe this year, of 691 nests with up-to-date reports, 171 have failed — roughly 1 in 4.

The decline at Old Lyme's Great Island, once an Osprey stronghold, has been particularly severe. In 2024, 37 osprey chicks fledged at Great Island; in 2025, that number decreased to 27; in 2026, only five chicks fledged. This is an early warning that the fish population is severely declining and that overfishing of menhaden is likely a primary cause.

I ask that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, which sets the ceiling for East Coast states on the number of fish that can be caught commercially, will consider any changes to commercial catch limits very carefully at its November meeting..

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James Boyle

From: marie vitucci <mariecv24@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:57 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] PLEASE LISTEN TO CT AUDUBON, we care about OSPREY!!!!

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am a Ct resident & I DO NO SUPPORT CHANGE THAT WILL AFFECT OSPREY AT ALL!!

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries
Commission is considering changes to the amount of menhaden that can be commercially harvested from the Chesapeake Bay. Connecticut Audubon is urging the commission to reduce the fishery cap by 50% to help ensure enough menhaden remain available for Ospreys and other wildlife.

Why does this matter?

There is growing concern that Osprey populations along the Eastern seaboard are declining due to a lack of food. Last year, Connecticut Audubon's Osprey Nation recorded its lowest breeding success since the statewide community science program launched in 2014 to monitor the birds.

This year is looking even worse.

By Aug. 1, 2025, out of 706 nests with up-to-date reports, 113 had failed — about 1 in 6. In the same timeframe this year, of 691 nests with up-to-date reports, 171 have failed — roughly 1 in 4.

The decline at Old Lyme's Great Island, once a former Osprey stronghold, has been particularly severe. Thirty-seven Osprey chicks fledged at Great Island in 2024. In 2025, that number decreased to 27. This year, only five chicks fledged.

Because Ospreys feed almost exclusively on fish, the Osprey Nation community science program serves as an early-warning system for the health of Connecticut's waters and the abundance of prey species like Atlantic menhaden.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, which sets the ceiling for East Coast states on the number of fish that can be caught commercially, will consider final action on the proposed changes at its annual meeting in November.

Sent from my iPhone

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James Boyle

From: Jay & Mildred Doody <jjdoody@snet.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 12:08 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Protect Menhaden Stocks for Osprey and Recreational Fishing

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Death ASMFC,

I have been kayaking in New Haven harbor for decades and Menhaden schools were seen regularly there, attracting Bluefish and Osprey and recreational fishermen. I have not seen a single event like this in three years.

I think there is a problem!

John J Doody
49 Arlington Street
West Haven, CT 06516
203-804-5345
Jjdoody@snet.net

Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail on Android

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James Boyle

From: Lucinda Hautaniemi <cindhaut@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 2:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden fishing limits

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am a member of CT Audubon Society and a volunteer osprey steward. I am appalled that overzealous fishing has been allowed to significantly reduce the population of menhaden along the East Coast to the point where osprey are unable to successfully reproduce. This year I saw all 3 hatched offspring in my assigned nest die off.

This seems incredibly shortsighted and greedy to overfish to the point that it threatens the entire ecosystem. This is not sustainable. The osprey are sending us a message but the species being overfished will likely also be at risk. This is bad for all parties in the long run.

Action to reduce the number of fish caught must be taken urgently.

Lucinda Hautaniemi
Old Lyme, CT
Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Rose Mikan <rrmikan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 3:22 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden cap for survival

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

James Boyle
1050 N. Highland St.,
Suite 200-A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear James,

I live in Milford CT where I can see the Osprey as well as hear them. I realized after observing a nest that the constant Osprey calling up in the nest seemed to be grief over the loss of their young.
I have also observed considerably less seagulls, cormorants. geese, ducks and all the smaller birds in our area in passed years alongside an increase in commercial fishing and additional watercraft. I already notice that the small numbers also decreases chances of connecting with each other for mating and not all birds are still breeders so the decrease in all wild life in my area just shows we are already at a critical stage for any of their survival. Saving the Osprey's food supply is a step forward for wildlife and this capping is a very important initiative.

Kind regards,
Rose Mikan

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James Boyle

From: Cynthia Conrad <cynconrad@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 6:43 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Speaking up for starving osprey

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is considering changes to the amount of menhaden that can be commercially harvested from the Chesapeake Bay.

I live in Guilford CT and have enjoyed watching 3 osprey couples return to a marsh near my home to breed each year. I want their offspring to continue to thrive. Friends in other areas tell me that they are seeing fewer osprey couples returning, and I believe this is due to diminishing resources for the pairs to feed their offspring.

I agree with Connecticut Audubon that the commission should reduce the fishery cap by 50% to help ensure enough menhaden remain available for Ospreys and other wildlife.

Cynthia D. Conrad
203-499-7096
cynconrad@msn.com

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James Boyle

From: Ray Kerico <ray@grumpystackle.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 7:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Comment.

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To Whom It May Concern,

I am submitting this email as my written comment on the draft addendum regarding potential reductions to the industrial menhaden reduction fishery in the Chesapeake Bay and coastal waters along the Eastern Seaboard.

I am a New Jersey recreational fisherman and owner of Grumpys Tackle in Seaside Park, NJ. I have personally witnessed the dramatic decline in menhaden availability along the New Jersey, New York, and Long Island Sound coasts and in their tributaries. The removal of hundreds of millions of pounds of menhaden by the industrial reduction fleet, much of which is associated with Omega Protein/Cooke Seafood, has had a profound impact on the availability of this critical forage species.

The summer and fall menhaden migrations that were once a reliable and essential part of our coastal ecosystem have been severely diminished. The relatively few schools that remain often appear to be harvested before they have an opportunity to reach full adult size or move into the areas where they are most needed as forage. This has consequences far beyond the menhaden fishery itself.

It has also created significant economic problems for tackle shops including mine that depend on menhaden and menhaden-based bait sales. Most concerning, the consequences now appear to be extending to wildlife, including ospreys and other species that depend heavily on menhaden as a food source.

Omega Protein accounts for more than 70% of the menhaden reduction harvest. In my view, the continued scarcity of menhaden and the ecological and economic impacts being observed along the coast are strong indications that the current level of industrial harvest is placing excessive pressure on the resource.

I understand that harvest reductions of up to 50% are currently being considered. My question is simple: **Is 50% enough?**

The fact that the reduction fleet is currently fishing below its quota because of the scarcity of the resource should be viewed as a warning sign, not as evidence that additional reductions are unnecessary. Reducing the quota while leaving the industry capable of harvesting the same amount it is currently finding may not produce the meaningful recovery that the resource requires.

At a minimum, I believe a 50% reduction in the industrial reduction quota should be implemented, accompanied by management measures designed to protect the remaining menhaden during critical periods and in important nursery and forage areas. These could include staggering the harvest to allow

menhaden to reach the upper Bay and other areas where they provide critical forage, as well as establishing closures in selected tributaries and other sensitive areas.

However, I believe a stronger approach deserves serious consideration: **a moratorium on the industrial reduction harvest until more accurate and comprehensive scientific data are available to determine the true condition of the menhaden stock and the level of harvest the ecosystem can sustainably support.**

Menhaden are not simply another commercial commodity. They are a foundational forage species that supports striped bass, bluefish, tuna, sharks, whales, seabirds, ospreys, and many other components of the Atlantic coastal ecosystem. They also support an important recreational and commercial fishing economy.

We should not wait until the resource has collapsed before taking meaningful action. Once the menhaden are gone, reducing the quota on paper will not bring them back.

I respectfully ask that the Commission take a precautionary approach and implement substantial reductions in the industrial reduction fishery, with the ultimate goal of rebuilding a healthy, abundant menhaden population that can once again support the ecosystem and the fishing communities that depend upon it.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Respectfully,

Raymond Kerico
Grumpys Tackle

Ray Kerico
Grumpys Tackle
(732) 830-1900
906 NE Central Ave
Seaside Park, NJ 08752
www.grumpystackle.com

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James Boyle

From: Janice Trecker <janice.law.trecker@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 8:38 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] proposed cap on Cheaspeake Bay fishery

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Commissioners,

I strongly support the proposal to reduce the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery cap by 50% in order to protect the ospreys and other wildlife that rely on the menhaden for their survival. The catastrophic drop in successful osprey nests in Connecticut shows the impact of heavy fishing of menhaden. These fish are not used for human food but for bait, fish meal and fertilizer. Surely after having saved the osprey by restricting DDT, it would be cruel to let them starve in order to turn their food into fertilizer and fish food.

Sincerely,
Janice Trecker

Hampton, CT

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James Boyle

From: Mary Ellen Kunz <mekunz26@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 11:57 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Reduction in menhaden fishery cap

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission:

There has been such an incredibly powerful increase in support of wildlife over the years as people witness species making a comeback thanks to the efforts of humans. The great resurgence of ospreys in Connecticut and especially around Great Island in Old Lyme, CT has been especially rewarding for so many.

Over the years, we have supported placement of nesting platforms for the osprey nests and experienced the joy of seeing babies occupying the nests. It was proof that people can help support wildlife and bring back endangered species.

We are greatly disturbed by the significant reduction in successful fledging of osprey in the state.

We encourage the reduction by 50% of the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery cap. This will greatly ensure enough menhaden remain for osprey and other wildlife. Thank you for your time.

Best,

Mary Ellen Kunz

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James Boyle

From: Amelia Longcroft <amelia.longcroft@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 4:16 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am writing to urge the Board to implement the strongest possible conservation measures under Draft Addendum II. The tragic reality that osprey chicks are starving to death in their nests is a heartbreaking warning sign of a much larger ecosystem in crisis.

Ospreys are the canary in the coal mine. If the Board fails to act, the consequences of localized menhaden depletion will continue to ripple across the entire US East Coast marine food web:

- Menhaden are the vital heartbeat of the coastal ecosystem. Failing to significantly lower the harvest cap will continue to starve dependent apex predators, including striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, and marine mammals.
- The Chesapeake Bay serves as a critical ecological nursery. Allowing industrial purse-seine vessels to intensely harvest these waters during peak summer months creates immediate food deserts for nesting wildlife and migrating species alike.
- Managing this fishery purely for industrial yield while ignoring the collapse of dependent bird and fish populations threatens the long-term biodiversity and economic health of the Atlantic coast.

Please prioritize true ecosystem-based fisheries management. I strongly support Option B (a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay harvest cap) and strict seasonal trimester splits to protect wildlife when they are at their most vulnerable.

Thank you for your time and for considering public input on this vital conservation issue.

Sincerely,

Amelia Longcroft
London, UK

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James Boyle

From: PATRICIA PICKARD <pickbooks@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2026 8:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Reduce amount of menhaden being caught commercially

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Please consider drastic reductions in the amount of menhaden that can be fished by humans. The following information from CT Audubon explains the necessity for this:

"There is growing concern that Osprey populations along the Eastern seaboard are declining due to a lack of food. Last year, Connecticut Audubon's Osprey Nation recorded its lowest breeding success since the statewide community science program launched in 2014 to monitor the birds.

This year is looking even worse.

By Aug. 1, 2025, out of 706 nests with up-to-date reports, 113 had failed — about 1 in 6. In the same timeframe this year, of 691 nests with up-to-date reports, 171 have failed — roughly 1 in 4.

The decline at Old Lyme's Great Island, once a former Osprey stronghold, has been particularly severe. Thirty-seven Osprey chicks fledged at Great Island in 2024. In 2025, that number decreased to 27. This year, only five chicks fledged.

Because Ospreys feed almost exclusively on fish, the Osprey Nation community science program serves as an early-warning system for the health of Connecticut's waters and the abundance of prey species like Atlantic menhaden.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, which sets the ceiling for East Coast states on the number of fish that can be caught commercially, will consider final action on the proposed changes at its annual meeting in November."

Thank you for your speedy attention to this matter.

Patricia Pickard-Osprey Monitor and Concerned Citizen

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James Boyle

From: Mark Philippe <markphilippe610@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 7, 2026 9:11 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Greetings!
I am in favor of a harvest reduction for the menhaden along the Atlantic coast. My concerns are based on the adverse effects that overfishing has had on fish and fowl that depend on this resource, particularly striped bass and ospreys.
Thank you,
Mark Philippe

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James Boyle

From: Roynn Simmons <fingerposttv@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 11:12 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden commercial reduction

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Sept. 9, 2026

Osprey chicks are starving to death. This is completely unacceptable. I support fisheries and keeping a healthy and balanced environment is important to me. Overfishing for profit to make fish oil, fertilizer and chicken feed is not acceptable. The cost is too high for all those species that depend on Menhaden for life itself. Menhaden should be a cherished species. I'll give up my fish oil supplement to keep the Menhaden fishery strong in the Chesapeake Bay and along the Eastern Seaboard. And I'm not the only one. When people become aware of how menhaden is being overfished and the products and companies that are profiting from this, they will act. Including publicizing the environmental consequences, like baby Osprey dying, and naming the responsible parties. Please reduce the number of Menhaden that can be taken for commercial use. This is a wise decision. One that supports multiple species not just immediate commercial greed. If commerce wants to take more menhaden, they should work to clean and environmentally support the Chesapeake Bay and Eastern Seaboard so more Menhaden can be supported and harvested. But what we take should always be in balance with what other species need too. Please diminish the tonnage of Menhaden commercial enterprises can harvest.
Thank you,
Roynn Lisa Simmons
72 Burr Ave.
Middletown, CT 06457

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James Boyle

From: Mardi Hanson-dAlessandro <mardi.hanson@snet.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 12:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Ospreys

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom this may concern,
I want to encourage the increase of fish related to the areas where osprey are nesting. These birds are a critical element of the ecosystem! Thank you for your support, regards,
Mardi Hanson-d'Alesssandro

Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: melanie sharon <haroldnjosharon@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 3:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Osprey

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Sent from my iPhone please reduce fishing, to save ospreys.
To do otherwise is very shortsighted
Thank you
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: Kowaleski, Michael P <Mike.Kowaleski@tufts.edu>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 2:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden fishery

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Members of the ASMFC,

I hold a MA commercial fishing permit and an HMS charterboat/headboat permit.

I am on the water off cape cod 50+ days per year.

Menhaden are clearly overfished and overfishing is occurring, They are a pivotal forage species for predatory gamefish, namely striped bass (over fished) and bluefin tuna.

We need to protect the menhaden from over harvest.

I fully support a 50% reduction in the current Bay Cap and a 50% reduction in the Coastwide TAC.

Mike Kowaleski
Harwich, MA

Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: cnadu9@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 3:18 PM
To: 'American Saltwater Guides Association'; Comments
Subject: [External] Need layman's terms for Menhaden Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

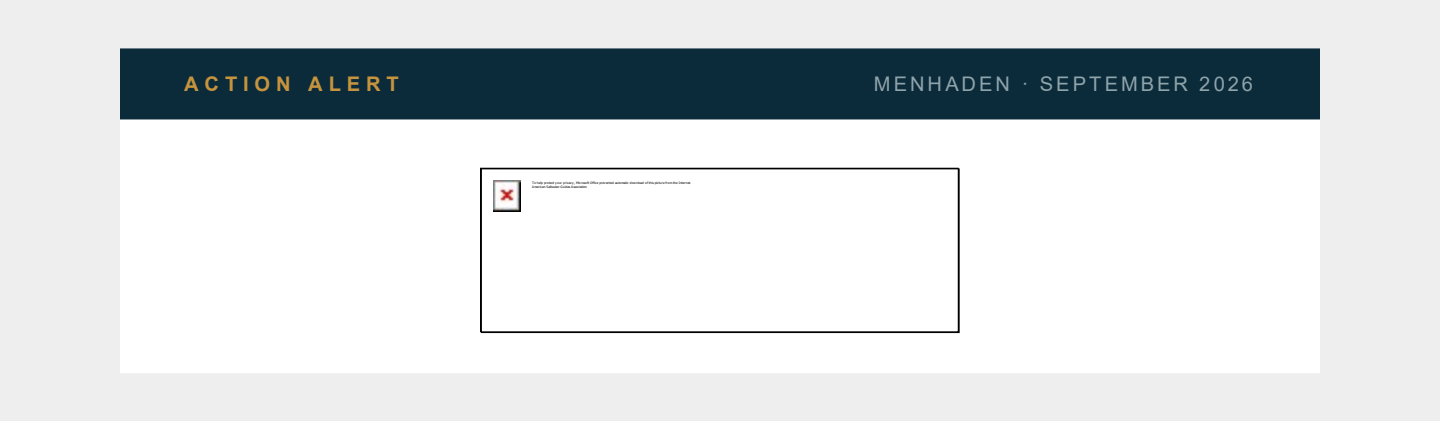
I welcome all efforts to increase menhaden populations and eliminate the Omega overfishing problem. My feelings are probably similar to most of the Atlantic coast recreational fishermen but I don't understand your analysis and recommendations. Is there a way you can put the problem and recommended solution in much more simple terms for us non-scientists?

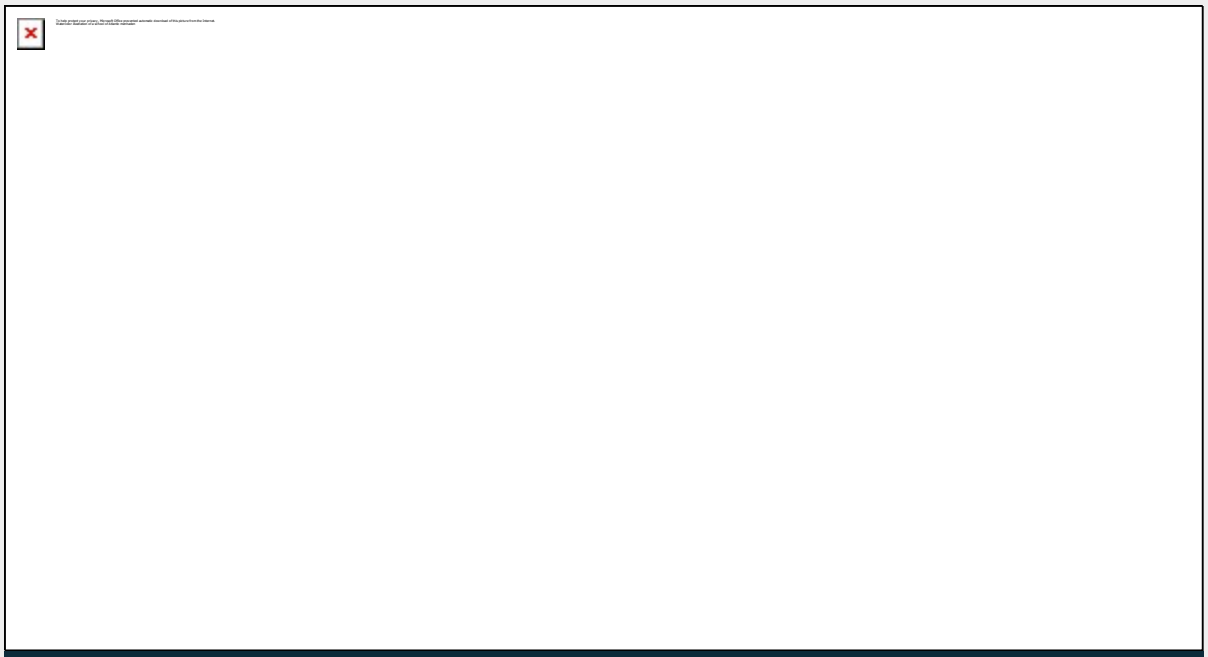
I can appreciate that the association has all the necessary data to prove overfishing but I have no idea how to submit meaningful comments based on the email below.

Please send example letters or let us know how to use AI to decipher your analysis to generate a no-nonsense comment letter.

Sincerely,
Curt Nadeau
Old Saybrook, CT

From: American Saltwater Guides Association <info@saltwaterguidesassociation.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 2:26 PM
To: cnadu9@gmail.com
Subject: Action Alert: Menhaden Addendum II





COMMENT PERIOD OPEN THROUGH OCTOBER

DRAFT ADDENDUM II & THE COASTWIDE TAC

ASMFC has released **Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3** of the Atlantic Menhaden Interstate Fishery Management Plan for public comment. The comment period runs through October, and the Menhaden Board will consider final action at the Commission's Annual Meeting in November 2026.

What we are seeing along the Atlantic Coast and in the Chesapeake Bay is extremely concerning — not only from a fisheries management perspective, but for the communities, stakeholders, and anyone who depends on the future of these historic fisheries. Menhaden face a grossly overestimated assessment, the commercial fishery has seen consistently below-average harvests, and other important fisheries are declining.

This is the decision point. Below are ASGA's recommendations and every way you can weigh in.

New to this fight? Our summary of **how the fishery reached this point** covers the assessment error, the Bay Cap history, and everything else on the table this November.

WHERE WE STAND

ASGA RECOMMENDATIONS

ASGA supports the following alternatives for the Chesapeake Bay Cap as ecologically and socioeconomically appropriate — to reduce the risk of overfishing and promote resilient futures for the resource and its communities.

SECTION 3.1	CHESAPEAKE BAY REDUCTION AMOUNT	**Sub Option B4 — a 50% reduction in the current Bay Cap, resulting in a Bay Cap of 25,500 mt.**
SECTION 3.2.1	BAY REDUCTION FISHERY CAP QUOTA PERIOD	**Option B1 — Even Length & Even Harvest.**
SECTION 3.2.2	QUOTA PERIOD OVERAGES AND UNDERAGES	**Underage Sub Option 1 — an underage in Quota Period 1 would be split evenly and rolled over to Quota Periods 2 and 3.**
SECTION 3.3	BAY REDUCTION FISHERY CAP REVISIT PROVISION	**Option B — The Chesapeake Bay Cap will be reviewed at least once every three years.**

DON'T FORGET THE OCEAN

THE COASTWIDE TAC

To correct the assessment error, the coastwide total allowable catch was cut 20% for 2025, from 233,550 mt to 186,840 mt. But 2024 harvest was only 186,155 mt — so the reduction produced no real decrease in menhaden removals. A paper reduction, championed as a win.

Meanwhile, the sea herring fishery has collapsed. Maine's commercial menhaden bait fishery is catching over 900 mt a week this summer and has made clear it can ramp up to fill the lobster fishery's bait needs, estimated at 36,287 to 45,359 mt a year — not far off the entire current Bay Cap.

This fall, the TAC must be reduced by at least 30%, from 186,840 mt to 130,788 mt. Ideally it should be reduced by 50%, to 94,420 mt. These are the only options that keep the fishery from operating at a 100% probability of overfishing.

READ THE FULL BREAKDOWN

Read Draft Addendum II (PDF)

TAKE ACTION

HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS

Comments on the coastwide TAC should be emailed to ASMFC and should accompany your Addendum II comments on the Bay Cap. Personal messages are likely to have more impact than form letters.

The **public comment survey**, built to gather input on the Draft Addendum's specific options

Written comments via the **Atlantic Menhaden Action Tracker** or comments@asmfc.org

Mail to James Boyle, FMP Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, VA 22201

Verbal comments at any of the scheduled public hearings below

STATE HEARING SCHEDULE

MD & PRFC	Tue, Sep. 15 · 6:00 pm · In person
NY & CT	Wed, Sep. 16 · 6:00 pm · Hybrid
Virginia	Sat, Sep. 19 · 10:00 am · In person
NJ & DE	Tue, Sep. 22 · 6:00 pm · Virtual
Virginia — Fort Monroe	Mon, Sep. 28 · 6:00 pm · In person
ME, NH, MA & RI	Tue, Sep. 29 · 6:00 pm · Virtual
General Public Hearing	Thu, Oct. 1 · 6:00 pm · Virtual

WEAR THE FIGHT

MENHADEN ROPE HAT · $29.99

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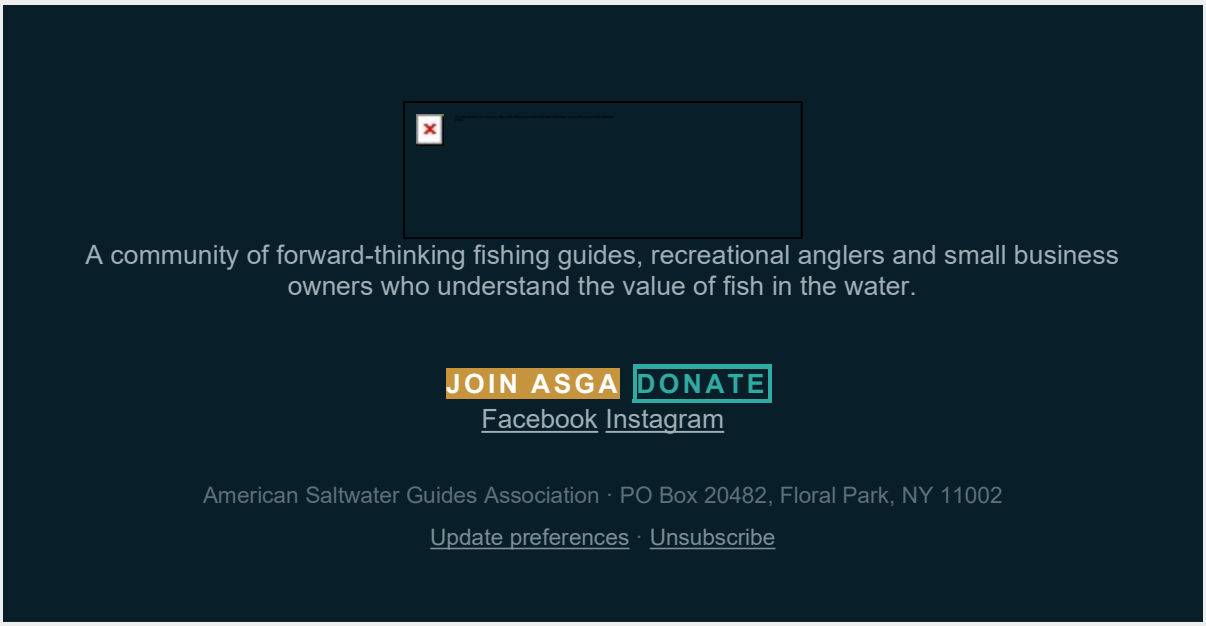
Custom artwork from Johann Du Prez on a Richardson 256. Every dollar goes directly to the educational resources that drive stakeholder engagement on menhaden — the campaign you just read about.

SHOP THE MENHADEN HAT



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James Boyle

From: Marc Lamothe <marcolamothe.keeper@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 2:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Stock

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I work daily chartering out of Saco, Maine. Menhaden are rarely seen, and this has been the case throughout my last two charter seasons. I observed two schools this entire summer, each of approximately 15 yards in diameter. I have completed 105 charters so far this season.

Maine saw large scale harvesting in the early 2000s and reacted quickly with aggressive rule making. Harvesting is small scale and the catch is used locally for lobster bait.

Maine is taking their fair share, and nothing more. All of the Atlantic states need to eliminate large scale harvesting in each respective state's waters. Time is running out!

Capt. Marco Lamothe
Keeper Charters
www.keeper-charters.com
4 Jordan St.
Saco, Maine 04072
207-286-5565

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James Boyle

From: John Stavrakas <stavrakas.john@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 3:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

The decline in the Menhaden fishery has negatively impacted fisheries up and down the eastern sea board. This combined with a collapse in the sea herring fisheries is a failure in fisheries management across the board.

Menhaden biomass assessment is grossly over estimated. The 20% cut in total allowable catch in 2025 reduced TAC from 233,550 MT to 186,840 MT but the 2024 harvest was only 186,155 MT so it was meaningless.

Total allowable catch should be reduced by 50% to 94,420 MT.

I support the American Saltwater Guides Association recommendations of a 50% reduction in the current Chesapeake Bay cap to 25,500 MT and the cap should be reviewed at least once very three years.

John Stavrakas
South Kingstown, RI

Sent from my iPad
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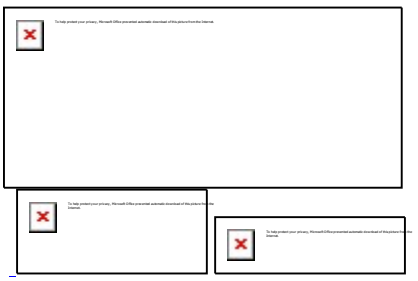
James Boyle

From: Eric Bosley <ericbosley@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 4:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I think the ASMFC needs to take drastic actions to protect Menhaden. Severe penalties for overharvest? Hold those states responsible, responsible - looking at you Virginia, Maryland and Omega. Get it together. THIS IS NOT ROCKET SCIENCE as they say. Maine lobstermen figured out how to adjust pretty fast so you better act quickly as they are effecient guys. How about appeal to this federal administration to do something about Omega since they've shown such love to Canada?

Eric Bosley
Bozco Construction, Inc.
(914) 419-5960
EricBosley@gmail.com
www.bozcoconstruction.com



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James Boyle

From: hurrah.melds-7w@icloud.com
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 4:21 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Coastwide TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I support the Chesapeake Bay Cap as ecologically and socioeconomically appropriate — to reduce the risk of overfishing and promote resilient futures for the resource and its communities. I also support the following sections of the TAC to help save this fishery.

SECTION 3.1	CHESAPEAKE BAY REDUCTION AMOUNT **Sub Option B4 — a 50% reduction in the current Bay Cap, resulting in a Bay Cap of 25,500 mt.**
SECTION 3.2.1	BAY REDUCTION FISHERY CAP QUOTA PERIOD **Option B1 — Even Length & Even Harvest.**
SECTION 3.2.2	QUOTA PERIOD OVERAGES AND UNDERAGES **Underage Sub Option 1 — an underage in Quota Period 1 would be split evenly and rolled over to Quota Periods 2 and 3.**
SECTION 3.3	BAY REDUCTION FISHERY CAP REVISIT PROVISION

Option B — The Chesapeake Bay Cap will be reviewed at least once every three years.

DON'T FORGET THE OCEAN

THE COASTWIDE TAC

To correct the assessment error, the coastwide total allowable catch was cut 20% for 2025, from 233,550 mt to 186,840 mt. But 2024 harvest was only 186,155 mt — so the reduction produced no real decrease in menhaden removals. A paper reduction, championed as a win.

Meanwhile, the sea herring fishery has collapsed. Maine's commercial menhaden bait fishery is catching over 900 mt a week this summer and has made clear it can ramp up to fill the lobster fishery's bait needs, estimated at 36,287 to 45,359 mt a year — not far off the entire current Bay Cap.

This fall, the TAC must be reduced by at least 30%, from 186,840 mt to 130,788 mt. Ideally it should be reduced by 50%, to 94,420 mt. These are the only options that keep the fishery from operating at a 100% probability of overfishing.

V/R
John Karpiak Jr.

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James Boyle

From: Mike Ginex <mg149@optimum.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 4:27 PM
To: Comments; mg149@optonline.net
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Commissioners,

I am submitting this comment in response to your recent request for input from recreational fishermen regarding the current state of our coastal fisheries and the management of Atlantic menhaden. I have fished Jones Inlet and Jones Bay—by boat and from shore—for more than twenty-five years. Over that time, and especially during the past three years, I have witnessed a dramatic decline in both the abundance and diversity of fish species that have historically defined this fishery.

The downturn is not limited to a single species. Bluefish, striped bass, summer flounder, winter flounder, and black seabass have all declined sharply. Even non-target species such as horseshoe crabs, searobins, and stargazers—once common indicators of a healthy, functioning estuary—have become scarce. A decade ago, it was routine to see fifty or more boats drifting for fluke between the Jones Inlet Jetty and the Meadowbrook Bridge on a typical summer Saturday. For the past three years, that number has dwindled to only a handful. Bluefish and striped bass now appear for less than a week each season. Fluke are overwhelmingly undersized, and a single keeper has become a noteworthy event among regular anglers. I have not encountered a winter flounder in six years.

Based on long-term, firsthand observation, I believe these declines are directly linked to the diminishing availability of Atlantic menhaden—the primary forage species for bluefish, striped bass, and many other predators. The absence of bunker has fundamentally altered the ecosystem of Jones Inlet and Jones Bay. Predator species are food-stressed, bait concentrations are inconsistent or absent, and the broader ecological community shows signs of collapse.

For these reasons, I urge the Commission to adopt **meaningful, well-designed restrictions on commercial menhaden harvest**, particularly reduction fishing, which removes vast quantities of forage from the coastal ecosystem. Any attempt to rebuild predator fisheries without first ensuring adequate menhaden biomass will be ineffective. In my view, failure to act decisively now risks an irreversible decline in the fishery and the loss of a resource that has supported generations of anglers, coastal communities, and wildlife.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your continued work on behalf of our shared fisheries. I hope my observations help illustrate the seriousness of the situation and the urgent need for precautionary management of Atlantic menhaden.

Respectfully,

Michael Ginex, Lynbrook, NY

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James Boyle

From: HARVEY YENKINSON <vetcraft@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 4:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Sent from my iPhone. I am a charter captain in the Cape May New Jersey area for 32 years and rarely see a school of Menhaden whereas in the past, I would see many many schools of Menhaden. Also, in the late summer, my Marina would fill with juvenile Manhattan, but now the schools are far and few between. I also noticed a lack of Peregrine Falcons in the areas where I normally see them which I strongly suspect, is due to the lack of feeding opportunities on the bunker

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James Boyle

From: Josh Tanz <jbtanz@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 5:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic menhaden action tracker

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I strongly support ASGA's recommendations for Draft Addendum II.

Specifically, I support **Sub Option B4**, reducing the Chesapeake Bay Cap by 50%, from 51,000 to **25,500 metric tons**, along with **Option B1**, establishing even-length and even-harvest quota periods. I also support **revising the Bay Cap every three years** to ensure it continues to reflect the best available science.

Thank you for taking action to protect this vital resource.

Sincerely,
Josh

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James Boyle

From: Marianne Kreitner <mkreitner6491@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2026 10:25 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden limits in Virginia waters.

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Enough with letting Cooke, Inc. and Virginia desimate the osprey population in the Chesapeake Bay. This is such a flagrant abuse of the mission of the ASMFC. Shame on you. This is a repeat of the DDT assault on the bald eagle. The osprey which used to nest near our home on the Choptank River have disappeared.

If you are not too busy accepting bribes from Ccoke, Inc.'s henchmen, could you just possibly reply to a taxpayer who pays your salaries and expenses?

Marianne Kreitner
5930 Horns Point Road
Cambridge, MD 21613

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James Boyle

From: Matt Rigney <mattrigney268@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2026 9:46 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am submitting a comment in favor of the MOST conservative management regime to limit the commercial menhaden harvest and encourage the regrowth in population of these fish at the most rapid rate possible. Menhaden have been over harvested, their population is too low, and they need a break to recover. Half measures are not enough. These fish form a critical base in the food chain. We humans—especially our commercial fisheries—need to leave some for other species and the future.

Matt

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James Boyle

From: Benjamin Masse <palmerriverrentals@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2026 9:26 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Public Comment – Atlantic Menhaden Management

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am writing to strongly support significant reductions in Atlantic menhaden harvest, both in the Chesapeake Bay and coastwide.

Menhaden are not simply another commercial fishery. They are a critical forage species supporting the entire Atlantic marine food web. Removing them at industrial scale necessarily reduces the food available to striped bass, bluefish, tuna, sharks, and countless other predators.

As a recreational angler, I am increasingly concerned that the effects of removing this foundational baitfish are becoming visible on the water. The health of our fisheries cannot be separated from the health and abundance of their forage base.

The recent 20% coastwide TAC reduction also does not appear to have meaningfully reduced actual harvest. A management measure that reduces the allowable number on paper while allowing essentially the same quantity of fish to be removed is not a meaningful conservation measure.

I therefore urge the Board to adopt a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay cap, implement measures that prevent concentrated harvest in the Bay, and reduce the coastwide TAC by at least 30%, with a 50% reduction being preferable.

I understand that these decisions affect commercial fishermen and coastal economies. However, maintaining maximum short-term harvest of menhaden at the expense of the forage base risks damaging far more valuable fisheries and coastal economies over the long term.

Please prioritize the health and resilience of the entire ecosystem over maintaining unsustainable levels of menhaden removal.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Ben

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James Boyle

From: Benjamin Masse <benjamin.r.masse@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2026 9:22 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Public Comment on Atlantic Menhaden Management – Support for Meaningful Harvest Reductions

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am writing as a recreational saltwater angler to express my strong support for meaningful reductions in Atlantic menhaden harvest, including the management measures outlined by the American Saltwater Guides Association.
I strongly support a 50% reduction of the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap, evenly distributed quota periods, appropriate treatment of underages, and a mandatory review of the Bay cap at least every three years. I also support reducing the coastwide TAC by at least 30%, with a 50% reduction being the more responsible course of action given the current uncertainty and the history of overharvest.

This is not simply an argument about one commercial fishery versus recreational fishing. Menhaden are a foundational forage species in the Atlantic ecosystem. Removing enormous quantities of them from the water has consequences far beyond the menhaden stock itself. They are food for striped bass, bluefish, tuna, weakfish, cobia, sharks, seabirds, and numerous other species. When the abundance of a critical forage species is reduced, the effects propagate throughout the ecosystem.

As a recreational angler, I believe those effects are already becoming apparent on the water. We are seeing declining abundance and availability of other valuable gamefish and sustainable food-fish species, and it is increasingly difficult to ignore the connection between the removal of a critical baitfish and the condition of the predators that depend upon it. Recreational anglers may not have the same economic leverage as large commercial fisheries, but we experience the consequences of these decisions directly every time we go fishing.

What concerns me particularly is that the recent coastwide TAC reduction appears to have been largely a reduction on paper. The TAC was reduced from 233,550 metric tons to 186,840 metric tons, yet the 2024 harvest was approximately 186,155 metric tons. In practical terms, the nominal reduction did not produce a meaningful reduction in the amount of menhaden actually removed from the ecosystem. That is not sufficient.

Management should not be structured around maintaining the maximum possible commercial harvest while attempting to justify that harvest with an uncertain stock assessment. The documented error in the natural mortality estimate is especially concerning because it resulted in an overestimation of stock productivity and an underestimation of fishing mortality. When the underlying assessment has been shown to have substantially underestimated the pressure being placed on the stock, the appropriate response should be precautionary—not to continue harvesting at essentially the same level and hope the assessment is correct this time.

I also believe the Chesapeake Bay deserves specific consideration rather than simply being treated as an interchangeable component of the coastwide fishery. The Bay is an enormously important nursery and feeding environment for menhaden and for the predators that depend on them. Concentrating intense reduction-fishery effort in a relatively small geographic area creates the potential for localized depletion that a coastwide assessment can easily fail to capture.

For these reasons, I urge the Board to adopt the proposed 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay cap and the associated measures that distribute harvest more evenly through time. I also urge the Board to reduce the coastwide TAC by at least 30%, and preferably by 50%, rather than accepting another nominal reduction that does little to change actual removals.

I understand that fisheries management involves legitimate economic interests and difficult tradeoffs. But those considerations cannot justify continuing to remove a foundational forage species at levels that jeopardize the broader ecosystem and the fisheries that depend upon it.

The long-term economic value of healthy recreational and commercial fisheries is far greater than the short-term value of maximizing menhaden harvest today. If we deplete the forage base, we ultimately undermine the striped bass, bluefish, tuna, and other fisheries that support recreational anglers, charter captains, tackle businesses, marinas, tourism, and coastal communities throughout the Atlantic states.

I therefore ask the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board to take the more precautionary course and implement substantial, meaningful reductions in both Chesapeake Bay and coastwide menhaden harvest.

Protecting menhaden is not just about protecting menhaden. It is about protecting the entire ecosystem and the fisheries, businesses, communities, and recreational traditions built upon it.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Benjamin Masse

Benjamin R Masse
Mechanical Engineer
benjamin.r.masse@gmail.com
(774) 955-7609

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James Boyle

From: Rick Creveling <rcreveling@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2026 7:21 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am writing as an active Chesapeake Bay boater, recreational angler, and coastal resident to express my strong support for aggressive, precautionary management under Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden.

Atlantic menhaden are the ecological keystone of the Chesapeake Bay estuary, serving as the primary forage base for striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, marine mammals, and breeding ospreys. While coastwide stocks outside the Bay may show stability, localized depletion within Chesapeake nursery waters is an urgent crisis that directly threatens recreational fisheries and avian survival.

I urge the Board to adopt the following specific management options:

- Issue 1 – Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap: Option C1e. Tying the Bay Cap directly to the total commercial coastwide TAC at a reduced rate of 13.6% (an initial cap of 25,500 metric tons) creates a 50% reduction. This is an essential step to prevent localized overharvest and move industrial reduction purse-seining into open federal waters.
- Issue 2 – Quota Timing within the Chesapeake Bay Cap: Option B2 (Seasonal Harvest Distribution: 25% / 25% / 50%). Splitting the cap into distinct seasonal windows prevents aggressive harvesting during peak warm-weather months, leaving vital forage in place during critical feeding and nesting periods.
- Issue 3 – Bay Cap Review Provision: Option B (3-Year Revisit). The Board should formally re-evaluate the Bay Cap every three years as new ecological and localized depletion science becomes available.

Thank you for your dedication to science-based, ecosystem-level management. Please protect the ecological foundation of the Chesapeake Bay.

Sincerely,

Rick Creveling
Middletown, DE
Sassafras River-homeport
S2S Community Member and Founder
Captain, The Bright Idea

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James Boyle

From: cnadu9@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2026 7:06 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Save our menhaden!

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

There was NO bunker in the Long Island Sound this year, very few striped bass, and probably thousands of hungry brown sharks. Something must be done to fix this problem before it's too late.

I support the following alternatives for the Chesapeake Bay Cap as ecologically and socioeconomically appropriate — to reduce the risk of overfishing and promote resilient futures for the resource and its communities.

Chesapeake Bay Reduction Amount
Sub Option B4 — a 50% reduction in the current Bay Cap, resulting in a Bay Cap of 25,500 mt.

Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period
Option B1 — Even Length & Even Harvest

Quota Period Overages and Underages
Underage Sub Option 1 — an underage in Quota Period 1 would be split evenly and rolled over to Quota Periods 2 and 3.

Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision
Option B — The Chesapeake Bay Cap will be reviewed at least once every three years.

Sincerely,
Curt Nadeau
Old Saybrook, CT

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James Boyle

From: Kelly Colhoun <kccolhoun@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2026 6:40 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Support of ASMFC's Draft Addendum II to the Menhaden Fishery Management Plan

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To Whom it may Concern:

I want to apply the conservative precautionary principle to menhaden harvest and shut down the rendition fishery completely until a stock assessment is completed of the Chesapeake population. Then, only if the numbers clearly support such an industrial harvest, limit it accordingly.

Kelly Colhoun

Sent from my iPhone

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James Boyle

From: Aaron O'Hearn <aaron.ohearn@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 10:08 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Public Comment — Draft Addendum II, Atlantic Menhaden FMP

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

James Boyle, FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Public Comment on Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3, Atlantic Menhaden Interstate Fishery Management Plan

Dear Mr. Boyle and Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

My name is Aaron O'Hearn. I have fished Narragansett Bay for years, and what I have watched happen there over the last five is the reason I am writing.

Menhaden used to be plentiful in the upper Bay. I did not have to look for them. A few years ago I started finding fewer. The year after that, fewer still. This season I have not found them at all — not scarce, not scattered. Absent.

I understand that one angler on one bay is not a stock assessment. But this is a consistent, one-directional change across five seasons on water I know well, and it is not what a well-managed forage fishery looks like from a boat. It also lines up with what the Commission's own record already shows: a stock whose abundance was overestimated, a coastwide reduction that reduced nothing, and mounting pressure from fisheries hunting for a replacement for collapsed sea herring.

CHESAPEAKE BAY CAP

Section 3.1 — Bay Reduction Amount: I support Sub-Option B4, a 50% reduction in the current Bay Cap, resulting in a cap of 25,500 mt.

Section 3.2.1 — Quota Period: I support Option B1, Even Length and Even Harvest.

Section 3.2.2 — Overages and Underages: I support Underage Sub-Option 1, splitting a Quota Period 1 underage evenly across Quota Periods 2 and 3.

Section 3.3 — Revisit Provision: I support Option B, reviewing the Bay Cap at least once every three years.

THE COASTWIDE TAC

I urge the Board to treat the coastwide total allowable catch as the central question this November.

The 2025 action cut the TAC from 233,550 mt to 186,840 mt — a 20% reduction on paper. But 2024 harvest was 186,155 mt. The new ceiling was set essentially at the previous year's landings. That action corrected an assessment error without removing a single metric ton of actual harvest, and it should not be carried forward as though it were a conservation measure. It was a correction. The conservation decision is still in front of the Board.

Two things have changed since then, and both argue for a real reduction rather than another nominal one.

First, states are already rationing. In Massachusetts, the Division of Marine Fisheries closed the 2026 Episodic Event Set Aside Fishery and resumed the Quota Managed Fishery on September 1 with less than 98% of the state's annual menhaden quota remaining. That triggered an in-season cut of the commercial trip limit from 25,000 pounds to 6,000 pounds, plus a prohibition on carrier vessels, mandatory barrel or tote storage, and a 450-foot purse seine cap. A state one bay over from me is restricting menhaden harvest by emergency regulation in the middle of the season. That is not what surplus looks like.

Second, demand is climbing fast. With the sea herring fishery collapsed, menhaden is absorbing the shortfall. Maine's commercial bait fishery has been landing over 900 mt per week this summer and has signaled it can scale to cover the lobster fishery's bait needs, estimated at 36,287 to 45,359 mt annually. A single substitution of that size approaches the entire current Chesapeake Bay Cap. Pressure at that scale will not stay politely inside one state's ledger.

I therefore ask the Board to reduce the coastwide TAC by at least 30%, from 186,840 mt to 130,788 mt. I would support a 50% reduction, to 94,420 mt. Anything less keeps this fishery running at an unacceptable probability of overfishing at exactly the moment demand on the resource is accelerating.

Menhaden are forage. The striped bass, bluefish, tuna, whales, and birds that make this coast worth fishing all depend on them, and the guides, tackle shops, and coastal businesses depend in turn on those fish showing up. I would like to see menhaden come back to the upper Bay. That will not happen while the coastwide quota stays set at a number the fish cannot support.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Respectfully,

Aaron O'Hearn
1075 Gardners Neck Road
Swansea, MA 02777
aaron.ohearn@gmail.com

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James Boyle

From: Adam Rojek <arojek1212@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 4:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Interstate Fishery Management Plan

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello,

I agree with the ASGA recommendations:

Section 3.1 - Sub Option B4
Section 3.2.1 - Option B1
Section 3.2.2 - Underage Sub Option 1
Section 3.3 - Option B

Thank you,
Adam Rojek
280 Shawomet Ave
Warwick, RI 02889

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James Boyle

From: Paul Connolly <ctcoast@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 4:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Critically important to reduce Menhaden fishery cap

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I urge the commission to reduce the fishery cap by at least 50% to help ensure enough menhaden are available for ospreys and other fish and wildlife. I monitor several nests here at the mouth of the CT River and all had 1 or 2 chicks, all but 1 starved.

The fishing at the mouth of the river was the worst it has been in my entire 35 years of fishing these waters. All because there was no menhaden to attract them.

Please help fishermen and the ospreys that depend on menhaden being plentiful in our waters. It was awful watching these birds starve.

Paul Connolly
60 N Cove Rd.
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

860-510-2135

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James Boyle

From: JPM <jminderlein@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 4:54 PM
To: Comments
Cc: info@saltwaterguidesassociation.org
Subject: [External] Fwd: Action Alert: Menhaden Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I support the ASGA recommendations 100%. I've been a USCG Master Capt for 25 years and a licensed MD guide. It's time to put an end to this Omega operation that is basically strip mining the ocean and you might as well put an old school moratorium on striped bass while you/re at it....remember those days? I do.

Everyone at ASMFC should go read tragedy of the commons... or maybe we read it you in public and on the record....

Begin forwarded message:

From: American Saltwater Guides Association <info@saltwaterguidesassociation.org>
Subject: Action Alert: Menhaden Addendum II
Date: September 10, 2026 at 2:29:02 PM EDT
To: <jminderlein@comcast.net>
Reply-To: American Saltwater Guides Association <info@saltwaterguidesassociation.org>

comments@asmfc.org

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James Boyle

From: Kevin Corcoran <kevinacorcoran@att.net>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 1:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden fisheries

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Atlantic fisheries.

Please study in regulate fisheries in our water so that ecosystems can be enhance and utilized. It is so easy for bunker or other prey fish to be neglected and not protected.

I have not seen the abundance of Manhattan in the last couple years that I am accustomed to. It is obvious that the hairspray Canary in the coal mine and should be utilized as an indicator and something wrong in our ecosystem as they were with DDT.
Sincerely,
-Kevin
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James Boyle

From: Mike Holliday <mike@bajiosunglasses.com>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 12:37 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Draft Addendum II and the Coastwise TAC for Atlantic Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear ASMFC,

I'm writing today because of my concerns for the Draft Addendum II and the Coastwise TAC for Atlantic Menhaden and to explain the importance to our fisheries, our lifestyles and our general ability to support the marine food web. It doesn't take rocket science to understand gamefish—they like comfort, a steady source of food and every now and then, they want to reproduce. They're kind of like your typical male.

The essential component to that equation is a steady source of food. Where the food is plentiful, the gamefish, birds, crabs, the entire food web flourishes. Atlantic menhaden are a critical source of food for all our fisheries and the trickle down through the marine web. Where we see declines in the menhaden population, we see declines not just in gamefish, but in seabird life, herons, crabs, shrimp—the entire marine food web. Many of these trickle down species are also essential components to the food web, and their decrease further exacerbates the loss of marine life in that area.

We have more people on the water than ever, all competing for the same access to these fisheries, and all equally important, but without oversight of the menhaden stocks, we are already seeing major declines. That's a sign we're over harvesting the species. Even the commercial take is down, which again, is another sign of the decline of the resource.

It is imperative that you take action to protect Atlantic menhaden and manage the species in a sustainable way so that we don't see a total collapse of the species, the fisheries, the food web and the entire trickle down of marine life. Erring on the side of caution should be your mantra—that's how you would do it if your personal food source was being impacted. All the species involved in the Atlantic menhaden food web are critical to our economics, our lifestyles, our food sources and our state of mind.

I implore you to enhance your protection of Atlantic menhaden by implementing a 50% reduction in the current Bay Cap to 25,500Mt. And reviewing the Bay Cap every two or three years, implementing even length and harvests using the quota period and whenever there is an underage in Quote period 1, the quotas be split evenly and rolled over to Quota Periods 2 and 3.

The health of our fisheries are essential to the health of our fisheries, which determines my ability to make a living as a fishing guide, to live in a coastal environment that is thriving with wildlife and to support my ability to support my family and cherish what it is about where we live and why we live here. Over 60% of the population in this country lives along the coasts. There's a reason for that—we are drawn to the water and to the wildlife. To lose it in the name of profit and greed would be a shame.

Thank you for your time and efforts,

Mike Holliday
Salt Community Man
Mike@BajioSunglasses.c
C: (772) 341-6105

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James Boyle

From: john_wachter@comcast.net
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 12:14 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden management

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am writing to express my concerns for the mismanagement of menhaden. Legislators work hard to manage our fisheries and continue to adjust sizes and limits. It is irresponsible to not manage forage fish. We must have controls over this extremely important forage fish. We are seeing numerous species effected by overharvesting and not allowing these fish to grow and reproduce. Not only are sport fish effected but mammals and birds are as well.
Please put controls in place and manage menhaden populations the same as sport fish.
Thanks
John Wachter

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James Boyle

From: fred scalera <fred.scalera@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 8:09 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden stock reduction

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To who it may concern…

I am a resident of Barnegat New Jersey who has enjoyed fishing along the New Jersey coast out of Barnegat Inlet. I have been fishing for over 50 years and have seen the recent decline in the past several years of a number of sport fishing species such as blue fish and stripers. I have also read about the drastic reduction in the menhaden stocks in the Chesapeake Bay area. Without a healthy, sustainable stock of Menhaden, we will see a continued decline in these vital sport fish stocks which are the backbone of the industry along the whole east coast. Please react NOW to reduce the commercial take of Menhaden. We have a sad history of wiping out other species, such as Atlantic Cod, that should teach us to react before it is too late. The economies of a number of east coast states depend upon a healthy sports fishing industry. We also must keep our oceans healthy and sustainable for future generations to come.
I hope you hear and consider the outcry of our sport fishing community.
With Sincere Regards
Fred Scalera

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James Boyle

From: Steven Lienhardt <stevenlienhardt@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 6:03 AM
To: Comments
Cc: stevenlienhardt@gmail.com
Subject: [External] Public Comment: Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

I am writing to submit my public comments regarding Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3. As a stakeholder invested in the health of our coastal ecosystems, I strongly support enhancing protections for Atlantic menhaden.

Specifically, I favor management actions under Option B to significantly reduce the Chesapeake Bay purse seine fishery cap, alongside Option C to implement seasonal time and area closures during peak summer months.

Furthermore, as a local angler, I have observed firsthand that fishing in the Sandy Hook area has greatly declined recently. The complete absence of menhaden all summer is undoubtedly the primary reason for this downturn. We do not want commercial boats off our coast netting our vital food source and severely impacting our local fishery.

Menhaden are a vital ecological linchpin. Reducing localized depletion ensures a stable forage base for critical apex predators, particularly striped bass, which rely heavily on healthy menhaden populations to sustain their migration and recovery along the East Coast.

Thank you for considering my feedback and for your ongoing efforts to manage our marine resources sustainably.

Sincerely,
Steven Lienhardt

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James Boyle

From: kit <papillonkit2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 6:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Mr. Poston,

My name is Lorraine Fechtig, and I am a Virginia resident concerned about Chesapeake Bay menhaden, as well as the species and communities dependent on a healthy ecosystem. The Chesapeake Bay is changing and showing signs of severe stress—protecting foundational forage fish is one of the most effective ways we can help this struggling estuary by

- Cutting the industrial harvest cap inside the Bay in half (Option C1e).
- Spreading the remaining seasonal limits evenly across the spring, summer, and fall (Option D2).
- Revisiting the ecosystem data every 3 years (Option B)

Regarding the specific management options under consideration in Draft Addendum II, I request that the Board approve the following measures:

- **Section 3.1 (Bay Cap Amount):** I support **Option C1e** to reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by 50 percent to protect our local food web from localized depletion.
- **Section 3.2 (Cap Distribution):** I support **Option D2** to distribute the harvest cap into three equal seasonal periods, preventing the industrial fleet from concentrating all fishing pressure during the vital spring and summer nursery seasons.
- **Section 3.3 (Revisit Provision):** I support **Option B** to ensure these management tools are strictly reviewed every 3 years for effectiveness.

Ensuring that enough menhaden remain in our waters is essential to the long-term health and productivity of the Chesapeake Bay. Please add my name and support to the public record in favor of these conservation measures.

Sincerely,

lorraine fechtig
Virginia

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James Boyle

From: plizardman@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 10:04 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Coastwide TAC and Addendum II Bay Cap

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Regarding the coastwide TAC, the ASMFC needs to cut catch by at least 30% The schools of bunker I no longer see are a clear indication to me that something is going on and action needs to be taken now. Regarding the Addendum II choices on the Bay Cap, I accept the choices advocated by the as well thought out and necessary for the protection of the fishery and athe massive food web it supports.

When I go to the beach, I don't smell bunker anymore, but what I do smell I fear are the ghosts of the carrier pigeon. Too little too late is the same as doing nothing and watching extinction play out in front of us.

Thank you for your attention,

Philip W. Romano
3316 149 Place
Flushing, NY 11354
(917) 561 9426

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James Boyle

From: BERNARD GROSSMAN <bgrossman4@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 6:03 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC):

I am writing as a Maryland resident who has lived in St. Mary's County since 2023and has developed a deep personal connection to the Chesapeake Bay. I am an avid conservationist. I am also deeply interested in the wildlife that depends upon this remarkable ecosystem, particularly osprey, striped bass, sharks, whales, and other species whose survival is tied directly or indirectly to a healthy forage base.

I strongly support a 50 percent reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons annually. I also strongly support establishing seasonal quota periods for menhaden so that harvest is distributed throughout the year rather than concentrated in an intense summer fishing window.

The Chesapeake Bay is facing an ecological crisis that should not be minimized or postponed. Declining productivity, widespread osprey nest failures, and continued concerns about the condition of the striped bass population are warning signs that demand a precautionary approach to the management of one of the Bay's most important forage fish - **menhaden.**

Menhaden are not merely another commercial commodity. They are a foundational component of the Chesapeake Bay food web. They provide critical forage for striped bass, osprey, bluefish, weakfish, dolphins, and numerous other predators. Removing very large quantities of menhaden from the Bay during the period when they are most concentrated and most biologically important deserves particularly careful scrutiny.

The scale and timing of the reduction fishery are especially troubling. More than 100 million pounds of menhaden can be removed under the existing Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap. When that harvest is concentrated into a relatively short summer period, the ecological effect is not simply a matter of the annual tonnage. **Where and when the fish are removed matters.**

An intense summer harvest can create localized depletion at precisely the time when menhaden are serving as forage for other species. It also potentially deprives recreational anglers, commercial watermen, charter operators, and the broader coastal tourism economy of access to a shared public resource. These competing interests deserve meaningful consideration in the management process.

I am particularly concerned about allowing an annual quota to be treated as though the timing of harvest is irrelevant. It is not. A fish removed from the Bay in June is not ecologically equivalent to that same fish being harvested months later. The Bay's predators have seasonal feeding requirements, and the availability of forage during critical periods can matter greatly to their survival and reproductive success.

For that reason, I urge the Commission to establish **strict seasonal quota periods that distribute the allowable harvest more evenly throughout the year and prevent the reduction fishery from concentrating an extraordinary volume of harvest into the summer months**. Seasonal management would provide a more

precautionary approach and would better recognize the fact that Chesapeake Bay is a dynamic ecosystem rather than simply another geographic allocation within a coastwide fishery.

There is also an important management issue that deserves attention. The Commission's coastwide menhaden assessment does not provide the same level of quantitative information about menhaden abundance and availability specifically within Chesapeake Bay. That uncertainty argues for caution—not for assuming that the Bay can safely sustain the maximum allowable harvest.

The Chesapeake Bay belongs to all of us. It belongs to the watermen who have made their living here, the recreational fishermen who pursue its species, the sailors and boaters who enjoy its waters, the communities whose economies depend upon it, and the wildlife that has no voice in these proceedings. Menhaden management should reflect that broader public interest.

I respectfully urge the Commission to:

1. Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons per year.

2. Establish firm seasonal quota periods for menhaden.

3. **Prevent excessive concentration of reduction harvest during the summer months.

4. Apply a precautionary approach in light of ecological uncertainty and the importance of menhaden as forage.

5. Give meaningful consideration to the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the Bay's broader tourism economy.

I have spent years watching, enjoying, and caring about the Chesapeake Bay. I have seen firsthand what makes this ecosystem extraordinary, and I am increasingly concerned about the signs that its productivity and resilience are being strained.

We should not wait until the consequences are unmistakable before acting.

The prudent course is to reduce the intensity of the reduction fishery now, protect menhaden as a critical forage resource, and distribute harvest in a manner that gives the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem a better opportunity to sustain the wildlife and fisheries that depend upon it.

Thank you for your consideration and for your responsibility to future generations of Chesapeake Bay users and stewards.

Sincerely,

Christine S. Grossman
41565 Fairwood Ct
Leonardtown, MD 20650

St. Mary’s County, Maryland

James Boyle

From: b49harman <b49harman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 4:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To the Commission:
I've been made aware by CT Audubon that Osprey populations along the Eastern seaboard are declining due to a lack of food, as per their latest report.
I am urging the ASMFC to reduce the fishery cap by 50%, a precautionary measure to ensure that menhaden, a key foundation fish and a prime food source for Connecticut's Osprey, are not put in even greater jeopardy.

Even more so now, the numbers show that Osprey and other species that rely on menhaden do not have years longer to wait.

This year, Osprey Nation also saw a high number of nest failures and a severe drop in the number of nests that fledged three chicks. Of 679 total nest attempts, 40% failed. Failures include nests where incubation was unsuccessful as well as nests where chicks hatched but did not survive to fledging. Both types of failure can be associated with food stress, although weather, disturbance, predation, inexperience, and other factors can also contribute to unsuccessful nests.

Meanwhile, only 23 nests — less than 6% of all nests — fledged three chicks this year. In previous seasons, up to 20% fell into this category.

I urge you to act now while remaining open to stricter measures.

Thank you,
Barbara Harman
Concerned CT resident

James Boyle

From: susan hauser <susanehauser@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 4:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden harvest

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello Atlantic Marine Fisheries Commission,
Stop permitting the dramatic overfishing of menhaden! You know it's wrong. How about NO harvest until Ospreys recover.
Also it is criminal to be bribed by Omega Protein. Do you want your legacy to be "This person was responsible for the slow extinction of an iconic Chesapeake Bay raptor"?

Dr. Susan E. Hauser
Easton, MD

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James Boyle

From: Ben Lucas <ben6lucas@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 3:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello,

This email is to show my support for cutting the Chesapeake Bay Cap by the full 50%, linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide catch limit. This is an effort to have the atlantic menhaden population managed more strictly in accordance with scientific research supporting the ecological need to do so.

Best,

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James Boyle

From: Jack Cifelli <jackcifelli25@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 4:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden draft addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

In support of the menhaden!

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James Boyle

From: Alex Ford <alex@fordhamilton.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 9:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hey ASMFC,

I am writing to say I strongly support passing Addendum II and reducing the Bay Cap to 25,500 metric tons. This is a critical area for so many valuable species and must be protected from overharvesting.

I also think that the Bay Cap should in no way be linked to the TAC coastwide. I strongly oppose linking the two, and think that the Bay Cap should stand at it's historical average of TAC and be considered standalone as such.

Thank you

Alex

--

Alex Ford
oakpool
US: +1.908.642.8930
alex@fordhamilton.com

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James Boyle

From: fishin4777@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 8:42 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

ASMFC,
40% reduction is a must , The bunker population is in full collapse… Our fisheries and guides are counting on you to make the right call Thank you

Capt Vinny Catalano
631-766-1695
Longislandflyfishing.com
IG : @LONGISLANDFLYFISH
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James Boyle

From: Joseph Esposito <joseph.esposito511@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 8:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello -

My name is Joseph Esposito and I am a saltwater angler from Connecticut, where menhaden numbers are down significantly compared to prior years. This not only has negative impacts on our fishery, but our osprey population as well.

Regarding Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II, I support:

- Fixing the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap at 25,500 metric tons.
    - At a coastwide quota near 112,000 metric tons, keeping the current 51,000-ton Bay Cap would allow roughly 45% of the coast's harvest to come from inside the Bay. A 25,500-ton cap is about 23%, in line with the 24% average since 2018.
- Rejecting every option linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC.
    - Reductions to the Bay Cap are conservation for the Bay, and should be approached as such. Linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC opens the door for geographic reallocations of unused quota and for increased harvest in the future.

I stand by the opinions of the American Saltwater Guides Association. Thank you for considering my public comment.

Joseph Esposito

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James Boyle

From: Katherine King <katkingrn@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 8:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum 2

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Members of the Commission,

I am writing to express my strong support for the draft addendum to cap menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay.

Menhaden are a vital part of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, serving as an important food source for striped bass, bluefish, osprey, and other wildlife, while also playing an important role in maintaining the health of the Bay. Establishing a meaningful cap on menhaden harvest is a necessary step toward protecting this important forage fish and supporting a healthy, balanced ecosystem.

I respectfully urge you to adopt the draft addendum and support a responsible cap on menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued efforts to protect the Chesapeake Bay.

Sincerely,
Katherine King

Sent from my iPhone

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James Boyle

From: gail jaeger <gailgolf44@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 8:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Public Comment: Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Gail Jaeger
Montvale, NJ 07645

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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James Boyle

From: Jean Naples <jeannaples7@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 8:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Mr. Boyle

I am writing as a physician and public health/ environmental protection and endangered species protection advocate, that strongly supports full protection for our public health and our oceans, our aquatic sea animal ecosystems from ocean and environmental pollution due plastic ocean pollution. It is very critical to understand that any ingestion of plastic pellets endangers our public health and the ocean health for our waters and our aquatic sea life.

At this time, I strongly support the fact that the menhaden fish continue to carry out some of the most important work in our oceans. These small, silvery fish serve as a crucial food source for aquatic fish and birds including ospreys and herons to whales and striped bass. These fish filter plankton from the waters off the Atlantic Coast as they feed. However, as climate change and ocean warming dangers continue to endanger survival for menhaden, concerns are growing about whether enough of these fish will remain to support the marine life and birds that depend on them.

I am aware that I am submitting this letter because the public comment period closes in a few days and regulators make their decision. I am aware that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is deciding how much menhaden can be caught, and the outcome will influence the health of our coastal waters for years to come.

As an endangered animal protection advocate, I strongly support protection for the health of our oceans and coastal wildlife. To ensure this continued protection, I strongly urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to please strengthen how it manages Atlantic menhaden, which is a small but essential forage fish.

Please realize that sustainable fishing can coexist with a healthy, abundant menhaden population. However, achieving that balance requires management that fully accounts for menhaden's dual role which includes feeding wildlife and potentially influencing coastal water quality and the ability to be successful does not only depend upon traditional catch limits.

Please understand that Addendum II is a step in the right direction, However, it does not fully ensure that menhaden remains a healthy, abundant part of our coastal ecosystems.

To greatly increase these protections, I strongly urge you to please fully account for the crucial role that menhaden remain as a food source for birds, whales, and fish, and their role in filtering plankton for our coastal waters, in your management decisions. Please adopt strong, science documented management that preserves menhaden as a robust food source for its predators, while also expanding management tools to prevent excessive catch during critical times and areas, by distributing fishing pressure more evenly throughout the season.

At this time, I thank you for your consideration of my letter, my significant public health and environment protection concerns for Atlantic menhaden fish recovery and my recommendations. To ensure full protection for menhaden supplies in our sea waters, I strongly urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to please strengthen and commit to promptly updating menhaden management as new science and assessments become available. As an endangered fish protection advocate, I can document that the continued protection for Atlantic menhaden is too important and crucial at this time. Please strengthen protections for this vital fish before it's too late.

Sincerely,
Jean Marie Naples, MD-Ph.D.

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James Boyle

From: Jeffrey Amorello <jeffamorello@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 7:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden 2027-2028 TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Commissioners - a very frustrated dad and recreational angler in New England here. I hate watching our fisheries decline before my eyes. It's getting exponentially worse every single year. Please do something to stop the madness.

I fully support:

- **Cut the coastwide TAC by 40%** to approximately 112,100 metric tons for 2027 and 2028, which the ASMFC's own science projects would still result in a 40% and 50% chance of overharvest during those years.
    - Effective management action is needed now. Delays would allow the current TAC (186,840 mt) to be used for the 2027 harvest season, enabling continued unsustainable Atlantic Menhaden harvests by the commercial fishery.
    - Set the TAC as a fixed tonnage for 2027 and 2028, not a formula that adjusts automatically. Do not defer it pending further analysis

- **Reject every option linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC.** Reductions to the Bay Cap are conservation for the Bay, and should be approached as such. Linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC opens the door for geographic reallocations of unused quota and for increased harvest in the future.

Sincerely,
Jeff Amorello

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: Jeffrey Amorello <jeffamorello@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 7:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello commissioners. Writing to you as a very frustrated Dad and recreational angler in New England. The state of the fishery is in a rapid decline.

I fully support the following:

- **Fix the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap at 25,500 metric tons.** At a coastwide quota near 112,000 metric tons, keeping the current 51,000-ton Bay Cap would allow roughly 45% of the coast's harvest to come from inside the Bay. A 25,500-ton cap is about 23%, in line with the 24% average since 2018.
- **Reject every option linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC.** Reductions to the Bay Cap are conservation for the Bay, and should be approached as such. Linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC opens the door for geographic reallocations of unused quota and for increased harvest in the future.

Sincerely,
Jeff Amorello

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James Boyle

From: Katie Starbird-Tierney <k.starbirdtierney@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 7:31 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Russell Dize; Del. Dana Stein; David Sikorski; Max Appelman; Michael Luisi; Scott Simmons
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello,
I'm resident of the Chesapeake Bay region and spend a great deal of time on the bay, both on a kayak and on various nature trails along its shores year round. Over the last few years I've been horrified to watch what's happening to the bay osprey population, as well as the overall heath of the bay ecosystem due to the drastic reduction in the menhaden population. Not only is this a problem for the local ecosystem but I've also talked to many local fisherman and crabbers who have spoken about how deeply this has effected them as well, both in terms of the declining numbers of fish and crabs they're seeing and in the price of bait.
I'm originally from Maine, a place that has seen huge ecological and economic benefits from conservation based practices and decisions in fishing regulations, and can speak personally to how those practices best serve local ecosystems and the people who rely on them.
For all these reasons and more I'm reaching out to you to voice my strong support for the following options in Draft Addendum II:

- 3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount: Support option C1e that would reduce the Bay Cap by 50 percent and limits it to 13.6 percent of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC). Also, support option C2a which sets an upper limit of 51,000mt for the Bay Cap, which is the current level.

- 3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution: Support option B2 which establishes three even length quota periods for the Bay Cap, but distributes harvest 25 percent in period 1, 25 percent in period 2, and 50 percent into period 3. Also, support option B which establishes quota period overage payback and rollover of unused quota within a fishing year.

- 3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision: Support option B Revisit Provision to reassess the efficacy of these new management tools every 3 years.

Thank you!

Best,
Katie Starbird-Tierney
K.Starbirdtierney@gmail.com
Takoma Park, MD 20912

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James Boyle

From: Beverly Nemeth <beverlymn@rocketmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 6:30 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Osprey

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Please save the osprey by limiting the harvesting of menhaden. I live in nj and saw so many osprey die this summer of starvation.
Beverly Nemeth, Barnegat Light, NJ
Sent from my iPad
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James Boyle

From: Brian Sittlow <blsittlow@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 7:13 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Chesapeake Bay Cap

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

AMFC,

Menhaden stocks have been poorly managed, resulting in commercial fishing harvest and quotas that have drastically reduced the viability of the species and the ecosystem that relies on their abundance.

I support the following for Draft Addendum II:

SECTION 3.1

CHESAPEAKE BAY REDUCTION AMOUNT

Sub Option B4 — a 50% reduction in the current Bay Cap, resulting in a Bay Cap of 25,500 mt.

SECTION 3.2.1

BAY REDUCTION FISHERY CAP QUOTA PERIOD

Option B1 — Even Length & Even Harvest.

SECTION 3.2.2

QUOTA PERIOD OVERAGES AND UNDERAGES

Underage Sub Option 1 — an underage in Quota Period 1 would be split evenly and rolled over to Quota Periods 2 and 3.

SECTION 3.3

BAY REDUCTION FISHERY CAP REVISIT PROVISION

Option B — The Chesapeake Bay Cap will be reviewed at least once every three years.

With concern and support for converative management measures,

Brian Sittlow

Westerly, RI

James Boyle

From: mattsedgwick <mattsedgwick@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 12:45 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic menhaden draft addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Please take into consideration the stock count and the over harvesting of the most critical baitfish in our ocean. The impact is far further than just financial. It will cause our local fisheries to loose billions. If we have no bunker, we have no tuna, no striped bass, no bluefish and no whales. Every single one of these animals contributes to the economy in a small or very large way. Making up a massive portion of economic impact. Much greater than a few company's pillaging a highly valued resource. Please consider what you are doing and cut the stock consumption. I haven't seen adult bunker in my home water in multiple years and the fishing reflects that. Please do something about this. God bless.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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James Boyle

From: zookeep47@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 2:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To the ASMFC Commissioners,

I am an osprey nest steward in Connecticut and I have been monitoring nests since 2016. I have seen dramatic changes in osprey productivity this year. Nests that had multiple fledglings in the past had one or the nest failed completely. The Connecticut Audubon Society's preliminary report with 99% of the season's data compiled, osprey productivity stands at 0.87 chicks per breeding pair, down sharply from the previous record low of 1.26 in 2025.

In Rhode Island, only 38% of the 339 monitored nests had successfully fledged young. That's only 0.33 young per pair.
In 2025, Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey documented the worst breeding season in more than 30 years.
ospreys to maintain a stable population is 0.8 young per pair.

The Connecticut Audubon Society along with Oceana, The American Bird Conservancy, The National Wildlife Federation Action Fund, Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey, New Jersey Osprey Project. and others are stating osprey populations are in trouble This has been documented in recent years to be caused by a decreased availability of Atlantic menhaden to nesting ospreys due to industrial-scale harvesting in the Chesapeake Bay. Menhaden constituting three-quarters or more of the osprey's total prey especially when the chicks are young.

Adult ospreys are increasingly unable to locate sufficient menhaden resulting in starving chicks, nest failures, abandoned nests and chick and fledgling deaths.

It's time to act. I respectfully ask you to pause altogether or significantly reduce the Chesapeake Bay menhaden catch by 50%, spreading the harvest more evenly across the season, and linking the Chesapeake Bay cap to the Atlantic coast's total allowable catch.

Bringing up menhaden populations is one of the most effective ways that can be taken to maintaining a balanced and productive marine ecosystem and to restore osprey populations.

Please take the next critical step by protecting menhaden so that both wildlife and a healthy ecosystem can thrive.

Sincerely,

Laura Bastien
Waterford, CT

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James Boyle

From: Joanne Shipley <joanne_shipley@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 1:56 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Amazes me this is even debatable. Of course we need to monitor and protect the Menhaden. It is obvious how important they are.

Please protect them.

Joanne Shipley
Ridgely, Maryland
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James Boyle

From: strickers@verizon.net
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 1:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC):

We strongly support reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by ***50 percent—from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons per year—and establishing strict seasonal quota periods for menhaden*.** The Chesapeake Bay is too important, and the ecological warning signs are too serious, to continue managing this critical forage fish as though the timing and location of harvest do not matter.

We own riverfront property in Tall Timbers, MD. There are two Osprey nests on poles; one just up-river and one just down-river from our land. It is horrible to watch, this past three years, the Osprey chicks starve to death.

In addition to Osprey and their chicks, there are other types of marine life in the Chesapeake watershed that depend on menhaden for their survival. Watching the Osprey chicks die like this is visual evidence on the impact on other species that depend on menhaden in the Chesapeake watershed.

A menhaden harvested from a concentrated school in the Bay during the summer is no longer available to the predators that depend upon that school. Concentrated removal can create localized depletion during a biologically important period and can affect the availability of forage to other users of this shared public resource. *It is both when and where those fish are removed that matter*.

One user group should not be permitted to concentrate an enormous harvest of a shared forage resource during the period when that resource is most important to the rest of the ecosystem and to other Bay users. The consequences extend beyond the reduction fishery. Menhaden support the Bay's recreational fishing economy, commercial and charter fishermen, watermen, wildlife, and coastal tourism.

Please:

• ***Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent to 25,500 metric tons annually*.**

• ***Establish strict seasonal quota periods that distribute harvest throughout the year rather than permitting an intense summer harvest.***

• ***Apply a precautionary management approach considering uncertainty regarding localized menhaden abundance and the ecological condition of the Chesapeake Bay.***

• ***Consider the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the broader Chesapeake Bay economy, not just ONE Virginia based fishing company.***

The Chesapeake Bay is a complex and interconnected ecosystem, and menhaden are one of its essential links.

Please do not wait for further deterioration before acting. There is no time for additional five-year studies to delay the decision. The severe drop in Osprey nesting pairs and the lack of their surviving chicks will not replenish the species enough to survive that long.

We believe the Commission has an obligation to manage menhaden conservatively and to recognize that the health of the Bay must take precedence over maximizing a concentrated industrial harvest.

Reduce the cap. Establish meaningful seasonal quotas. Protect the forage base. Give the Chesapeake Bay—and the people and wildlife that depend upon it—a greater margin for recovery.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott and Melissa Stricker
18067 William Howard Way
Tall Timbers, Maryland 20690

And

2908 N. Greencastle Street
Arlington, VA 22207

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James Boyle

From: Noah Gibbs <noahbistro2026@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 11:20 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic menhaden draft addendum

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Cut the Chesapeake bay cap by the full 50 percent. I've lived on the Chesapeake bay my whole life, I've never seen this lack of menhaden before. Im honestly scared for the marine life. What will they eat? Please save our marine life from starvation.

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James Boyle

From: NG Hunt <godmode4356@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 11:14 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic menhaden draft addendum

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Please reduce the coastwide catch limit of me menhaden by 40 percent. Fisherman have have been frustrated with the over farming of the menhaden the past couple years and nothing really changed, but now the birds are starting to die of starvation because they cant even find a manhaden to eat. This presents a whole knew problem that can have catastrophic outcomes. Hopefully you guys consider this solution and can save our ecosystem.

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James Boyle

From: danforth.will@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 11:07 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Atlantic Menhaden Management Board:

I am writing as a recreational angler from Marblehead, Massachusetts to urge the Board to adopt the strongest conservation measures in Draft Addendum II to the Atlantic Menhaden Fishery Management Plan.
Menhaden are the foundation of the Atlantic food web, and the science shows current harvest levels are leaving too few fish in the water, especially in Chesapeake Bay.

I support the following actions:

1. Cut the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by the full 50 percent. Only a full cut leaves enough forage in the Bay for striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, osprey, and the many other species that depend on menhaden.

2. Link the Bay cap to the coastwide catch limit, so that when the coastwide limit drops, the Bay cap drops with it. The Bay should not absorb a growing share of coastwide harvest when overall limits tighten.

3. Spread the Bay harvest across quota periods so the Bay is not stripped of menhaden in spring and summer, when predators need them most.

4. Reduce the coastwide catch limit by 40 percent to meet the science for 2027 and beyond. Without a significant cut, the fishery faces an unacceptable risk of overfishing.

I fish the waters off Massachusetts, and healthy menhaden runs mean healthy striped bass and bluefish seasons for all of us. Please act on the science and give this critical forage species the protection it needs.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Will Danforth
Marblehead, MA
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James Boyle

From: Charles Shilling <shillingassoc@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 10:33 AM
To: Comments
Cc: David Reumont
Subject: [External] "Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II.

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Sirs,

The long standing model used by the Atlantic Coast Fisheries, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and even the U.S. Army Core of Engineers (to the extent they are engaged in the rubber stamping of permits) as they collectively profess that they can successfully manage the last 10% of the historical high fisheries annual catch data and records has been an absolute and abysmal FAILURE!

Currently, according to the 2025 Fisheries Catch records, the management of the Chesapeake Bay (including the Potomac River) fisheries has fallen to attempting to now manage the last one perfent (1%) of historical annual catch highs.

Given this decline, immediate action is necessary. I urge you to take an aggressive stance by reducing the Menhaden Annual Catch Limits by 75% for all commercial enterprises for the next ten (10) years.

As a local citizen, I stopped purchasing a recreational sport fishing license over six years ago due to the severe depletion of Rockfish in our estuary. We need to Immediately lower Menhaden catch limits which is critical to restoring these populations.

Regards,
Charles F. Shilling
301-535-8339

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James Boyle

From: Bob Cukla <birdmanbellwood@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 10:14 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

We are past due the time that the ASMFC should put a 50% reduction on the menhaden harvest by Omega Protein, Ocean Harvest. There is more than enough scientific evidence from endless studies linking Strip bass declines and now Osprey nest failures where Omega Protein operates. NOW is when the ASMFC needs to act. We have too many examples of fish species declining and subsequently other dependent species because of fishery mismanagement by industry and the ASMFC. An historic example is the collapse of the Cod fishery. And now the identical fishing technology is being utilized by Ocean Harvest up and down the Atlantic Coast and the Chesapeake Bay area. This industrial form of fishing is not sustainable! I am 76 and have witnessed too many species decline or go extinct. It is my responsibility to respond to these failures on behalf of future generations of all species. I am asking that the ASMFC and NOT Omega Protein assume the responsibility of putting in place a 50% reduction on mendaden harvest and also spread that harvest over the season to protect the reproduction and lives of dependent species. Sincerely Robert J. Cukla

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James Boyle

From: Rita Allan <rhawrot@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 9:45 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap (Option B4/ reducing the cap to 25,500 metric tons). As an ecologist, I support seasonal quota periods as this just makes good ecological sense. As a concerned citizen who lives within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, I am concerned about the environmental and economic health of this large important body of water.

If we consider the osprey as an indicator of the health of the Bay, then we are failing miserably. The last several years have seen declining productivity and widespread nest failures. Industrial reduction fishing extracts over 100 million pounds of fish in a concentrated period over the summer. Any high school biology student knows that the removal of fish harms the food web and those species dependent on this food source. This reduction in fish also deprives watermen, anglers, and coast tourism economies of fair access.

Please support implementation of strict quota periods that distribute harvest evenly across the year rather than allowing an intense summer harvest. It's in the best interest of all species.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Rita Allan

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James Boyle

From: johnholmgren@optonline.net
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 8:14 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am commenting on Draft Addendum II. I urge the Board to fix the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap at 25,500 metric tons and to reject every option that links the Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC.

John Holmgren

Norwalk, CT

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James Boyle

From: Malena Thren <malena.thren@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 7:39 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom it may concern,

This is not just our future at risk, but those of our children and grandchildren. If they want a chance at enjoying angling, and the natural world through this lens, and if we want to continue having enough food to eat, we need to listen to science and therefore I support:

cutting the Chesapeake Bay Cap by the full 50%

Linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide catch limit, so when one drops, the other does too

Spreading Bay harvest across quota periods so the Bay isn't stripped in spring and summer

Reducing the coastwide catch limit by 40% to meet the science for 2027 and beyond.

Please take this into account when making decisions.

Kind Regards,
Malena Thren

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James Boyle

From: Kate Willette <willettekate@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 8:00 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Ospreys

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Please help the ospreys. I live on St. George Island Md and the ospreys are struggling. Failed nests and dead offspring, the ospreys are disappearing around here.
Please take action to protect the ospreys and curb the menhaden fisheries or else the population of ospreys will disappear.

Kathryn S. Willette
St. George Island, MD

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James Boyle

From: austin coker <acoker97@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 4:21 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Save the ocean
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James Boyle

From: Nathan Kunkel <n8kunk@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 1:00 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I support the 50% reduction

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James Boyle

From: bounce@bounce.votervoice.net on behalf of Michael Toth <user@votervoice.net>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 5:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Approve Draft Addendum II for menhaden management

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear FMP Coordinator Boyle,

An abundant menhaden population is crucial for keeping sportfishing relevant. Fewer menhaden means fewer gamefish, which in turn means fewer fishermen. There's no point in going fishing if fish aren't available, or so scarce that it's not worth the effort. The recent decision in CCA v. State of North Carolina relied on evidence that overfishing for a species reduces the population of that species AND other species. Please don't make the same mistake that North Carolina made. Some of those fish stocks may be permanently harmed.

Sincerely,

Michael Toth
15 Fanning Way
Pennington, NJ 08534
miketothhome@gmail.com
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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 2:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Mary OBryan

Email

maryjoobryan@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I am a member of Osprey Watch and provide data on 5 nesting platforms. The fledgling rate was .025 this year. It has continually gone don't year over year from food stress. Our local anglers have noticed a big difference in fishing. The ducks aren't producing young, we used to have up to 30 ducklings in our creek every summer and this year we had two. We have less juvenile herons and less Megansere and buffoeheads in the winter. We need to protect the bay and limit menhaden catch near the coast. It doesn't make any sense to me to catch menhaden to turn it into fish food for farmed salmon either.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 6:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lorelei Shull

Email

lovelychia@aol.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I urge all those involved to help protect the menhaden population. I live on the coast and have enjoyed watching the Ospreys come back year after year to their nests to rear their next brood. The thought that after overcoming near extinction to thrive and now to be at risk once again is heartbreaking. We need to look at this more than just an osprey problem. As we know a kink in the food chain sets off a domino effect which will in the long run effect everyone including the fishermen who rely on the larger fish to make a living.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 7:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Brandon Goyer

Email

bkgoyer@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I am in strong support of further reductions in the menhaden quotas to reduce the impact of harvesting on the menhaden population. Menhaden underpin the entire Atlantic coastal ecosystem, and it is essential that we do everything we can to maintain ample forage for the multitude of predators that rely on them, and support local economies. Whether starving osprey or declining populations of striped bass, we know something is wrong, and this action would surely improve the situation. In a world where this ecosystem is under threat from habitat loss, nonpoint source pollution, and climate change, protecting the forage base is something we have more control over to actually make positive change. Let's choose to make that high-impact action for the future of our waters. Please take steps to reduce the quotas as soon as possible. Thank you.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 3:17 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Alisa Plazonja

Email

alisamp.mail@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

As someone who lives on the Massachusetts coast, it has been heartening to see decades of conservation efforts help osprey populations recover. I am therefore saddened to learn that ospreys in the Mid-Atlantic are struggling as one of their key food sources, menhaden, has declined. However, I am encouraged that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is considering a significant reduction in menhaden catch quotas to help this important forage fish rebuild its abundance and commend the Commission for taking action.

As the Commission considers this reduction, I urge you to also examine how menhaden quotas are allocated along the coast. A more equitable allocation could help ensure that fishermen and lobstermen in coastal communities have fair access to this important resource and support the livelihoods that depend on a healthy and sustainable marine ecosystem.

Protecting menhaden benefits not only ospreys and other wildlife, but also the broader coastal ecosystem and the fishing communities that depend on it. Thank you.

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James Boyle

From: Glenn Reschke <greschke@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 6:45 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Theresa
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

We are writing to express our strong support for a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap (Option B4), lowering it from the current 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons, along with seasonal quota periods, as proposed in Draft Addendum II.

My wife and I are residents of Pasadena in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, and consider ourselves to be wildlife conservationists, avid boaters and concerned citizens who cares deeply about the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

We have lived at our current home, which situated on the northern shoreline of the Magothy River, for over 30 years. During that time the two of us, our children, and now our grandchildren, have come to love all the forms of recreation and wildlife the Bay has to offer. Each spring we eagerly await the return of the Osprey to signal that the end of winter is just around the corner. A few weeks later we watch as the females take to sitting on there nests and by May or June the little heads of their chicks begin to appear. We can see two of the nests from our home and frequently check on their status with our small spotting scope.

This year was so different, and not just a little bit different. Only one of the two pairs of Osprey behind our home returned. For the first time ever it produced no chicks. Same was true for the rest of the Magothy. In past years nearly all of the navigational buoys in the Magothy would have active Osprey nests - this year there was only a handful of nests and, as best as we can tell, none of them produced any chicks! Again, we are fairly active boaters, kayakers and birder watchers in and around the Magothy and surrounding waters and **WE SAW NO OSPREY CHICKS IN ANY NESTS THIS YEAR! NONE!**

The Bay is showing many signs of ecological stress. Declining productivity and widespread nest failures among ospreys is being reported by many experts. Those same experts report that this decline when combined with the stressed striped bass populations, point to a shortage of forage fish for the Bay's predators. Menhaden are a key link in that food web. These signals call for precautionary conservation now, not after further decline.
The concentration of the reduction fishery is also a serious concern. Industrial reduction fishing removes over 100 million pounds of fish within a concentrated summer window. That harms the local food web and deprives other user groups, including watermen, anglers, and coastal tourism economies, of fair access to the resource.

I therefore urge the Board to adopt strict seasonal quota periods that distribute harvest evenly across the year rather than allowing an intense summer harvest. Combined with the reduced cap, this would better protect the Bay's predators and the communities that depend on them.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your work to safeguard the Bay.

Respectfully,
Glenn & Theresa Reschke
731 Swan Cove Ln
Pasadena, MD 21122

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James Boyle

From: Janet Unger <sic_pub@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 5:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Ospreys and menhaden harvests

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

People really do care about this! Commercial fishing should never be allowed to have such a negative impact on one of New Jersey's success stories. The osprey nests have been such an exciting part of our family shore vacations. Please do everything you can to protect them!

Janet Unger
Boonton NJ
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James Boyle

From: mike asinas <mikeasinas1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 5:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I support the following selected alternatives for the Chesapeake Bay Cap, as ecologically and socioeconomically appropriate, to inform effective management actions, reduce the risk of overfishing, and promote resilient futures for the resource and its communities.

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Amount
: Sub Option B4 – a 50% reduction in the current Bay Cap, resulting in a Bay Cap of 25,500 mt.

3.2.1. Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period
: Option B1 – Even Length & Even Harvest.

3.2.2 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period Overages and Underages
: Underage Sub Option 1 – an underage in Quota Period 1 would be split evenly and rolled over to Quota Periods 2 and 3.

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision
: Option B – The Chesapeake Bay Cap will be reviewed at least once every three years.

The coastwide TAC must be reduced by at least 30%, from the current 186,840mt to 130,788 mt. Ideally, the coastwide TAC should be reduced by 50%, lowering the operating TAC to 94,420 mt. These are the only options to ensure the coastwide commercial Atlantic Menhaden fishery operates at a capacity that does not carry a 100% probability of overfishing.

Thank you,
Michael Asinas

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James Boyle

From: Kearns, Greg <Greg.Kearns@pgparks.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 5:12 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] ASMFC-Chesapeake Bay Menhaden Reduction Fishery – Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

to: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission – Atlantic Menhaden Management Board
Re: Chesapeake Bay Menhaden Reduction Fishery – Draft Addendum II

Dear Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board:

I am writing as a Chesapeake Bay resident and professional naturalist /osprey scientist ,who cares deeply about the health of this Bay and the wildlife and communities that depend on it. I am asking you to reduce the Chesapeake Bay menhaden reduction-fishery cap by the maximum proposed 50% and spread distribution of the catch through the summer, 25, 25 and 50%(Option B2) reassess management every 3 years or sooner ,and to put the ecological needs of the Bay ahead of the continued expansion or concentration of industrial reduction fishing.

Menhaden are not simply another commercial fish. They are a foundation of the Chesapeake Bay food web. They provide food for striped bass and other fish, and they are particularly important to Chesapeake Bay ospreys.

The latest science should concern all of us. As a 43- year osprey research biologist surveying the Patuxent River, I participated in a study from 2024 - 2026 for the Center for Conservation Biology at Wm. and Mary, the study examined **almost 1000 osprey nests throughout the Chesapeake Bay** and we found substantial reproductive problems in higher-salinity areas. Compared with historical data from the 1980s, reproductive performance had declined at all high-salinity sites to all -time lows , worse by far than the peak of the DDT era 50 -70 years ago and the population is declining in the Bay by at least 14 % annually. An estimated more than 5000 chicks dying every year from starvation and lack of menhaden, formerly 75% of their diet but now less than 30%. The reproduction is at .**33 chicks per nest** , less than a third (**1.15 chicks**) needed to just remain a stable population. We as researchers found evidence of significant food stress and concluded that reduced availability of Atlantic menhaden may be a primary driver of poor osprey reproductive performance in those areas. **At this rate, the population of Ospreys within the Chesapeake is unsustainable.** Now this decline has spread to surrounding states as well. We believe Ospreys are the best bio -indicator species available for this topic and are sounding the alarm .

That finding deserves action—not dismissal.

I understand that the science does not establish that menhaden fishing is the only cause of osprey decline. Environmental conditions and other factors also affect osprey reproduction. In fact, CCB and USGS continues to investigate whether insufficient menhaden and other environmental factors are contributing to the problem. But uncertainty about every cause should not be used as a reason to continue removing large quantities of an important forage fish. When the health of an ecosystem is in question, precaution should guide management.

ASMFC itself recognized the problem when it established the Chesapeake Bay menhaden cap as a precautionary measure because of concerns about localized depletion. The current **51,000-metric-ton cap** was adopted in 2018, reflecting average reduction landings in the Bay during 2012–2016.

Now, in 2026, ASMFC is considering reducing that cap by as much as **50 percent**. The Commission says this review was prompted by declining pound-net harvest and catch rates in the Bay, increasing concentration of reduction harvest during the summer, and potential downstream effects on menhaden predators.

Those are not minor warning signs.

As a resident, I do not believe the Chesapeake Bay should be managed around the question of how many menhaden an industrial reduction fishery can legally remove. The question should be how many menhaden the Bay needs to remain a functioning ecosystem. Single species management won't work because it does not view the entire picture of the ecosystem, such as other contributing factors like predation needs (such as Osprey, Striped Bass, etc.) and environmental changes.

Omega Protein has a legitimate commercial interest in harvesting menhaden, but that commercial interest should not outweigh the public's interest in a healthy Chesapeake Bay. The menhaden in these waters belong to an ecosystem that supports ospreys, striped bass, other wildlife, recreational fishing, commercial fishing, tourism, and the communities surrounding the Bay.

I respectfully urge the Commission to:

• Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap substantially, at least 50% within the Bay and strongly consider reducing the Coastwide harvest to the maximum allowed.
• Prevent excessive concentration of harvest during the spring and summer;
• Strengthen monitoring of menhaden abundance and availability within the Bay;
• Continue to monitor results of independent research into osprey reproduction and menhaden availability; and
• Manage menhaden as an essential forage fish and ecosystem resource—not simply as an industrial commodity.

We should not wait until Chesapeake Bay ospreys, striped bass, and other menhaden dependent predators show unmistakable signs of ecosystem-wide food shortages before taking action. Be proactive. This is one thing we can control now.

I ask you to listen to the people who live beside this Bay, the scientists studying its wildlife, and the evidence showing that something has changed.

The Chesapeake Bay is a public resource. Its menhaden should first sustain the Bay's food web—not simply sustain an industrial harvest.

Please reduce the Chesapeake Bay menhaden reduction-fishery cap by 50% ,spread out the harvest 25,25 and 50% ,and adopt precautionary measures, such as reducing the Coastwide TAC , that ensures there are enough menhaden left in the water to support the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully ,

Greg Kearns , Professional naturalist and osprey scientist

Dunkirk , Md .

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James Boyle

From: shoycrawford@icloud.com
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 5:08 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Susan Crawford; Jay Crawford
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden - Support for Chesapeake Harvest Reduction!

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Mr. Boyle:

We live on the MagothyRiver and have witnessed firsthand the decline in the river and bay fishes, all supported by significant data. **We strongly support a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay fishery cap (Option B4/ reducing the cap to 25,500 metric tons) and support seasonal quota periods!**

Together with the stressed populations of striped bass, these declines signal an URGENT need for precautionary conservation practices NOW.
Industrial reduction fishing extracts over 100 million pounds of fish in a concentrated summer window, harming the local food web and depriving other groups, especially watermen and anglers, of fair access.
We urge fishery managers to implement strict quota periods that will distribute the harvest evenly across the year rather than allowing an intense summer harvest.

We live on the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay's Magothy River, where it meets Cockey's Creek - brackish water. From our 100-year-old home's panoramic view we have watched what the data shows : critical decline in Osprey survival due to commercial overfishing.
Each year, 3 pairs of ospreys would arrive to build their nests in March , dive to catch adult-sized menhaden (not small fish) which were fed to the hatched chicks by the 4th of July. By Sept the young were leaving the nest & by October all departed and the Bald eagles & terns moved back in. Since the nests are built on all sorts of signs & poles, this was observable by boat all the way along the 5+mile long Magothy & creeks leading out to the bay.

Two years ago, there was a sudden & remarkable decline in nests containing any chicks. The osprey adults would dive, but come up empty, so unlike previous years! This year was far worse. The ospreys arrived & built nests, but by July there were NO chicks in any nest we passed by boat. The same decline in successful Osprey fishing 'dives' to sustain these large, well traveled birds seemed even worse. 2 of 'our' local 3 pairs LEFT in late July this year, as there appeared no reason to remain. More ominous, we could see dolphins & rays for the first time from our house. While at first this new development might seem exciting & delightful, instead it means that salt water species are starving enough to search fresh water creeks for food, where juvenile menhaden normally grow in their lifecycle from ocean to rivers & back to Chesapeake, normally achieving their 1-3 year adult size.

While it is fine to perform another study to confirm all the data that already exists, please do not wait to ban at least half of the currently allowed Menhaden harvest. Menhaden, we understand, also help

to filter the Chesapeake's water, also a topic of human concern.

Thank you for being a responsible steward of the entire Bay ecosystem before it is too late!

Susan Hoy Crawford
422 Riverside Drive
Pasadena, MD 21122

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James Boyle

From: Karen Chatten <kschatten@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 4:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden harvest

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

It was quite a shock to see that the Osprey population in New Jersey had the worst breeding season in more than 30 years. We need to make sure their food does not disappear so that they do not disappear. Please drastically reduce the allowable menhaden harvest.

Thank you.

Karen Chatten
Hawthorne, NJ

Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS

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James Boyle

From: Paul Mangels <pmangels17@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 4:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hi There,

I am writing because I'm concerned about the level of menhaden harvesting in the Chesapeake Bay. It has serious, problematic impacts on the entire east coast and our vital fisheries. Recreational and commercial fishermen are all suffering as a result, as are important marine species like whales, osprey, striped bass, and many others. I am urging you to please take serious action to limit menhaden harvests and protect the most vital marine ecosystems on the east coast, for the benefit of everyone who relies on the Atlantic Ocean.

Specifically, I strongly urge you to:
1. Reduce the Chesapeake Bay harvest cap by a full 50% as recommended by the latest scientific research.
2. Tie future caps to coastwide caps so that over time the Chesapeake harvest stays in step with other regions.
3. Distribute Chesapeake harvest seasons across the year so they don't only take fish in the spring and summer.
4. Reduce the coastwide menhaden harvest limit by at least 40%, also in keeping with the latest science.

You are the stewards of one of America's most vital and impactful fisheries. We are all relying on you as the only people who are in a position to preserve our fisheries for future generations. Please do what is right, without half measures, so that the Atlantic coast can continue to be the bountiful resource we all rely on.

Thanks,
Paul

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James Boyle

From: Andrew Manus <amanus@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 4:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II: CHESAPEAKE BAY CAP

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

RE: Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II**: Chesapeake Bay Cap**

My name is Andrew T. Manus. I am a retired conservation professional. Over my 40 year career, I have participated in the conservation field as the Executive Director of the University of Delaware Sea Grant College Program, the Director of the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife (in that capacity I served as an ASMFC Commissioner), the Mid-Atlantic Director of Conservation Programs for Ducks Unlimited and finished out my career as the Director of Conservation Program for The Nature Conservancy in Delaware. During the last eight years while retired I have chaired the Delaware Public Integrity Commission for three years and served as a Commissioner for five years.

I write to support the cutting of the current 51,000 metric-ton Bay Cap in half. This would leave 25,500 metric tons of additional menhaden in the Bay. The basis for my support is both ecological and ethically driven. Menhaden are a vital forage fish. They nourish larger predators like striped bass, osprey, whales, dolphins and pelicans. Removing menhaden at the current rates is having a deleterious effect on the ocean and estuarine ecosystems and causing decline across multiple species noted above.

Modern industrial menhaden fishing uses massive purse seines and spotter planes to clear enormous volumes of fish from nearshore nurseries like the Chesapeake Bay. I believe that my support for the reduction noted above is a more ethical and responsible approach to the harvesting of menhaden than the current industrial dominated one currently in place. The menhaden fishery is a natural resource that belongs to all the people and future generations, not just the current commercial enterprises.

In closing, I request the ASMFC factor into its decision making future generations intrinsic right to experience vibrant, living estuaries and abundant coastal life, rather than inheriting a

depleted ecosystem. For menhaden to be a healthy fishery it must move beyond being simply viewed as a commodity that generates corporate earnings or tons of fishmeal produced.

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James Boyle

From: Matthew Barkoff <matthew.barkoff@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 4:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Re: Atlantic Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I live on the long island sound. Prior to the past three summers we would have schools of bunker swimming around the Sound. Yet more recently, I have yet to see any schools. I am not a fisherman but I do worry about the local wildlife that is dependent on the bunker such as the Osprey. Hopefully you can do something to reduce the overfishing and improve our local ecosystem. thanks, Matt Barkoff

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James Boyle

From: Ashley Westbrook <westbrook_ashley@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 3:59 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Russell Dize; Del. Dana Stein; David Sikorski; Max Appelman; Scott Simmons; Tate Westbrook
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom it may concern,

I support the strongest proposed conservation measures, which are the following:

- 3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount - **Option C1e: that reduces the CAP by at least 50 percent in 2027 (25,500 mt) and limits the future Bay Cap to 13.6% of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC).**
- 3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution - **Option B2, which establishes three even length quota periods for the Bay Cap, but distributes harvest 25% in period 1, 25% in period 2, and 50% into period 3.**
- 3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision - **Option B to revisit the Bay Cap every 3 years.**

Our family has been boating and living along the Chesapeake Bay for more than 20 years and we have a deep connection to the waters and ecosystems of this area. As the largest estuary in the United States, the Chesapeake Bay is a critical breeding and nesting ground for many land and water species along the entire eastern seaboard. While I understand there are many environmental stressors the Bay must endure, the massive harvests of menhaden is a contributing factor to the decline in critical species such as the osprey and striped bass.

We have an osprey nest at the end of our dock and this summer was the first time in more than ten years the osprey offspring did not survive. While this is anecdotal, it is consistent with broader data which shows widespread osprey productivity declines. I believe it is in part due to a lack of small menhaden in the late spring when they are needed by the osprey to feed their hatchlings. The osprey are starving. In the late spring/early summer, we used to see large schools of menhaden in the waters off our dock, but this year they did not come until late in the summer, after the osprey chick(s) had died.

These declines signal an URGENT need for precautionary conservation practices. Industrial reduction fishing extracts over 100 million pounds of fish in a concentrated summer window, harming the local food web and depriving other groups, especially watermen and anglers, of fair access. We urge fishery managers to implement strict quota periods that will distribute the harvest evenly across the year rather than allowing an intense summer harvest.

While I agree with the need for a broader study that has been funded by the state of Virginia, we cannot wait for the results to take action. We must limit the menhaden harvesting as much as possible NOW and once the results of the study are available, a more permanent plan can be determined.

Thank you for taking public comments and considering the interests of all who care about the Bay. Please take action to limit industrial fishing until we know more.

Ashley Westbrook
Pasadena, MD
571-406-8088

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James Boyle

From: Zachary Welch <zcwelch8@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 3:16 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I support the following selected alternatives for the Chesapeake Bay Cap, as ecologically and socioeconomically appropriate, to inform effective management actions, reduce the risk of overfishing, and promote resilient futures for the resource and its communities.

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Amount
: Sub Option B4 – a 50% reduction in the current Bay Cap, resulting in a Bay Cap of 25,500 mt.

3.2.1. Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period
: Option B1 – Even Length & Even Harvest.

3.2.2 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period Overages and Underages
: Underage Sub Option 1 – an underage in Quota Period 1 would be split evenly and rolled over to Quota Periods 2 and 3.

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision
: Option B – The Chesapeake Bay Cap will be reviewed at least once every three years.

The coastwide TAC must be reduced by at least 30%, from the current 186,840mt to 130,788 mt. Ideally, the coastwide TAC should be reduced by 50%, lowering the operating TAC to 94,420 mt. These are the only options to ensure the coastwide commercial Atlantic Menhaden fishery operates at a capacity that does not carry a 100% probability of overfishing.

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James Boyle

From: Charles Post <charlesgiffordpost@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 3:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

My name is Charles Post. I am a UC Berkeley-trained ecologist, conservation filmmaker, and lifelong birder who grew up watching ospreys hunt menhaden on Cape Cod. Those experiences helped shape my understanding of how deeply connected our coastal ecosystems are, and why protecting the fish that sustain them matters.

I am writing in support of a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap under Draft Addendum II. I also support seasonal quota periods that limit concentrated harvest during spring and summer, when breeding birds and other predators depend on reliable access to forage fish.

As an ecologist, I believe management must account for where and when prey is available, alongside the overall abundance of a fish population. An osprey raising chicks needs fish within reach of its nest. Coastwide abundance alone cannot tell us whether that bird has enough food.

I urge the Board to take a precautionary approach that leaves more menhaden in the water while supporting continued research into local prey availability and predator needs. Scientific uncertainty should motivate careful management and better monitoring, rather than delay meaningful protection.

I recognize that these decisions affect fishing livelihoods. Protecting the ecological foundation of our coastal waters is also an investment in the communities, fisheries, and wildlife that depend on them.

Watching an osprey emerge from the water with a menhaden remains one of the most memorable sights of my childhood. I want future generations to experience that same sense of wonder along a coast that continues to support abundant life.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your work on behalf of our shared coastal resources.

Sincerely,
Charles Post
B.S. and M.A., Ecology, University of California, Berkeley

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James Boyle

From: Patsy Wang-Iverson <pwangiverson@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 3:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Save some menhaden for ospreys, please

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Atlantic State MarineFisheries Commission,

Please pass tighter limits on menhaden harvests in the Chesapeake Bay and beyond. Overfishing has caused the number of successful osprey hatchlings to plummet in the past year.

Such a drastic decline does not bode well for marine ecosystem health.

I hope you will do the right thing.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Patsy Wang-Iverson
****
Patsy Wang-Iverson, Ph.D.
cell: 609.532.0292
net: pwangiverson@gmail.com

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James Boyle

From: Madeline Raleigh <madelineraleigh77@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 2:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II Testimony

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To the Atlantic States Marine Fishing Commission,

My interest in Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum is both personal and longstanding. I live along the Connecticut shore and have been a Connecticut Audubon Society osprey monitor for 13 years. I am also the administrator of the Osprey Stewards East Coast Alliance, an independent coalition of osprey monitors in the Atlantic states concerned about osprey decline.

In 2025 Connecticut monitoring data revealed the first decline in osprey fledgling production in more than 15 years at a rate of 1.26 chicks per pair. Reports from the 2026 Connecticut nesting season are even more alarming with a rate of 0.87 chicks per pair and a 40% nesting failure.

Adult ospreys are increasingly unable to locate sufficient menhaden resulting in starving chicks, nest failures, abandoned nests and chick and fledgling deaths. Similar devastating, unsustainable declines are being observed up and down the Atlantic Coast.

Nutrient-rich menhaden serve as the foundational food source of ospreys constituting roughly three-quarters or more of their total prey. This extreme osprey food stress has been documented in recent years to be caused by a decreased availability of Atlantic menhaden to nesting ospreys due to industrial-scale harvesting in the Chesapeake Bay.

Rebuilding menhaden populations is one of the fastest and most effective actions that can be taken to maintain a balanced and productive marine ecosystem and to restore osprey populations,

It's time to act. I strongly support the most protective alternatives available under Draft Addendum II, and I respectfully ask you to demonstrate your conservation leadership by imposing the maximum 50 percent reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons.

I also support measures that reduce concentrated harvest during ecologically important periods and prevent future increases in the coastwide TAC from automatically increasing industrial fishing pressure within Chesapeake Bay. and spreading the harvest more evenly across the season and linking the Chesapeake cap to the Atlantic coast's total allowable catch.

In addition, Chesapeake-specific research should be accelerated, and all these measures should be treated as an interim step toward ultimately moving the industrial reduction fishery out of Virginia state waters.

It is up to politicians, regulators, managers (like the ASMFC) to listen—and act—before it is too late.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to science-based fisheries management. I respectfully urge you to take the next critical steps by protecting menhaden so that both wildlife and coastal communities ana a healthy ecosystem can thrive.

For the osprey,

Madeline Raleigh

Madeline Dennis Raleigh
CT Environmental Advocates
Osprey Stewards of CT
Osprey Stewards East Coast Alliance

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James Boyle

From: Amy Fay <amyfay5@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 2:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Plummeting Osprey Population

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing because I am deeply alarmed by the decline in the coastal osprey population and the potential consequences for these important coastal ecosystems.

Ospreys are highly dependent on menhaden as a food source, and I am concerned that continued pressure from menhaden harvesting could further limit the availability of this critical forage fish. Protecting healthy menhaden populations is not only important for ospreys, but for the broader coastal food web and the many species that depend on them.

I urge the Commission to take a precautionary approach and drastically reduce the allowable menhaden harvest. Given the apparent decline in coastal osprey populations, I believe stronger protections are warranted to ensure that sufficient menhaden remain available to support ospreys and other predators.

I respectfully ask the Commission to consider the ecological needs of ospreys and the broader coastal ecosystem when setting menhaden harvest limits, and to prioritize the long-term health of these populations over maximizing short-term harvest.

Thank you for your consideration and for your work to protect our coastal resources. I hope you will take meaningful action to ensure that menhaden remain abundant enough to sustain the wildlife that depends on them.

Sincerely,

Amy Bryan

James Boyle

From: David Decker <deckerikon@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 2:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

As a recreational fisherman for over 50 years, it is evident that the overfishing of bunker along the Jersey shore has affected our migrating species. Ospreys as well. It is not too late to correct this. Take action to reduce commercial fishing. Thank you.

David Decker

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James Boyle

From: lud.kimbrough@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 2:30 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

As a resident of Deltaville, Virginia for many decades and a lifelong Chesapeake Bay boater and angler, I have personally experienced the decline of the sportfishing industry and its dramatic impact on the economic viability of small waterfront towns like Deltaville. I support the conservation options in Draft Addendum II. I urge the Board to cut the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap — fixing it at
25,500 metric tons, as the American Saltwater Guides Association recommends — and to adopt quota periods that spread harvest across the season, so menhaden remain available to striped bass, ospreys, and the rest of the Bay food web through the critical summer months. I also support the proposed 40% cut to the coastwide total allowable catch for 2027–28. Please hold to the Commission's ecosystem-based management objectives.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
— Lud Kimbrough, Annapolis, MD
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James Boyle

From: Patricia Creveling <ptcreveling@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 7:42 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am writing as an active Chesapeake Bay boater, recreational angler, and coastal resident to express my strong support for aggressive, precautionary management under Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden.

Atlantic menhaden serve as the ecological keystone of the Chesapeake Bay estuary. They are the primary forage base supporting striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, marine mammals, and breeding ospreys. While coastwide stocks outside the Bay may demonstrate stability, localized depletion inside the Chesapeake nursery waters remains an urgent crisis that directly threatens recreational fisheries and avian survival.
I urge the Board to adopt the following specific management options:

* Issue 1 – Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap: Support Option C1e. The Bay Cap must be directly tied to the total commercial coastwide TAC at a reduced rate of 13.6% (resulting in an initial cap of 25,500 metric tons). This 50% reduction to the Bay cap is an essential, long-overdue step to prevent localized overharvest and push industrial reduction purse-seining out into open federal waters.

* Issue 2 – Quota Timing within the Chesapeake Bay Cap: Support Option B2 (Seasonal Harvest Distribution: 25% / 25% / 50%). Splitting the cap into distinct seasonal windows ensures that the reduction fleet cannot aggressively harvest large schools during peak warm-weather months, leaving vital forage in place during critical feeding and nesting periods for striped bass and ospreys.

* Issue 3 – Bay Cap Review Provision: Support Option B (3-Year Revisit). The Board must formally revisit and evaluate the Bay Cap every three years as new ecological and localized depletion science becomes available.
Thank you for your dedication to science-based, ecosystem-level management of our shared marine resources. Please protect the ecological foundation of the Chesapeake Bay.

Sincerely,
Patricia Creveling
Middletown, DE, Sassafrass River
S2S Community Member "The Bright Idea"

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James Boyle

From: Stanley Goodman <sgoodman691@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 7:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden catch limit

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Good evening.

I am writing to encourage ASMFC to tighten limits on menhaden harvests in the Chesapeake Bay and beyond, including along the Jersey coast.

One need not be a scientist to appreciate the importance of balance and of our complex environmental chains. Every component, every link, plays a role. When that link is gone, the chains, e.g., food chain, are broken, additional links are lost, and our environmental system goes out of balance. The system will find a new equilibrium point, eventually, but that balancing process can be long and painful.

Menhaden is one link. I am asking you to respect each link's vital importance. Please protect menhaden and osprey, which depend on them for food.

Sincerely,
Stanley Goodman
Wyckoff, NJ
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James Boyle

From: bounce@bounce.votervoice.net on behalf of Michael LaRaia <solutionsworking@ail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 10:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Approve Draft Addendum II - Support science-based menhaden management

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear FMP Coordinator Boyle,

As a recreational angler, I urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to approve Draft Addendum II and reform menhaden management to better support the entire Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and recreational fishing.

Menhaden are critical forage for striped bass, bluefish, red drum, cobia and other sportfish. They are also one of the Atlantic Coastb□s most important recreational baits. Maintaining a healthy and abundant menhaden population is essential to the health of these fisheries and the coastal communities and businesses that depend on them. The economic importance of menhaden to recreational fishing is also significant. According to a new study by Southwick Associates, anglers used menhaden on an estimated 13.9 million fishing days in 2025, generating approximately $804 million in spending and supporting more than 7,200 jobs. This included 6.3 million fishing days in the Mid-Atlantic, 5.1 million in the South Atlantic and 2.5 million in New England.

I respectfully ask the Board to approve the following measures in Draft Addendum II:

-Options C1e and C2a, which would link the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap to approximately 13.6% of the coastwide total allowable catch while retaining the existing 51,000-metric-ton upper limit. At the current coastwide quota, this would reduce the Bay Cap by approximately 50%, to 25,500 metric tons.
-Option B2, which would distribute harvest across 25% / 25% / 50% seasonal quota periods and reduce the potential for concentrated fishing when forage may be especially important to predators.
-Option B, which would deduct early-period overages from the following quota period while allowing unused quota to roll forward.

A requirement to revisit the Bay Cap every three years so managers can incorporate new Chesapeake Bay-specific science and respond to our evolving understanding of menhaden and predator needs.

I also support setting the 2027b□2028 coastwide total allowable catch at a level carrying no more than a 50% probability of exceeding the Ecological Reference Point fishing mortality target. Managing menhaden to the ERP fishing mortality target achieves both ecological and economic goals by protecting the role of menhaden in the ecosystem while providing for the livelihoods of bait fishermen, tackle shop owners, guides, and all others who rely on menhaden to support recreational fisheries.

Please approve Draft Addendum II and take meaningful action to ensure that menhaden management supports a healthy Chesapeake Bay, abundant sportfish populations and sustainable recreational fishing opportunities.

Sincerely,

Michael LaRaia
69 Bayshore Dr

Mashpee, MA 02649
solutionsworking@ail.com
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James Boyle

From: Connie Spindler <connie21043@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 10:14 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom it may concern:

After watching a panel of Chesapeake Bay fisheries experts and a lifelong birder discuss the impacts of overfishing the menhaden population on other Bay species (especially the osprey chicks which are starving in their nests before they can fledge), I am compelled to call for a reduction in the industrial menhaden catch in the Chesapeake Bay by Omega Protein.

I support the following options in front of the States of Maryland and Virginia and urge all relevant Board members and elected officials to pass these items wth all haste and concern for this dire ecological imbalance to be address as soon as possible.

Thanks you for taking my comments under consideration.

Connie Spindler
Elkridge, MD

3.1 – Optio
Cap 50%, li
coastwide
3.2 -Option
Cap Distrib
harvest ove
3.3 – Optio
reassessm

James Boyle

From: Ryan Lippmann <lippmannryan@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 9:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Commercial allowable catch limits for Atlantic menhaden should be reduced because menhaden serve as a critical foundation for the entire marine ecosystem. They are a primary food source for economically vital sportfish (like striped bass, bluefish, and weakfish), marine mammals, and seabirds (such as ospreys and eagles). The dolphin and whales and seals and all marine life need the abundance to survive and we can tell by spending a lot of time on the water that menhaden numbers are drastically down. Leaving more menhaden in the water directly supports the recovery and stabilization of these predator populations, which are currently facing severe pressures.

Best regards,

Ryan Lippmann
Medical Device Distributor
Overtime Medical
Cell: 973-390-0601
Email: LippmannRyan@gmail.com

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James Boyle

From: Nancy Dhulipala <nancydhu@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 7:32 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Protect Menhaden; protect our coastal wildlife

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

Our coastal and Meadowlands ecosystems are suffering, and birds and fish are struggling to find the food they need to survive. The depletion of menhaden—a critical food source for countless marine and coastal species—is putting tremendous pressure on this fragile ecosystem. The impact is especially concerning among our protected osprey population, which depends heavily on menhaden for survival.

We must strengthen restrictions on industrial menhaden fishing before further damage is done. Allowing large-scale harvesting to continue at the expense of our wildlife and natural habitats is environmentally irresponsible and unsustainable.

Please take meaningful action to protect menhaden from overfishing, rebuild their populations, and restore this essential food source. The health of our coastal waters, the Meadowlands, and the wildlife that depend on them is at stake. Protecting menhaden means protecting the entire ecosystem. You can reverse this damage! Please, please, do so!

Very Concerned,

Nancy Dhulipala

Alpine, NJ

Sent from my iPhone

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James Boyle

From: Christine Bastien-Williams <cbaswilliams1019@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 7:06 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To the ASMFC Commissioners,

I have volunteered as a docent for a local nature center in Connecticut for the past four years, during which time I have closely monitored several osprey nests in the state park. Through monitoring of the ospreys, I noticed that this past season showed a dramatic change in nests. Nests that previously had multiple fledglings struggled this year to bring even 1 of their eggs to the end of the season. While watching the live feed from the nest outside the nature center each Sunday for hours, I observed a drastic decrease in the number of fish brought in this year and their size was noticeably smaller.

This anecdotal evidence is consistent with the Connecticut Audubon Society's preliminary report: with 99% of the season's data compiled, osprey productivity stood at 0.87 chicks per breeding pair. This is down sharply from the previous record low of 1.26 in 2025.

In Rhode Island, only 38% of 339 monitored nests successfully fledged young. That's only 0.33 young per pair.

In 2025, Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey documented the worst breeding season in more than 30 years. For osprey to maintain a stable population, the required number is 0.8 young per pair.

The Connecticut Audubon Society along with Oceana, The American Bird Conservancy, The National Wildlife Federation Action Fund, Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey, New Jersey Osprey Project. and others are stating osprey populations are in trouble This has been documented in recent years to be caused by a decreased availability of Atlantic menhaden to nesting ospreys due to industrial-scale harvesting in the Chesapeake Bay. Menhaden constituting three-quarters or more of the osprey's total prey especially when the chicks are young.

Adult ospreys are increasingly unable to locate sufficient menhaden resulting in starving chicks, nest failures, abandoned nests and chick and fledgling deaths.

It's time to act. I respectfully ask you to pause altogether or significantly reduce the Chesapeake Bay menhaden catch by 50%, spread the harvest more evenly across the season, and link the Chesapeake Bay cap to the Atlantic coast's total allowable catch.

Restoring menhaden populations is one of the most effective ways to maintain a balanced and productive marine ecosystem and to restore osprey populations.

Please take the next critical step by protecting menhaden so that both wildlife and a healthy ecosystem can thrive.

Sincerely,
Christine Bastien-Williams
Niantic, CT

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James Boyle

From: Aaron Horrocks <xberrykingx@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 6:54 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Help these fish out we need them

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James Boyle

From: ajmayer2@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 6:34 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

My name is Alexander Mayer and I fish out of Montauk, New York.
Striped bass, bluefish, and tuna — the species that sustain our local fishing — depend on menhaden as forage, and I have watched the inshore forage base thin out year after year. I support Addendum II's option to cut the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap and to spread that harvest across the season, and I support setting a conservative coastwide TAC for 2027–2028 rather than maximizing industrial removal of the coast's primary forage fish. I have separately asked my congressional delegation and the Governor of New York to press the Secretary of Commerce to initiate rulemaking for a 12-nautical-mile year-round buffer against the reduction fleet along the Atlantic coast. Please act now, while the stock can still support both the fishery and everything that eats menhaden.
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James Boyle

From: Kathleen Shaw <kathleenshaw@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 5:51 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Limits on menhaden fishing

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

I am writing to express my serious concern about the dramatic decline in coastal osprey populations and to urge the Commission to take stronger action to protect Atlantic menhaden.
Menhaden are not simply another commercial fishery. They are a critical forage species that supports ospreys and many other predators throughout the Atlantic coastal ecosystem. When menhaden become scarce in areas where ospreys feed, the consequences can extend throughout the food web and can be particularly damaging during the nesting season, when adult birds must find sufficient food for their young.

The continued decline of coastal ospreys should be treated as an important warning sign. Fisheries management should account not only for the sustainability of the harvested species itself, but also for the needs of the wildlife and ecosystems that depend upon it.
I urge the ASMFC to substantially reduce the allowable menhaden harvest, particularly in ecologically sensitive coastal areas, and adopt management policies that explicitly account for the forage needs of ospreys and other predators.

We should not wait until these populations reach a crisis point before taking meaningful action. A healthy menhaden population is essential to a healthy Atlantic coastal ecosystem.
Thank you for considering these concerns and for your stewardship of our marine resources.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Shaw

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James Boyle

From:	elizabeth thompson <theleesburg4@gmail.com>
Sent:	Friday, October 9, 2026 9:31 PM
To:	Comments; James Boyle; Sen. Vin Gopal; Adam S. Nowalsky; Jeff Brust; Tina Berger; Bob Beal; Joe Cimino
Subject:	[External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II and 2027–2029 Catch Limits
Categories:	Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To: comments@asmfc.org

Date: October 9, 2026

From:
Elizabeth Thompson

Leesburg, NJ

Dear Mr. Boyle and the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board and others:

I am writing as a concerned NJ citizen, a Citizen Scientist, a past NJ Bald Eagle Nest Observer for NJ Conserve Wildlife, a retired NJ public school educator (Aquaculture), a retired NJ Apprentice Wildlife Rehabilitator, an avid bird-watcher, and a grandmother to six young New Jersey citizens (whom I hope will get to see the full spectrum of NJ wildlife in their lifetime, to urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) to adopt strong, precautionary management measures within **Draft Addendum II**. Atlantic menhaden are the backbone of our coastal waters, serving as a critical forage fish for ospreys, whales, striped bass, and countless other marine species. They are the critical link in the sea's food chain.

I would ask for a **total moratorium on menhaden fishing**, until their populations become stable.

Some points I would like your to consider:

- FISHERIES CONSERVATION protects and restores fish stocks and aquatic habitats to ensure long-term marine and freshwater health.

- The restrictions put in place in 2012 worked! Please make that happen again.

- You say the menhaden are not overfished, but we all heard one commenter after another at the public hearings, and many other venues, that menhaden have all but disappeared along the eastern seaboard.

- There are more stakeholders in menhaden than just Omega Protein. You and the Board must see that.

- Yes, jobs in Virginia will be lost. If the menhaden harvest dries up, they will be lost anyway. Omega Protein can resolve to change. They can adapt and make oil from algae and fish-trimming and maintain the jobs in Virginia.

- 92 percent of Virginia Voters Want to Leave More Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay (https://www.cbf.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/va-menhaden-survey-2025.pdf)

- Don't make this political!

I would remind you of your mission:

ASMFC's mission:

> **"Our Mission**
>
> To promote cooperative management of fisheries — marine, shell, and diadromous — of the Atlantic coast of the United States by the protection and enhancement of such fisheries, and by the avoidance of physical waste of the fisheries from any cause…" (https://asmfc.org/about/)

and

ASMFC's reason for being:

"ASMFC Overview The Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942. The states formed the Commission to assist in managing and conserving their shared coastal resources. The states recognize that they cannot protect their citizen's interest in the resource alone. Because marine fish species move among many states, sometimes over wide ranges, each state knows it needs the cooperation of the other states in order to be successful. The Commission is nothing more, nothing less, than the place where the states come together to define what needs to be done to accomplish their mutual interests towards common goals; and to abide by majority rule in order to work together to pursue the goals. (Pg 1) *ASMFC Advisory Primer: A Guide to the Commission's Advisory Panel Process.*

Within the limitations of your survey, which I filled out on your site; I urge the Board to implement the following recommendations, I am taking advisement on my decisions from

American Littoral Society and multiple other organizations that I align with, trust, and respect:

- **Reduce the Chesapeake Bay Industrial Harvest Cap by at least 50%:** Cutting the current cap will safeguard the Bay's role as an indispensable nursery ground for juvenile menhaden, which ultimately migrate to support ecosystems along the entire Atlantic coast.
- **Establish Seasonal Quota Periods:** Spreading the allowed catch more evenly across the fishing season will prevent concentrated depletion and reduce localized ecological crises during critical wildlife feeding windows.
- **Mandate a Triennial Cap Review:** Ensure that the Bay cap is reassessed at least once every three years to integrate the latest ecological data and respond to evolving localized ecosystem needs.
- **Maintain an Independent Cap Structure:** Keep the Chesapeake Bay harvest limit independent, preventing it from being automatically tied to or inflated by changes in the broader coastwide quota.
- **Adopt Substantial Coastwide Catch Reductions:** Set 2027–2029 specifications that align directly with the ASMFC's ecosystem-based management targets, keeping more menhaden in the water to guarantee a resilient, thriving coastal food web.

One more thing I would like to share with you, a beautifully written excerpt from *The Most Important Fish in the Sea*, by H. Bruce Franklin. Hopefully, this book is NOT unfamiliar to you all, and will remind you of the bigger picture:

Franklin writes,

"First you see the birds- gulls and terns wheeling overhead, then swooping down to a wide expanse of water dimpled as though by large raindrops and glittering with silver streaks. The sea erupts with frothy splashes, some from the diving birds, others from foot-long fish with deeply forked tails frantically hurling themselves out of the water, only to fall back into their tightly packed school. More and more birds materialize as if from nowhere, and the air rings with their shrill screams. Boats too begin to converge on the scene: the boiling cloud of birds has told anglers everywhere within view that a school of menhaden, perhaps numbering in the tens of thousands, is being ravaged by a school of bluefish.

Attacking from below and behind to slash the menhaden bodies with their powerful jaws, the razor-toothed blues are in a killing frenzy, gorging themselves with the severed backs and bellies of their prey some killing even when they are too full to eat, some vomiting half

digested pieces so they can kill and eat again. Terns skim gracefully over the surface with their pointed bills down, dipping to pluck bits of flesh and entrails from the bloody swirls. Gulls plummet and fop heavily into the water, where a few splash about and squabble noisily over larger morsels. As some lift with their prizes, the squabbles turn aerial and a piece occasionally falls back into the water, starting a new round of shrieking skirmishes. Hovering high above the other birds, a male osprey scans for targets beneath the surface, then suddenly folds its gull-shaped wings and power-dives through the aerial tumult, extends its legs and raises its wings high over its head an instant before knifing into the water in a plume of spray, emerges in another plume and laboriously flaps its four-foot wingspan as it slowly climbs and soars away with a writhing menhaden held headfirst in its talons. Beneath the blues, iridescent weakfish begin to circle, snapping at small lumps sinking from the carnage. Farther below, giant but toothless striped bass gobble tumbling heads and other chunks too big for the mouths of the weakfish. From time to time, bass muscle their way up through the blues, swallow whole menhaden alive, and propel themselves back down with their broom-like tails, leaving telltale swirls on the surface. On the mud below, crabs scuttle to scavenge on leftovers" (pgs. 3-4).

Thank you for your dedication to science-based, ecosystem-first fisheries management.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Thompson

Starving ospreys in NJ, 2026. Photo by Ben Wurst

--

Elizabeth A. Thompson
189 High Street, PO Box 53
Leesburg, NJ 08327

Email: theleesburg4@gmail.com
Cell/Text: 856.491.8539
Phone/Voicemail: 856-785-2350

"If you want to see birds, you must have birds in your heart." -- John Burroughs

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James Boyle

From: Kearns, Greg <Greg.Kearns@pgparks.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 6:22 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Subject: Public Comment: Atlantic Menhaden Management – addendum 3

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Subject: Public Comment: Atlantic Menhaden Management – Urgent Request for 50% Chesapeake Bay Cap Reduction and Catch Reallocation

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Menhaden Management Board,

I am writing to submit formal public comment as an **osprey biologist actively monitoring avian populations along the Patuxent River in Maryland**. Based on critical ecological field evidence and reproductive studies, I urgently request that the Commission implement the **maximum reduction of 50% to the commercial harvest cap within the Chesapeake Bay** and dynamically restructure the broader catch limits to a **25%, 25%, and 50% allocation framework**.

Our monitoring data along **the Patuxent River ecosystem for over 40 years** continues to document an unprecedented and accelerating collapse in osprey nesting success and chick survival. (see tables below)This reproductive failure is driven entirely by starvation due to the acute, localized depletion of Atlantic menhaden—the primary lipid-rich forage base required to sustain breeding Ospreys.

This localized forage crisis is heavily detailed in the comprehensive, long-term Osprey research led by Dr .Bryan Watts in a major collaborative study with the **College of William & Mary**. This landmark research provides undeniable empirical evidence that heavy commercial reduction fishing inside the Bay ecosystem leaves parent ospreys unable to provision their young. The result is widespread brood reduction and historic lows in fledgling success. **1.15** chicks per nest is needed to remain stable and now down to .**46** chicks in the Patuxent study area shown below, well under maintenance level .

To halt this ecological collapse and honor true ecosystem-based fisheries management, I ask the ASMFC to adopt the following two structural management updates .

- **Enact a 50% Reduction in the Chesapeake Bay Cap and lower the TAC in the Atlantic :** Immediately slash the localized commercial reduction harvest cap within the Bay by the maximum 50% allowance to preserve immediate forage biomass for nesting bird predators and fish predators, as well as whales and dolphins . Caution should be exercised until menhaden population studies are completed in the Chesapeake Bay by Maryland and Virginia , not wait until they are completed and continue massive reduction fishing by Omega Protein in the meantime with business as usual to Omega's benefit of a public resource . The population should be known before any further harvests allowed to prevent a potential colipase of the ecosystem and Ospreys ,which are already past a tipping point by our research and observations. Why wait until it's too late like other fisheries that have collapsed in America , almost suddenly after intense fishing pressure ? Then a difficult recovery period if even possible . Lessons should be learned from the past mistakes when ASMFC biologists admit they have grossly overestimated the menhaden population. Observations by public and professionals agree menhaden are much harder to find , especially larger adults that contain the high level fatty acids and calories needed by ospreys in the Bay.
- **Reallocate the Catch Limits to 25%, 25%, and 50%:** Distribute the coastwide catch limits under a balanced tier system (25% commercial reduction, 25% bait fishery, and 50% ecological

conservation buffer) to guarantee that upper-trophic level predators are legally insulated from systemic food scarcity.

Managing menhaden as an isolated commercial commodity is actively destroying the biological integrity of the Chesapeake Bay nursery and tributaries. The ASMFC must take immediate action to prioritize the forage demands of our coastal ecosystems.

Thank you for your time and serious consideration of these emergency targets.

Sincerely,

Greg Kearns
Professional Naturalist ,Osprey /avian biologist
MNCPPC- Patuxent River Park

Chick Count per year (2019-2026) in Lower Patuxent River Study Site

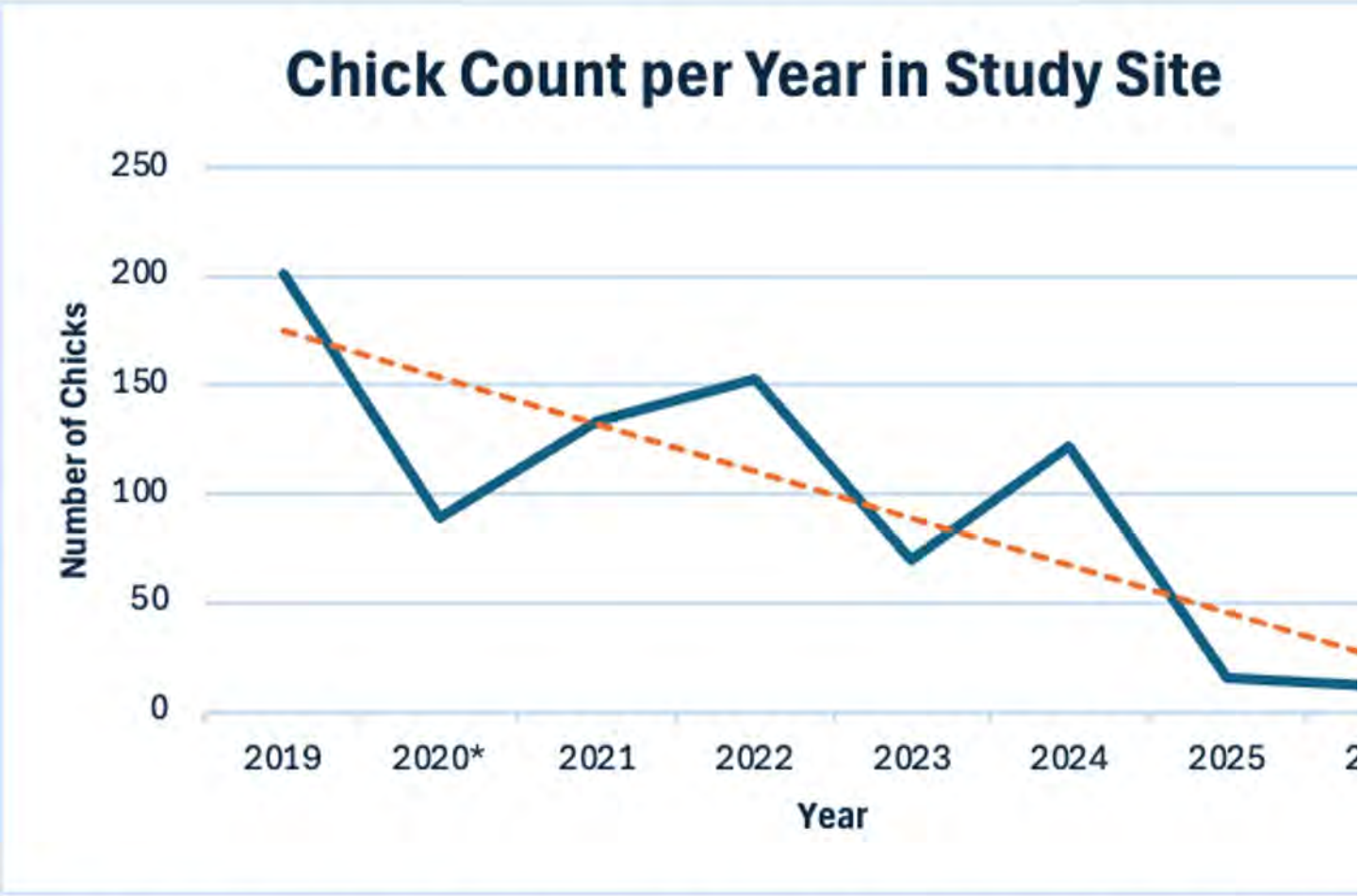

Figure 1a (above): Total number of osprey chicks recorded between R
231 Bridge and Solomon's Bridge on the Lower Patuxent River from 2
to 2026.

* 2020 data is incomplete due to restrictions on data collection during t
COVID-19 pandemic.

Lower Patuxent River Study

Year	Chick Total	Occupied	Failed	
2019*	201	108	60	
2020**	89	53	110	
2021	134	87	65	
2022	153	89	71	
2023	70	60	77	
2024	122	82	67	
2025	16	10	38	
2026	12	9	17	

* 108 active pairs for 2019, confirmed by occupied nests;
2019 to 2026, there was over 90% decrease in confirmed

** 2020 data is incomplete due to restrictions on data coll

*** Variation due to natural causes or nest removal on cha
nests, etc.

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James Boyle

From: Badfish Charters <bwilliams@ocnjfishing.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 3:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] atlantin menhaden 2027-2028 TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

We need the coastwide TAC immediately cut by at least 40% to 112,000 MT OR MORE.
Set the TAC as fixed tonnage for 27 and 28
DONOT link the bay cap to the coastwide TAC Bay cap should remain separate.
Although a reach and not on the table of options currently, I support visiting the possible full closure of Atlantic menhaden harvest until a time we can restore their numbers
Our coastline is dying and menhaden play a key role in a healthy ecosystem and sustaining everything that eats them along out coast. Omega proteins' profits as well as other net boats should not be considered more important than the greater good and value of these fish alive and well in our ecosystem. As it stands, our oceans are hanging on by a thread. Barely alive compared to what they once were.

Capt. Brian Williams
Badfish Fishing Charters
856-371-4346
www.ocnjfishing.com
bwilliams@ocnjfishing.com
Insta: @captbrianwilliams
FB: Badfish Charters OC

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James Boyle

From: Huntley, Craig <CHuntley@moffattnichol.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 3:14 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I'm writing in support of acceptance of the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II. Let's get this passed and implemented.

Craig Huntley

moffatt & nichol

moffattnichol.com

Craig Huntley, PE
Senior Civil Engineer

2780 Lighthouse Point East, Suite D | Baltimore, MD 21224
D +1 (410) 291-2034 | **O** +1 (410) 563-7300 | **M** +1 (410) 245-2412
E chuntley@moffattnichol.com

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James Boyle

From: Shari Dalal <shari_dalal@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 2:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello,

I urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to adopt the strongest scientifically supported conservation measures under Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II, including a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap, along with measures to distribute harvesting more evenly throughout the fishing season.

Atlantic menhaden are not simply a commodity for commercial reduction fisheries. They are a critical forage fish that supports marine food webs and provides essential nutrition to numerous predators, including ospreys, striped bass, and other fish-eating wildlife. Removing large quantities of these fish from the ecosystem can reduce food availability for predators and disrupt the ecological balance of Chesapeake Bay.

I am deeply concerned about managing wildlife and natural resources primarily for commercial extraction while failing to adequately protect the broader ecosystem. Healthy ecosystems depend on maintaining sufficient prey populations to support the wildlife that relies on them. Fisheries management must consider these interconnected relationships rather than focusing narrowly on harvest levels and commercial interests.

I urge the Commission to:

Adopt a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap as a precautionary measure to reduce fishing pressure.
Establish quota periods that prevent concentrated harvesting during critical seasons when predators depend on menhaden for food.
Use an ecosystem-based management approach that accounts for the dietary needs of predators and the ecological importance of menhaden.
Require ongoing scientific monitoring of menhaden abundance, availability, and the effects of commercial harvesting on dependent wildlife.
Apply precautionary management when significant scientific uncertainties remain, rather than waiting for clear evidence of ecological damage before acting.
Prioritize long-term ecosystem health and biodiversity over maximizing commercial extraction.

The Commission’s own review process has recognized concerns about concentrated fishing effort, potential ecological impacts, and the need for precautionary management. These concerns warrant meaningful action, not simply maintaining the status quo.

As someone who cares deeply about wildlife conservation and biodiversity, I believe that protecting the natural systems that sustain wildlife must be a fundamental priority. We cannot continue removing essential resources from ecosystems without adequately accounting for the consequences for the species that depend on them.

Please adopt the strongest effective conservation measures in Draft Addendum II and ensure that Atlantic menhaden management prioritizes ecosystem health, biodiversity, and the long-term sustainability of marine wildlife.

Thank you,

Shari Dalal

James Boyle

From: Bonifant, Daisy <DBonifant@moffattnichol.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 1:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello,

I wanted to reach out with my support for the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II. I think this addendum can only benefit our local ecology and fisheries.

Thanks,

moffatt & nichol

moffattnichol.com

Daisy Bonifant, EIT
Civil Associate

2780 Lighthouse Point East, Suite D | Baltimore, MD 21224
D +1 (410) 500-5571 | **O** +1 (410) 563-7300
E dbonifant@moffattnichol.com

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James Boyle

From: Haley Hoyt <hstuec1@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 12:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Please Help Protect Our Chesapeake Bay Osprey

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear ASMFC,

I am writing to express my support for the strongest possible reduction in the Chesapeake Bay menhaden catch cap and the implementation of seasonal quota periods under Draft Addendum II.

The Chesapeake Bay is a special part of our lives here in Southern Maryland. My family and I look forward to seeing osprey return to our shores every spring, and it is heartbreaking to learn that these magnificent birds are struggling to find enough food to feed their young.

Menhaden are a critical food source for osprey and other wildlife, including striped bass. I believe protecting this important resource is essential to maintaining a healthy Chesapeake Bay and ensuring future generations can enjoy the wildlife that makes this area so special.

I urge you to adopt the strongest available protections to help restore the osprey population and preserve the Bay's ecosystem. We have an opportunity to make a meaningful difference, and I hope you will take action before more nests are left empty.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your work to protect our shared natural resources.

Sincerely,

Haley Hoyt

410-353-9707

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James Boyle

From: Team Stueckler <teamstueckler@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 12:04 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Amendment II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am in support of the amendment to reduce the catch limit of Menhaden fish in order to save the osprey population that is collapsing. I also support the quotas to limit the summer harvest and evenly distribute the catch limits throughout the year to ensure that these important fish are not severely depleted--which threatens the osprey population and also the stripped bass.

I live in Calvert County, Maryland and I see the drastic reduction of the osprey and also the stripped bass in the Chesapeake Bay.

Sincerely,

John J Stueckler
301-908-2541

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James Boyle

From: bounce@bounce.votervoice.net on behalf of Ryan Wimer <rwimer@tfgowen.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 11:44 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Approve Draft Addendum II - Support science-based menhaden management

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear FMP Coordinator Boyle,

As a recreational angler, I urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to approve Draft Addendum II and reform menhaden management to better support the entire Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and recreational fishing.

Menhaden are critical forage for striped bass, bluefish, red drum, cobia and other sportfish. They are also one of the Atlantic Coastb□s most important recreational baits. Maintaining a healthy and abundant menhaden population is essential to the health of these fisheries and the coastal communities and businesses that depend on them. The economic importance of menhaden to recreational fishing is also significant. According to a new study by Southwick Associates, anglers used menhaden on an estimated 13.9 million fishing days in 2025, generating approximately $804 million in spending and supporting more than 7,200 jobs. This included 6.3 million fishing days in the Mid-Atlantic, 5.1 million in the South Atlantic and 2.5 million in New England.

I respectfully ask the Board to approve the following measures in Draft Addendum II:

-Options C1e and C2a, which would link the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap to approximately 13.6% of the coastwide total allowable catch while retaining the existing 51,000-metric-ton upper limit. At the current coastwide quota, this would reduce the Bay Cap by approximately 50%, to 25,500 metric tons.
-Option B2, which would distribute harvest across 25% / 25% / 50% seasonal quota periods and reduce the potential for concentrated fishing when forage may be especially important to predators.
-Option B, which would deduct early-period overages from the following quota period while allowing unused quota to roll forward.

A requirement to revisit the Bay Cap every three years so managers can incorporate new Chesapeake Bay-specific science and respond to our evolving understanding of menhaden and predator needs.

I also support setting the 2027b□2028 coastwide total allowable catch at a level carrying no more than a 50% probability of exceeding the Ecological Reference Point fishing mortality target. Managing menhaden to the ERP fishing mortality target achieves both ecological and economic goals by protecting the role of menhaden in the ecosystem while providing for the livelihoods of bait fishermen, tackle shop owners, guides, and all others who rely on menhaden to support recreational fisheries.

Please approve Draft Addendum II and take meaningful action to ensure that menhaden management supports a healthy Chesapeake Bay, abundant sportfish populations and sustainable recreational fishing opportunities.

Sincerely,

Ryan Wimer
35 Liberty Ln
Kirkwood, PA 17536

James Boyle

From: Saunie H. <email4saundra@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 11:41 AM
To: Comments
Cc: Saunie H.
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

SUBJECT: Public Comment: Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden

TO: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC)

SUBMITTED VIA: comments@asmfc.org / ASMFC Public Comment Survey

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) must immediately enforce the maximum precautionary safeguards proposed under Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. Industrial-scale reduction fishing in the primary nursery waters of the Chesapeake Bay presents an immediate ecological hazard to marine food webs and avian species. The Commission must prioritize public trust resources and ecosystem health over commercial reduction exploitation.

1. Mandate Option B4: The Full 50% Cut to the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Cap

The ASMFC must select Option B4 to reduce the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap by the full 50% (capping Bay reduction landings at 25,500 metric tons). Concentrated purse-seining by massive fleet operations strips vital forage from localized waters. The historical Bay Cap was established based on commercial landings rather than ecological science; a 50% cut is mandatory to relieve localized depletion and safeguard estuarine nursery functions.

2. Establish Three Seasonal Quota Periods and Prohibit Underage Rollovers

The Commission must divide the Bay Cap into three distinct seasonal quota periods to prevent industrial fleets from concentrating harvest during critical spring and summer wildlife breeding cycles. Furthermore, any unused quota (underages) from Quota Period 1 or 2 must **not** be rolled over to increase quota in subsequent periods. Allowing harvest to accumulate into late-season surges defeats the conservation purpose of the cap. Overages in any period must be dollar-for-dollar deducted from the subsequent quota period.

3. Apply Precautionary Ecological Management to Protect Avian and Marine Wildlife

Atlantic menhaden are the foundational food source for ospreys, gannets, striped bass (rockfish), bluefish, and marine mammals. Science directly links severe osprey nest failures and chick starvation across high-salinity Bay tributaries to menhaden depletion caused by localized purse-seine harvesting. The Commission was mandated to evaluate precautionary management in response to these failures; it

must now act decisively by placing the energetic requirements of wildlife above industrial fish meal and oil processing.

4. Permanently Link the Bay Cap to Coastwide Total Allowable Catch (TAC)

The ASMFC must establish a binding link between the Chesapeake Bay Cap and the coastwide Total Allowable Catch (TAC) to ensure that any future coastwide reductions automatically trigger proportional reductions within the Bay. Industrial extraction must never be allowed to operate in essential estuarine habitats without proportional safeguards.

The ASMFC must uphold its statutory obligation to protect shared marine resources. The Commission must adopt Option B4 for a 50% Bay Cap reduction, establish strict seasonal quotas without underage roll-forward loopholes, and enforce precautionary ecosystem management.

Respectfully submitted,

Saundra Holloway

Yuma, Arizona

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James Boyle

From: Anne-Marie <annemarie1141@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 11:32 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Harvest

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Please take action to limit the industrial harvest of menhaden. You are killing the ospreys that have finally rebounded by reducing their food source. Nestlings are starving to death.

--
Anne-Marie

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James Boyle

From: barbron1056@verizon.net
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 11:06 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] osprey

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Just finished reading the article about the ospreys. We were at the Jersey shore for 3 weeks Sept 12 to Oct 3rd. We could not catch a fish in the ocean and when we fished the pier in Ship Bottom we caught very little. And I mean very small numberof fish. Over the period maybe a total of 20 snapper blues, black fish, spots and 2 small flounders. This has been the worst fishing season. The limits on the industrial fishing should be cut in half. When they net the bait they also catch other fish that end up dead.
Barbara S

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James Boyle

From: Lorrie Ksiazek <lorriekeys88@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:55 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

We need them for our ospreys in Cape May…do what you can to help!
Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Andrew Baber <agbaber@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:50 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hi,

Please follow the OTW suggestions for menhaden:

- 50% chesapeake cap
- linked to coastwide limit
- quota periods
- reduce coastwide by 40%

thank you

Andrew

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James Boyle

From: Walter Rajczyk <walterrajczyk0201@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:44 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden harvest

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

The current harvesting of menhaden is not sustainable and is causing real harm.

The population of Osprey is in a steep decline due to industrial over harvesting of this important food source for the marine ecosystem.

I urge you to consider sharply reducing the current harvest and establish a sane, sustainable amount.

Regards,

Walter Rajczyk
Wayne, NJ

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James Boyle

From: Alan Herod <herodah@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:34 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC):

I am writing as a Maryland resident who has lived in St. Mary's County since 1990 and has developed a deep personal connection to the Chesapeake Bay. I am an avid nature lover, angler, kayaker, snorkeler and scuba diver, a conservationist, and someone who spends considerable time on and around the Bay. I have personally seen a sharp decline in the number of occupied Osprey nests visible from my house. Last year's occupancy was down to one of three occupied and this year none were occupied. I am also deeply interested in the wildlife that depends upon this remarkable ecosystem, particularly osprey, striped bass, sharks, whales, and other species whose survival is tied directly or indirectly to a healthy forage base.

I strongly support a 50 percent reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons annually. I also strongly support establishing seasonal quota periods for menhaden so that harvest is distributed throughout the year rather than concentrated in an intense summer fishing window.

The Chesapeake Bay is facing an ecological crisis that should not be minimized or postponed. Declining productivity, widespread osprey nest failures, and continued concerns about the condition of the striped bass population are warning signs that demand a precautionary approach to the management of one of the Bay's most important forage fish - **menhaden.**

Menhaden are not merely another commercial commodity. They are a foundational component of the Chesapeake Bay food web. They provide critical forage for striped bass, osprey, bluefish, weakfish, dolphins, and numerous other predators. Removing very large quantities of menhaden from the Bay during the period when they are most concentrated and most biologically important deserves particularly careful scrutiny.

The scale and timing of the reduction fishery are especially troubling. More than 100 million pounds of menhaden can be removed under the existing Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap. When that harvest is concentrated into a relatively short summer period, the ecological effect is not simply a matter of the annual tonnage. **Where and when the fish are removed matters.**

An intense summer harvest can create localized depletion at precisely the time when menhaden are serving as forage for other species. It also potentially deprives recreational anglers, commercial watermen, charter operators, and the broader coastal tourism economy of access to a shared public resource. These competing interests deserve meaningful consideration in the management process.

I am particularly concerned about allowing an annual quota to be treated as though the timing of harvest is irrelevant. It is not. A fish removed from the Bay in June is not ecologically equivalent to that same fish being harvested months later. The Bay's predators have seasonal feeding requirements, and the availability of forage during critical periods can matter greatly to their survival and reproductive success.

For that reason, I urge the Commission to establish **strict seasonal quota periods that distribute the allowable harvest more evenly throughout the year and prevent the reduction fishery from concentrating an extraordinary volume of harvest into the summer months**. Seasonal management would provide a more precautionary approach and would better recognize the fact that Chesapeake Bay is a dynamic ecosystem rather than simply another geographic allocation within a coastwide fishery.

There is also an important management issue that deserves attention. The Commission's coastwide menhaden assessment does not provide the same level of quantitative information about menhaden abundance and availability specifically within Chesapeake Bay. That uncertainty argues for caution—not for assuming that the Bay can safely sustain the maximum allowable harvest.

The Chesapeake Bay belongs to all of us. It belongs to the watermen who have made their living here, the recreational fishermen who pursue its species, the sailors and boaters who enjoy its waters, the communities whose economies depend upon it, and the wildlife that has no voice in these proceedings. Menhaden management should reflect that broader public interest.

I respectfully urge the Commission to:

1. Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons per year.

2. Establish firm seasonal quota periods for menhaden.

3. **Prevent excessive concentration of reduction harvest during the summer months.

4. Apply a precautionary approach in light of ecological uncertainty and the importance of menhaden as forage.

5. Give meaningful consideration to the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the Bay's broader tourism economy.

I have spent years watching, enjoying, and caring about the Chesapeake Bay. I have seen firsthand what makes this ecosystem extraordinary, and I am increasingly concerned about the signs that its productivity and resilience are being strained.

We should not wait until the consequences are unmistakable before acting.

The prudent course is to reduce the intensity of the reduction fishery now, protect menhaden as a critical forage resource, and distribute harvest in a manner that gives the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem a better opportunity to sustain the wildlife and fisheries that depend upon it.

Thank you for your consideration and for your responsibility to future generations of Chesapeake Bay users and stewards.

Sincerely,

Alan Herod
St. Mary’s County, Maryland

James Boyle

From: Allyson Gleason <allyson.gleason@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:01 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] "Menhaden Draft Addendum II"

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To Whom It May Concern,

Growing up in Old Lyme, where I still reside, and spending summers on our island off the coast near Rocky Neck State Park, I have witnessed firsthand the incredible abundance of wildlife that once defined this area, particularly our osprey populations. In recent years, however, I have seen a devastating decline in menhaden, commonly known as bunker, which are a critical food source for ospreys and other marine wildlife.

As commercial fishing pressure has increased, the impact on our local ecosystem has become increasingly difficult to ignore. I have personally witnessed ospreys struggling to find food and, heartbreakingly, dying of starvation. An area that once supported thriving wildlife now feels like a shadow of what it used to be. These changes are not just numbers on a chart or statistics in a report; they are happening in the waters, marshes, and shorelines that I have called home my entire life.

We need stronger, science-based fishing regulations and meaningful protections for menhaden populations before the damage becomes irreversible. These fish are a fundamental link in our coastal food chain, and when they disappear, the consequences ripple throughout the entire ecosystem. Ospreys cannot survive without an adequate food supply, and neither can the countless other species that depend on these waters.

At what point do we recognize that our desire to harvest natural resources does not give us the right to destroy the ecosystems that sustain other living beings? We have a responsibility to be stewards of these waters, not simply to exploit them for short-term gain. Wildlife has an inherent value beyond its economic usefulness, and we have an obligation to protect the species with which we share this planet.

I fear that if we continue down this path without stronger safeguards and accountability, we will lose the very wildlife that makes this place so special. We cannot keep taking from nature without giving it the opportunity to recover. Protecting menhaden means protecting ospreys, our coastal ecosystem, and the future of the place we call home. We must act now, before what was once abundant becomes something our children and grandchildren only hear stories about.

Regards,

Allyson Gleason, Old Lyme, CT

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James Boyle

From: Nathaniel Hersh <natehersh77@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:46 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Greetings,

I am writing in support of lowering the catch limit for menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay. This fish is a foundation of the ecosystem, and a strong and healthy population benefit the entire ecosystem including the many people who fish and recreate within the bay area.

The current cap has led to overfishing and benefitted one corporation, and a foreign one at that, at the expense of the community.

Thank you,
Nate Hersh

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James Boyle

From: Karl M. Soehnlein <karl329@optimum.net>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:39 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Osprey & Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

For the past two years there has been a drastic decline in Osprey births. Nests ate empty and or Osprey chicks are starving from lack of food - Menhaden. It is very sad. Please restrict the commercial fishing boats that fish along the east coast

Thank you,
Karl Soehnlein
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James Boyle

From: Claudia Tweed <claudiatweed@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:20 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Concern for coastal osprey population

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Please consider drastically reducing the allowable menhaden harvest in the Chesapeake Bay Area and beyond.

Your consideration is appreciated more than you know!

We can do this!

All the best,

Claudia
Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: David Pipolo <davidpipolo@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 8:51 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Public Comment: Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

I am writing to submit public comment regarding Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II.

As an angler concerned about the health of our marine ecosystems and predator stocks, particularly striped bass, I urge the Commission to implement stronger conservation safeguards for menhaden:

1. Cut the Chesapeake Bay cap by the full 50%.
2. Link the Chesapeake Bay cap to the coastwide limit, ensuring that when the coastwide quota drops, the Bay cap decreases accordingly.
3. Spread the Chesapeake Bay harvest across quota periods to prevent localized depletion during critical spring and summer months.
4. Reduce the coastwide catch limit by 40% to align with ecological reference points and management science for 2027 and beyond.

Menhaden are vital forage for striped bass and the wider coastal ecosystem. Please adopt these measures to protect this critical fishery.

Sincerely,
David Pipolo

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James Boyle

From: Sarah Shotwell <sarahshot@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 8:41 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Osprey decline

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing due to the visible decline in the NJ osprey population. It is alarming to have witnessed such a steep drop in osprey numbers after seeing our local population flourish over the last decade. In my lifetime, I witnessed nesting platforms being erected to establish a healthy population- when I had never witnessed a single osprey as a child. Fast forward 30 years, a then booming population where I could see 5-6 osprey perched at the end of my beach's pier fishing all day long. Suddenly, this year, I'm lucky if I see one or two. I've been reading reports since earlier this spring about a noted decline in the osprey population; one I can confirm with my own eyes. Something has to be done. Our state has worked far too hard protecting this species, making grand efforts to make our state a safe place for them to thrive again, to let it drop off and do nothing.

Sarah Shotwell

Get Outlook for iOS

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James Boyle

From: MATTHEW LASHENDOCK <mattlash67@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 8:38 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Harvest Limits

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am alarmed to learn about the plummeting coastal osprey population and urge you take measures to **drastically reduce the allowable menhaden harvest levels** to allow for their recovery. The sudden reduction in this vital food source has had a crucial effect on the viability of this critical component of the coastal ecosystem.

Thank you for your consideration,

Matthew Lashendock
Marlton, NJ

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James Boyle

From: Lise & Jim Crafton <craftons88@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 8:36 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II Comments

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Mr. Boyle:

I strongly support a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap (Option B4/ reducing the cap to 25,500 metric tons) and support seasonal quota periods!

I live along side Cattail Creek off the Magothy River, on land that's been in my husband's family for more than 100 years. We care deeply for the Bay ecosystem and all of the creatures that call it home. For many years we have enjoyed watching the local osprey prepare a nest, raise their chicks and finally fledge with "flying lessons" from their parents before we say goodbye for the season, usually in mid-September. But for the last several years there has been no successful nesting here, which mirrors declining productivity and widespread nest failures among our Chesapeake Bay osprey population overall. Along with the stressed populations of striped bass, these declines signal an URGENT need for precautionary conservation practices NOW.

Industrial reduction fishing extracts over 100 million pounds of fish in a concentrated summer window, damaging the local food web and depriving other groups, especially watermen and anglers, of fair access.
We urge fishery managers to implement strict quota periods that will distribute the harvest evenly across the year rather than allowing an intense summer harvest.

We can't wait for the results of a study to do what needs to be done NOW. As was done with the rockfish crisis, the season should actually be closed to encourage recovery. A 50% reduction is already a compromise, a coast-wide reduction would be better still.

Please support responsible stewardship of the entire Bay ecosystem before it is too late!

Most sincerely,

Lise & Jim Crafton
321 South Drive
Severna Park, MD 21146

Sent from my iPhone

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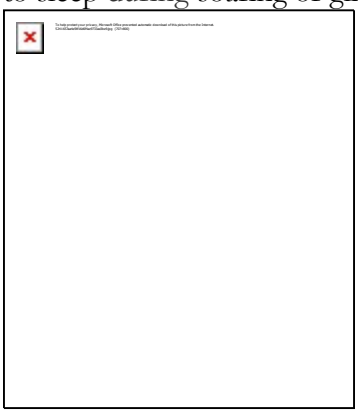
James Boyle

From: Rebecca Canright <rebeccagroovypeace@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 8:16 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Please protect menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Greetings! As a person, I care about protecting menhaden and other marine animals.
I ask you to please safeguard menhaden and limit harvest of menhaden for the future, so that we can protect their populations. This will benefit both wildlife and human community. We can work together to increase menhaden populations.
But no doubt, if we are to improve their numbers, we must be wise and limit the harvest now. This is in the best interest of everyone for the future. Again, please take all measures necessary to increase menhaden populations, and safeguard and increase their numbers.
Thank you for your time, and have a great day! Take care, Rebecca

--
Frigate birds fly for months over the ocean and can engage in both regular sleep and use half their brain at a time to sleep during soaring or gliding flight.



Compassion for all creatures great and small.

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James Boyle

From: Beth <brickhousebeth@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 8:15 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Subject: Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Sent from my iPhone

The discussion I want to see.
and the one the public deserves to have before another management decision is made is that public fisheries should be managed for the benefit of the entire ecosystem,

Let's work together

Beth Fahey
Osprey nest monitor

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James Boyle

From: Kathy Lambrow <klambrow@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 8:06 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] ATLANTIC MENHADEN DRAFT ADDENDUM 2

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I support Addendum II and the most restrictive options.

As a long time resident of the Chesapeake Bay area and avid birder, I have seen what is happening to our Osprey population. Overfishing is never good and the Bay does not hold an endless supply of Menhaden to satisfy the profits of foreign corporations. Please act before we lose an entire population of Osprey.

Kathy L Kahler Lambrow

1857 Cape May Rd, Essex, MD 21221

Mobile - 410-733-5837

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James Boyle

From: Herb Floyd <storyteller56@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 7:59 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

ASMFC Members,

As an Environmentalist, Conservationist, Master Naturalist, Birder, and lastly, an avid and ethical recreational angler, I **fully and strongly** support the following sections of the subject Addendum.

- **3.1 Option C1e:** Reducing the initial Chesapeake Bay Cap by 50%, from 51,000 to 25,550 metric tons.
- Establishing the Bay Cap at 13.6% of the coastwide total allowable catch so it can adjust when the coastwide quota changes.
- **3.1 C2a:** Maintaining 51,000 metric tons as the maximum Bay Cap, with no fixed lower limit.
-
- **3.2.1 B2:** Even Length & Uneven Harvest. Allocating 25% of the Bay Cap during the first quota period, 25% during the second period, and 50% during the final period.
- ***This is of particular importance to the recent evidence of unsuccessful osprey breeding and survival of hatchlings. Wildlife Biologists and birders that monitor osprey nests have confirmed poor reproduction and survival rates in recent years. I personally live on a tributary of the Choptank River and have confirmed less active osprey nests with adults and babies. Delaying 50% to the final period will increase available menhaden for adult ospreys to feed their young during their nesting period. I have also experienced a reduction in striped bass populations in the Choptank River watershed where I primarily fish recreationally.***
- **3.2.2:** Require early- season quota period overages to be deducted from the corresponding period during the following year.
- ***In my opinion, there should never be any overages.***
-
- **3.3 Option B** Revisit Provision: The Chesapeake Bay Cap and related management measures will be revisited every three years following implementation of this draft addendum.

In addition, I strongly support Virginia being required to create a 3-mile limit on reduction fishing like all the other states on the Atlantic Seaboard. We simply need to quit harvesting the Atlantic Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay until there is scientific evidence to support harvesting there again.

Sincerely and strongly concerned,

Herbert Floyd
Trappe, Maryland

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James Boyle

From: Steve Baier-Anderson <sbaieran@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 7:48 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I strongly support the proposed 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap (Option B4 / reducing the cap to 25,500 metric tons) and seasonal quota periods. I hike, kayak, sail and fish on the bay from Calvert, Anne Arundel, Talbot and Dorchester Counties and am extremely concerned for the health of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. I have personally and casually observed a decrease in Osprey nest occupation and juvenile populations in recent years. I have learned that these issues are signs of an ecological crisis where Osprey and other predators are sentinel species and indicate an urgent need for precautionary conservation. Declining numbers of Osprey and stressed striped bass populations have been traced to industrial fishing which extracts 100 million pounds of fish in a concentrated summer window. This harms the local food web and deprives watermen and people using the Chesapeake Bay for recreation such as anglers of fair access. I urge you to implement strict quota periods that distribute the harvest evenly across the year rather than allowing an intense summer harvest.

Steve Baier-Anderson

Lothian, MD

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James Boyle

From: Joseph Atamaniuk <jatamaniuk@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 7:52 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden fish

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Commission,
After reading the article of the plight of the osprey's feeding area on the Eastern seaboard. I implore the commission to establish tighter regulation and reduced harvesting of the osprey's primary source of food, the menhaden fish. We have spent many years building up the osprey's population only to see it disappear in a short period of time to overfishing of the area.
Joseph Atamaniuk.

Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: bounce@bounce.votervoice.net on behalf of Jonathon Reynolds <user@votervoice.net>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2026 10:22 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Approve Draft Addendum II - Support science-based menhaden management

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear FMP Coordinator Boyle,

My name is Jon Reynolds. I am President of South Atlantic Fishing Environmentalists. We are an organization of over 700 members, mainly composed of charter fishermen, charter clients, recreational fishermen and associated businesses. I am an active recreational fisherman, charter boat owner/operator and commercial fishermen in South Florida. The Amendment 3 PID is a very well laid out document with options that are extremely important for the future of our fisheries and interactions between ocean predators and prey. I witness these interactions on the water daily and understand just how critical it is that we leave ample forage fish in the water as food for predators. A large stock of forage fish swimming off the coast, such as menhaden, is a major factor in the success of my fishing trips.

My name is Jon Reynolds. I am President of South Atlantic Fishing Environmentalists. We are an organization of over 700 members, mainly composed of charter fishermen, charter clients, recreational fishermen and associated businesses. I am an active recreational fisherman, charter boat owner/operator and commercial fishermen in South Florida. Healthy forage fish populations are extremely important for the future of our fisheries and interactions between ocean predators and prey. I witness these interactions on the water daily and understand just how critical it is that we leave ample forage fish in the water as food for predators. A large stock of forage fish swimming off the coast, such as menhaden, is a major factor in the success of my fishing trips.
I urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to approve Draft Addendum II and reform menhaden management to better support the entire Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and recreational fishing.
I respectfully ask the Board to approve the following measures in Draft Addendum II:
-Options C1e and C2a, which would link the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap to approximately 13.6% of the coastwide total allowable catch while retaining the existing 51,000-metric-ton upper limit. At the current coastwide quota, this would reduce the Bay Cap by approximately 50%, to 25,500 metric tons.
-Option B2, which would distribute harvest across 25% / 25% / 50% seasonal quota periods and reduce the potential for concentrated fishing when forage may be especially important to predators.
-Option B, which would deduct early-period overages from the following quota period while allowing unused quota to roll forward.
A requirement to revisit the Bay Cap every three years so managers can incorporate new Chesapeake Bay-specific science and respond to our evolving understanding of menhaden and predator needs.
I also support setting the 2027b□2028 coastwide total allowable catch at a level carrying no more than a 50% probability of exceeding the Ecological Reference Point fishing mortality target. Managing menhaden to the ERP fishing mortality target achieves both ecological and economic goals by protecting the role of menhaden in the ecosystem while providing for the livelihoods of bait fishermen, tackle shop owners, guides, and all others who rely on menhaden to support recreational fisheries.
Please approve Draft Addendum II and take meaningful action to ensure that menhaden management supports a healthy Chesapeake Bay, abundant sportfish populations and sustainable recreational fishing opportunities.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Jonathon Reynolds
35250 SW 177th Ct Unit 9
Homestead, FL 33034
safefishingorg@gmail.com
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James Boyle

From: Tammy <dwd12345@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 8:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Draft Addendum, II

I feel we need to do something NOW to stem the terrible disaster that is affecting osprey and marine wildlife. The consequences can be irreversible if we do not act quickly.
I support :
3.1C;e – a 50% reduction in the allowable Chesapeake Bay harvest and a 13.6% proportional cap on the coastal harvest, referred to as TAC
--3.2.1B2:3 which is a quota catch percentage of 25%, 25% and 50% during the three harvest periods. Delaying the largest harvest until the last catch period will hopefully provide some time for the menhaden to grow
--revisit the catch limits at least in three years.
Sincerely,
Tammy Laverty
Ridgefield Park NJ

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James Boyle

From: Susan Lawless <slawess720@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 1:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Protect Our Wildlife

Tourism in the state of New Jersey and most coastal states along the eastern seaboard is a huge industry and fills each state's coffers with tax dollars year after year. I personally have been vacationing with my family in Cape May, New Jersey for many many years. One of the thrills for each generation is observing ospreys fishing and flying by with fish in their talons.

While commercial fishing is also an industry, a balance needs to be struck. Unfettered, and unchecked commercial fishing is depleting the menhaden or Bunker stocks to record lows.

So much effort was put into bringing back these great birds after the DDT problem. Right now, the Osprey is the Canary in a coal mine. If a balance is not struck to protect and replenish the fish, other species will be harmed. And so to eventually the lucrative tourist industry.

Act now to strike a balance.

Susan Lawless, Bethlehem, PA and regular vacationer in Cape May County New Jersey.

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James Boyle

From: Debbie Gritt <debbg44@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:53 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Reduce TAC

On 3.1 Option C reduce TAC by 50 per cent. On 2: Option B 2. On 3: B

Preserve some menhaden for other species dependent on this resource.
Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Michael Bocchino <baccimike5@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 5:13 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External]

To the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for the most protective conservation measures outlined in Draft Addendum II.
Specifically, I ask that you cut the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap by a full 50%, tie this Bay Cap directly to the coastwide total allowable catch, and split the cap into seasonal quotas to prevent heavily concentrated harvesting during the spring and summer months.
Additionally, I strongly encourage the Board to establish a coastwide TAC for 2027 and beyond that successfully meets the ecological reference point target.
The 2025 stock assessment demonstrated that the population is lower than previous estimates, and the Board's own forecasting indicates that a reduction of at least 50% is necessary to achieve this goal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Full Name
Michael. NJ

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James Boyle

From: lodorico2@icloud.com
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 9:29 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Save our marine ecosystems.

Please do your jobs and reduce the Menhaden harvest!
Sent from my iPad
Les Odorico

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James Boyle

From: Weiss, Brian <weissb@merrimack.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 8:16 PM
To: Comments
Cc: cody@saltwaterguidesassociation.org
Subject: [External]

Good Evening,

My name is Brian Weiss and I write to you as a passionate and concerned sportsman, charter fisherman, and prior commercial fisherman. I was born and raised fishing the waters of long island sound and have loved the sport since the moment I was able to hold a rod and reel. Captivated by both my love of the sport and my admiration for all things wild, I have always paid close attention to the environment in which I spend most of my time.

As both a recreational angler and a working professional, attention to detail is paramount. The most important items to log and recall are the movements and behavior of the fish that you target and more importantly, what they feed on. Without a doubt the most important forage across the board is the Menhaden. If you don't know this already, you better not forget, because everything… and I mean everything eats menhaden.

From the moment that they are alive, the entire food chain relies on this baitfish and without it, I do not know where our waters would be. As a child I can remember acres of bunker from peanuts to full grown adults throughout our fishing season, and in recent years I have been both disappointed and increasingly concerned with their numbers everywhere I have fished in New England. As anglers we adapt to changes and cycles that exist in any environment to be successful, but every year that passes I see fewer and fewer bunker.

Of course, as someone who relies on healthy fisheries this concerns me, but I worry more about the effects it may have on our ecosystem that I do the money in my pocket. If you do not fully grasp the importance of this, listen closely. WAKE UP. If the population of menhaden struggles, so will everything else that swims. Everything trickles down and if something this important struggles, the ecosystem loses its equilibrium. I fear that if we do not realize this as a community, we will pass the point of no return.

Folks who don't understand the gravity of this situation or those who pad their wallets from this fishery may laugh or dismiss this concern, but nobody will be laughing if it continues to decline as we have seen in recent years. I understand that there are people who rely on this resource as a way to feed their families and fuel our economy. I also understand that there are products that are made and sold using this resource that can provide health benefits across the globe in things such as fish oil pills.

However, if we lose this, we lose everything. This same trickle down effect within the environment will also be seen economically. Forget the menhaden fishery, but all other fisheries that are influenced by this species will take a dive. Other baitfish species will be relied on for consumption as an alternative and in turn, those will too be massively effected. Businesses and communities that thrive during certain parts of the year will suffer. This includes tackle shops, fishermen, restaurants, hotels and lodging, gas

stations, and many other business that rely on the support of passionate anglers and tourists to uplift the economy during critical seasons.

If you don't care about the resource and want to continue to abuse it as long as you can, be my guest, but what follows will cripple those who rely on it and much more. If you are reading this letter, I urge you to listen and consider the repercussions of improper management moving forward. I am in full support of landing and quota period reduction. I truly believe that our waters and our people will benefit from this. I also believe that this needs to be done immediately to be successful. If we linger in the thick of political discussion, we only continue to further the damage while we do nothing. Help me believe in our system, and help our environment and economy flourish for future generations by making the right decision. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for reading my letter and hope that you consider these words moving forward.

Sincerely,

Fisheries Advocate Brian Weiss

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James Boyle

From: Karen Royer <karenroyer55@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 5:19 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Bob Royer
Subject: [External] Comments on Marine Fisheries Commission Draft Addendum II

We are writing to ensure that menhaden fishery management in the Chesapeake Bay reflects ecological realities and the best available science! We support the following options in Draft Addendum II:

Section 3.1 – Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount

Options C1e and C2a: Link the Bay Cap to 13.6% of the coastwide total available catch (TAC) while maintaining a 51,000 metric ton upper limit.

- These options ensure Bay harvest remains tied to coastwide management and Ecological Reference Point (ERP) guidance.

Section 3.2.1 – Quota Periods

Option B2: Divide the Bay Cap into three quota periods (25%, 25%, 50%).

- This timing structure better protects predators like osprey during sensitive periods for their young, when energetic demands are highest.

Section 3.2.2 – Quota Period Overages & Underages

Option B: Require overages from early quota periods to be deducted from the same period the following year.

- This ensures quota periods have real meaning and accountability. If commercial fishing interests are able to exceed catch limits with impunity, the limits will have no regulatory force or ecological benefit.

Section 3.3 – Bay Cap Adjustment Provision

Option B: Revisit the Bay Cap every three years.

- This measure ensures that fishery management is tied to ecological conditions and will protect both the fish and the fishery, depending on population dynamics over time.

Support for Coastwide TAC Alignment

We also support setting the 2027–2028 coastwide TAC at a level with a 50% or lower probability of exceeding the ERP fishing mortality target.

Coastwide and Bay management must work together. If science supports reducing coastwide harvest to protect the ecosystem, **Bay harvest should reflect those same conservation goals**. Otherwise fishing pressure will continue to increase in the Chesapeake as a relative proportion of the overall coastwide harvest.

Menhaden are foundational to the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. Not only are menhaden voracious filter feeders that clean the water of the Bay every day, but their abundance

directly affects predators such as osprey, striped bass, and marine mammals, and the Severn River's recent nest-camera data provides clear, local evidence of declines tied to insufficient abundance of food. By adopting the recommended options in Draft Addendum II, ASMFC can strengthen ecological resilience, support recreational fisheries, and safeguard the Bay's iconic wildlife!

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to science-based management.

Robert & Karen Royer

370 Harwin Drive

Severna Park, MD 21146

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 8:07 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Mike Wilberg

Email

wilberg@umces.edu

State

Maryland

Comment

Atlantic Menhaden Board:

Recently, Ault and Luo (2026) published a paper that purported to provide a new estimate of natural mortality that, if used, would substantially change the estimated biomass of menhaden in the stock assessment. They further claimed that their study was an improvement over the estimates in Liljestrand et al. (2025). Taken at face value, the Ault and Luo (2026) study casts doubt on the accuracy of the 2025 stock assessment.

As a co-author of Liljestrand et al. (2025), I have reviewed the work in Ault and Luo (2026) and found several fatal flaws such that the information in that paper should not be considered best available science. The main flaws are:

1) The models used by Ault and Luo (2026) do not produce statistically valid estimates. I have rerun their models that are publicly posted on GitHub (https://github.com/bigjawfish/Menhaden_MMR_Model) and found that they do not meet standard diagnostics for determining whether results from a Bayesian model are valid. This is not surprising because previous research on this type of model indicates that the Ault and Luo (2026) model should have problems with parameter estimation.

2) Ault and Luo (2026) ignore the empirical data on magnet efficiency from experiments that were done by putting tagged menhaden directly into the reduction plants to determine the fraction of tags that were recovered (nearly 100,000 fish in nearly

1,000 separate experiments). Liljestrand et al. (2025) used these data to inform their model, which is a better approach.

3) Ault and Luo (2026) distort the literature on the maximum age of Atlantic menhaden. Ault and Luo (2026) state, “More than five decades of ageing data encompassing over half a million Atlantic menhaden indicate that the species regularly attains ages of at least 10–11 years (Schueller et al., 2014, 2021; SEDAR 69, 2019).” That statement is misleading and incorrect. No Atlantic menhaden have been aged to age-9 or older since 1964, despite >500,000 menhaden being aged during 1955-2023. These early high ages are only present in the first ten years of the ageing program when ageing methods were still being developed, and they had a different set of agers than after 1968. A more realistic estimate of the maximum age is likely 6-8. Age 8 is the oldest observed age since 1968 with only two observations. Only twelve fish have been age-7 since 1968, and 155 fish have been aged to 6 (out of more than 300,000).

These flaws are similar to those identified by the ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Technical Committee when they reviewed Ault and Luo’s work previously and comments (March 4, 2025) that I also made to Ault and Luo over the past several years. However, Ault and Luo chose not to address them. The stock assessment should continue to be used as the best science to manage this stock. My co-authors and I plan on submitting a rebuttal to the Ault and Luo (2026) article soon.

Sincerely,
Mike Wilberg
Professor
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

Ault, J.S., J. Luo. 2026. Investigation of Atlantic menhaden mortality rates. Fisheries Research 303; 107865.
Liljestrand, E.M., M.J. Wilberg, A.M. Schueller. 2025. Corrigendum to “Estimation of movement and mortality of Atlantic menhaden during 1966-1969 using a Bayesian multi-state mark-recovery model” [Fish. Res. 210 (2019) 204-213]. Fisheries Research 288: 107445.

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James Boyle

From: Benjamin Lee <benlee95@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 11:20 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Draft Addendum II and the Coastwide TAC

Good morning,

I am emailing you to comment on AMFSC's
Draft Addendum II and the Coastwide TAC. The population of menhaden and other forage fish in the mid Atlantic are at extremely concerning numbers and with Osprey and Striped bass recruitment numbers at all time lows these iconic creatures need as much help as we can give them. Thus I am suggesting the following adjustments:

Sec 3.1: sub option B4 - a 50% reduction in the current bay cap of 25,500 mt

Sec 3.2.1: option B1 - even length and even harvest

Sec 3.2.2: underage sub option 1 - an underage quota in period 1 would be split evenly and rolled over to quota periods 2 and 3

Sec 3.3: option B - the Chesapeake bay cap will be reviewed at least every three years

I also insist that the Coastwide TAC be dropped by 50% to 94,420mt. This is the only option that will keep the fishery from operating at an overfishing level. These numbers are backed by science and we cannot let omega proteins and others plunder our forage fish so that some people can have fish oil pills instead of just eating fish every now and then.

Thank you for your time,

-Ben Lee

He/Him/His

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James Boyle

From: Collin Underhill <collin.underhill11@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 8:02 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Mendhaden Draft Addendum ll

I , as a cape cod born and raised angler, support all of the following:

- Cutting the Chesapeake Bay Cap by the full 50%
- Linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide catch limit, so when one drops, the other does too
- Spreading Bay harvest across quota periods so the Bay isn't stripped in spring and summer
- Reducing the coastwide catch limit by 40% to meet the science for 2027 and beyond

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Tight lines,
Collin Underhill

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James Boyle

From: Bob Walker <bobwalk213@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 6:40 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Addendum ii

I oppose any reduction of menhaden harvesting. Please do not give in to mob rule. Allow science to continue to be the best driver of any decision made for this industry. I recreation fish on the Chesapeake Bay. There are more schools of bunker this year than I have seen in years. The schools of bull drum are plentiful throughout the bay. They are feeding on schools of bunkers.

Bob Walker
Irvington, Va

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James Boyle

From: Luis Tirado <captloutirado@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 4:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Coastal TAC and Addendum 2 comments

Good afternoon, I would like to comment of the upcoming menhaden regulations. My name is Lou Tirado, I run a single operator inshore charter fishing business and have done so for the last 15 years. I have also fished the coastal waters of Maine for 35 plus years. I have fond memories of an abundant menhaden fishery and I have not so fond memories of them disappearing. In recent years we have seen some reappearing of these extremely valuable forage fish, but not nearly enough, and while not may be anecdotal, I believe the lack of the forage fish has negatively affected the predator fish that rely on them. Menhaden are an integral part of the foundation of the food chain, and for too many years we have taken pieces of the foundation, so much so that we are in jeopardy of watching the whole house collapse. As far as what options I am in favor of please record the following:

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Amount-
Option B4, I would like to see a 50% reduction.

3.2.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period -
Option B1

3.2.2 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota and Overages -
Option - Underage Suboption 1

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Program
Option - Option B

As far as the TAC goes, I am in favor and would like to see a 50% reduction across the board.

Thank you for your time.

Luis Tirado
Owner/Operator
Diamond Pass Outfitters
207-899-5985

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James Boyle

From: Alan Carruth <alsplace24@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 9:11 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Stop the depletion of Menhaden in all waters. The rest of the ecosystem depends on them to survive. Even the Ospreys had their worst reproductive year ever. If we lose the Menhaden we will have a dead ocean! Thankyou for your time.
Alan Carruth Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Eric Shannon <eshannon12@mac.com>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 3:49 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Dear Atlantic Menhaden Management Board Members,

I am writing in support of stronger protections for Atlantic menhaden under Draft Addendum II. Please reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by 50%, from 51,000 to 25,500 metric tons, and keep that cap independent of the coastwide total allowable catch.

I live in Narberth, Pennsylvania, and fish from kayaks and small boats. Striped bass fishing in New Jersey and the Delaware River is part of what draws me to our region's waters. Although I live outside the Chesapeake watershed, I have a personal stake in the health of this connected coastal ecosystem.

Fishing gives me a reason to spend time outdoors, explore new places, and plan trips around the water. I'm also interested in Chesapeake getaways with my family. A bay with abundant fish and wildlife is a place we want to visit and return to. Diminished fishing and wildlife experiences would weaken that draw for families like mine.

That matters economically. Anglers and visiting families support tackle shops, guides, marinas, restaurants, lodging, and other local businesses. As a former small-business owner, I know how much repeat customers matter. When a fishery becomes less productive, the losses spread through a community; they do not end with the angler who goes home disappointed.

I recognize that coastwide stock status does not establish whether enough menhaden are available in a particular part of the Bay at a particular time. That uncertainty supports a precautionary approach while more research proceeds. We should protect forage availability now rather than make coastal communities and wildlife bear the risk of waiting.

In addition to the 50% cap reduction, I support:

- Section 3.2.1, Option B1: equal-length quota periods with equal harvest shares.
- Section 3.2.2, Underage Sub Option 1: splitting a first-period underage evenly between periods two and three.
- Section 3.3, Option B: reviewing the Bay cap at least once every three years.

Please reject options that automatically link the Bay cap to the coastwide quota. The Bay needs protections responsive to its own ecological conditions.

My daughter, Norah, is five. I want her generation to inherit waters that offer abundant fish, thriving wildlife, and viable businesses built around those resources. Please adopt meaningful protections now, alongside a separate reduction in the coastwide catch limit.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Eric Shannon
Narberth, Pennsylvania

310-902-5354

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James Boyle

From: Mark Gilroy <markngilroy@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 4:23 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

To whom it may concern,

I would like to provide public comment on the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II. I am a coastal fisherman in CT, and I would like to strongly suggest that the board adopt the recommendations of a full 50% cut to the menhaden cap in Chesapeake Bay. We need menhaden in the ocean to encourage a healthy coastwide fishery, and this cut is long overdue. We need to make a significant cut to encourage more menhaden production. Thank you for your time and consideration to this matter.

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James Boyle

From: NANCY LAW <nancydancer@me.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 8:14 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Please register my comments on the Atlantic Menhaden. I am in favor of the following:

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount
Option C1e: To reduce the Chesapeake BayCAP by at least 50 percent in 2027 and link any changes to the future Bay Cap to 13.6% of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC).
Option C2a: To set the maximum upper limit in any future change at the current level of 51,000mt.

3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution
Option B2: To establish three even length quota periods for the Chesapeake Bay Cap, distributing the harvest at 25% in period 1, 25% in period 2, and 50% in period 3.
Option B: Provides any underage of Quota Periods 1 or 2 be rolled into Period 3 of the same fishing year. Any underage in Quota Period 3 would not be reallocated. Any overages would be deducted from the same quota period in the following year.
3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision
Option B: Revisit the Chesapeake Bay Cap every 3 years.

Thank you ,
Nancy Law
232 Severn Drive
Annapolis, MD 21401

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James Boyle

From: Justin Friedman <justin.friedman94@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 5:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Dear Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am writing to comment on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II.

I strongly support reducing the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap by 50% to 25,500 metric tons (Sub-Option B4). The Chesapeake Bay is an extraordinarily important nursery and feeding area, and management of industrial menhaden harvest within the Bay should reflect the Bay's unique ecological importance rather than simply following coastwide harvest levels.

I also support Option B1 for the quota period, providing for even-length periods and even harvest; Underage Sub-Option 1, under which an underage from Quota Period 1 would be divided evenly between Quota Periods 2 and 3; and Option B for the revisit provision, requiring the Chesapeake Bay Cap to be reviewed at least once every three years.

I strongly oppose linking the Chesapeake Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC. The Bay Cap should function as an independent conservation measure for the Chesapeake. A coastwide increase in allowable harvest should not automatically permit increased industrial harvest inside the Bay.

At a coastwide TAC of roughly 112,000 metric tons, leaving the current 51,000-metric-ton Bay Cap in place could allow approximately 45% of the entire coastwide harvest to occur within the Chesapeake Bay. A 25,500-metric-ton cap would instead represent roughly 23% of that TAC and is much more consistent with recent historical harvest patterns.

Menhaden are a critical forage species, and their value extends far beyond their value as a commercially harvested commodity. I urge the Board to take a precautionary approach that recognizes the importance of abundant forage to the Chesapeake ecosystem, recreational fisheries, and coastal communities.

Please support a 25,500 metric ton Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap and reject any mechanism that automatically links the Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Justin

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James Boyle

From: Kevin Stepka <kmstepka@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 7:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

My name is Kevin and I'm a recreational angler from Connecticut. In the past few years I have seen very few menhaden in Long Island Sound, where schools used to be a regular presence. I know this is anecdotal, but it is consistent with the declines in Chesapeake pound net CPUE and the Choptank River survey described in the addendum, and with the status of striped bass, which the addendum notes is overfished.

Because the Chesapeake is a critical nursery for the coastwide stock, I support the most precautionary options in the draft:

- **Bay Cap amount:** Option B4, a 50% reduction to 25,500 mt. I oppose any upper or lower limit structure that would allow the cap to rise or be held above that level.
- **Quota periods:** Option B2 (25/25/50%), to move harvest away from the mid-summer concentration seen in 2023 and 2024.
- **Overages and underages:** Option B (payback of period overages) without the underage sub-option, so the periods actually constrain harvest.
- **Revisit provision:** Option B, every three years.

The addendum acknowledges that data on menhaden abundance in the Bay are insufficient. Given that uncertainty and the importance of menhaden to the species anglers depend on, I ask the Board to err on the side of caution. I also ask that the Board consider the effect of this addendum together with its November decision on the coastwide TAC, since a lower Bay Cap alone may only shift effort outside the Bay.

Thank you for considering my comments.

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James Boyle

From: Jim Bright <jamestbright@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 10:50 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

To whom it may concern,

Please implement an immediate 40% reduction to the coastwide menhaden total allowable catch (the "TAC"), which applies to every state from Maine to Florida, and is separate from the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap that is currently under review as part of Draft Addendum II.

For guides, anglers, and small businesses that rely on healthy fisheries, a healthy coastwide menhaden stock matters beyond the Chesapeake. Menhaden are not like striped bass. Striped bass depend on the Chesapeake to spawn, but menhaden spawn along the coast from the Carolinas to southern New England. Only about one in five adult menhaden in the Northeast come from Chesapeake Bay nursery. Addendum II's Bay Cap protects that nursery. The TAC protects the coastwide spawners.

- **Cut the coastwide TAC by 40%** to approximately 112,100 metric tons for 2027 and 2028, which the ASMFC's own science projects would still result in a 40% and 50% chance of overharvest during those years.
    - Effective management action is needed now. Delays would allow the current TAC (186,840 mt) to be used for the 2027 harvest season, enabling continued unsustainable Atlantic Menhaden harvests by the commercial fishery.
    - Set the TAC as a fixed tonnage for 2027 and 2028, not a formula that adjusts automatically. Do not defer it pending further analysis.
- **Fix the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap at 25,500 metric tons.** At a coastwide quota near 112,000 metric tons, keeping the current 51,000-ton Bay Cap would allow roughly 45% of the coast's harvest to come from inside the Bay. A 25,500-ton cap is about 23%, in line with the 24% average since 2018.
- **Reject every option linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC.** Reductions to the Bay Cap are conservation for the Bay, and should be approached as such. Linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC opens the door for geographic reallocations of unused quota and for increased harvest in the future.

Jim Bright

jamestbright@gmail.com
Cell: 216-926-2625

James Boyle

From: Alex McCrickard <mccrickard90@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 11:24 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Dear Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

Hi, my name is Jackson McCrickard, and I am a recreational angler living in Virginia. I've been fishing the Chesapeake my entire life, in both Maryland and Virginia. I'm an avid striped bass and red drum angler who cherishes our resources here in the bay, as well as along the greater Atlantic coast.

Here are my public comments on the record for the Chesapeake Bay Cap:

- 3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Amount. I choose option B4 - a 50% reduction in the current bay cap which would result in a new bay cap of 25,500 mt.

- 3.2.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period. I choose option B1 - even length and even harvest.

- 3.2.2 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period Overages and Underages. I choose Underage Sub Option 1 where an underage in quota period 1 would be split evenly and rolled over to quota periods 2 and 3.

- 3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision. I choose option B. Where the Chesapeake bay cap will be reviewed at least once every three years.

In my mind, the science is currently clear. We need a 50% reduction to the current Bay Cap as there was an error in the previous natural mortality estimate used in the stock assessment. We drastically overestimated the Atlantic menhaden stock because of this natural mortality error. The bay cap has been set way too high for way too long! And it's readily apparent to folks that spend most of their time on the water. From light tackle fishing guides to large charter boat operations, everyone is experiencing less menhaden in our waters. Our osprey are starving and if this isn't the canary in the coalmine, I'm not sure what is...

It's sad seeing our bay being slaughtered by a massive industrial fishing operation. We now have the chance to at least reduce their cap to conserve the population.

Let's please put the ecosystem first and conserve menhaden before it's too late.

Respectfully,

Jackson McCrickard
410-905-0099
mccrickard90@gmail.com

James Boyle

From: RM Lytle <brwntroutangler@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 8:13 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

The Chesepeake Bay Cap should be set to 25,500 metric tons, and should not in any way be linked to the Coastwide TAC.

Menhaden are clearly now being harvested and an unsustainable rate. Do not delay this action, this species and ecosystem is far too valuable.

Rowan Lytle
Portland, CT
Connecticut Fly Angler.

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James Boyle

From: Ryan Hunter <gunner.rah@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 10:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

To the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

My name is Ryan Hunter, and I am an avid saltwater angler from Chester, NY who fishes the waters of New Jersey to Rhode Island. I am writing to comment on Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden.
I urge the Board to fix the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap at 25,500 metric tons.
The Bay is a critical nursery for menhaden and for the predators that depend on them. At a coastwide quota near 112,000 metric tons, keeping the current 51,000-ton cap would allow roughly 45% of the coast's harvest to come from inside the Bay. A 25,500-ton cap is about 23% of the harvest, in line with the 24% average since 2018.
I also urge the Board to reject every option that links the Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC. Reducing the Bay Cap is conservation for the Bay and should be treated as its own decision. Tying it to the coastwide TAC opens the door to geographic reallocation of unused quota and to increased harvest in the future.

Menhaden are the foundation of the Atlantic coast ecosystem, and my fishing in local waters depends on healthy forage and the striped bass, bluefish, and other species that feed on it. I ask the Board to take precautionary action on the Bay Cap at the November meeting.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Ryan Hunter

Ryan Hunter
Wilkes U 20'
Mechanical Engineering
(845)-492-7253

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James Boyle

From: Stu Kindle <stuthemusic@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 7:14 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden

Hello,

It's about time for someone to step up and take care of this. Thank goodness.

The bay has been steadily declining at an exponential rate for a long time now and it's high time we start giving it a break from the constant pillage of its resources.

Reduce the harvest by at least 50%.

Thank you,

-Stu
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James Boyle

From: Roy Dellinger <rsdell@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 9:32 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden draft addendum II

To Whom it May Concern,

I am an avid bird watcher and member of both National Audubon and CT Audubon Societies.
The plight of Osprey in CT is of urgent concern and I urge you to do whatever is in your power to increase the Atlantic Menhaden population to allow this beautiful bird to once again flourish.
I urge a 50% reduction in the Bay Cap, with option B2.
Because Osprey feed almost exclusively on fish, they are considered an early warning species for the health of Connecticut's waters. Please heed this warning before it's too late!

Sincerely,
Sharon Dellinger
Colchester, CT.

Sent from my iPhone

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James Boyle

From: Steve Lombardo <stevelombardo@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 11:22 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Dear Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am writing in support of stronger protections for Atlantic menhaden through Draft Addendum II. I urge the Board to adopt the following measures:

- **Reduce the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap by the full 50%.**
- **Link the Bay Cap to the coastwide catch limit**, so any reduction in the coastwide limit automatically reduces the Bay Cap.
- **Distribute Bay harvest across quota periods** to prevent concentrated removals in spring and summer and help maintain forage availability throughout the season.
- **Reduce the coastwide catch limit by 40% for 2027 and beyond**, as part of a science-based approach to protecting menhaden and the predators that depend on them.

As a Massachusetts recreational fisherman, I care deeply about maintaining healthy forage populations along the Atlantic coast. I ask the Board to prioritize the long-term health of the ecosystem and the fisheries it supports.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Stephen Lombardo
Milton, Massachusetts

--
Stephen P. Lombardo
M: 617-699-3657

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James Boyle

From: Kyle Nichols <kylen5630@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 11:24 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

I am fully in support of reducing the harvest of menhaden in on the east coast. I am a charter captain in Connecticut and I have seen the impact first hand of a reduced amount of menhaden. Our rivers and Long Island sound used to be stocked with menhaden but this population has dramatically reduced over the last 5 years. I whole heartedly believe what is going on in the commercial menhaden fishery is wrong and unethical. The catch limit needs to be reduced drastically to support the survival of our most important baitfish. It has also impacted the striped bass population.

Please consider what everyone is asking for in reducing the catch for menhaden.

Sincerely,
Kyle Nichols
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James Boyle

From: 1tightline fishing <bigbassmaster725@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 11:25 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

As an avid Striped Bass angler out of New Hampshire who hasn't seen any pogies in years I would like to see a major cut in the menhaden harvest. While numbers are low, they are a highly prolific fish. With the right protection I believe we could see their numbers flourishing once again.

Thanks - Logan

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James Boyle

From: Chip Marrano <chipmarrano@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 11:29 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

We need to stop harvesting Menhaden!

Thanks,

Chip

Chip Marrano

chipmarrano@gmail.com

917-299-6912

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James Boyle

From: Rufus Moffett <rufusmoffett@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 11:30 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum 2

I support cutting the Chesapeake Bay cap. We need to protect these fish and the species that rely on them.

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James Boyle

From: Vincent Fraccalvieri <v.fraccalvieri@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 11:35 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Good day,

I am contacting you to support the critical reduction in Atlantic menhaden harvest. The current science supports a drastic cut in harvest due to previous overestimation in population. I have personally seen less of these fish and consequently less gamefish that rely on them as their primary food source.

I support a full 50% cap in the Chesapeake Bay and a 40% reduction in catch coastwide. Spreading the harvest over a larger period of time to allow recovery is warranted. The action must be holistic and not limited to one area.

Please use the current and future science to preserve this vital resource. Without these fish, there will be irreparable damage to ecosystems far and wide.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Vincent Fraccalvieri
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James Boyle

From: Jesse Russell <j1russell56@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 11:40 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft addendum II

Good morning,

I am writing in regards to the Atlantic Menhaden Draft addendum II. Simply put, we need to drastically cut the quotas for these fish as the population numbers are unacceptable. I've been fishing the northeast for 30 years and have seen a very noticeable decline in this crucial species. Time to put the health of our fisheries and marine ecosystem above profits. Find another way to make fertilizer, fish feed, cat food and omega 3 oils. The striped bass fishery as well as dozens of other ocean life rely on pogies.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION ON THIS MATTER!
Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Will Conway <conwaywilliamj@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 11:42 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Fwd: Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum 2

Hello,

I'm writing to voice my support for lowering the catch limit for the menhaden reduction fishery to in Virginia. We need menhaden to support the fish in the sea. A healthy forage stock of menhaden for the Atlantic should be the priority in managing the stock.

Sincerely, a life long New England angler.

—Will Conway

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James Boyle

From: colin davis <seedjd@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 11:41 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic menhaden draft addendum ll

Please reduce menhaden capture .. save the ocean while we can !!

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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James Boyle

From: Matt Nadler <mnadler@htretail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 11:46 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

We need to leave the bait fish in the ocean to keep the natural resources thriving. This will help keep the ocean sustainable for generations to come.

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James Boyle

From: Chris Gatehouse <csgatehouse@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 11:56 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Hi, my name is Chris Gatehouse and I am a life long saltwater angler who has been fishing the eastern Long Island sound and connected waters my entire life. I will be 49 this year. Bunker are the fuel that drives the engine for northeast fishing. When Menhaden are abundant the entire ecosystem thrives, from the giant tuna and sharks at the top of the food chain to the crabs and the invertebrates that clean up the mess after a feeding. Over the last few years especially there has been a noticeable decline in bunker populations locally. You used to see schools of them routinely in all of the harbors and right outside. I remember some years in the 80's when there were so many they would swim up the tidal creeks and would sometimes wind up dying up there due to oxygen depletion. While this is not ideal I'd rather see that many than none at all. I fish 3-4 days a week from May through November and so far this year I've seen one small school of adult bunker. Recently I have seen some small schools of peanut bunker moving along the beach but not nearly with the abundance we've seen historically. The lack of bunker screws up the timing of migrations and this has repercussions that affect everything in the system, including the newly abundant seals, dolphins and brown sharks that have returned to the system. Without the bunker to eat, these apex predators are starting to eat more of our gamefish. We have cleaned up the water way tremendously in my lifetime and the marine mammals and sharks we are seeing in the sound are a testament to the success of our work to clean up the water ways and protect the apex predators. If we take away their primary food source we are setting ourselves up for future imbalances. Bring the bunker back!

--
Christopher S. Gatehouse DMD
(860) 508-8088

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James Boyle

From: Sergio <sergio.garciares1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 12:12 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Dear ASMFC Commissioners,

I am a recreational striped bass angler in New York, and I am writing to support stronger protections for Atlantic menhaden, particularly in and around Chesapeake Bay.

Menhaden are an essential forage species for striped bass and many other predators along the Atlantic Coast. As anglers, we see firsthand how important healthy bait fish populations are to the health of our fisheries. Protecting the forage base is an important part of rebuilding and maintaining a healthy striped bass population for future generations.

I support reducing the Chesapeake Bay menhaden harvest cap by the full 50%, linking the Bay cap to the coastwide catch limit, spreading Chesapeake Bay harvest throughout the quota periods to avoid excessive localized removals, and reducing the coastwide menhaden catch limit by 40% in accordance with the scientific recommendations for 2027 and beyond.

I understand that commercial fishing is an important industry, but management should ensure that enough menhaden remain in the ecosystem to fulfill their critical role as forage. A healthy menhaden population benefits striped bass, other predators, recreational anglers, and the overall health of the Atlantic Coast ecosystem.

Please support the strongest conservation measures in Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sergio Garcia

New York recreational angler

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James Boyle

From: Barbara S <bgslatcher@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 12:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

I grew up around the Chesapeake Bay and on the beach in the Outer Banks. My father retired to Tilghman Island and was friends with generational fisherman, my best friend lives in Matthews on Mobjack Bay, and I helped the Center for Conservation Biology launch and manage OspreyWatch since 2012. When I was growing up in the 70's, there were no osprey or eagles because of DDT. In the 80's and 90's, my friend had osprey nesting on her dock in Mobjack Bay. I went out with local fishing guides catching stripers on the Bay, and we caught big bluefish and trout chasing menhaden up onto the beach on the OBX.

In the early 2000's, surf fishing crashed on the OBX and the surf fishing tournaments that drew hundreds of fishermen stopped catching big fish. We stopped going out on the Bay to fish because it was a lot of money for a couple of fish.

CCB launched OspreyWatch in 2012 because it was the primary research group in the world doing any osprey research, and the population on the Bay had grown to the largest nursery for osprey in the world. Osprey are a leading indicator species for global environmental health. We hoped all the people who built platforms for their osprey would want to join our citizen science project and monitor them, and that others would join us. We had large organizations like Audubon and Master Naturalists start monitoring groups, and state biologists joined to monitor their populations since nobody had money for osprey research. We grew to 10,000 nests monitored around the world.

Alarmed citizens on the Bay started reporting osprey nest failures to CCB as they watched their osprey pairs return from the southern hemisphere and then fail to produce young that successfully fledge. CCB revisited Mobjack Bay with additional research, where most of the historical osprey research has been done, and saw that the number of ospreys nesting and producing chicks were declining rapidly. In the last five years, CCB has conducted real scientific studies that have been peer reviewed and published, confirming that osprey were not able to provide enough menhaden to chicks to keep them alive. A controlled study where researchers supplemented their food showed that they could produce chicks if they had access to enough menhaden.

Then in 2023, a meeting with VIMS scientists, CCB, Maryland DNR, a sport fishing delegate and many Omega people, discussed the collapsing bait fishing business, osprey failures, and declining sport fishing. At the same time ASMFC started meeting to discuss the decline again, as they have done since the early 2000s, and determined action was needed. Throughout these clear declines in the 2000s, ASMFC actually increased TAC limits.

I have attended almost every menhaden meeting virtually since all of this started. I understand that VIMS holds primary responsibility for the science of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay. I was stunned that they have never done anything to assess the population of menhaden. I don't know anything about fisheries science, but in avian science we document declines with actual scientifically conducted counts. CCB has spent 50 years surveying avian populations from the air and ground, and has documented numbers

for many key species that are found around coastal Virginia. There are many peer reviewed studies and annual reports done by CCB and submitted to VADWR and publications that document species counts. What I learned sitting in ASMFC meetings and researching fisheries science is that those air survey counts are available for menhaden too. All the other states on the East Coast used science to determine that menhaden had been fished out and they all closed industrial fishing. And yet, VIMS has done nothing, and there are no actual numbers for ASMFC to use to assess localized depletion. I also learned that ASMFC uses a statisical model that is based on very old data and that the model may be incorrect and way overestimated the Atlantic population of menhaden. Nobody involved has quantified the econmic damage that this has done to local economies and the sport fishing industry that has collapsed in the Bay. All of the support for Omega is dependent on the impact to their workers, and yet we have absolutely no idea what that actual impact is. These fishermen are only working four months and go on unemployment the rest of the year.

When I originally read the Mission and Vision and Values of ASMFC, I was very hopeful.
Effective stewardship of marine resources through strong partnerships
¬ Decisions based on sound science
¬ Long-term ecological sustainability
¬ Transparency and accountability in all actions
¬ Timely response to new information through adaptive management

I really thought that with all the Eastern states represented, action would happen. Your values dictate that you respond quickly when sound science sets off alarms. I told everyone that you would act quickly.

As I sat through whole meetings that made no progress, I lost hope that quick action would happen. I joined fishermen groups and learned that you have ignored their concerns for decades. I see every day Omega boats and planes chase every school of fish, go back to the dock early because they can't catch anything, and sit at the opening to the Bay, the largest nursery for THE MOST IMPORTANT FISH IN THE SEA, and catch all the fish migrating in or out.

Now you have finally opened up this issue to the general public. You have made it as confusing as possible for anyone who is not a fishery scientist. You spent several meetings discussing the osprey science, sound science, and completely ignored it in your presentations the last few weeks. Those of us who have been involved understand that we have no idea how many menhaden Omega is catching in the Bay now, and we all believe it is less than what the new cap limits, even with a 50% reduction. Even the Omega fisherman know there are no fish in the Bay in the Spring when opsrey return. They aren't even fishing anymore in May, and yet you are setting maximum catches for May and June. You discussed not allowing industrial fishing in the Bay for those months, in several meetings, and yet it is not even an option we can vote for.

You had an opportunity to avert the ecological collapse of the Chesapeake Bay, the primary nursery for menhaden, many predator fish and birds, and destroyed a large economy of citizens that depended on you. Now it is collapsing all the way up to New England. It is inconceivable that staring this disater in the face, you are still letting them take hundreds of millions of menhaden, everything that is left, out of the Bay. It would have been easy in the short term to have Omega fish 3 miles out and make a huge difference, but you didn't even consider that.

I have completed the survey to support a 50% reduction in the menhaden catch. That you will not even visit this cap for another 3 years is astonishing, but I feel certain Omega will have to shut down because there will not be enough menhaden left sooner than 3 years.

I hope it's not too late to save the Bay,
Barbara Slatcher

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James Boyle

From: Alex <adwight@prodigy.net>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 12:42 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Hi,

My name is Alex. I am a recreational fisherman in the Chesapeake and east coast saltwater fishery. I support cutting the Chesapeake bay menhaden cap by the full 50% or more.

I support linking the bay cap to the coast wide catch limit.

I support spreading bay harvest across quota periods.

I support reducing the coast wide catch limit by 40% or more.

Thank you,
Alex Dwight
adwight@prodigy.net
301-661-3772

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James Boyle

From: Jeromy Jam <jmanjam1190@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 12:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum 2

Good Afternoon,

When are we going to start protecting Menhaden? We all know they're a valuable food source for other species. All the fisherman I know including myself have noticed a decline in Menhaden numbers in the Narragansett bay over the years.

Respectful,
Jeromy Jamgochian

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James Boyle

From: Matthias Phillips <matthiasphillips1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 1:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Good Afternoon members of the board,

Please consider the long term effects of the legislation you're proposing that on the reduction of the Menhaden population.
Lower the Chesapeake bay reduction fishery cap to 50%

Make it across the board by linking the bay cap to the coast wide total allowable catch.

Consider adding an owner/operator license allowing commercial fishermen to catch their own bait, to be able to cut mounting costs.

The research from the university of Miami shows that your natural mortality rate for these populations is even lower than you thought, even further reducing the population. These populations need to be protected so that the industries surrounding them can continue to thrive for years to come.
Thank you for considering my comments

Matthias Phillips
NY State Resident
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James Boyle

From: Melissa McGaughey <rsmmlg@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 1:23 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] menhaden comment

We have watched the bait pods of menhaden dwindle and with that hardly any striped bass, whales and dolphins. Please consider reducing the limits across the eastern seaboard!
Melissa McGaughey Amagansett NY
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James Boyle

From: Dillon Sheils <dillon.j.sheils@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 1:25 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

To the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am writing to support the most conservative options in Draft Addendum II.

Please reduce the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishing cap by the full 50%, link the Bay Cap to the coast wide total allowable catch, and divide the quota cap into periods to reduce pressure in the spring & summer.
The 2025 assessment showed the stock is smaller than previously estimated, and so is in dire need of support.
Thank you for your attention to this matter.
Best,
Dillon Sheils
Holliston, MA

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James Boyle

From: jacob greco <jacobgreco3@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 1:33 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

To the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission:

I'm writing as a saltwater angler from Newburyport, Massachusetts, with a background in marine and environmental science, to comment on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II.

It is unfortunate the change I have seen just in the past 6 years, there used to be schools of bunker even a mile or two upriver in the Merrimack I would see multiple times a week. Today they are far less common and is noticeable on the whole eastern seaboard.

Menhaden are the base of the forage chain for the striped bass, bluefish, tuna, birds, and marine mammals that make our coastal fisheries what they are. Management should reflect that ecological role and follow the best available science. It has been extremely disappointing watching the ASMFC put the interests of our fisheries behind alternative motives that have to be driving and forcing the commission to ignore scientific recommendations.

I support the following:

1. Reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by the full 50%. The Bay is the primary nursery for striped bass, and concentrated removals there have outsized local impacts.

2. Linking the Bay cap to the coastwide total allowable catch, so that when the coastwide limit is reduced, the Bay cap is reduced proportionally.

3. Spreading Bay harvest across quota periods, so menhaden aren't depleted in the Bay during spring and summer when predators depend on them most.

4. Reducing the coastwide catch limit by 40% for 2027 and beyond, consistent with what the science indicates is needed.

These measures are a reasonable, precautionary step to protect a resource that the entire Atlantic coast relies on, both ecologically and economically. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Jacob Greco
Newburyport, MA

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James Boyle

From: Alex Koch <akoch1760@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 1:43 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

50%

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James Boyle

From: Wilk <wmkins026@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 2:22 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Dear the ASMFC,

As someone studying marine science in college I realize the importance of menhaden. Atlantic menhaden are a keystone species, and provide plenty of other species such as dolphins, porpoise, whales, numerous fish species including Atlantic Bluefin Tuna, striped bass, shellfish species, and more. If this species were to be overfished the western Atlantic ocean as we know it would collapse.

From Will

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James Boyle

From: Enzo Couillens <ecouillens@spartansolar.earth>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 2:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

I want to voice my support to Cutting the Chesapeake Bay Cap by the full 50%!!!!

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James Boyle

From: Enzo <ecouillens@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 2:34 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Please Cut the Chesapeake Bay Cap by the full 50%. Anything less will not help fix the problem. Anything less is disrespectful to the residents of this great nation.

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James Boyle

From: Hugh Gusterson <guster@email.gwu.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 2:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission:

I'm writing to you to support in the strongest terms reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent and establishing strict seasonal quota periods for menhaden fishing**.**

I own a house in Tall Timbers, in St. Mary's County, a place I love both for its people and for its extraordinary beauty. One aspect of that beauty is the osprey that has always nested on our neighbor's pier -- until this year when it disappeared along with other ospreys that, like me, make Tall Timbers their home. Lest you think I only care about menhaden overfishing because of the beauty of our local ospreys, I am concerned that other seabirds, striped bass and blue fish also depend on menhaden to eat and live. They too are disappearing. That not only affects the livelihood of our local fishermen, but it depletes the complex ecological web of Southern Maryland -- with who knows what consequences we are as yet unaware of. (My son is a marine biologist who studies kelp in Southern California, and the kelp has been disappearing. Who cares about kelp, you might think, but fish eat kelp and now all the fish are disappearing too).

This depletion of menhaden is because of the indifference and selfishness of one company in Virginia that sweeps up vast numbers of menhaden not even to feed people but to turn into fish oil and fishmeal for pets. One company and its associated users should not be permitted to deplete a resource so important to the rest of the ecosystem and to other Bay users.

For that reason, I urge the Commission to take the following actions:

• Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent to 25,500 metric tons annually.

• Establish strict seasonal quota periods that distribute harvest throughout the year rather than permitting an intense summer harvest.

• Apply a precautionary management approach in light of uncertainty regarding localized menhaden abundance and the ecological condition of the Chesapeake Bay.

• Give greater consideration to the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the broader Chesapeake Bay economy, not just one Virginia based fishing company.

Sincerely
--
Hugh Gusterson

Professor, Department of Anthropology and School of Public Policy and Global Affairs

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James Boyle

From: Tim Lasusa <tplasu12@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 2:52 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

I am writing in support of the menhaden. I fish in Long Island Sound and the amount of bunker throughout, or lack there of is astonishing. We need to heavily protect this fish and keep our waters lively. Without bunker, we wont have a fishery.

Thank you,
Tim Lasusa

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James Boyle

From: John Marsh <milomuggsman@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 10:17 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Draft Addendum, II

Dear members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

Ospreys are an essential part of ecosystems in the Chesapeake Bay, Hudson Highlands, New Jersey shore region, etc. Ospreys rely on menhaden to feed themselves & their chicks.

I agree with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation which supports:

-- 3.1C;e – a 50% reduction in the allowable Chesapeake Bay harvest and a 13.6% proportional cap on the coastal harvest, referred to as TAC.

--3.2.1B2:3 which is a quota catch percentage of 25%, 25% and 50% during the three harvest periods.

Delaying the largest harvest until the last catch period will hopefully provide some time for the menhaden to grow.

I believe that the catch limits should be reviewed at least in three years.

Please pass these regulations ASAP to limit the harvest of menhaden to enable them to grow & repopulate as they are essential for the survival of osprey & other species.

Sincerely,

John Marsh
64 Chestnut Street
Allendale, NJ 07401-2204

914-330-7793

Milomuggsman@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

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James Boyle

From: Lee Smith <smithly_2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 10:34 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Reduction of Mehaden Catch Limits

Please protect our Osprey by reducing the Menhaden catch limits. There are other sources of renewable marketable oils that can be tapped by commercial interests. If we continue on the same path that we are currently on the Osprey population will be decimated to the point where their recovery will counted in decades.

Thank you,
Douglas Smith
Lusby, MD
Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer

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James Boyle

From: Rich Forfa <rforfa@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 3:16 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Addendum II comments

Dear board members, I am a veterinarian and life long saltwater angler currently associated with Owl Moon Raptor center . I feel that in the last 2 years the osprey nesting success on the Honga river has had a very low fledging rate due to premature deaths presumed to be incited by starvation .This has been backed up by the reduced numbers of young or even adult ospreys being admitted to our center for rehabilitation . Those being admitted have been underweight and in poor physical condition which in past seasons has rarely been the case . These observations have been documented overall on the main stem of Chesapeake Bay and along the coastal areas of Delaware and New Jersey . Observations by biologists and coastal watch groups seem to concur that lack of prey species may be contributing to this situation .

ASMFC has been aware of this situation and has had some past history of kicking the can down the road with some past issues . This osprey crisis is now an emergency and must be acted on rapidly in a meaningful way . The action taken needs to be reviewed every year not as in your addendum a repeat Revisit review in 3 years . There are many arguments that state we are not sure menhaden are the issue with the ospreys that other environmental factors also exist . Our feelings are that those factors have existed previously and have been documented .

We would like to see more than less but we ask that at least the following occur ; 1 Reducing the cap on reduction fishing Chesapeake Bay harvest by 50% from 51,000 to 25,500 metric tons.
2 Establishing the bay cap at 13% of the coastal total allowable catch . 3 Allocating three quota periods or seasonal harvest in the Bay with the lowest during the spring and summer . 4 Revisit provisions on a yearly basis and not 3 years as suggested in your Addendum currently . 5 We ideally would prefer complete elimination of this reduction fishery in the bay waters and elimination of reduction fishing to beyond the 3 mile limit of the coastal waters but especially during the quota periods .
I understand my feelings as to where we determine which is the best avenue to follow is slightly different than your suggested Addendum ,something must be done now and this topic not tabled for further discussion . Thank you for your efforts .Richard Forfa DVM

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 10:51 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Bambi thompson
Email
THOMPSONBAMBIL@GMAIL.COM
State
Virginia
Comment
Please approve the addendum to reduce the harvesting of Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay.

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James Boyle

From: elizabeth thompson <theleesburg4@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:31 PM
To: Comments; James Boyle; Sen. Vin Gopal; Adam S. Nowalsky; Jeff Brust; Tina Berger; Bob Beal; Joe Cimino
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II and 2027–2029 Catch Limits

To: comments@asmfc.org

Date: October 9, 2026

From:
Elizabeth Thompson

Leesburg, NJ

Dear Mr. Boyle and the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board and others:

I am writing as a concerned NJ citizen, a Citizen Scientist, a past NJ Bald Eagle Nest Observer for NJ Conserve Wildlife, a retired NJ public school educator (Aquaculture), a retired NJ Apprentice Wildlife Rehabilitator, an avid bird-watcher, and a grandmother to six young New Jersey citizens (whom I hope will get to see the full spectrum of NJ wildlife in their lifetime, to urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) to adopt strong, precautionary management measures within **Draft Addendum II**. Atlantic menhaden are the backbone of our coastal waters, serving as a critical forage fish for ospreys, whales, striped bass, and countless other marine species. They are the critical link in the sea's food chain.

I would ask for a **total moratorium on menhaden fishing**, until their populations become stable.

Some points I would like your to consider:

- FISHERIES CONSERVATION protects and restores fish stocks and aquatic habitats to ensure long-term marine and freshwater health.

- The restrictions put in place in 2012 worked! Please make that happen again.

- You say the menhaden are not overfished, but we all heard one commenter after another at the public hearings, and many other venues, that menhaden have all but disappeared along the eastern seaboard.

- There are more stakeholders in menhaden than just Omega Protein. You and the Board must see that.

- Yes, jobs in Virginia will be lost. If the menhaden harvest dries up, they will be lost anyway. Omega Protein can resolve to change. They can adapt and make oil from algae and fish-trimming and maintain the jobs in Virginia.

- 92 percent of Virginia Voters Want to Leave More Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay (https://www.cbf.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/va-menhaden-survey-2025.pdf)

- Don't make this political!

I would remind you of your mission:

ASMFC's mission:

> **"Our Mission**
>
> To promote cooperative management of fisheries — marine, shell, and diadromous — of the Atlantic coast of the United States by the protection and enhancement of such fisheries, and by the avoidance of physical waste of the fisheries from any cause…" (https://asmfc.org/about/)

and

ASMFC's reason for being:

"ASMFC Overview The Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942. The states formed the Commission to assist in managing and conserving their shared coastal resources. The states recognize that they cannot protect their citizen's interest in the resource alone. Because marine fish species move among many states, sometimes over wide ranges, each state knows it needs the cooperation of the other states in order to be successful. The Commission is nothing more, nothing less, than the place where the states come together to define what needs to be done to accomplish their mutual interests towards common goals; and to abide by majority rule in order to work together to pursue the goals. (Pg 1) *ASMFC Advisory Primer: A Guide to the Commission's Advisory Panel Process.*

Within the limitations of your survey, which I filled out on your site; I urge the Board to implement the following recommendations, I am taking advisement on my decisions from

American Littoral Society and multiple other organizations that I align with, trust, and respect:

- **Reduce the Chesapeake Bay Industrial Harvest Cap by at least 50%:** Cutting the current cap will safeguard the Bay's role as an indispensable nursery ground for juvenile menhaden, which ultimately migrate to support ecosystems along the entire Atlantic coast.
- **Establish Seasonal Quota Periods:** Spreading the allowed catch more evenly across the fishing season will prevent concentrated depletion and reduce localized ecological crises during critical wildlife feeding windows.
- **Mandate a Triennial Cap Review:** Ensure that the Bay cap is reassessed at least once every three years to integrate the latest ecological data and respond to evolving localized ecosystem needs.
- **Maintain an Independent Cap Structure:** Keep the Chesapeake Bay harvest limit independent, preventing it from being automatically tied to or inflated by changes in the broader coastwide quota.
- **Adopt Substantial Coastwide Catch Reductions:** Set 2027–2029 specifications that align directly with the ASMFC's ecosystem-based management targets, keeping more menhaden in the water to guarantee a resilient, thriving coastal food web.

One more thing I would like to share with you, a beautifully written excerpt from *The Most Important Fish in the Sea*, by H. Bruce Franklin. Hopefully, this book is NOT unfamiliar to you all, and will remind you of the bigger picture:

Franklin writes,

"First you see the birds- gulls and terns wheeling overhead, then swooping down to a wide expanse of water dimpled as though by large raindrops and glittering with silver streaks. The sea erupts with frothy splashes, some from the diving birds, others from foot-long fish with deeply forked tails frantically hurling themselves out of the water, only to fall back into their tightly packed school. More and more birds materialize as if from nowhere, and the air rings with their shrill screams. Boats too begin to converge on the scene: the boiling cloud of birds has told anglers everywhere within view that a school of menhaden, perhaps numbering in the tens of thousands, is being ravaged by a school of bluefish.

Attacking from below and behind to slash the menhaden bodies with their powerful jaws, the razor-toothed blues are in a killing frenzy, gorging themselves with the severed backs and bellies of their prey some killing even when they are too full to eat, some vomiting half

digested pieces so they can kill and eat again. Terns skim gracefully over the surface with their pointed bills down, dipping to pluck bits of flesh and entrails from the bloody swirls. Gulls plummet and fop heavily into the water, where a few splash about and squabble noisily over larger morsels. As some lift with their prizes, the squabbles turn aerial and a piece occasionally falls back into the water, starting a new round of shrieking skirmishes. Hovering high above the other birds, a male osprey scans for targets beneath the surface, then suddenly folds its gull-shaped wings and power-dives through the aerial tumult, extends its legs and raises its wings high over its head an instant before knifing into the water in a plume of spray, emerges in another plume and laboriously flaps its four-foot wingspan as it slowly climbs and soars away with a writhing menhaden held headfirst in its talons. Beneath the blues, iridescent weakfish begin to circle, snapping at small lumps sinking from the carnage. Farther below, giant but toothless striped bass gobble tumbling heads and other chunks too big for the mouths of the weakfish. From time to time, bass muscle their way up through the blues, swallow whole menhaden alive, and propel themselves back down with their broom-like tails, leaving telltale swirls on the surface. On the mud below, crabs scuttle to scavenge on leftovers" (pgs. 3-4).

Thank you for your dedication to science-based, ecosystem-first fisheries management.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Thompson

Starving ospreys in NJ, 2026. Photo by Ben Wurst

--

Elizabeth A. Thompson
189 High Street, PO Box 53
Leesburg, NJ 08327

Email: theleesburg4@gmail.com
Cell/Text: 856.491.8539
Phone/Voicemail: 856-785-2350

"If you want to see birds, you must have birds in your heart." -- John Burroughs

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James Boyle
ASMFC
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200-N
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

To the board taking this measure into consideration,

I am writing during this public comment period to oppose any further restrictions on the harvest Atlantic Menhaden. This industry has been under constant scrutiny for the amount of fish that are removed. When you count these tiny fish by the millions, it sounds like such a large number. What I believe most people fail to take into consideration is how the environment or Mother Nature plays into this fishery. When the industry began over a hundred years ago there were small reduction plants dotted along the entire coast with no reasonable quantification of how many menhaden were harvested. Prior to 2012 there was no limit to the number of menhaden that could be harvested from the Atlantic coast. In fact, when developing the catch limits, the best information available actually came from the reduction fishery for how many menhaden were harvested. As I've been following the TAC limit and the fluctuations along with the Ecological Reference Points, one of the things that I have not heard discussed is the Predator-Prey relationship that we are all taught from a young age. When there is pressure (from the predator) the prey numbers will decline and eventually the predator numbers will decline as well, allowing the prey to rebound. What happens if the ecosystem is dependent upon these 100s of millions of fish being removed from the environment and if those fish are already "accounted for" by Mother Nature? What then happens to that environment when we abruptly stop removing those fish?

I've done some simple research on how the changes in the TAC have seemingly already affected the population based on reported fish kills along the Atlantic Coast. From this research, reduced harvest and increasing menhaden abundance may increase the likelihood that localized environmental stressors such as hypoxia, disease outbreaks, migration disruptions and crowding-related oxygen depletion are expressed as detectable mortality events.

The pattern that I'm noting is that as we are seeing reports that the fishery is healthy and the TAC is increased, we then also begin to see more or larger fish kills. This all aligns with the idea that has continuously been presented that the fishery is not overfished. In fact, I would argue that because the fishery is not removing enough fish, we are leaving too many fish in the water which is then creating these dead zones and disease outbreak events. When the quota was implemented and then expanded from 2013-2020, the largest outbreak was recorded in the Neuse River of NC in 2017 with roughly 500,000 menhaden killed. In the Ecosystem Management Era (2020-2022) we saw the TAC reduced to 194,400mt and the first large multi-state disease-associated mortality events in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Currently in our increased TAC (2023-2025), we are seeing more mortality events recorded per year than any of the previous years with these events

specifically happening within the Chesapeake Bay around Baltimore Harbor. If there were no menhaden present, there would be no large menhaden fish kill. Yet, we had tens of thousands of fish that were dominated by menhaden killed in an area that is currently being argued to be scarce.

Year	Mortality Events	Management Milestone	Coastwide TAC (mt)
2012	0	ASMFC catch limits adopted	-
2013	1	Quota system begins	170,800
2014	0	Coastwide quota management continues	170,800
2015	0	TAC increase	187,880
2016	1	TAC increase maintained	187,880
2017	1	Amendment 3 adopted	200,000
2018	1	TAC increase	216,000
2019	2	-	216,000
2020	2	ERP adopted	216,000
2021	2	Northeast Vibrio mortality investigations	194,400
2022	0	Addendum I adopted	194,400
2023	1	VIMS Research Plan	233,550
2024	2	Baltimore Harbor major mortality	233,550
2025	3	ASMFC assessment update	233,550
2026	3	TAC reduced 20%	186,840

I believe that based on the loose correlations I have found through quick research, any option to make changes to the restrict the fishery would not leave more fish in the water, but would result in nature finding it's balance and still removing the excess fish thorough disease, hypoxia and crowding-related oxygen depletion events. I support more science and investigation to be sure that these changes are warranted.

I support Option A (Status Quo) for all proposed measures in Draft addendum II.

Thank you,

Melissa Thrift

James Boyle

From: bounce@bounce.votervoice.net on behalf of Michael Toth <user@votervoice.net>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 5:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Approve Draft Addendum II for menhaden management

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear FMP Coordinator Boyle,

An abundant menhaden population is crucial for keeping sportfishing relevant. Fewer menhaden means fewer gamefish, which in turn means fewer fishermen. There's no point in going fishing if fish aren't available, or so scarce that it's not worth the effort. The recent decision in CCA v. State of North Carolina relied on evidence that overfishing for a species reduces the population of that species AND other species. Please don't make the same mistake that North Carolina made. Some of those fish stocks may be permanently harmed.

Sincerely,

Michael Toth
15 Fanning Way
Pennington, NJ 08534
miketothhome@gmail.com
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James Boyle

From: David Touranjoe <dtouranjoe@att.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:05 PM
To: James Boyle
Subject: [External] Mendehan

Mr. Boyle,
I have been fishing CT, NY, RI, NJ waters for 20yrs. I also have fished the Chesapeake the last 10. I can honestly say I've noticed a sharp decline in the bunker runs. This year I have only seen one bunch in the sound and non in RI. The ospreys are dying, not breeding, the bass are thin, lobsters are fewer (they feed on that dead oily fish). Everyone on the eastern seaboard blames the Chesapeake fisheries. That's where the bass breed. That's where the menhaden spawn. You need to cut the fisheries more than you're proposing. Sub the fisherman's pay to not fish there is money for that. If you don't you will see all of the east coast fishery die with the bunker.
David touranjoe
860-395-9923
Sent from my iPhone
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC):

I strongly support reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by **50 percent—from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons per year—and establishing strict seasonal quota periods for menhaden.** The Chesapeake Bay is too important, and the ecological warning signs are too serious, to continue managing this critical forage fish as though the timing and location of harvest do not matter.

I have lived in St. Mary's County since 1981, my wife is 6th or 7th generation St. Mary's County, our boys are eighth generation, and our three grandchildren are ninth generation. We are fortunate to live on a family farm on Church Cove, off St. Inigoes Creek, off the St. Mary's River - we see ospreys and eagles soaring over our fields every day in season and have the entertainment of watching their territorial battles. We used to have several Osprey chicks annually fledge and migrate at the end of the season. Now, we are lucky to have one chick and the number of birds in flight has been noticeably and drastically reduced. At the current rate of decline of the various menhaden-dependent wildlife, my grandkids will be the last generation to see osprey in flight over our land, and the last to catch fish that are similarly dependent on the menhaden food source.

The evidence points to a decline in the number of menhaden that the ospreys, striped bass and other marine life in the Chesapeake watershed depend upon for their survival. This evidence is not new or revolutionary - it has been collected for years, presented for years, reviewed for years and seemingly shelved for years. This is indeed a case where time is running out. Maybe a better, apropos statement is TIME HAS RUN OUT. If you did not plan to accomplish anything in reviewing prior year data, when do you plan to really accomplish a meaningful act? IF NOT NOW … *WHEN*?

It is both *when* and *where* those fish are removed that matter. A menhaden harvested from a concentrated school in the Bay during the summer is no longer available to the predators that depend upon that school. Concentrated removal can create localized depletion during a biologically important period and can affect the availability of forage to other users of this shared public resource. And again, the menhaden fishery, headquartered in the southern Bay, in essence fences off the menhaden from their northern Bay neighbors.

The consequences extend beyond the reduction fishery. I own a Baybuilt deadrise, am a USCG licensed Master for power and sail, and for years have recreationally fished our neighboring creeks, rivers and the Bay. I am a captain for the *Dee of St. Mary's* skipjack at Calvert Marine Museum, and regularly take out passengers (including public school students and visitors from other areas) to demonstrate the ecology, biology and yes the business of the bay Menhaden support the Bay's recreational fishing economy, commercial and charter fishermen, watermen, wildlife, and coastal tourism. **A single user group should not be permitted to catch an enormous harvest of a shared forage resource during the period when that resource is most important to the rest of the ecosystem and to other Bay users. Indeed, it becomes even more selfishly catastrophic when that single user group in essence controls the access to other groups up current of them - in essence choking off the "supply" to neighboring user groups.**

For that reason, I urge the Commission to take the following actions:

• Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent to 25,500 metric tons annually.

• Establish strict seasonal quota periods that distribute harvest throughout the year rather than permitting an intense summer harvest.

• Apply a precautionary management approach in light of uncertainty regarding localized menhaden abundance and the ecological condition of the Chesapeake Bay.

• Give greater consideration to the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the broader Chesapeake Bay economy, the general (voiceless) citizenry and not just one Virginia based fishing company.

The Chesapeake Bay is not simply a location on a fisheries management map. It is a complex and interconnected ecosystem, and menhaden are one of its essential links.

We/you should not wait for further deterioration before taking action. There is no time for additional five-year studies to delay the decision. You have all the studies you need to make informed decisions. The evidence is there already: no outlier surprises, no epiphanies will be revealed by any more time spent on study. "STUDY" is not an effective action; "*STUDY* is a *prelude* to action. The current and projected severe drop in nesting pairs and the lack of surviving chicks will prevent effective replenishment of the species if real action, not studies, is not taken and implemented.

As someone who lives here, fishes and sails these waters, and cares deeply about the wildlife that depends upon them, I believe the Commission has an obligation to manage menhaden conservatively and to recognize that the health of the Bay must take precedence over maximizing a concentrated industrial harvest.

Reduce the cap. Establish meaningful seasonal quotas. Protect the forage base. Give the Chesapeake Bay—and the wildlife that depend upon it—a greater margin for recovery. One user group, one voter bloc, one influence group has held sway over a public/societal asset - it is time for the ordinary citizens of the Chesapeake Bay estuary to be heard AND their concerns to be acted on. No more studies, no more delay, no more political/governmental inaction, no more favoring the entitled few at the expense of the general public. Take the thumb off the scale. Make a difference. To borrow a catchphrase, *SAVE THE BAY*.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Capt. Heath E. Warren
U.S.C.G Licensed Master, Power and Sail
17980 Bill Raley Rd.
St. Inigoes, St. Mary's County, Maryland 20684

James Boyle

From: tscharnerwatkins@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 11:23 AM
To: James Minor; Ron Owens; Ingrid Braun-Ricks; Adele McClure; Melissa Alberto; James Boyle; Ethan Simpson; Joseph Grist
Cc: butchgaddy@gmail.com
Subject: [External] FW: Stop the Menhaden travesty !!

Man overfished whales to near extinction, mostly for lamp oil ! Hard to believe. Life has a way of repeating itself and it's menhaden now. I'm a third gen Virginian who loves fishing on the Bay or did love fishing on the Bay. I and many other non politicians have noticed the decline of all game fish. You remove the bottom of the food chain and the whole thing collapses.
Its past time to act. PASS this legislation!

T.D.Watkins III
3907 West Franklin Street
Richmond, Va. 23221

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: Scott Wettstein <scottwettstein065@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:35 PM
To: James Boyle
Subject: [External]

There's a lot to read here . I just have to say shut it down. No harvest 0-200miles from shore till the waters are packed up menhaden. Do let happen like the herring.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From:	Gerald Winegrad <geraldwinegrad@gmail.com>
Sent:	Friday, October 9, 2026 5:24 PM
To:	Comments
Cc:	James Boyle
Subject:	[External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Attachments:	29 Legislators Demand Action on Reducing Menhaden Harvest.pdf; Dr. Watts 2026 Bay Osprey Report.docx; Watts Menhaden Report News Advisory Atlantic Coast 9-18-26.docx

GERALD W. WINEGRAD
Maryland State Senator (1983-1995)
1328 Washington Drive
Annapolis, MD 21403
410-280-8956 gwwabc@comcast.net

October 9, 2026

REDUCE MENHADEN TAC TO NO MORE THAN 114,200 MT FOR 2027-2029 AND SET CHESAPEAKE BAY CAP AT 13.6% OF THE TAC

Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

By way of introduction, I live on the Chesapeake Bay and have fished and crabbed and swum in its waters for 75 years and still tend my crab pots. My wife and I had 10 steamed crabs two nights ago for dinner. I have 57 years of experience in natural resource management, beginning out of law school in 1969 with the National Wildlife Federation in Washington, DC.

I served in the Maryland legislature from 1978 to 1995, the last 12 years in the Senate where I chaired the Environment and Chesapeake Bay Subcommittee. In that role, I managed all environmental legislation on the senate floor, including measures dealing with fishery and wildlife management. I also taught graduate college courses in Wildlife Management, including fishery management, and in Chesapeake Bay restoration. I prepared the curriculum for both of these courses which included case studies in fishery management, including on menhaden.

I sponsored and promoted the rockfish (*Morone saxatilis*) mortarium bill that triggered Maryland's closure in 1985 that led to the Congressional law giving the ASMFC the authority to enforce rockfish quotas and other FMPs. I testified before Congress on this federal legislation. Together with Maryland's ban, this forced Virginia and other state to close down harvest. We saved the rockfish and this allowed us to reopen the fishery in 1990 under tight regulation from the ASMFC with annual quotas established each year.

Now, the rockfish is in trouble again. The lack of menhaden is the major reason why. In the 1960s-1970s, menhaden supplied 70% of the adult rockfish diet in the Chesapeake Bay. Recent dietary monitoring showed that menhaden plummeted to about 8% of the adult rockfish diet. There is compelling evidence that the overharvest

of menhaden is adversely affecting the critical availability of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay food chain and the Bay's proper ecological functioning.

Virginia is allocated 75.21% of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the entire Atlantic Coast. That is 310 million pounds of menhaden. Omega Protein is given 90.04% by Virginia which is 279 million pounds. At an average of a generous 14 ounces a fish, which is 319 million menhaden taken from other prey and allowed to feed the reduction facility in Reedville, Virginia for corporate profit.

Addendum I Quota Allocat

State	Addend Allocatio
Maine	4.80
New Hampshire	1.19
Massachusetts	2.12
Rhode Island	0.81
Connecticut	0.33
New York	0.84
New Jersey	11.00
Pennsylvania	0.01
Delaware	0.27
Maryland	1.17
Potomac River Fisheries Commission	1.09
Virginia	75.21
North Carolina	0.37

All other such reduction facilities along the east coast have been shuttered and no other state allows the purse seining operations employed for Omega Protein's reduction facility. Maryland has banned such harvest methods for more than 50 years. This reduction plant is a relic of the bad old days of unregulated harvest. Solely because of the Canadian corporation Cooke, Inc. profiteering from its ownership of this facility, the menhaden resource is being plundered as the plant's laborers and the Cooke subsidiary Ocean Harvesters' workers are being used as pawns to block proper regulation of menhaden.

The tail is wagging the dog as Cooke, Inc./Omega Protein hires top Richmond lobbyists and PR specialists to block meaningful regulations plying Virginia governors and legislators with more than $1.1 million dollars in campaign donations and even $50,000 this year to Governor Abigail Spanberger's Inaugural Committee 2026. See: https://www.vpap.org/donors/137690-omega-protein/ for a list of all such donations.

For 21 years, Omega Protein blocked all attempts for a detailed science-based stock assessment of the Chesapeake Bay menhaden population and a survey of the effects of the reduction fishery on menhaden in the Bay and overall. They continue to this day arguing to use the lack of such data as a reason for not restriction their generous harvest quotas. Most recently, Omega protein states they want the ASMFC to forego any further reductions in their allotted harvest quotas until a planned study is completed in two years.

My recommendations for the ASMFC and its Atlantic Menhaden Management Board are to:
Reduce the menhaden Total Allowable Catch (TAC) from 186,840 mt to no more than 114,200 metric tons (a 39% cut) for 2027 through 2029. This reduction to the coastwide harvest was suggested by the Menhaden Fishery Management Technical Committee. They found that scientific estimates require a reduction to 114,200 metric tons to achieve only a 50/50 probability of staying under the ecological fishing target under Ecological Reference Point-Based Management (ERP) using rockfish as the critical species affected by menhaden declines. In reality, it should be reduced to 100,000 mt to raise the likelihood of helping striped bass recover.

In reality, the reduction should be lower to have a better chance to protect striped bass which are experiencing overfishing and poor reproductive success. The lack of menhaden is at the center of this decline. Chesapeake Bay striped bass depended on menhaden for 70% of their diet in the 1970s. Recent monitoring document that menhaden has been reduced to about 8% of the adult striped bass diet.

I personally agree with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's urgent call for a closing of the Bay reduction fishery but at least the ASMFC can do is follow the 39% reduction in the CAP and tie in a reduction in the Bay CAP—see below.

As to Addendum II to the Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden, I join with many others including 29 Maryland legislators
(see attached letter), the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Maryland League of Conservation Voters, Maryland Ornithological Society, and thousands of other conservationists and fishing groups in supporting these changes:

Under Section 3.1, Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount, adopt Option C1e, which would set the Bay CAP at 13.6% of the coastwide total allowable catch (a 50% reduction under the current TAC), and Option C2a, which would keep an upper limit of 51,000 metric tons for the Bay CAP.

Under Section 3.2, Chesapeake Bay CAP Distribution, adopt Option B2, which would establish three even-length quota periods and distribute harvest 25% in period one, 25% in period two, and 50% in period three, and Option B, which would establish quota-period overage payback and rollover of unused quota within a fishing year.

Under Section 3.3, Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery CAP Revisit Provision. Adopt Option B, which would require the Board to reassess the efficacy of these management tools every three years.

Despite Omega Protein's disinformation campaign, there are compelling indications that the overharvest of menhaden is adversely affecting the critical importance to the availability of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay food chain and the Bay's proper ecological functioning. More than 67% of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the entire Atlantic Coast is taken from other prey and allowed to feed the reduction facility in Reedville, Virginia for corporate profit.

The ASMFC and the state of Virginia allow the slaughter of up to 279 million pounds (126,526 mt) of menhaden in 2026 for this facility, with as many as 112.4 million pounds (51,000 mt) allowed to come from the Virginia Chesapeake Bay.

This compounds decades of massive removal of menhaden for the reduction fishery where menhaden are now taken to be processed into fish meal and fish oil to profit a Canadian corporation, Cooke, Inc. This deprives other fish species dependent on menhaden as a forage fish of important protein and fat resources that are of ASMFC conservation concern. These species include striped bass (overfished), bluefish (rebuilding), weakfish (depleted), and spiny dogfish (reproduction declining).

Also seriously affected are Osprey. Other avian species may be affected including Bald Eagles.

The ASMFC has solicited public comments on its Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II and mine follow, but first I am compelled to address a shortcoming.

I. PAUSE THE REDUCTION FISHERY. My preference and that of most conservationists, led by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and its fishery biologists, is to pause the Chesapeake Bay reduction harvest of menhaden completely until the stock assessment and evaluation of the impact of this reduction fishery is scientifically envaulted under the $4.5 million funding recently appropriated by Virginia and the Congress through NOAA. The Bay cap should be reduced to zero by the ASMFC when it meets in November.

There has never been a menhaden stock assessment for heavily fished Chesapeake Bay where rockfish spawning decline is alarming over the last seven years and the ASMFC has found the species overfished. Omega Protein has done all in their power to block the assessment for 21 years.

II. OSPREY REPRODUCTION IN CHESAPEAKE BAY IS IN A RADICALLY STEEP DECLINE. It is so severe it threatens a population decline of 50% in the next 10 years. According to a September 18, 2026, report by Dr. Bryan Watts: "For decades, menhaden have been considered to be a keystone prey species for the Osprey population due to their high abundance, high energy density, and schooling behavior. In some parts of the Chesapeake, the rate of delivery of menhaden to nests has declined by more than 80% since the 1980s. The shift in diet away from menhaden has resulted in a 50% decline in the energy content of osprey diets.

The combination of a reduced rate of menhaden delivery to nests and lower energy content of the diet has resulted in an increased rate of nest failure and reduced mean brood size." See Dr. Bryan Watts September 2026 Osprey reports attached.

Both rockfish and Osprey are highly dependent on menhaden as their major source of food and their diets have been substantially deprived of this protein-dense oily fish.

While this has been occurring, Omega Protein has vigorously fought and succeeded in blocking a menhaden stock assessment for heavily fished Chesapeake Bay for at least 21 years. See "Controversy sidelines proposed study of Bay menhaden" by Karl Blankenship, in the Bay Journal, January 1, 1995. See: https://www.bayjournal.com/news/fisheries/controversy-sidelines-proposed-study-of-bay-menhaden/article_ef11d04c-6931-50ff-9d85-98f70fc9b1c1.html

Now we await the $4.5 million study results. Until this two-year scientifically sound evaluation completes its stock assessment and review of harvest and its impacts including if and in what amount menhaden can be taken for reduction, the reduction harvest should be paused.

If the reduction fishery pause does not occur, when the ASMFC decides at its November meeting on a new TAC (Total Allowable Catch) for menhaden, it should decrease the TAC by at least 39% of the current 186,840 mt and that this 72,868 mt reduction be subtracted from Virginia's allotment of 75.21% of the TAC now available.

I consider these reductions in the reduction fishery more than warranted by the science available and refer you to my comments below and newly released alarming Osprey data just released in September by a Virginia scientists and Osprey expert. These reports are attached, clearly linking the radical decline of osprey reproduction to the decline of menhaden.

The ASMFC has formally emphasized adopting Ecological Reference Points (ERPs) into fishery management decisions, including in the Atlantic Menhaden Fishery Management Plan. Instead of managing menhaden for "Maximum Sustainable Yield" of the single fish stock, the ERPs limit harvest levels to ensure enough menhaden are left in the water to sustain predator populations.

For the 2025 Menhaden ERP assessment, the ERP Working Group assessed striped bass population trends and diets as rockfish and Osprey were treated as predators in the full ecosystem model that was developed to support the intermediate complexity model used for management. The full ecosystem model showed that striped bass and Osprey were two of the most sensitive species to menhaden fishing.

Furthermore, the ASMFC responds to localized ecological pressures by weighing cap reductions in sensitive areas like the Chesapeake Bay. The Bay Cap now is useless at 51,000 mt as Omega Protein and its Ocean harvesters cannot catch this bay quota and must go offshore for more and more of its harvest. The reason: they have substantially depleted Bay stocks with their massive harvests in the past. The ASMFC has noted that the Chesapeake Bay is believed to be the most important nursery for Atlantic menhaden along the east coast. Studies have shown that peak larvae entry into the Bay occurs during winter to early summer months and menhaden may feed in the Bay until late summer.

Why allow this important nursery for this keystone species to be subject to being scooped up by huge nets from purse seiners as they grow, a type of fishing banned in Maryland for 50 years? The 51,000 mt Bay cap should be zero.

The ASMFC needs to act and exercise precaution under the ERPs for menhaden with the overwhelming linkages to rockfish and Osprey reproduction declines to the lack of their major food item—menhaden. See the new Dr. Watts' Osprey-menhaden decline linkage report attached. When facing data constraints or scientific uncertainty, the ASMFC should not flinch from the clear linkages of menhaden decline to rockfish and Osprey declines.

If the ASMFC will not adopt the closure of the menhaden reduction fishery as detailed above, I support the above detailed measures.

JUSTIFICATION FOR COLSURE OF REDUCTION HARVEST OR MEASURES IN ITEMS 1. TO V1. ABOVE.

1. LACK OF CHESAPEAKE MENHADEN STOCK ASSESSMENT. While the ASMFC insists that the Atlantic population is not overfished, no evaluation or stock assessment has been conducted of local populations, including in the Chesapeake Bay. There is increasing evidence of substantial declines in menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay and other areas. The ASMFC "initiated the Menhaden Draft Addendum in response to concerns regarding declining pound net harvest and catch per unit effort in the Bay in recent years, coinciding with an increase in the concentration of reduction harvest In the summer months, and the possible downstream effects on menhaden predators."

Funds were finally allocated to conduct a $4.5 million Bay stock assessment and evaluate regional depletions as well as impacts. This will take two years and would have been completed years ago but for 21 years of opposition by Omega Protein. It makes no sense to manage the menhaden fishery in Chesapeake Bay blindly without a stock assessment and too allow 51,000 mt to be taken for reduction while a $4.5 million study is underway.

2. MARYLAND'S DRASTIC DECLINE IN MENHADEN. There is compelling evidence that the overharvest of menhaden is adversely affecting the critical availability of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay food chain and the Bay's proper ecological functioning. Menhaden support a working fishery in Maryland, mainly by pound netters. Our watermen harvest menhaden, and our crabbers rely on them for bait.

Menhaden are not making it to Maryland waters like they once did. Since 2017, Maryland has been unable to harvest even half of its small quota. In 2024, Maryland harvested less than 10% of its TAC menhaden quota of 1.17%. This fishery has declined sharply as menhaden harvest dropped by more than 80% since 2020 and still is below 10% of the TAC quota. Menhaden fishers in Maryland simply cannot find enough menhaden to make

economic sense. This leaves crabbers, our main fishery, struggling to find affordable bait as menhaden harvesters are unable to participate in the fishery.

The Potomac River Fishery Commission (PRFC) 2025 Commercial Finfish Report documents a radical decline of pound net bait harvest in the Potomac, crashing to 169,423 pounds in 2025 down to 2.4% of the 1964-2025 average and 8.2% of the 2024 take of 2 million pounds. In 1983, 20.8 million pounds were harvested. See this data at: https://www.prfc.us/pdfs/2026/2025finfish.pdf.

The number of licensed Potomac pound netters for menhaden has stayed at a hundred for quite some time. The ASMFC should be aware of this data in making any decisions on menhaden restrictions in November,

For several years, Maryland's delegates to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, including a DNR fisheries expert and a fisher, have decried the absence of any meaningful numbers of menhaden from Maryland's Chesapeake Bay. They believe the reason is Virginia's reduction fishery.

3. ASMFC DENIES TECH COMMITTEE 50% REDUCION IN THE TAC. The Menhaden Technical Committee reported last fall that the menhaden coastal stock assessment found that the average menhaden biomass was 37% lower along the Atlantic Coast than previously thought. The ASMFC menhaden stock assessments resulted in forecasts indicating the need for a 54% cut to the menhaden harvest to have a better than 50% chance of meeting the target population for menhaden.

Only a 20% cut was adopted for 2026 by the ASMFC Menhaden Management Board citing economic concerns for the industrial fishery. According to conservationists, this mathematical revision revealed that previous catch limits were set too high under the corrected ecological targets needed to meet the requirements of predators like striped bass, Osprey, and marine mammals.

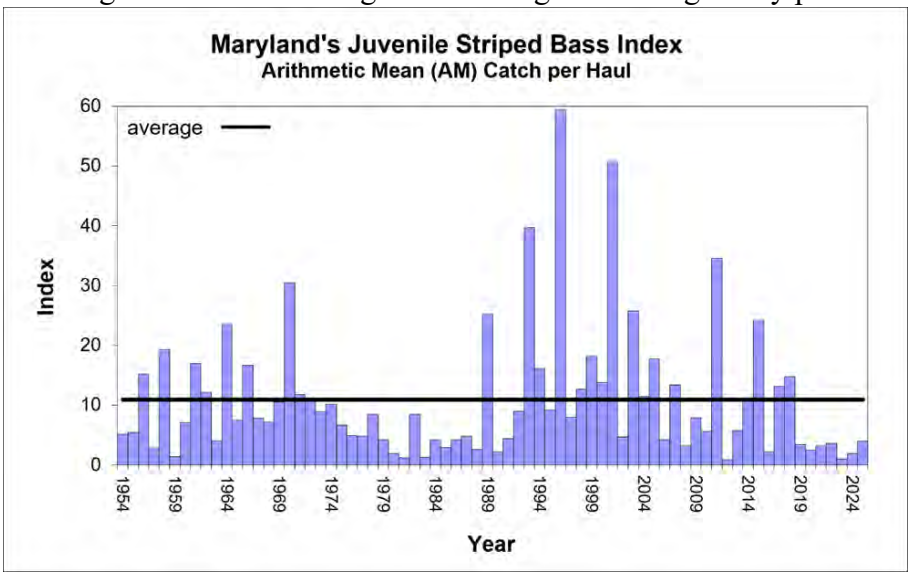
4. RADICAL DECLINE IN ROCKFISH MENHADEN IN DIET, In the 1960s-1970s, menhaden supplied 70% of the adult rockfish diet in the Chesapeake Bay. Recent dietary monitoring showed that menhaden plummeted to about 8% of the adult rockfish diet. Rockfish spawning success in Maryland has been poor for seven years in a row, and the ASMFC considers the species overfished, leading it to require significant restrictions in fishing.

***5. ASMFC DECLARES STRIPED BASS OVERFISHED, IMPOSES TAKE RESTRICTIONS*.** Maryland has been forced to cut rockfish harvest by the ASMFC. Recreationally, it has required:
January 1–April 30: Catch-and-release only.
May 1–July 31: Harvest allowed (1 fish per person per day; 19-to-24-inch slot limit).
August 1–August 31: Complete fishing closure / no targeting permitted to prevent high thermal stress and mortality.
September 1–December 5: Harvest resumes (1 fish per person per day; 19-to-24-inch slot limit).
December 6–31: Catch-and-release only.
Size/Bag Limits: Restricted to 1 fish per person per day within a tight 19-to-24-inch slot limit.
Spawning Area Closures: Major spawning rivers and designated upper Bay spawning areas (including the Susquehanna Flats and tributaries like the Choptank, Nanticoke, and Patuxent rivers) remain strictly closed to targeting from March 1 through May 31.
Gear Restrictions: Anglers are required to use inline circle hooks when fishing with bait, and specific bans remain enforced on using eels as live bait or employing trailing/stinger hooks during protected windows.

Commercially, for the 2024–2026 period, Maryland implemented a 7% reduction in the annual commercial harvest quota for striped bass from 2023 levels, complying with mandates by ASMFC. Maryland also tightened reporting by using preliminary weekly tracking to monitor commercial landings more closely.

According to NOAA, roughly 70% to 90% of the entire Atlantic coast striped bass stock spawns in the Chesapeake Bay, and young fish typically live in the Bay's tidal tributaries and shallows for their first 2 to 4 years. They often spend the first 2 years right where they were born before joining coastal migrations.

So, the Chesapeake Bay is critical not just for reproduction but also for ensuring a healthy rate of survival of juveniles before they migrate out of the Bay and join the coastal fishery. See the disastrous YOY Index with the last 7 years of reproductive success being well below the longe term average indicating a very poor outlook for rockfish in the future 5-6 years:



Source: Maryland DNR. The 2026 YOY Index is due to be released in mid-October.

6. CHARTER BOAT INUSTRY TAKES COSTLY HIT. Following the 2024 elimination of the two-fish daily limit for charter customers (reducing it to one fish), Maryland charter boats saw their harvested striped bass numbers drop from approximately 100,997 fish in 2023 down to 34,985 in 2024. Captains and industry representatives testified to a 75%–85% drop in bookings and revenue, which cascaded into bait-and-tackle shops, marinas, and guide services.

7. MARYLAND GOVERNOR DECLARES COMMERCIAL FISHERY DISASTER. In March 2023, Maryland Governor Moore petitioned the U.S. Commerce Department/NOAA to declare a commercial fishery disaster, documenting the disastrous decline of seven of Maryland's key fisheries from 27% to 91% from 2012 to 2022. This chart was submitted with Gov. Moore's request for federal money. The request was denied. Note the rockfish drop of 40% in harvest and 22% in dockside value:

Species	2022 Harvest (pounds)	Average Dockside Value (2012- 2022)	% Change Harvest Since 2012	% Change Dockside Value Since 2012
Hard Crab (blue)	22,060,449	46,051,018	-45%	-12%
Soft Crab	700,544	9,052,308	-59%	-27%
White Perch	174,751	1,089,539	-91%	-83%
Yellow Perch	31,555	75,146	-27%	-29%
Striped Bass	1,174,800	5,371,422	-40%	-22%

8. WHITE PERCH DOWN 91%. White perch, which also prey on menhaden, have seen their harvest decline by 91%. Living just off the Chesapeake, I know personally how radically this once abundant species has declined.

9. OTHER MENHADEN DEPENDENT FISH DECLINE. Fish species noted by the ASMFC as relying on menhaden as a forage fish of ASMFC conservation concern include bluefish (rebuilding), weakfish (depleted), and spiny dogfish (reproduction declining).

10. THOUSNDS OF OSPEY CHCIKS STARE TO DEATH. The cruelest, most disturbing aspect of billions of pounds of menhaden being removed for the reduction fishery from the Chesapeake and Atlantic coastal waters from Virginia to Rhode Island, is thousands of Osprey chicks starving to death in Chesapeake Bay linked to the decline in menhaden. In the 1980s, Atlantic menhaden provided 75% of Chesapeake osprey diets by weight and frequency of delivery from the mainstem saltier regions and lower sections of the Chesapeake Bay. In 2026, these important fish were reduced to less than 30% of ospreys' diets where 70% of Bay Ospreys mate and breed.

For the information on Ospreys in this document, please see Dr. Bryan Watts, Director of the Center for Conservation Biology at William & Mary, two newly published reports attached. The first was released on September 16, 2026, "Osprey Chesapeake Bay Breeding Report". The second was released on September 18, 2026, "2026 Osprey Breeding Performance Along The Atlantic Coast". So, we have the most up to date science on Ospreys before us.

11. 50% DECLINE IN BAY OSPREY PROJECTED. Dr. Watts noted in the first publication from the examination of 937 nesting pairs throughout Maryland and Virginia Bay waters. that "2026 Osprey breeding performance was the worst ever recorded for the Chesapeake Bay…Current reproductive rates are less than 50% of those recorded during the height of the DDT pesticide crisis … we would expect the breeding population to decline at an average rate of 14% per year. This annual loss rate is dramatic and without a change in course would be expected to result in a 50% decline in the population over the next decade."

12. OSPREY REPRODUCTION SUCCESS BELOW WORST DAYS OF DDT. Osprey fledging success for 70% of Bay Ospreys has dropped to a frighteningly low 0.25 fledglings per nesting pair in 2026 which is well below the ideal replacement level of 1.15 or minimum to prevent a population decline of 0.8. His data shows that in 2024 it was 0.5 and dropped to 0.35 in 2025.

13. SCIENTISTS LINK LACK OF MENHADEN TO OPSREY CHICK CRASH. Dr. Watts rebuts contentions of Omega Protein and their menhaden harvest and reduction industry PR firm and lobbyists that there is any connection between the decline in Ospreys, their chicks, and reproduction linked to a lack of menhaden.

"In 2026, as in the past several years, the factor driving widespread nesting failure was food stress.

A constellation of quantified metrics of food stress including high rates of females not laying clutches, low provisioning rates, emaciated chicks with stunted development, asymmetric broods, sequential brood reduction, shifts in mean brood size, pairs abandoning viable clutches or broods, pairs abandoning breeding areas en masse and high failure rates support this conclusion. Beyond these quantified metrics, we are observing young starve in nests.

The extreme food stress documented in recent years appears to be caused by changes in the availability of Atlantic menhaden to nesting ospreys in the Chesapeake Bay. For decades, menhaden have been considered to be a keystone prey species for the osprey population due to their high abundance, high energy density, and schooling behavior.

In some parts of the Chesapeake, ***the rate of delivery of menhaden to nests has declined by more than 80% since the 1980s. The shift in diet away from menhaden has resulted in a 50% decline in the energy content of osprey diets. The combination of a reduced rate of menhaden delivery to nests and lower energy content of the diet has resulted in an increased rate of nest failure and reduced mean brood size."***

I would also note that Dr. Watts found that 30% of adult female Ospreys failed to breed. The historic average of such failures was 2%. I have witnessed this failure to nest close to my home in Annapolis. This was the first year since I moved here in 1998 that Ospreys did not attempt to breed on their nest on Oyster Creek where I live. The nest is on the Creek and also on Chesapeake Bay.

Contentions by the profiteer propagandists plundering the keystone menhaden are fully rebutted that it is other than the lack of menhaden that is causing the crash in Osprey reproduction and populations. It is not as they again recently argued that could be other than menhaden shortages-- "storms and other adverse weather, heat stress, predation, human disturbance, contaminants, disease, parental condition, brood size, competition for prey and access to prey." This was alleged in a recent release trying to minimize any connection to the scarcity of menhaden.

I hope the ASMFC members carefully read Dr. Watts findings on this issue.

14. REDUCTION HARVEST IMPACTS YOUNG MENHADEN FEEDING IN BAY. Allowing a reduction fishery in the Chesapeake interferes with menhaden while the fish are feeding frantically and growing in the primary nursery for the coastal menhaden stock where they feed to 2 years.

15. OSPREY CHICK PROBLEMS PERSIST IN COASTAL AREAS OF MANY STATES IN SALTY WATERS WHERE MENHADEN ARE MAJOR FOOD. Recent contentions by the profiteer propagandists plundering menhaden also allege that other Osprey numbers away from the Chesapeake Bay have stopped growing or are in decline away from Chesapeake Bay.

Dr. Watts September 18 Report analyzed this and his study "Are ospreys experiencing reproductive deficits in waters beyond the Chesapeake Bay?" covered the 2026 breeding season for 2,886 pairs from 65 study areas across 10 states along the Atlantic coast. Pairs nesting within freshwater systems produced an average of 1.15 young/pair compared to only 0.59 young/pair in salty or marine systems where their primary diet consists of menhaden. The latter rate signifies population decline as found in Chesapeake Bay.

More importantly for population stability, all but one (93%) of the freshwater study sites produced more young than needed for population maintenance (minimum 0.8 young/pair), compared to only 28% (14 of 50) of saltier sites. Besides the Chesapeake Bay, regions along the coast that are experiencing reproductive deficits include the Atlantic coasts of Delaware and New Jersey, outer Long Island, the Connecticut coast, and coastal systems between Narraganset Bay Rhode Island through Buzzards Bay Massachusetts. The Atlantic Coast of the Delmarva Peninsula in Virginia is not shown because the Osprey population has collapsed by more than 90% over the past 20 years.

"Within the Chesapeake Bay food stress is driving low reproductive rates. Broods are starving in the nest. The extreme food stress documented in recent years appears to be caused by changes in the availability of Atlantic menhaden to nesting ospreys in the Chesapeake Bay…Ospreys within the Chesapeake Bay have been experiencing low reproductive rates for several years. Documentation of extreme reproductive deficits elsewhere along the Atlantic Coast is more recent. Although the underlying cause of low reproductive rates for other study areas along the Atlantic Coast is less clear, observations in numerous study areas implicate food stress and starvation as an important driving factor." See Dr. Watts' report attached.

So, the lack of menhaden in these saltier areas likely could also be driving the nest failures and Osprey chick starvation elsewhere, just as in the Chesapeake.

16. CHESAPEAKE OSPREY CRASH IS BAYWIDE. Dr. Watts' previous Osprey publications on the historic decline of Osprey breeding performance focused on Mobjack Bay (a sub-estuary of the lower Chesapeake) and the role of menhaden in driving the decline. One of the criticisms of this early work was that "Mobjack Bay only reflects conditions within a small area of the larger Bay" and is not representative of the entire Bay.

He notes in the 2026 Report how his more recent studies covered the entire Chesapeake Bay and included a survey of 937 nesting pairs throughout Maryland and Virginia Bay waters. Dr. Watts newly published data shows frightening results as well proving that the findings in Mobjack Bay are not an anomaly as Ospreys throughout the main stem of the Bay are suffering unsustainable production, most likely due to food stress from the lack of menhaden.

17. PATUXENT RIVER OSPREY REPRODUCTION CRASHING. Greg Kearns, Principal Park Naturalist at Maryland's Patuxent River Park has researched, studied, studied, and banded Ospreys on the Patuxent River for more than 40 years. He joined with Dr. Watts in his Bay-wide study.

Greg is appalled at the collapse of Osprey reproductive success. He has seen an 83% drop from 2019 to 2026 in successfully nesting Osprey pairs in his studies of the Lower Patuxent—108 to 9. The number of fledglings dropped from 201 to 12 in 2026. Of an initial 44 pairs occupied nests, only 26 produced eggs and only 9 finished 2026 with 12 chicks surviving to fledge.

There were only 0.46 chicks fledged per nest, well below the key 1.15 per nest to sustain a healthy population. Greg has spoken at the Annapolis ASMFC public hearing on Addendum II, and his work has convinced him that it is the harvest by Omega Protein that is causing the decline in Osprey reproductive success.

18. OSPREYS ARE CANARIES IN THE MINE AND INDICATIVE OF DRASTIC NEED TO CURB REDUCTION FISHERY. As Dr. Watts concluded: We should view ospreys as sentinels for the marine ecosystem rather than a species imperiled. Most osprey breeding populations throughout the world have recovered from lows driven by the DDT pesticide crisis. Ospreys appear to be secure throughout much of their range but are struggling within some coastal sites. Many of these sites have been considered to be important global strongholds for many decades. **Ospreys are apex predators and are considered to be effective indicators of aquatic ecosystem health. Recent declines in reproductive rates raise a red flag on the health of marine ecosystems along portions of the Atlantic Coast.**

19. IT IS SIMPLY WRONG TO ALLOW ONE FOR PROFIT CORPORATION TO BE ALLOWED TO TAKE 296 MILLION POUNDS OF MENHADEN, MORE THAN 67% OF ALL HARVEST. In closing, as an attorney looking at this issue from both sides, I am struck as to how and why one for profit industry is allowed to take 296 million pounds of a keystone fishery, the Atlantic menhaden. called the most important fish in the sea. Where is this a right? Yes, I know the long history of this fishery and the number of folks employed in the reduction fishery, but times have changed radically and years of taking billions of these oily fish have negatively affected viability.

Yes, one has to be sympathetic to the workers employed at Ocean Harvesters and the Reedville, VA reduction plant. Many are minorities whose families have worked there for generations. But their jobs are likely to be impacting many other jobs as rockfish and many other commercial species decline that are dependent on menhaden.

Many once super-abundant species were harvested beyond recovery: sturgeon in Chesapeake Bay (both species endangered), shad in Chesapeake Bay (closed for 40 years-once the largest by weight fishery in the Bay), the soft-shell clam whose harvest has shrunk by more than 95% in the Chesapeake, the Georges Bank Atlantic Cod Fishery (once the iconic lifeblood industry of New England, suffered an abrupt, catastrophic collapse in the early 1990s due to the rise of massive, foreign and domestic industrial factory trawlers), New England's commercial Atlantic cod fishery remains essentially shuttered, New England's Northern Shrimp Fishery prized as a regional delicacy

from the Gulf of Maine, placed under an emergency fishing moratorium by the ASMFC in 2014, with the moratorium extended repeatedly, effectively ending a centuries-old commercial harvest.

There are many more such cases. A non-fish case is the industrial whaling industry. This industry in the United States lasted for roughly 300 years, from its origins in the 17th century until the last American whaling ship departed in 1927. At its peak in 1853, the industry employed approximately 70,000 people, making it the fifth-largest sector of the U.S. economy. The industry experienced a rapid collapse after 1860. The U.S. government officially outlawed commercial whaling in 1971.

Under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, 12 whale species or distinct population segments are currently listed as endangered due to the legacy of commercial whaling including the blue whale, fin whale, sperm whale, and bowhead whale. All those whaling jobs are gone but so are most of the whales.

All of these cases in mismanagement in the name of profit and jobs should serve as an example to avoid in the ASMFC's management of menhaden.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gerald W. Winegrad

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NEWS ADVISORY

FROM: Center for Conservation Biology, William & Mary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 14 September, 2026

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2026 osprey breeding performance was the worst ever recorded for the Chesapeake Bay

BRIEF

(Williamsburg, VA)--- The Center for Conservation Biology at William & Mary has compiled the 2026 breeding performance results for osprey in the Chesapeake Bay. The monitoring effort included 937 osprey pairs distributed among twenty-three study areas. Study areas were distributed across the salinity gradient, from tidal-fresh waters near the fall line to ocean-strength waters around the mouth of the Bay. The primary objectives for the 2026 nesting season were to assess reproductive rates and evaluate the stability of the Bay-wide osprey population based on patterns observed. Breeding pairs were monitored throughout the nesting season (March-August) to determine nesting success and productivity.

The 2026 breeding season was the worst productivity year ever recorded for osprey in the Chesapeake Bay. Average productivity in waters above 5 parts per thousand (ppt) salinity (N = 769) was 0.25 young/pair. On a global scale, the annual breeding performance required to maintain a stable population ranges from 0.8 to 1.3 young/pair. Only pairs nesting within tidal fresh waters (N = 168 nests producing 1.04 young/pair) exceeded the breeding performance threshold required for population maintenance. Eighty-one percent of all pairs nesting in waters above 5 ppt failed to fledge any young. Of pairs that did produce young, 70% were single-chick broods. The 2026 results extend the ongoing trend of productivity decline throughout saltier regions of the Bay. Productivity in the Chesapeake has dropped in recent years from 0.51 in 2024 to 0.35 in 2025 to 0.25 in 2026. Estimates of reproductive deficits should be considered conservative. We have only monitored the survival of young to fledging and there is increasing evidence that post-fledging survival may be low.

Implications for the Population

The Chesapeake Bay supports the largest osprey breeding population in the world and has been considered for many decades to be a global stronghold for the species. Given the poor reproductive rates recorded in recent years, this population is not sustainable. Current reproductive rates are

less than 50% of those recorded during the height of the DDT pesticide crisis. Based on the current demographics, we would expect the breeding population to decline at an average rate of 14%/year. This annual loss rate is dramatic and without a change in course would be expected to result in a 50% decline in the population over the next decade. However, rates of decline are expected to vary geographically within the Chesapeake. Noticeable declines in the number of occupied territories are ongoing within several study areas.

The Chesapeake Bay osprey population will not be rescued by pairs nesting within the tidal-fresh reaches of the Bay that continue to produce above maintenance levels. If we consider the minimum production threshold for stability (i.e., 0.8 young/pair), the 2026 results suggest that in order for the Bay-wide population to be stable we would need ~2.75 pairs in the area of surplus (tidal-fresh waters) for every pair in the area of deficit (>5 ppt waters). During the last systematic survey of the Chesapeake Bay osprey population (1995-1996) there were 7.5 pairs within the area of deficit for every one pair in the area of surplus.

Causes of Nesting Failures

Many factors may cause nest failures in Chesapeake osprey including storms, predation, human disturbance and heat stress. The contribution of individual factors to nest losses varies from year to year. Many of these factors have recognizable signatures in the field that do not match current observations. In 2026, as in the past several years, the factor driving widespread nesting failure was food stress. A constellation of quantified metrics of food stress including high rates of females not laying clutches, low provisioning rates, emaciated chicks with stunted development, asymmetric broods, sequential brood reduction, shifts in mean brood size, pairs abandoning viable clutches or broods, pairs abandoning breeding areas en masse and high failure rates support this conclusion. Beyond these quantified metrics, we are observing young starve in nests.

The extreme food stress documented in recent years appears to be caused by changes in the availability of Atlantic menhaden to nesting ospreys in the Chesapeake Bay. For decades, menhaden have been considered to be a keystone prey species for the osprey population due to their high abundance, high energy density and schooling behavior. In some parts of the Chesapeake, the rate of delivery of menhaden to nests has declined by more than 80% since the 1980s. The shift in diet away from menhaden has resulted in a 50% decline in the energy content of osprey diets. The combination of a reduced rate of menhaden delivery to nests and lower energy content of the diet has resulted in an increased rate of nest failure and reduced mean brood size. The underlying causes of reduced availability of menhaden to osprey are not clear. Climate change, commercial harvest, changes in distribution or delayed entry into Bay waters may be contributing factors. Ospreys require high fish abundance during April, May and June to successfully raise broods. Ospreys are unable to successfully adjust their breeding chronology when large numbers of menhaden do not arrive until late June or July.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

2025-2026 Objectives

In recent years we have published papers on the historic decline of osprey breeding performance in Mobjack Bay (a subestuary of the lower Chesapeake) and the role of menhaden in driving the decline. One of the criticisms of this early work is that "Mobjack Bay only reflects conditions within a small area of the larger Bay" and is not representative of the entire Bay. In 2024, we collected reproductive data in ten study areas throughout the main stem (>10 ppt) of the Bay where ospreys are believed to be menhaden-dependent and two study areas within low salinity (<5ppt) reference sites where osprey depend on catfish and gizzard shad. Results from 2024 were published in Frontiers in Marine Science during the spring of 2026 (https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/marine-science/articles/10.3389/fmars.2026.1685158/full). This work showed that findings in Mobjack Bay are not an anomaly as ospreys throughout the main stem of the Bay are suffering unsustainable production most likely due to food stress. The 2024 season also showed that pairs within low-salinity areas were producing above maintenance levels.

The objective of fieldwork in 2025-2026 was to evaluate whether or not the low reproductive rate in the main stem (>10 ppt) of the Bay represents a risk to the broader Bay-wide osprey breeding population. To evaluate the metapopulation dynamics we needed to understand the relative magnitudes of reproductive deficits and surpluses across subpopulations.

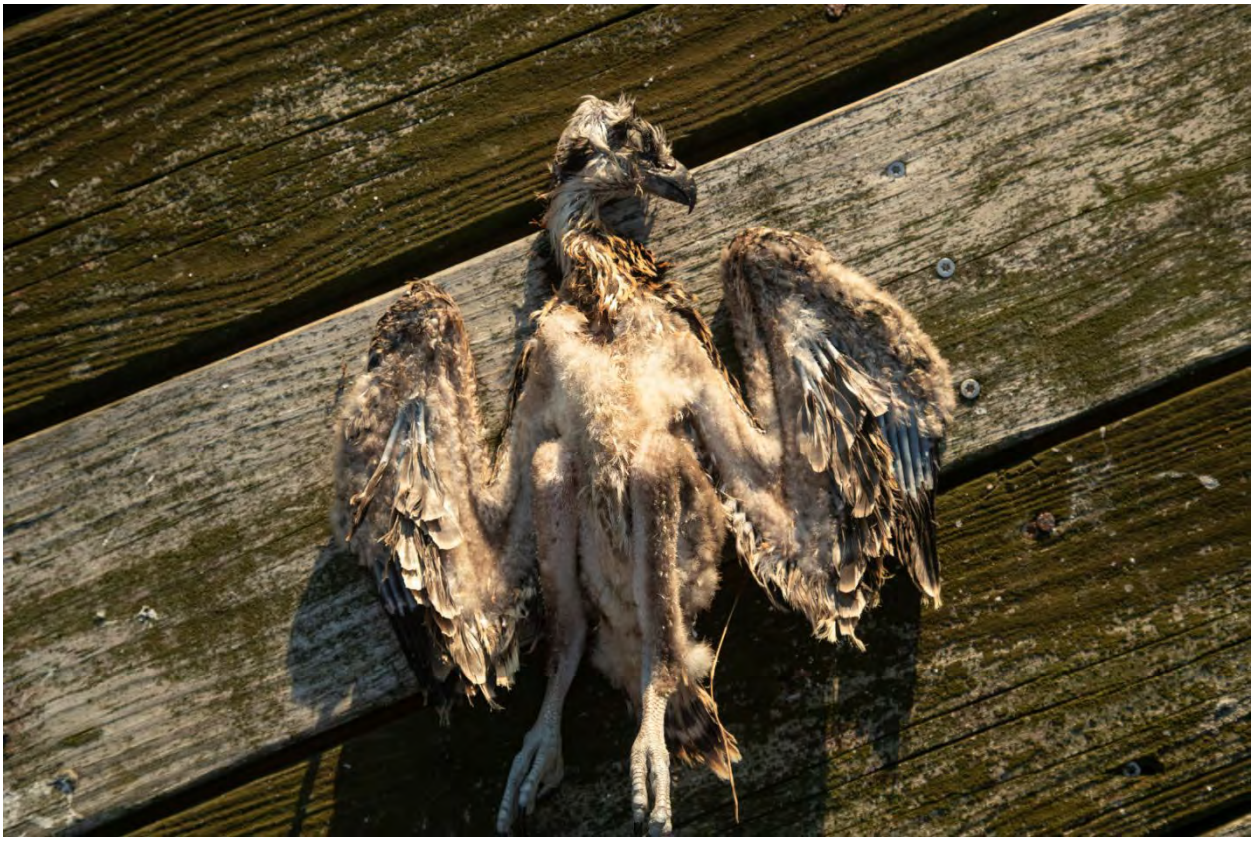
Study Areas

The study area included the tidal reach of the Chesapeake Bay from the fall line (landward extent of tidal influence) to the Atlantic Ocean. The study area was subdivided into salinity zones to ensure adequate coverage of conditions. Salinity zones included low salinity (0–4.9 ppt), low mesohaline (5.0-11.9 ppt), high mesohaline (12.0–17.9 ppt) and polyhaline (18.0–30.0 ppt). Specific study areas by salinity zone include **low salinity** – Upper Chester River, Upper Patuxent River, Upper Potomac River and Upper James River, **low mesohaline** – Lower Chester River, Severn River, Upper Rappahannock River, Lower Patuxent River, Colonial Beach, Middle Rappahannock River, Middle York River, and Middle James River, **high mesohaline** – Choptank River Vicinity, Lower Rappahannock River, Piankatank River, Lower York River, Lower James River and Elizabeth River, **polyhaline** – Bayside Eastern Shore, Mobjack Bay, Lower York River, Poquoson River and Lynnhaven River.

Data Contributors

Center for Conservation Biology, William & Mary
Eastern Ecological Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey
Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center
Maryland-National Capital Park

Eco-Ed Endeavors
Virginia Osprey Foundation
Operation Osprey
Center for Environment and Society, Washington College



An emaciated osprey chick that starved on Mobjack Bay. Several recorded metrics as well as starved chicks indicate that the low productivity recorded in 2026 was driven by food stress. Photo by Bryan Watts.

News Advisory

FROM: Center for Conservation Biology, William & Mary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 18 September, 2026

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2026 osprey breeding performance along the Atlantic Coast

Some populations are reproducing below limits for sustainability

(Williamsburg, VA)--- The Center for Conservation Biology at William & Mary has compiled the 2026 breeding performance results for osprey populations along the Atlantic Coast of North America. Within the Chesapeake Bay, breeding performance in ospreys has been poor for several years due to extreme food stress during the nesting season. Productivity has declined to critical levels that now threaten the stability of the largest osprey breeding population in the world. The primary objective for compiling osprey monitoring results for the broader Atlantic coast is to visualize breeding performance at scale and address the question "Are ospreys experiencing reproductive deficits in waters beyond the Chesapeake Bay?" The 2026 effort includes monitoring results for 2,886 pairs from 65 study areas across 10 states (Table 1, Figure 1).

Maintenance Reproductive Rates for Osprey

On a global scale, the annual breeding performance required to maintain a stable osprey population ranges from 0.8 to 1.3 young/pair depending on the specific location. We adopt the most optimistic (0.8 young/pair) reproductive rate as the "break even" threshold. The monitoring effort compiled here includes data from a wide variety of sources including academic institutions, government agencies, NGOs and private citizens (Table 1). Our focus is on breeding outcomes of the 2026 season rather than on clutch sizes, hatching rates, etc. Although nest visitation schedules varied somewhat between monitoring programs, we included only data sets that provided clear season outcomes. Estimates of reproductive rates should be considered optimistic. We have only monitored the survival of young to fledging and there is increasing evidence that post-fledging survival may be low. In addition, some programs only monitored pairs that made breeding attempts which in some populations may underestimate the population size and by doing so overestimate reproductive rates (Table 1).

Breeding Performance

The coast-wide sample of 2,886 pairs collectively produced 1,936 young resulting in an average reproductive rate of 0.67 young/pair. Success rate (portion of pairs that fledged at least 1 young) was 44.5%. Breeding performance was influenced by salinity. Fifteen study areas (405 pairs) were located within freshwater or tidal fresh systems and 50 study areas (2,481 pairs) were located within tidal waters (coastal marine) with salinities above 5 parts per thousand (ppt). Pairs nesting within freshwater systems produced an average of 1.15 young/pair compared to only 0.59 young/pair in salty or marine systems. More importantly for population stability, all but one (93%) of the freshwater study sites produced more young than needed for population maintenance (minimum 0.8 young/pair, see below) compared to only 28% (14 of 50) of saltier sites. Regions along the coast that are experiencing reproductive deficits include the Chesapeake Bay, the Atlantic coasts of Delaware and New Jersey, outer Long Island, the Connecticut coast north of the Quinnipiac River and coastal systems between Narraganset Bay Rhode Island through Buzzards Bay Massachusetts (Figure 2). The Atlantic Coast of the Delmarva Peninsula in Virginia is not shown because the population has collapsed by more than 90% over the past 20 years.

Several regions along the coast stand out for producing either very high or very low productivity. Regions reporting large deficits (<50% of requirement for population maintenance) in productivity include the Chesapeake Bay, the outer coast of Delaware and the area from the mouth of Long Island Sound to Westport River in Massachusetts (Figure 3). If these deficits continue, populations are expected to decline at an average rate of ~10%/year. Regions on the outer coast that reported good productivity include the Hilton Head Island in South Carolina, the southern coast of Connecticut and the offshore islands of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts.

Chesapeake Bay continues to be ground zero

Sixteen study areas experienced extreme deficits (below 25% of maintenance levels) in reproduction during the 2026 breeding season (Figure 4). Fifteen of these sites were located in the saltier portions of the Chesapeake Bay. Based on the current demographics, we would expect the breeding populations within these study areas to decline at an average rate of 14%/year. This annual loss rate is dramatic and without a change in course would be expected to result in a 50% decline in these population over the next decade. Ospreys within the Chesapeake Bay have been experiencing low reproductive rates for several years. Documentation of extreme reproductive deficits elsewhere along the Atlantic Coast is more recent.

Causes of Nesting Failures

Many factors may cause nest failures in ospreys including storms, predation, human disturbance and heat stress. The contribution of individual factors to nest losses varies from year to year. Many of these factors have recognizable signatures in the field. Within the Chesapeake Bay

food stress is driving low reproductive rates. Broods are starving in the nest. The extreme food stress documented in recent years appears to be caused by changes in the availability of Atlantic menhaden to nesting ospreys in the Chesapeake Bay. For decades, menhaden have been considered to be a keystone prey species for the osprey population due to their high abundance, high energy density and schooling behavior. In some parts of the Chesapeake, the rate of delivery of menhaden to nests has declined by more than 80% since the 1980s. The shift in diet away from menhaden has resulted in a 50% decline in the energy content of osprey diets. The combination of a reduced rate of menhaden delivery to nests and lower energy content of the diet has resulted in an increased rate of nest failure and reduced mean brood size. The underlying causes of reduced availability of menhaden to osprey are not clear. Although the underlying cause of low reproductive rates for other study areas along the Atlantic Coast is less clear, observations in numerous study areas implicate food stress and starvation as an important driving factor.

Imperiled Species vs Ecosystem Indicator

We should view ospreys as sentinels for the marine ecosystem rather than a species imperiled. Most osprey breeding populations throughout the world have recovered from lows driven by the DDT pesticide crisis. The North American' population has surpassed historic benchmarks largely because pairs have colonized reservoirs created within inland areas. Ospreys appear to be secure throughout much of their range but are struggling within some coastal sites. Many of these sites have been considered to be important global strongholds for many decades. Ospreys are apex predators and are considered to be effective indicators of aquatic ecosystem health. Recent declines in reproductive rates raises a red flag on the health of marine ecosystems along portions of the Atlantic Coast.

Figures

Figure 1. Distribution of study areas with available osprey monitoring data for the 2026 nesting season. Monitoring was conducted by a wide range of contributors. Data presented includes 2,886 nesting pairs within 65 study areas across 10 states. Colors denote whether or not pairs exceeded the reproductive rate (0.8 young/pair) required for population maintenance.

Figure 2. Distribution of study areas within waters above 5 ppt salinity. Colors denote whether or not pairs exceeded the reproductive rate (0.8 young/pair) required for population maintenance.

Figure 3. Distribution of study areas with large (<50% of maintenance levels) deficits in reproductive rate.

Figure 4. Distribution of study areas with large (<50% of maintenance levels) deficits in reproductive rate.

Table 1. Results of osprey monitoring results along the Atlantic Coast for the 2026 breeding season. Reproductive rate values are means ± standard errors.

State	Study Area	Salinity	Pairs	Reproductive Rate	Contact Person	Organization
NH	Lakes Region	Fresh	20	1.65±0.26	Iain MacLeod	Squam Lakes Natural Science Center
MA	Westport	>5ppt	101	0.42±0.06	Alan Poole Gina Purtell	South Coast (MA) Osprey Project
MA	Buzzards Bay	>5ppt	33	0.88±0.12	-----	OspreyWatch (Mass south coast)
MA	Nantucket	>5ppt	41	1.41±0.13	Libby Buck	Linda Loring Nature Foundation
MA	Martha's Vineyard[1]	>5ppt	125	1.50±0.08	Rob Bierregaard	None
RI	Narragansett Bay	>5ppt	150	0.78±0.06	Sydney Brown	Audubon Society of Rhode Island
RI	Inland Rhode Island	Fresh	22	1.09±0.16	Sydney Brown	Audubon Society of Rhode Island
RI	Southern Coast	>5ppt	31	1.13±0.16	Sydney Brown	Audubon Society of Rhode Island
CT	Hammonasset Beach	>5ppt	56	0.23±0.07	Matt Joyce	The Connecticut Audubon Society
CT	Lower Connecticut River	>5ppt	51	0.29±0.08	Matt Joyce	The Connecticut Audubon Society
CT	New London	>5ppt	60	0.52±0.10	Matt Joyce	The Connecticut Audubon Society
CT	Pine Orchard	>5ppt	74	0.61±0.07	Matt Joyce	The Connecticut Audubon Society
CT	Upper Connecticut River	T Fresh	28	0.71±0.16	Matt Joyce	The Connecticut Audubon Society
CT	Inland North	Fresh	29	0.86±0.15	Matt Joyce	The Connecticut Audubon Society
CT	Southport	>5ppt	31	1.16±0.17	Matt Joyce	The Connecticut Audubon Society
CT	Southwest Coast	>5ppt	42	1.17±0.13	Matt Joyce	The Connecticut Audubon Society
CT	Inland South	Fresh	52	1.27±0.12	Matt Joyce	The Connecticut Audubon Society
CT	Silver Sands	>5ppt	25	1.36±0.17	Matt Joyce	The Connecticut Audubon Society
NY	Gardiners Island[1]	>5ppt	77	0.29±0.06	Mike Scheibel	None
NJ	Ocean County[1]	>5ppt	151	0.51±0.06	Ben Wurst	Conservation Wildlife Foundation, NJ
NJ	Cape May[1]	>5ppt	99	0.61±0.07	Ben Wurst	Conservation Wildlife Foundation, NJ
NJ	Atlantic County[1]	>5ppt	82	0.61±0.10	Ben Wurst	Conservation Wildlife Foundation, NJ
NJ	Sandy Hook[1]	>5ppt	70	0.90±0.11	Ben Wurst	Conservation Wildlife Foundation, NJ
NJ	Monmouth[1]	>5ppt	63	1.06±0.11	Ben Wurst	Conservation Wildlife Foundation, NJ
NJ	Meadowlands[1]	T Fresh	21	1.29±0.14	Ben Wurst	Conservation Wildlife Foundation, NJ
NJ	Maurice River[1]	>5ppt	58	1.41±0.13	Ben Wurst	Conservation Wildlife Foundation, NJ
NJ	Red Bank – DE River[1]	T. Fresh	9	1.89±0.39	Ben Wurst	Conservation Wildlife Foundation, NJ
NJ	Harmony – DE River[1]	Fresh	11	2.09±0.21	Ben Wurst	Conservation Wildlife Foundation, NJ
DE	South Rehobeth	>5ppt	71	0.31±0.07	Jodi McLauphlin	OspreyWatch Delaware
DE	North Rehobeth	>5ppt	39	0.36±0.09	Jodi McLauphlin	OspreyWatch Delaware
DE	Assawoman Bay	>5ppt	21	0.52±0.15	Jodi McLauphlin	OspreyWatch Delaware
DE	Lewes	>5ppt	17	0.59±0.17	Jodi McLauphlin	OspreyWatch Delaware
DE	Milford	>5ppt	6	0.83±0.31	Jodi McLauphlin	OspreyWatch Delaware
DE	Nanticoke	T Fresh	8	1.50±0.50	Francie Davis	OspreyWatch Delaware
MD	Lower Choptank	>5ppt	26	0.00±0.00	Barnett Rattner	United States Geological Survey
MD	Poplar Island	>5ppt	10	0.00±0.00	Bobby Callahan	United States Fish & Wildlife Service

Table 1. Continued

State	Study Area	Salinity	Pairs	Reproductive Rate	Contact Person	Organization
MD	Severn[1]	>5ppt	35	0.09±0.05	Tom Guay	Eco-Ed Endeavors
MD	Kent Island	>5ppt	16	0.19±0.10	Judy Wink	Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center
MD	Lower Patuxent	>5ppt	44	0.20±0.07	Greg Kearns	Patuxent River Park
MD	Lower Chester	>5ppt	89	0.67±0.08	Barnett Rattner	United States Geological Survey
MD	Jug Bay	T Fresh	47	0.81±0.14	Greg Kearns	Patuxent River Park
MD	Upper Chester	T Fresh	31	1.19±0.19	David Kramar	CES, Washington College
VA	Bowlers Wharf	>5ppt	46	0.02±0.02	Bryan Watts	Center for Conservation Biology, W&M
VA	Mattox Creek	>5ppt	37	0.05±0.04	Bryan Watts	Center for Conservation Biology, W&M
VA	Urbanna	>5ppt	31	0.10±0.05	Bryan Watts	Center for Conservation Biology, W&M
VA	Lower York	>5ppt	51	0.12±0.06	Bryan Watts	Center for Conservation Biology, W&M
VA	Mobjack Bay	>5ppt	63	0.17±0.05	Bryan Watts	Center for Conservation Biology, W&M
VA	Elizabeth River	>5ppt	26	0.19±0.08	Bryan Watts	Center for Conservation Biology, W&M
VA	Poquoson River	>5ppt	29	0.21±0.10	Bryan Watts	Center for Conservation Biology, W&M
VA	Piankatank River	>5ppt	39	0.23±0.09	Bryan Watts	Center for Conservation Biology, W&M
VA	Middle York	>5ppt	33	0.24±0.09	Bryan Watts	Center for Conservation Biology, W&M
VA	Eastern Shore Bayside	>5ppt	61	0.25±0.08	Bryan Watts	Center for Conservation Biology, W&M
VA	Lynnhaven River	>5ppt	40	0.28±0.09	Keriann Spiewak Reese Lukei, Jr	VA Aquarium & Marine Science Center Center for Conservation Biology, W&M
VA	Lower James	>5ppt	25	0.32±0.11	Bryan Watts	Center for Conservation Biology, W&M
VA	Upper York	>5ppt	17	0.35±0.12	Bryan Watts	Center for Conservation Biology, W&M
VA	Upper Rappahannock	>5ppt	33	0.42±0.14	Bryan Watts	Center for Conservation Biology, W&M
VA	Middle James	>5ppt	44	0.45±0.12	Bryan Watts	Center for Conservation Biology, W&M
VA	Colonial Beach	>5ppt	38	0.53±0.14	Joanie Millward	Virginia Osprey Foundation
VA	Dahlgren Naval Base	>5ppt	21	0.81±0.20	Joanie Millward	Virginia Osprey Foundation
VA	Upper James	T Fresh	52	1.04±0.16	Bryan Watts	Center for Conservation Biology, W&M
VA	Dyke Marsh	T Fresh	28	1.07±0.18	Dan Rauch	Wildlife Division, Washington D.C.
VA	Pohick Bay	T Fresh	38	1.18±0.15	Bryan Watts	Center for Conservation Biology, W&M
VA	Back Bay	T Fresh	9	1.67±0.47	Reese Lukei, Jr.	Center for Conservation Biology, W&M
SC	North Hilton Head	>5ppt	30	1.07±0.14	Joanne Voulelis Carol Clemens	OspreyWatch Hilton Head Island
SC	South Hilton Head	>5ppt	23	1.13±0.16	Joanne Voulelis Carol Clemens	OspreyWatch Hilton Head Island

[1]Reproductive estimates were based on active nests (pairs making breeding attempts) rather than all pairs in the population. These study areas underestimate breeding populations and by doing so overestimate reproductive rates.

In Dr. Bryan Watts second Osprey research paper (attached), “Are ospreys experiencing reproductive deficits in waters beyond the Chesapeake Bay?”, he covered the 2026 breeding season for 2,886 pairs from 65 study areas across 10 states along the Atlantic coast. Pairs nesting within freshwater systems produced an average of 1.15 young/pair compared to only 0.59 young/pair in salty or marine systems. The latter rate signifies

population decline. These saline areas are where menhaden dominate Osprey food supplies as found in Chesapeake Bay.

“Ospreys within the Chesapeake Bay have been experiencing low reproductive rates for several years. Documentation of extreme reproductive deficits elsewhere along the Atlantic Coast [outside of Chesapeake Bay] is more recent. Although the underlying cause of low reproductive rates for other study areas along the Atlantic Coast is less clear, observations in numerous study areas implicate food stress and starvation as an important driving factor.”

So, the lack of menhaden in these saltier areas could also be driving the nest failures and Osprey chick starvation elsewhere, just as in the Chesapeake.

“Regions along the coast that are experiencing reproductive deficits include the Chesapeake Bay, the Atlantic coasts of Delaware and New Jersey, outer Long Island, the Connecticut coast north of the Quinnipiac River and coastal systems between Narraganset Bay Rhode Island through Buzzards Bay Massachusetts (Figure 2). The Atlantic Coast of the Delmarva Peninsula in Virginia is not shown because the population has collapsed by more than 90% over the past 20 years.”

THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

September 25, 2026

Commissioner Mike Luisi
Director, Fishing and Boating Services
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
580 Taylor Avenue B-2
Annapolis, MD 21401

Commissioner H. Russell Dize
P.O. Box 165
5423 Rude Avenue
Tilghman, MD 21671

Commissioner Del. Dana Stein
C/O Commission Proxy Allison Colden, Ph.D.
Maryland Executive Director
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
6 Herndon Ave
Annapolis, Maryland 21403

Dear Maryland Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commissioners and Proxies:

We write to urge you to support the adoption of necessary conservation measures in Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. Menhaden are essential to the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, the people and communities that work our waterways, and many of the species who call our state home. Maryland is already experiencing the effects of a diminished menhaden population, and it is time for the Commission to act.

Menhaden are small, nutrient-dense fish that serve as a vital food source for many of the Bay's most treasured species, but they also support a working fishery in Maryland. Our watermen harvest menhaden, and our crabbers rely on them for bait. That fishery has declined sharply. Maryland's menhaden harvest has fallen by more than 80 percent since 2020 and now sits below ten percent of the quota the State is allowed to take. Crabbers are struggling to find affordable bait and harvesters are unable to participate in the fishery.

At the same time, Chesapeake Bay wildlife are showing signs of strain. Osprey chicks are starving at unprecedented levels in parts of the Bay where the birds depend heavily on menhaden for food, and the 2026 breeding season was the worst on record. Taken together with what our watermen are seeing, there is considerable evidence that menhaden availability in the Chesapeake Bay is in serious decline – much to the detriment of Marylanders and the Bay’s frontline species.

The way menhaden are managed in the Bay has not been adjusted in accordance with these changes, and it must be. The Bay Cap has remained at 51,000 metric tons since 2018, even as the coastwide total allowable catch has changed, and oftentimes more than half of the Bay’s reduction fishery's annual

landings occurred within a dangerously concentrated 6-week stretch. The conservation measures available in Draft Addendum II give us the opportunity to ensure the long-term sustainability of menhaden. Specifically, we support:

- **Section 3.1, Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount.** Option C1e, which would set the Bay Cap at 13.6 percent of the coastwide total allowable catch, a 50 percent reduction under the current TAC, and Option C2a, which would set an upper limit of 51,000 metric tons for the Bay Cap — the current level.

- **Section 3.2, Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution.** Option B2, which would establish three even-length quota periods and distribute harvest 25 percent in period one, 25 percent in period two, and 50 percent in period three, and Option B, which would establish quota-period overage payback and rollover of unused quota within a fishing year.

- **Section 3.3, Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision.** Option B, which would require the Board to reassess the efficacy of these management tools every three years.

We are confident these changes would leave more menhaden in the Bay for the Maryland watermen and wildlife who depend on them, and serve the best interest of our state. Thank you for your attention to these concerns and your work on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Delegate Dylan Behler
Senator Sara Love
Delegate Nick Allen
Delegate Todd Morgan
Delegate David Moon
Senator Guy Guzzone
Delegate Michele Guyton
Delegate Andrew Pruski
Delegate Kevin Hornberger
Delegate Gabriel Moreno
Delegate Sean Stinnett
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher
Senator Justin Ready
Senator Dawn Gile
Delegate Dana Jones

Senator Jack Bailey
Delegate Jeffrie E. Long Jr.
Delegate Chris Tomlinson
Delegate Andre V. Johnson Jr.
Delegate Stuart Schmidt
Delegate Mark Chang
Senator J.B. Jennings
Delegate Natalie Ziegler
Delegate Steve Johnson
Delegate Kym Taylor
Senator Shelly Hettleman
Delegate Teresa Woorman
Delegate Debra Davis
Delegate Linda Foley

CC: Governor Wes Moore
Secretary Josh Kurtz
James Boyle, FMP Coordinator

ASMFC Draft letter #1

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC):

I am writing as a Maryland resident who has lived in St. Mary's County since 1998 and has developed a deep personal connection to the Chesapeake Bay. I am an avid fisherman, citizen scientist, and someone who spends considerable time on and around the Bay. I am also deeply interested in the wildlife that depends upon this remarkable ecosystem, particularly osprey, striped bass, sharks, whales, and other species whose survival is tied directly or indirectly to a healthy forage base.

I strongly support a 50 percent reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons annually. I also strongly support establishing seasonal quota periods for menhaden so that harvest is distributed throughout the year rather than concentrated in an intense summer fishing window.

The Chesapeake Bay is facing an ecological crisis that should not be minimized or postponed. Declining productivity, widespread osprey nest failures, and continued concerns about the condition of the striped bass population are warning signs that demand a precautionary approach to the management of one of the Bay's most important forage fish - **menhaden.**

Menhaden are not merely another commercial commodity. They are a foundational component of the Chesapeake Bay food web. They provide critical forage for striped bass, osprey, bluefish, weakfish, dolphins, and numerous other predators. Removing very large quantities of menhaden from the Bay during the period when they are most concentrated and most biologically important deserves particularly careful scrutiny.

The scale and timing of the reduction fishery are especially troubling. More than 100 million pounds of menhaden can be removed under the existing Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap. When that harvest is concentrated into a relatively short summer period, the ecological effect is not simply a matter of the annual tonnage. **Where and when the fish are removed matters.**

An intense summer harvest can create localized depletion at precisely the time when menhaden are serving as forage for other species. It also potentially deprives recreational anglers, commercial watermen, charter operators, and the broader coastal tourism economy of access to a shared public resource. These competing interests deserve meaningful consideration in the management process.

I am particularly concerned about allowing an annual quota to be treated as though the timing of harvest is irrelevant. It is not. A fish removed from the Bay in June is not ecologically equivalent to that same fish being harvested months later. The Bay's predators have seasonal feeding requirements, and the availability of forage during critical periods can matter greatly to their survival and reproductive success.

For that reason, I urge the Commission to establish **strict seasonal quota periods that distribute the allowable harvest more evenly throughout the year and prevent the reduction fishery from concentrating an extraordinary volume of harvest into the summer months**. Seasonal management would provide a more precautionary approach and would better recognize the fact that Chesapeake Bay is a dynamic ecosystem rather than simply another geographic allocation within a coastwide fishery.

There is also an important management issue that deserves attention. The Commission's coastwide menhaden assessment does not provide the same level of quantitative information about menhaden abundance and availability specifically within Chesapeake Bay. That uncertainty argues for caution—not for assuming that the Bay can safely sustain the maximum allowable harvest.

The Chesapeake Bay belongs to all of us. It belongs to the watermen who have made their living here, the recreational fishermen who pursue its species, the sailors and boaters who enjoy its waters, the communities whose economies depend upon it, and the wildlife that has no voice in these proceedings. Menhaden management should reflect that broader public interest.

I respectfully urge the Commission to:

1. Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons per year.

2. Establish firm seasonal quota periods for menhaden.

3. **Prevent excessive concentration of reduction harvest during the summer months.

4. Apply a precautionary approach in light of ecological uncertainty and the importance of menhaden as forage.

5. Give meaningful consideration to the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the Bay's broader tourism economy.

I have spent years watching, enjoying, and caring about the Chesapeake Bay. I have seen firsthand what makes this ecosystem extraordinary, and I am increasingly concerned about the signs that its productivity and resilience are being strained.

We should not wait until the consequences are unmistakable before acting.

The prudent course is to reduce the intensity of the reduction fishery now, protect menhaden as a critical forage resource, and distribute harvest in a manner that gives the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem a better opportunity to sustain the wildlife and fisheries that depend upon it.

Thank you for your consideration and for your responsibility to future generations of Chesapeake Bay users and stewards.

Sincerely,

Chandler C. Wyatt
St. Mary’s County, Maryland

James Boyle

From: Larry Wyatt <wyattnj@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 1:17 PM
To: James Boyle
Subject: [External] Bunker

Mr Boyle,
I strongly support a large reduction in the harvesting of bunker. I have lived on the ocean front of LBI for over 40 years during which time I have frequently observed large schools of bunker. In the last 2 years I have not seen a single school. Additionally, the Osprey population has also decreased substantially.
I realize these are anecdotal observations, however, with other available information,I believe we must act to rebuild the bunker population.
Thank you.
Larry Wyatt
3505 S Long Beach Blvd
Holgate

Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Nick Dimott <nickdimott187@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 3:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic menhaden draft addendum 2

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I support cutting the Chesapeake bay cap by a full 50%.
Link the bay cap to the coastwide catch limit.
Spreading the bay harvest across quota periods.
And also reducing the coastwide catch limit by 40%.

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James Boyle

From: Michael Landen <mjlanden6@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 3:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear ASMFC,

Thank you for considering strong provisions to protect the menhaden population in the Chesapeake Bay in your Menhaden Draft Addendum II. I would ask you to approve the following options:

Section 3.1 Bay Cap Amount: Option C1e and Option C2a to reduce the Bay Cap by 50% among other provisions.

Section 3.2 Bay Cap Distribution: Option B2 and Option B which would establish 3 even length but uneven quota periods among other provisions.

And Section 3.3 Bay Cap Revisit Provision: Option B which would require revisiting the Bay Cap every 3 years.

There is more than adequate evidence that the menhaden population in the Chesapeake Bay is at great risk and that these strong provisions under consideration are required to support the menhaden population in the Bay.

Sincerely,

Michael Landen
98 Shellbank Drive
Williamsburg, Virginia

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James Boyle

From: Lyn Gamble <artlynbert108@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 12:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Draft Addendum 2

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Please reduce Chesapeake Bay Menhadden Catch Cap by a minimum of 50% in order to enable Osprey to feed their chicks. The majestic Osprey are an integral part of our Eastern ecosystem and should not be starved to death to make fertilizer. Thank you for the important work you do.

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James Boyle

From: pescanlon <pescanlon@cox.net>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 11:50 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Osprey decline

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom it may concern,

For years the ospreys have been in decline due to the overfishing of menhaden. Sadly this has been ignored due to the interest of the fishing industry and those that selfishly support those interests.

Over and over again the economics, jobs, jobs, jobs, have been the excuse to continue overfishing. The writing has been on the wall for years that this industry needs to be scaled back to levels that support the total environmental for effective management.

It says very little for a commission that allows profit to trump the concerns of the public that want our wild birds to not just survive but flourish.

Stop Omega from destroying our ospreys.

Respectfully,
Patricia Scanlon
Norfolk, Virginia

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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James Boyle

From: Sean DeFusco <defuscosean@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 10:53 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II - Ocean TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello

Thanks for taking time to review my feedback on the menhaden fishery. I'm a passionate recreational fisherman from Rhode Island. I've helped friends commercial fish from time to time and support appropriate conservation actions to protect the fishery for the future. The commercial fishery is important and so is the recreational fishery. The economic impact of a strong recreational fishery is crucial to Rhode Island and other coastal areas. Marinas, fuel, guides, tackle shops, and the marine trade industry overall support a tremendous number of jobs in these communities.

As you consider the options for Menhaden, please remember that less menhaden need to be removed from the ocean. The data and observations is clear on that. The Ocean TAC should be reduced to at least 110 MT or a 39% drop from the current level. Menhaden, the fish and birds that forage on them, and the broader fishing community (commercial and recreational) need this to happen. Failure to act now will make future cuts more drastic and lead to a slower recovery time which is detrimental to all stakeholders.

While I'm also concerned about the Chesapeake Bay harvest and support a reduction to the bay cap, not lowering the overall ocean TAC would be a complete failure and negatively impact the fishery and those that rely on it.

Thank you for your consideration

Sean DeFusco

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James Boyle

From: Ben Whitehead <bwhitehead16@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 11:34 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] "Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Cut the coastwide TAC by 40% to approximately 112,100 metric tons for 2027 and 2028

Fix the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap at 25,500 metric tons.

Reject every option linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC.

Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Amanda Milster Dewey <amandamdewey@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 8:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic menhaden comment

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Please register my comments on the Atlantic Menhaden. I am in favor of the following:

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount
Option C1e: To reduce the Chesapeake BayCAP by at least 50 percent in 2027 and link any changes to the future Bay Cap to 13.6% of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC).
Option C2a: To set the maximum upper limit in any future change at the current level of 51,000mt.

3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution
Option B2: To establish three even length quota periods for the Chesapeake Bay Cap, distributing the harvest at 25% in period 1, 25% in period 2, and 50% in period 3.
Option B: Provides any underage of Quota Periods 1 or 2 be rolled into Period 3 of the same fishing year. Any underage in Quota Period 3 would not be reallocated. Any overages would be deducted from the same quota period in the following year.
3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision
Option B: Revisit the Chesapeake Bay Cap every 3 years.

Thank you ,
Amanda Dewey
6216 Quebec Place
Berwyn Heights MD 20740

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James Boyle

From: Matthew Roach <matt.roach.586@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 6:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Bay Cap versus Coastal TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Fisheries Managers:

As a lifelong resident of the Chesapeake Bay region, and a resident of coastal Virginia, I would like to state my opposition to linking the Chesapeake Bay Cap for Atlantic Menhaden, and the Coastal TAC for Atlantic Menhaden.

The Chesapeake has a special role as a nursery for osprey, shark, redfish, striped bass, and other species. It is incredibly important to not link the coastal and bay fisheries, as this would enable localized depletion by industrial fishing fleets.

Regards,
Matt Roach
Hungars Creek, VA

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James Boyle

From: Brendan Curley <bcurley@une.edu>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 4:12 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden 2027-2028 TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

I am writing to submit my comment regarding the coastwide Atlantic menhaden TAC for 2027 and 2028. I support reducing the coastwide TAC by 40%, to approximately 112,100 metric tons, and believe this action should be taken now rather than delayed.

The ASMFC's own recent projections show the need for a substantial reduction. Keeping the current 186,840-metric-ton TAC would carry a 99.5% chance of exceeding the ecological reference point fishing mortality target in each year from 2027 through 2029. Even reducing the TAC to approximately 114,200 metric tons would only bring the chance of staying below that target to roughly 50%. A 40% reduction to approximately 112,100 metric tons would therefore be a necessary management action based on the information currently available.

I am also concerned about continuing to delay meaningful reductions in harvest. In 2025, the ASMFC's science indicated that a reduction of 50% or more was needed to reduce the risk of exceeding the ecological target. The Board ultimately adopted a 20% reduction for 2026 only. Given the commercial fishery's recent underutilization of the TAC, that reduction did not necessarily translate into a comparable reduction in the number of menhaden actually harvested.

Menhaden are an important forage fish throughout the Atlantic coast and play an important role in the broader marine ecosystem and recreational fisheries. This is therefore not only a Chesapeake Bay issue. The coastwide TAC affects menhaden harvest from Maine to Florida and has implications for the fish, wildlife, anglers, guides, and coastal communities that depend on healthy marine ecosystems.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Management Board to reduce the coastwide TAC by 40% to approximately 112,100 metric tons for 2027 and 2028. I also ask that the TAC be established as a fixed tonnage rather than an automatic formula and that this decision not be delayed for additional analysis. The current science provides enough information to take meaningful action now.

I believe the Commission should use the information currently available to establish a coastwide TAC that better accounts for the ecological importance of Atlantic menhaden and the many fisheries and coastal communities that depend on them.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

Brendan Curley

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James Boyle

From: Brendan Curley <bcurley@une.edu>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 4:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] tlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

I am writing to submit my comment on Draft Addendum II concerning the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap. I support establishing a fixed Chesapeake Bay cap of 25,500 metric tons and rejecting options that would automatically link the Bay cap to the coastwide Atlantic menhaden TAC.

The Chesapeake Bay is an important nursery area for Atlantic menhaden, and maintaining a reasonable limit on harvest within the Bay is an important part of protecting that ecosystem. At a coastwide TAC of approximately 112,000 metric tons, keeping the current 51,000-metric-ton Bay cap would allow roughly 45% of the coastwide harvest to come from inside the Chesapeake Bay. A 25,500-metric-ton cap would represent approximately 23% of the coastwide harvest, which is much closer to the roughly 24% average share since 2018.

I also ask the Commission to reject options that link the Chesapeake Bay cap directly to the coastwide TAC. The Bay cap should be treated as a separate conservation measure for the Chesapeake Bay rather than simply increasing or decreasing automatically with the coastwide quota. Linking the two could create opportunities for unused quota to be shifted geographically and could allow harvest in the Bay to increase again in the future.

I also support the proposed three-year revisit of the Bay cap. Establishing a 25,500-metric-ton cap now does not mean that the Commission can never reconsider it. A scheduled review after three years provides an opportunity to evaluate new science, harvest levels, menhaden abundance, and the ecological effects of the cap before making any future changes. I believe this is a more responsible approach than tying the cap automatically to changes in the coastwide TAC.

As someone who cares about the health of Atlantic fisheries and the recreational fishing communities that depend on them, I believe the Chesapeake Bay cap should provide a meaningful and consistent limit on reduction fishery harvest within the Bay while still allowing the Commission to revisit the measure based on the best available information.

I respectfully ask the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board to establish the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap at 25,500 metric tons, reject all options that tie the Bay cap to the coastwide TAC, and retain the three-year review so the measure can be evaluated using updated science and management information.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

Brendan Curley

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James Boyle

From: Katherine Nelson <kenelson424@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 2:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Public Comment: Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Mr. Boyle and Members of the Commission,

I am writing to urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to take immediate, strong action to protect the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem by implementing strict catch limits under Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II. Specifically, I support options that substantially lower the reduction fishing allowance in the Bay.

As a resident & supporter of the Chesapeake Bay region, plus an environmental educator, I am deeply alarmed by the unprecedented breeding failures and starvation currently devastating our local osprey populations. Decades of scientific monitoring show a direct link between the lack of mature Atlantic menhaden and the inability of ospreys to successfully raise their chicks.

Menhaden are the ecological backbone of the Chesapeake Bay. Allowing industrial-scale reduction fishing to deplete this critical forage fish at the expense of ospreys, striped bass, and other native wildlife is unsustainable and unacceptable.

Please prioritize the long-term health of the Bay's ecosystem over short-term commercial harvest by implementing the maximum possible protections in Draft Addendum II. Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,
Katey Nelson
Stevensville, MD

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 2:12 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Karen Leclaire

Email

karenski1014@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

The constant excuses put forward by the fishing industry to force communities to choose between protecting natural resources and their ability to make money is again wrecking our environment WHICH IS NOT REPLACEABLE.
Overfishing combined with the current administrations penchant for deregulation clearly will permanently impact the local environment, flora and fauna.
Ospreys are a natural indicator of a healthy environment. The current catch allowances in addition to environmental changes which have been looming, may have done so much damage it cannot be reversed.

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James Boyle

From: jeffrey lopez <jeffreyalopez@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 11:43 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II and 2027–2029 Catch Limits.

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

My name is Jeffrey Lopez and I am a Rockaway Park Queens New York 11693 resident and avid fisherman. I am obviously very connected to and very concerned with the declining welfare of our Osprey populations that I have witnessed over the past several years. The ChesPeak Bay harvest needs to be better managed....and there needs to be a cap of at least 50%, and managed more evenly across the entirety of the season, and create a coastwide catch reduction that meets the ASMFCs ecosystem target.

--
Thank you & please excuse any typos...
c: 646-284-4047

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James Boyle

From: Benjamin burdine <apexanglingct@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 11:14 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden TAC reduction

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hi,

I am a lifelong fisherman and charter fishing captain based in Fairfield and Groton Connecticut. It's my opinion that Atlantic Menhaden TAC should be reduced by 50%.

Our fishery in Long Island Sound and East of Connecticut is on the brink of collapse due to extreme commercial overharvesting of Atlantic Menhaden, the foundational building block of our Saltwater ecosystem. It's been apparent for several years now that the lack of Menhaden has weakened our fishery and hurt my personal charter fishing business. Striped bass that would take residence in my waters no longer have an abundant food source, so they no longer reside here... It's just common sense, not some anecdotal observation. The commercial overharvest of menhaden has also caused many other problems, including inundation of sharks foraging on our striped bass instead of Menhaden, as well as striped bass foraging on other managed species. This is a chain reaction as a result of the negligent mismanagement of Atlantic Menhaden. Enough is enough.

I understand Omega Protein and Cooke industries has a lot of money to donate and throw around, but you must act and do the right thing. Reduce TAC for Atlantic Menhaden by 50% or more as so much damage has already been done.

Thank you,

Captain Ben Burdine
Apex Angling CT
Cell: (203)-394-7777

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James Boyle

From: Gorman, Jay <jgorman@Sciame.com>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 10:45 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II and 2027–2029 Catch Limits

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To Whom it May concern,

I am writing today to support a cap on bunker fishing off our coastlines here in Queens NY.

My family and I live on the shore. A wonderful part of having my young children grow up here is the access to our natural resources. Whether it be the Ospreys, dolphins, whales, or fish, our communities benefit from this exposure. Overfishing is leading to a decline in these species and the variety of nature around us. We noticed it this summer.

Please pass sensible and pragmatic rules that allows the bunker population to rebound. It would mean a lot to us and our communities.

Thank you,

Jay Gorman

Vice President
Sciame Construction, LLC.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 10:37 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Robert Thompson

Email

rthompsoncontact@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Please pass the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II rule to reduce total menhaden allowed catch by 50% in the Chesapeake. The negative impact on the bay is reflected by many studies. While the industry may argue the numbers and the assumptions behind them, there is no doubt about the number of people who would benefit from a base forage supply that was even a small percent larger than it is today:
Most conservatively, there are roughly 2500 commercial watermen and approximately 200 (150-300) licensed fishing guides in Virginia who would benefit.
Maryland's portion brings the commercial total to 8,000 and guides to 700.
The menhaden fishery supports 250 employees. These people deserve opportunity and support to transition, but as it stands today, their work has a disproportionate impact on the ecosystem and economics of the region.

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James Boyle

From: Sean Regan <reganmeister@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 9:30 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Fwd: Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II and 2027–2029 Catch Limits.

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am favor of substantially reducing the cap on industrial menhaden fishing, starting with a minimum of 50%. This fishing has negatively affected so many while benefitting so few and it must be adjusted. We no longer have the amount of menhaden in our waters and with the loss of these fish, there has been a significant loss of bluefish, striped bass, weakfish, cobia, porpoises, whales and sharks. I rely on bringing home 2-3 meals a day of fish caught to feed my family and with the decrease in menhaden population that has not been attainable in the last few years.
I spent several years saving and planning on starting a 6 pack charter fishing business and have since cancelled those plans because of the decrease in gamefish in our area due to the menhaden overfishing on the east coast.
The decrease has been visible for several years now and this cap should have already been implemented as your studies and comments have shown and admitted to. Why are we waiting until this is too late?
My name is Sean Regan. I live in Breezy Point NY. I am strongly in favor of a minimum of 50% reduction on industrial menhaden fishing. I believe this will have a positive impact on thousands of people outside of the industrial harvesters who rely on menhaden on one way or another for a living to support themselves and their families all along the East Coast. The harvest should be spread evenly across a season and the reduction should meet the ASMFC's ecosystem target.

Sean Regan

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James Boyle

From: Nick Prawer <capt.nickprawer@doublehaulinflylighttackle.com>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 8:16 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Management Board, this is my suggestion for the upcoming decisions that need to be made for Addendum II on Atlantic Menhaden.

- **3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Amount**
  - **Sub Option B4 –** a 50% reduction in the current Bay Cap, resulting in a Bay Cap of 25,500 mt.

- **3.2.1. Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period**
  - **Option B1 –** Even Length & Even Harvest.

- **3.2.2 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period Overages and Underages**
  - **Underage Sub Option 1 –** an underage in Quota Period 1 would be split evenly and rolled over to Quota Periods 2 and 3.

- **3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision**
  - **Option B –** The Chesapeake Bay Cap will be reviewed at least once every three years.

Capt. Nick Prawer

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James Boyle

From: Nick Prawer <capt.nickprawer@doublehaulinflylighttackle.com>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 7:38 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Ocean TAC Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Management Board,

As a concerned charter captain, business owner and resource user on the coast of Maine, I believe Atlantic menhaden deserve a 50% chance of not exceeding the ERP fishing target. This means a 40% reduction in TAC, bringing it down to 114,200 metric tons. All of the coastal ecosystems would benefit from this, thus benefiting businesses like my own and coastal economies alike. As I'm sure you all know these are possibly the most important forage species coastwide for so many different species of fish, marine mammals and birds alike. Without healthy menhaden populations we cannot have healthy coastal ecosystems and productive coastal economies. Please manage to the target.

Capt. Nick Prawer

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 12:59 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Vincent Callaghan

Email

vdcqvny@aol.com

State

New York

Comment

I support the Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden as it important to sustain the Atlantic Menhaden

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 10:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sally Dunkelberger

Email

sdberger53@outlook.com

State

Delaware

Comment

Please do whatever you can to save the Osprey.
I no nothing about fishing but I do want to support measures to save the osprey from extinction.

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James Boyle

From: Monika Barilla <monika.barilla@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 10:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] No menhaden-No Osprey

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am writing to draw urgent attention to critical ecological shifts observed within the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, specifically impacting its emblematic wildlife populations. My long-standing engagement with and continuous observation of the Chesapeake Bay, spanning numerous years, offers a grounded perspective on the fluctuating health of its diverse species.

Among these, the Osprey (Pandion haliaetus) serves as a vital bio-indicator and a significant apex predator within the Bay's complex food web. The Bay's abundant marine life historically sustains these magnificent birds. Over the preceding two-year period, my rigorous documentation of Osprey behavior across multiple nesting and foraging sites has yielded deeply concerning findings. Specifically, observations within the South River tributary indicate a pronounced deterioration in Osprey foraging efficacy.

A mere two years prior, these areas thrived with a robust Osprey presence, frequently displaying 8 to 15 individuals engaged in successful, successive hunting dives. In stark contrast, my recent observations this year consistently show only a solitary male Osprey, exhibiting an alarming absence of hunting attempts. While various alternative fish species, including catfish, carp, and snakehead, inhabit these waters, they do not fulfill the specific nutritional requirements of Ospreys. These raptors depend critically on full-sized Menhaden (Brevoortia tyrannus) due to their indispensable high omega-3 fatty acid content, crucial for adult health, breeding success, and the healthy development of their offspring.

While fully cognizant of the economic dimensions associated with Menhaden harvesting, the current intensity and scale of commercial extraction raise profound questions regarding the long-term ecological sustainability and responsible resource stewardship of the Bay. The continued, large-scale depletion of this keystone species threatens irreversible cascading effects throughout the Bay's intricate food web, potentially leading to the loss of biodiversity and compromising the entire ecosystem's resilience. This situation starkly echoes historical precedents of unchecked natural resource exploitation leading to ecological collapse. It is imperative that we critically re-evaluate whether short-term economic gains, particularly those benefiting large-scale commercial fishing entities, should be permitted to override the foundational imperative of preserving our invaluable natural heritage for posterity.

To proactively address these emerging impacts and secure the long-term viability of the Chesapeake Bay's Osprey population, I strongly advocate for the immediate consideration and implementation of evidence-based interventions. Specifically, I propose two actionable strategies:
* Implementation of a temporary, but complete, moratorium on Menhaden fishing within all designated Chesapeake Bay regions for a minimum period of one year.
* As an alternative measure, a significant reduction, by at least 50%, in Menhaden harvesting quotas specifically during the critical initial half of the Osprey nesting season. This measure is designed to

guarantee these birds access to essential nutritional resources during their most vulnerable period of raising young.

As stewards entrusted with the preservation of our natural world, we bear a profound collective responsibility to enact proactive measures safeguarding our invaluable wildlife and irreplaceable natural resources. I earnestly appeal to you to meticulously review the compelling scientific and observational evidence presented, heed the urgent ecological imperative, and act with decisive foresight and unwavering commitment to ensure the enduring health of the Chesapeake Bay for future generations.

Please, I implore you do the right thing.
Monika Faust Barilla
Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 10:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Ward

Email

thejdub1@msn.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

As a true water person and having lived boated,fished along the waters of our Atlantic Ocean and Barnegat Bays, the lack of and utter disastrous schools of bunker,menhaden or butter fish, call them what you will they are the life line if our bird life (Ospreys) and ocean lives that depend upon an abundance of fish to survive.
The audacity of these fishing(haha) scum fleets and spotter plans is absolutely another incomprehensible action that is allowed (fertilizer and fish oil) by outside countries fleets or our own fleets must be stopped. As someone who spends every weekend and most late afternoons enjoying our spectacular beaches, the lack of Oceanic mammal activity either aerial or from below our Mother Ocean was such a disheartening sight this summer, and this. An only be caused by the over fishing (collecting) of these fisheries, our Oceans are the engines that run this planet and every oceanic mammal, animal and bird species depend on this engine as we all do. This insanity and disdain for our oceans inhabitants must stop, fishing ok but just greedy harvesting , our planet will not survive
Sincerely
John Ward

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 9:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/ny-ct-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Andrew Smith

Email

webflyer99@yahoo.com

State

New York

Comment

Please reduce and cap the Chesapeake Bay menhaden reduction harvest. Given the uncertainty around Bay-specific abundance and the importance of menhaden to the Bay ecosystem and predators, a precautionary approach is warranted. I support a substantial reduction in the current cap, along with enforceable seasonal limits to ensure adequate menhaden remain available throughout the year.

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James Boyle

From: Michael Shank <mjs39@nyu.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 9:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Please stop overfishing menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I'm shocked that the commission has allowed the overfishing of menhaden for this long. Leading to the chronic starvation of osprey and more. It's mind boggling to think the commission's reckless decision-making thus far could ultimately decimate the Osprey population. And all for what? Some Omega business to sell more pet food? Pls do better and lower the cap asap.

Michael Shank, Ph.D.
Adjunct Assistant Professor
NYU School of Professional Studies
Center for Global Affairs
New York University
M: 202.909.3688
michaelshank.com
linkedin.com/in/michael-shank-phd
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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 8:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Tracy Frost

Email

fshhead63@gmail.com

State

North Carolina

Comment

I am neutral in this. But as I have been having conversations about the ospreys the all the facts are not being told and the so called decline affecting ospreys. What is being told is the are starving but in fact no autopsy's have been done to prove that information only sightings. As well if you look at research data in the affected areas there is major evidence of forever chemicals at high levels to a point states are asking people to only eat certain amounts of fish and certain species as they have high concentrations of of those chemicals. The chemicals have shown up in fish testing and tissue samples. The areas affected are from the Chesapeake bay mouth to far NE. And that where the high concentrations of these chemicals are being found especially in the New Jersey and Massachusetts area NY as well. There are mapped areas of these chemicals and it is direct relation to the areas that the osprey are showing signs of struggles. Ben Wurst was sent this information today as well Adams many others have been sent the same information. They chose not to show it for certain reasons as you may guess what those reasons are. Again there have been no autopsies performed a on any of those so called starving birds just visual evidence no scientific data what so ever on the death of the fledglings. Thank you for time I think all information should weighed about any resources tk make true informed decisions. Tracy Frost

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 7:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Mary Beeman

Email

mbeeman106@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I support the
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 7:27 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/me-nh-ma-ri-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

sandy gingras

Email

sandygingras2@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Please reduce the amt of menhaden allowed to be harvested. Please adopt a sound and balanced policy whereby osprey populations are able to flourish along with all bird and fish populations that eat menhaden. This isn't rocket science. Just use common sense.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 7:04 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Buddy Nicosia

Email

user711756@aol.com

State

Maryland

Comment

It is of utmost importance to reduce harvest of Menhaden by 50% to restore fish species in the Chesapeake Bay. The reduction has been on fish and other wildlife that depend on menhaden as much or more as menhadden
This has been going on since the 70s and must be stopped Sincerely Bud Nicosia

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 6:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Tom Tedesco

Email

acmepiling@aol.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Enough is enough keep the bunker box 12 miles offshore

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James Boyle

From: Luis Tirado <captloutirado@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 6:12 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden coastwide TAc

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Good evening,

I would like to submit comment on the Menhaden coastwide TAC reduction. Based on the latest science and corrected math I strongly suggest that the board reduce the TAC by 50% to give the menhaden a reasonable chance. Thank you.

Luis Tirado
Owner/Operator
Diamond Pass Outfitters
207-899-5985

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 5:42 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Patricia Dupont

Email

raptors4me@outlook.com

State

New Hampshire

Comment

I have been watching osprey for years and what I've seen over the last several years is devastating. Well established pairs that were known to fledge 3 year after year are struggling to find enough food to fledge 1. For anyone watching them, there is nothing more heartbreaking than to watch the chicks starve to death on the nest. There are many studies that lay the blame on a number of environmental issues, and they do have some impact. But the lack of food is the primarily cause, and we can and must do something to limit the industrial harvesting of menhaden. We must act now to Save Our Osprey.

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James Boyle

From: Van Nield <vnmnield1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 5:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Sirs/Mmes:

The mass annihilation of the menhaden must stop. They're a critical factor in the whole Bay and coastal ecology.

Van. K. Nield
PhD, Oceanographer

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James Boyle

From: Sue Smith <ihave010@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 4:20 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

It seems the only logical solution would be to put a moratorium on fishing Menhaden. If it's not the cause the Osprey nests will continue to fail. If it is the cause maybe limit the amount of Menhaden caught so all can survive on it.
Thank you
Sue Smith, GRI
Realtor Associate
Coldwell Banker Riviera Realty
1120 Long Beach Blvd
Ship Bottom, NJ 08008
609-489-1093

Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 3:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Elizabeth Godfrey

Email

lizsarah08@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I am unable to join into this meeting tonight but I will do whatever I can do as an individual to help save our ospreys. Stop letting over fishing be the demise of this wonderful species.

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James Boyle

From: Brent Hunsinger <brent.hunsinger@riverfriends.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 3:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commissioners,

Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR) is a 501c3 non-profit watershed conservation organization whose mission is to be a voice and active force for a healthy and scenic Rappahannock River.

FOR appreciates the opportunity to submit the following comments and option preferences.

Atlantic menhaden are a keystone species, meaning that they play a major role in holding up the aquatic ecosystem of the the Rappahannock River and Chesapeake Bay.. They are crucial for coastal economies and food webs. These small fish can account for 30% of the diet of striped bass, 33% of the diet for seabirds, and more than 70% of the diet of ospreys. In recent years, the reproductive rates of ospreys who live in areas where they depend on menhaden have hit a new low. According to peer-reviewed research, food stress, particularly due to a lack of menhaden, is driving this productivity crisis.

The Center for Conservation Biology at William & Mary Middle recently released results from 2026 breeding performance results for osprey which found the 2026 breeding season was the worst productivity year ever recorded for osprey in the Chesapeake Bay. Included in the study were areas of the Middle Rappahannock River and Lower Rappahannock River where average productivity was less than 0.2 young/pair.

Given these findings and the current downward trend of striped bass populations we believe a cautionary approach is warranted while studies assessing abundance of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay are completed.

Accordingly, FOR supports the following options and encourage adoption in Addendum II:
3.1 Bay Cap: Option C1E and C2A
3.2 Bay Cap Distribution: Option B2 (Even Length/Uneven Harvest) and Option B for Quota Period Overages/Underages
3.3 Bay Cap Revisit Provision: Option B (To revisit the Cap every three years)

Respectfully submitted,

Brent Hunsinger

--

Brent Hunsinger
Advocacy and Coastal Programs Director
Friends of the Rappahannock
Email: brent.hunsinger@riverfriends.org
Phone: 804-443-3448

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James Boyle

From: Jonathan Agosta <jack.agosta@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 2:27 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Ocean TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Good Afternoon,

My name is Jonathan Agosta, and I am a recreational angler from New York.

I am writing to urge the ASMFC to reduce the Ocean TAC for menhaden from 180,000 metric tons to no more than 114,000 metric tons. This is the minimum reduction required for a 50 percent chance at a timely stock recovery.

It is worth noting that menhaden is the most important forage species on the east coast of the United States. Every effort should be focused on the protection and recovery of this species, as hundreds of fish, bird, and mammal species rely on menhaden as a prey item.

If this reduction results in an increase to the cost of menhaden as bait, that is an acceptable consequence: the fisheries for which we use menhaden as bait will not exist without a healthy menhaden stock. And the economic fallout that would follow the collapse of those fisheries is orders of magnitude greater than the economic impact of a reduction to the menhaden fishery.

For the aforementioned reasons, I implore the ASMFC to implement AT LEAST the minimum reduction of 66,000 metric tons to the Ocean TAC, and encourage a greater reduction than that.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Agosta

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James Boyle

From: Pascal Foti <dukefoti@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 2:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft AddendumII and 2027-2029 Catch Limits

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

My name is Pascal Foti. I am a resident of Rockaway Beach, Queens, NYC. I am also an avid surf caster. I have been fishing the Atlantic Ocean and Jamaica Bay waters for 50 years. This year I saw no "birds working" the bunker schools for the first time.

I believe strongly that the Chesapeake Bay's industrial harvest cap should be cut by 50%. If we lose the bunker, we lose bass, clues, weakfish, sharks, dolphins, whales, ospreys, bait shops, watermen, etc...

Respectfully,

Pascal Peter Foti

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James Boyle

From: jgosb@proton.me
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 2:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Ocean TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Menhaden Management Board

Dear Board Members,

The Chesapeake Bay is an important nursery for Menhaden along the Atlantic coast and an essential element of the coastal ecosystem that supports countless marine and avian species.

Scientists have shown that the Menhaden population along the Atlantic coast and in the Chesapeake Bay in particular has declined dramatically in recent years. Wildlife biologists have also made clear that recent declines in the Osprey population in the Chesapeake Bay Area are largely due to the increasing scarcity of this food source that is so essential to countless avian and marine species.

Although there are a variety of reasons for the decline in Menhaden populations, only lowering the cap on the Menhaden harvest will effectively address the issue within a time frame that could give the Osprey and other vulnerable populations a chance to recover.

Please vote in for a 40 percent reduction in the coastwide total allowable catch (TAC).

Sincerely,
Jane Osburn
43087 Coles Drive
Hollywood, MD
20636
301.520.3623

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James Boyle

From: Martin Alger <mja41121@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 1:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Ocean TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Good afternoon,

Ahead of the upcoming meeting focused on Menhaden management, I'd like to voice my concerns regarding the Ocean TAC.

In order to have a chance to not exceed the ERP fishing target, the Ocean TAC should not be greater than 114,000 metric tons for Menhaden.

The entire marine ecosystem relies on menhaden to flourish. A decline in the menhaden population will have drastic implications on many other fisheries. **Please protect these fish!**

Best regards,

Martin J Alger

Sent from my iPhone

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James Boyle

From: Lars McCarter <hlmccarter@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 1:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Ocean TAC Adjustments

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC),

I am writing to urge the Commission to take decisive action to protect the ecological integrity of our coastal ecosystems by reducing the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for Atlantic menhaden by approximately ~40% in order to give the stock a change at recovery.

Menhaden play a critical foundational role in the marine food web. As key forage fish, they sustain an array of economically and ecologically vital species, including striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, marine mammals, and seabirds. Given the ongoing ecological demands on these predator populations, management strategies must prioritize ecosystem health over short-term harvest limits.

Reducing the TAC for Atlantic menhaden is essential to give the stock the greatest chance of meeting and maintaining the ecological target. Adopting a precautionary approach will strengthen coastal food webs, support predator recovery, and foster long-term sustainability for our marine ecosystems and dependent coastal communities.

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to science-based fisheries management.

Sincerely,
--
Lars McCarter
hlmccarter@gmail.com
https://www.linkedin.com/in/hlmccarter/
609-638-0178

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James Boyle

From: Brandon Hamilton <brandonlhamilton@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 8:10 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Ocean TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I support the proposed 40% reduction in menhaden catch. As an avid Delaware recreational fisherman, I have observed a complete lack of the large schools of menhaden that were once common along the Delaware coast. While I recognize there may be multiple factors contributing to this decline, the lack of menhaden I have personally observed in recent years is concerning. A 40% reduction in harvest is a reasonable precaution while we work to better understand the factors affecting menhaden abundance and ensure this important forage fish remains available for the broader marine ecosystem.

Brandon Hamilton
Millsboro, DE

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James Boyle

From: Glo P <glojp714@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 7:59 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Please register my comments on the Atlantic Menhaden. I am in favor of the following:

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount
Option C1e: To reduce the Chesapeake BayCAP by at least 50 percent in 2027 and link any changes to the future Bay Cap to 13.6% of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC).
Option C2a: To set the maximum upper limit in any future change at the current level of 51,000mt.

3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution
Option B2: To establish three even length quota periods for the Chesapeake Bay Cap, distributing the harvest at 25% in period 1, 25% in period 2, and 50% in period 3.
Option B: Provides any underage of Quota Periods 1 or 2 be rolled into Period 3 of the same fishing year. Any underage in Quota Period 3 would not be reallocated. Any overages would be deducted from the same quota period in the following year.
3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision
Option B: Revisit the Chesapeake Bay Cap every 3 years.

Thank you ,
Gloria Mayne

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James Boyle

From: Leo Turpan <leo.turpan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 9:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Ocean TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

ASMFC Board,

As a native to the east end of Long Island the waters here are my continuous home and refuge. In recent years with the cuts and caps on fishing the return of wildlife has been so abundant and delightful it becomes bliss for us all on the beaches. I've traveled all over the world and I'm so happy to be able to call this place home. But it wouldn't be the same without maintaining the diversity of life in these waters.

Please, I support a 40% cut to approximately 112,100 metric tons for 2027 and 2028.

Let's keep fish in the water for recreational, commercial, and ecological considerations alike. Plain and simple.

Please make the right decision for our coast.

Thank you for your hard work!

Best,
Leo Turpan

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James Boyle

From: Ren Grumbles <kjgrumbles@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 9:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Please register my comments on the Atlantic Menhaden. I am in favor of the following:

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount
Option C1e: To reduce the Chesapeake BayCAP by at least 50 percent in 2027 and link any changes to the future Bay Cap to 13.6% of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC).
Option C2a: To set the maximum upper limit in any future change at the current level of 51,000mt.

3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution
Option B2: To establish three even length quota periods for the Chesapeake Bay Cap, distributing the harvest at 25% in period 1, 25% in period 2, and 50% in period 3.
Option B: Provides any underage of Quota Periods 1 or 2 be rolled into Period 3 of the same fishing year. Any underage in Quota Period 3 would not be reallocated. Any overages would be deducted from the same quota period in the following year.
3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision
Option B: Revisit the Chesapeake Bay Cap every 3 years.

For the second year in a row we had no osprey fledglings in our creek that feeds into the Severn River. This is an area that typically feeds a diverse and relatively plentiful amount of wildlife. We are very alarmed. Change needs to be made immediately to restore the osprey in the Chesapeake Bay.

Thank you ,

Ren Grumbles

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James Boyle

From: Michelle Kastor <mmkastor@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 9:08 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Please register my comments on the Atlantic Menhaden. I am in favor of the following:

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount
Option C1e: To reduce the Chesapeake BayCAP by at least 50 percent in 2027 and link any changes to the future Bay Cap to 13.6% of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC).
Option C2a: To set the maximum upper limit in any future change at the current level of 51,000mt.

3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution
Option B2: To establish three even length quota periods for the Chesapeake Bay Cap, distributing the harvest at 25% in period 1, 25% in period 2, and 50% in period 3.
Option B: Provides any underage of Quota Periods 1 or 2 be rolled into Period 3 of the same fishing year. Any underage in Quota Period 3 would not be reallocated. Any overages would be deducted from the same quota period in the following year.
3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision
Option B: Revisit the Chesapeake Bay Cap every 3 years.

Thank you ,

Michelle Kastor
386 Ridge Rd
Annapolis, MD 21401

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James Boyle

From: Gary Nicksa <gnicksa@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 7:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Subject line: Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello,

Please know that the industrial harvest of the Menhaden is ruining the fishing in long island sound. It can take hour to find just a few fish. If this is as difficult for us to find fish this much be changing all the fish that rely on that food source.

Truly,
Gary Nicksa

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James Boyle

From: chad gomes <chadgomes@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 7:50 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden protection

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello asmfc,

Menhaden population is at critical levels and the numbers being used to guide fisheries management are grossly overstated. Please fo more to protect the menhaden population appropriately, before they become wiped out.

Thx!

C

Chad Gomes

215-439-2215
chadgomes@gmail.com

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James Boyle

From: Kari Alperovitz-Bichell <alperovitzbichell@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 6:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] my comments on the Atlantic Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Please register my comments on the Atlantic Menhaden. I am in favor of the following:

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount
Option C1e: To reduce the Chesapeake BayCAP by at least 50 percent in 2027 and link any changes to the future Bay Cap to 13.6% of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC).
Option C2a: To set the maximum upper limit in any future change at the current level of 51,000mt.

3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution
Option B2: To establish three even length quota periods for the Chesapeake Bay Cap, distributing the harvest at 25% in period 1, 25% in period 2, and 50% in period 3.
Option B: Provides any underage of Quota Periods 1 or 2 be rolled into Period 3 of the same fishing year. Any underage in Quota Period 3 would not be reallocated. Any overages would be deducted from the same quota period in the following year.

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision
Option B: Revisit the Chesapeake Bay Cap every 3 years.

Kari Alperovitz-Bichell, MD, MPH
Annapolis, Maryland

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James Boyle

From: Brendan Gifford <bgnjfisher732@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 5:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Ocean TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To Whom It May Concern:

Menhaden deserve a 50% chance to not go over the Ecological Reference Point (ERP) fishing target and that means 114,000 metric tons from 186,000 metric tons, about a 40% reduction.

Protect our birds, fish, and marine mammals which rely on these fish, and not the Omega industry.

Thank you,
Brendan Gifford

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James Boyle

From: Mike Paredes <mike.paredes@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 5:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft addendum II Comments

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Please register my comments on the Atlantic Menhaden. I am in favor of the following:

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount
Option C1e: To reduce the Chesapeake BayCAP by at least 50 percent in 2027 and link any changes to the future Bay Cap to 13.6% of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC).
Option C2a: To set the maximum upper limit in any future change at the current level of 51,000mt.

3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution
Option B2: To establish three even length quota periods for the Chesapeake Bay Cap, distributing the harvest at 25% in period 1, 25% in period 2, and 50% in period 3.
Option B: Provides any underage of Quota Periods 1 or 2 be rolled into Period 3 of the same fishing year. Any underage in Quota Period 3 would not be reallocated. Any overages would be deducted from the same quota period in the following year.
3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision
Option B: Revisit the Chesapeake Bay Cap every 3 years.

Thank you ,

Micheal Paredes
232 Severn Drive
Annapolis, MD 21401
mike.paredes@gmail.com
410-991-7172

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James Boyle

From: Spencer Hoffman <spencerflyfish@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 4:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom it may concern,

Please note my very strong support for the further management of the vital menhaden fishery. Specifically, with respect to the Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3, I support the following positions:
- Section 3.1 - 50% reduction in the current Bay Cap
- Section 3.2.1 - Even length and even harvest, as described in Option B1
- Section 3.2.2 - Rolling underage in Quota Period 1 to Quota Periods 2 & 3, split evenly
- Section 3.3 - Ensuring the Chesapeake Bay Cap will be reviewed at least every three years (Option B)

I fish extensively in the Gulf of Maine as a recreational angler and can attest to the value of menhaden to this fishery. The decline in striped bass population, and the clear reduction in fat content of the GBFT in our local waters, can be directly attributed to the reduction of this vital baitfish. A further reduction in the menhaden population will jeopardize not only the apex stocks in our waters, but the industry built around pursuing them.

As an example of the value of menhaden to our local economies, between Memorial Day and the end of October, I fish approximately 100 days each year. This level of activity equates to approximately 2,000 gallons of marina-purchased gas, $15,000 per year in local boat servicing fees, and over $5,000-10,000 per year in tackle replacement (purchased almost exclusively locally) - conservatively, that equates to over $25,000 per year in direct fishing-related expenditures that go into our local economy. The menhaden underpin all of this activity for me and continued degradation of the stock will only reduce my time on the water, with a corresponding reduction in spending.

I strongly urge the ASFMC to take action to protect this vital resource of our Atlantic States.

Thank you,
-Spencer Hoffman
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James Boyle

From: Albert Holm <albertholm@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 3:21 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

As a citizen of Maryland, I am deeply concerned that the overharvest of Menhaden is destroying important Maryland fisheries as well as causing a catastrophic crash in the populations of birds, such as Osprey, who feed upon the fish. Overharvesting is unsustainable for Chesapeake fish and bird populations and even for the industry that harvests these fish. It cannot go on.
Please stop the irresponsible destruction of the Menhaden population.

Albert Holm
Columbia, MD

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James Boyle

From: Donovan Cowser <ddcowser@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 2:20 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Ocean TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear ASMFC,

Science says we need a 39% reduction down to 114,200 metric tons in order for a 50% chance of not exceeding the F target

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James Boyle

From: Kameen, Paul <pk619@msstate.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 2:08 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Public Comment on the 2027–2029 Atlantic Menhaden Coastwide TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am writing regarding the upcoming decision on the coastwide Atlantic menhaden total allowable catch for 2027–2029.

I urge the Board to adopt a substantial reduction in the coastwide TAC. Specifically, I support reducing the current 186,840 mt TAC by at least 30%, to approximately 130,788 mt, and I encourage the Board to seriously consider a 50% reduction, to approximately 93,420 mt, if supported by the Technical Committee's updated analysis.

The previous 20% reduction from 233,550 mt to 186,840 mt needs to be considered in the context of actual harvest. According to the figures presented in the current management discussion, 2024 harvest was approximately 186,155 mt. Consequently, setting the subsequent TAC at 186,840 mt imposed very little reduction relative to the amount the fishery had actually been removing.

That distinction matters. A reduction relative to a previously authorized TAC is not necessarily equivalent to a reduction in fishing pressure relative to realized harvest.

More importantly, management is now operating with materially different information about Atlantic menhaden productivity following correction of the natural mortality assumptions used in the assessment. When the scientific basis for previous harvest expectations changes, management targets should change with it. Maintaining approximately the same realized removals despite evidence that previous assumptions overestimated stock productivity would not adequately incorporate that uncertainty.

I recognize that Atlantic menhaden management must balance a valuable commercial fishery with the species' ecological role. That is precisely why I believe a meaningful TAC reduction is warranted.

Menhaden are not simply another harvested stock. They are a major forage species linking lower trophic production to striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, coastal sharks, marine mammals, seabirds, and numerous other predators. The ecological reference point framework was an important advancement because it recognized that sustainable management of a forage fish cannot be defined solely by whether the target species itself avoids recruitment overfishing.

There is also reason to consider future changes in fishing pressure rather than managing solely from recent landings. The severe decline of Atlantic herring creates the potential for additional demand for menhaden as bait, particularly in New England. A TAC should therefore provide an actual biological

constraint on removals rather than simply accommodate whatever level of fishing effort and market demand develops beneath it.

My concern is not with eliminating the menhaden fishery. Commercial fisheries require productive and resilient stocks just as recreational fisheries and predators do. Reducing harvest now provides a greater buffer against assessment uncertainty, changing environmental conditions, shifts in fishing effort, and the ecological consequences of removing large quantities of forage.

For those reasons, I support a coastwide TAC reduction of at least 30% and consideration of a 50% reduction based on the Technical Committee's updated analysis. Combined with stronger Chesapeake Bay-specific management, a meaningful coastwide reduction would better reflect the scientific uncertainty now facing this fishery and the unusually important ecological role Atlantic menhaden play along the Atlantic coast.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Paul Kameen

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James Boyle

From: Kameen, Paul <pk619@msstate.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 2:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Public Comment on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am writing to submit public comment on Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 of the Atlantic Menhaden Interstate Fishery Management Plan.

I support the following alternatives:

• Section 3.1: Sub-Option B4 — reduce the Chesapeake Bay Cap by 50%, to 25,500 mt.
• Section 3.2.1: Option B1 — establish even-length quota periods with harvest distributed evenly among them.
• Section 3.2.2: Underage Sub-Option 1 — divide an underage from Period 1 evenly between Periods 2 and 3.
• Section 3.3: Option B — require review of the Chesapeake Bay Cap at least once every three years.

I support these measures because the Chesapeake Bay should not be managed simply as a proportional extension of the coastwide menhaden stock. The Bay is an ecologically distinct and exceptionally important nursery and foraging system, and coastwide abundance does not necessarily tell managers whether fishing mortality is being concentrated too heavily in a particular place or time.

This distinction is especially important for menhaden. The ecological consequences of removing a schooling forage species depend not only on annual coastwide removals, but also on where and when those removals occur. A coastwide stock can meet broad biological reference points while still experiencing patterns of harvest that alter local forage availability for predators.

As someone with a fisheries science background and previous research experience with Atlantic striped bass, I am particularly concerned about treating coastwide abundance as sufficient evidence that localized removals are ecologically appropriate. Striped bass and other predators do not experience a coastwide annual TAC; they experience prey availability at the spatial and temporal scales at which they forage.

The recent correction to Atlantic menhaden natural mortality estimates also warrants a precautionary response. When an important model input has resulted in greater estimated productivity than subsequently supported by the assessment, management should meaningfully incorporate that new information rather than allowing historical harvest levels to become the default simply because they were previously permitted.

I therefore support reducing the Bay Cap to 25,500 mt. I also strongly support distributing reduction-fishery harvest evenly across quota periods. A cap alone does little to address localized depletion if a

substantial portion of the allowable harvest can still be concentrated within a few weeks and a relatively small portion of the Bay.

Finally, requiring the Board to revisit the Bay Cap at least every three years is simply good adaptive management. Menhaden abundance, predator populations, environmental conditions, fishing effort, and the science informing management will continue to change. The management framework should be capable of responding accordingly.

Atlantic menhaden are both a commercial resource and a fundamental component of the coastal food web. Management should recognize both roles. I urge the Board to adopt the alternatives above and establish a substantially reduced Chesapeake Bay Cap accompanied by meaningful spatial and temporal safeguards.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Paul Kameen

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James Boyle

From: C Galante <cgalante1234@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 1:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom it may concern:

As an avid inland water fisherman in the Long Island Sound, I have observed a significantly reduced bunker population during the fishing season. As a result, at least anecdotally, I have also noticed a dramatic decline in the striper fishery, as well as bluefish and Albies. Moreover, as a summer resident in Old Lyme, CT I've observed far fewer Osprey than seems typical. This is highly concerning to me. I understand the increased commercial fishing activity that has been occurring over the last several years off New Jersey and Virginia has had a dramatic effect on the bunker migration north to our waters, which may be a reason for the reduced fish and osprey numbers I typically see. I ask that this situation be evaluated further and considered in the referenced matter.
Thank you for attention to this matter.

Respectfully,
Charles Galante
CT Resident
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James Boyle

From: Andy Cain <andy.cain@charter.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 1:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Coastal Menhaden TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

The menhaden allowance is not just a foraging issue.

Menhaden are filter feeders. Using gill rakers to collect algae and other forms of plankton as they swim, menhaden filter 7 gallons of water per minute. In food-rich environments, they feed by ramming, that is, swimming with their mouths wide open driving water over the gill rakers collecting food. Menhaden can live up to 12 years filtering over 10,000 gallons on a good day.

It's not just about whether menhaden are "overfished" by safe population numbers or foraging availability. It is also about whether industrial fishing of menhaden is leaving the marine environment overburdened with plankton. Excessive algae blooms create deoxygenated zones, the dead zones that kill off everything in the water. A robust menhaden population can help to mitigate these issues.

Preserve the menhaden to preserve the foundations of our marine environment.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Cain
Carrollton, Virginia

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James Boyle

From: Jacob Gettier <jacob.gettier@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 11:36 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Ocean TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Menhaden Ocean TAC,

As an avid striped bass angler for the past 20 years, I have seen a dramatic reduction in the bunker stock, alongside a noticeable decline in the number of striped bass I catch.

I am writing to express my support for a 40% reduction in the coastwide menhaden TAC, bringing it to approximately 112,100 metric tons for 2027 and 2028.

Sincerely,

Jacob Gettier

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James Boyle

From: Angie Duke <dukeangie@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 11:02 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Ocean TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

ASMFC Board,

I support a 40% cut to approximately 112,100 metric tons for 2027 and 2028.

Let's keep fish in the water for recreational, commercial, and ecological considerations alike. Plain and simple.

Please make the right decision for our coast.

Best,

___

Angie Duke
(c) +1.802.730.6159
(o) +1.646.786.0932
(e) dukeangie@gmail.com

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James Boyle

From: Alex W <alextweinstein@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 10:17 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Ocean TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

ASMFC Board,

Hope all is well.

I am writing to support a 40% cut to approximately 112,100 metric tons for 2027 and 2028.

Let's please keep fish in the water for recreational, commercial, and ecological considerations alike. Plain and simple.

The sea rebounds stronger when we give it a chance.

Please make the right decision for our coast.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Alex

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James Boyle

From: Cole Shillington <coleshillington23@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 9:53 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II – Public Comment

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am writing to provide comment on Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 of the Atlantic Menhaden Fishery Management Plan.

For Section 3.1, I support Sub-Option B4: a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap, reducing the current 51,000-metric-ton cap to 25,500 metric tons.

For Section 3.2.1, I support Option B1, Even Length and Even Harvest, to distribute reduction harvest more evenly throughout the fishing season.

For Section 3.2.2, I support Underage Sub-Option 1, under which an underage from Quota Period 1 would be divided evenly and carried into Quota Periods 2 and 3.

For Section 3.3, I support Option B, requiring the Chesapeake Bay Cap to be reviewed at least once every three years.

I also support keeping the Chesapeake Bay Cap independent from the coastwide TAC rather than automatically linking the two. The Chesapeake Bay has its own ecological conditions, patterns of fishing effort, and importance as forage habitat. I believe retaining a fixed, independently managed Bay Cap allows the Board to respond specifically to conditions within the Bay.

Taken together, I support these measures because they would reduce the overall Bay Cap while also addressing the concentration of reduction-fishery harvest during relatively short portions of the season. Menhaden are an important forage species for striped bass and numerous other predators, and I believe management should account for that broader ecological role.

Thank you for considering my comments.

- Cole Shillington

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James Boyle

From: Cole Shillington <coleshillington23@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 9:51 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Ocean TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am writing regarding the Atlantic menhaden coastwide Total Allowable Catch for 2027 and 2028.

I support reducing the coastwide TAC by approximately 40%, to roughly 112,100 metric tons.

Menhaden are an important forage species throughout the Atlantic ecosystem, supporting striped bass, bluefish, tuna, marine mammals, seabirds, and other predators. I believe management of this fishery should give substantial consideration to menhaden's ecological role and to the Ecological Reference Points established for the stock.

I am particularly concerned by the projections presented for the current 186,840-metric-ton TAC and the risk of exceeding the ecological fishing target. I believe a reduction to approximately 112,100 metric tons represents an appropriate precautionary response to that information while leaving substantially more menhaden in the ecosystem.

I also believe the coastwide TAC and the Chesapeake Bay Cap should be treated as separate management decisions. Addressing harvest within the Chesapeake Bay alone does not address coastwide fishing pressure or the ecological importance of menhaden throughout their range.

For these reasons, I support setting the 2027 and 2028 coastwide Atlantic menhaden TAC at approximately 112,100 metric tons.

Thank you for considering my comments.

- Cole Shillington

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James Boyle

From: Luke Weinstein <luke.weinstein17@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 9:48 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Ocean TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

ASMFC Board,

I support a 40% cut to approximately 112,100 metric tons for 2027 and 2028.

Let's keep fish in the water for recreational, commercial, and ecological considerations alike. Plain and simple!! Nothing beats seeing the wonder of feeding Fins, Humpbacks, and the occasional right whale on our beaches.

Best,
Luke Weinstein

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James Boyle

From: Timothy Begin <northendfishingco@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 9:26 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Ocean TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello,

I am writing to express my strong support for a 40% reduction in the menhaden ocean TAC.

A series of significant management errors and excessive harvest practices have contributed to the depletion of one of the Atlantic's most important forage fish. Menhaden play a foundational role in the coastal ecosystem, and continued overexploitation threatens not only the species itself but also the many fish, birds, and marine mammals that depend on it.

It is time for fishery managers and stakeholders to acknowledge these mistakes and take meaningful corrective action. A substantial reduction in harvest is a necessary step toward protecting this resource for future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Tim Begin

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James Boyle

From: Jake Weinstein <jweinstein1334@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 9:17 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Ocean TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom this may concern,

I support a 40% coasteide TAC cut to approximately 112,100 metric tons for 2027 and 2028. Let's keep fish in the water for recreational, commercial, and ecological considerations alike. Plain and simple.

Please make the right decision for our coast.

Best,
Jake Weinstein

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James Boyle

From: Susan Cannarella <smcannarella@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 9:05 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Ocean TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello,

I support the 40% reduction to approximately 112,100 metric tons for 2027-2028. I believe this is a matter of urgency as I have seen first hand the devastating results to Osprey not having enough food over this past summer. Every nest that I track saw babies that did not make it due to lack of food. I have also spoken to people who fish the waters off the coast of Connecticut on Long Island Sound and they have also noted a big decrease in Menhaden resulting in less bass.

Please consider this reduction.

Regards,
Susan Cannarella
Clinton, CT
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James Boyle

From: JP Sylvester <sylvesterjp08@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 8:23 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Ocean TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I support a 40% reduction in the coastwide menhaden TAC to approximately 112,100 metric tons for 2027 and 2028. I have great fears of this fishery getting deleted and the toll that will take on so many other fish species that rely on them.

Thanks,
JP Sylvester
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James Boyle

From: Stephen Saniewski <ssaniewski@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 8:14 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Public Comment on Menhaden Draft Addendum

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I have previously submitted my comments regarding the reduction of the menhaden quota in the Chesapeake Bay for the reduction industry. I would also like to comment on the proposal to reduce the coast wide total allowable catch. I am a NJ resident working for a tackle shop as well as a mate on a charter boat. The decline in the menhaden population over the past 5 years along the NJ coast is undeniable and those that remain are not full-size adult fish. The current 186,000 + TAC is unsustainable to this species and the wildlife that depend on it and I urge you to consider a reduction of no less than 40% to this quota for the 2027 - 2029 seasons with the provision to revisit the status of the biomass after that. Failure to act immediately only risks further damage to the birds, fish and marine mammals that depend on menhaden for spawning success and survival.
Regards,
Stephen Saniewski
612 Cedar Grove RD
Toms River, NJ 08753

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James Boyle

From: Ben Whalley <ben@benwhalleyfishing.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 4:58 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Comments - Menhaden Ocean TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am writing to ask the Board to establish the **2027 and 2028 coastwide Atlantic menhaden TAC at approximately 112,100 metric tons, representing a 40% reduction from the current 186,840-metric-ton TAC.**

I am a Maine-based saltwater fly-fishing guide, and menhaden are directly connected to the fishery I spend my life on. I see their importance every season—not only to striped bass and other gamefish, but to the entire coastal food web.

The recent science makes this an especially important decision. Preliminary projections presented by the ASMFC's Menhaden Technical Committee on September 28 indicate that the current 186,840-metric-ton TAC carries a **99.5% probability of exceeding the ecological fishing mortality target** in each projected year. Those projections showed that a TAC of 114,200 metric tons would reduce that risk to 50%, while 110,200 metric tons would reduce it to 40%. A TAC of approximately **112,100 metric tons** represents a meaningful 40% reduction and moves management substantially closer to that ecological target.

I understand that the coastwide stock is not currently classified as overfished and that overfishing is not occurring under the stock-status framework. But I don't believe we should wait for the stock to reach a crisis point before acting. The ecological reference points exist specifically to account for menhaden's role as a forage species, and the current projections indicate an extraordinarily high risk of exceeding the associated target at the existing TAC.

As a guide, I see menhaden as much more than a number in a quota table. They are the fuel that supports the striped bass, bluefish, tuna, whales, birds, and countless other predators that make our coastal waters what they are. They also support the recreational fisheries and coastal businesses that depend on those predators.

I respectfully ask the Board to set the 2027/2028 coast-wide TAC at approximately 112,100 metric tons—a 40% reduction from the current TAC.

I believe leaving more menhaden in the water is an investment in the resilience of the entire ecosystem and in the fisheries and coastal communities that depend upon it.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Respectfully,

Capt. Ben Whalley
www.benwhalleyfishing.com
207-274-8782

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James Boyle

From: Ben Whalley <ben@benwhalleyfishing.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 4:53 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II — Chesapeake Bay Cap

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am writing to voice my support for the following management options for Atlantic Menhaden moving forward.

For Issue 3.1, Chesapeake Bay Reduction Amount, I support Sub-Option B4 — a 50% reduction in the current Bay Cap, establishing a fixed cap of 25,500 metric tons.

I also support **Option B1 for Issue 3.2.1 — Even Length & Even Harvest**, dividing the Bay Cap into three equal quota periods with equal harvest allocations. For **Issue 3.2.2, I support Underage Sub-Option 1**, in which an underage from Quota Period 1 is split evenly between Quota Periods 2 and 3. Finally, for **Issue 3.3, I support Option B**, requiring the Chesapeake Bay Cap to be reviewed at least once every three years.

I am a Maine-based saltwater fly-fishing guide, and I make my living on the coastal ecosystem that depends on abundant forage. From my perspective on the water, menhaden aren't simply another commercially harvested species. They are the foundation of the food web supporting striped bass, bluefish, tuna, whales, ospreys, and countless other predators.

I particularly support keeping the Bay Cap **fixed at 25,500 metric tons rather than tying it directly to the coastwide TAC**. Chesapeake Bay is a unique and critically important ecosystem, and I don't believe a coastwide assessment should automatically determine how many menhaden can be removed from this particular system. ASMFC acknowledges that its current assessment does not provide stock-status information at the smaller Chesapeake Bay scale.

Reducing the cap is important, but so is **when and how those fish are removed**. Spreading harvest evenly across the season would reduce the concentration of fishing effort that has developed during portions of the summer. A three-year review would also provide an opportunity to evaluate whether these measures are accomplishing their intended purpose as additional information becomes available.

As someone who spends hundreds of days on the water, I want to see a management approach that leaves enough menhaden in the ecosystem to support the fisheries, wildlife, and coastal communities that depend on them.

I respectfully ask the Board to adopt **Sub-Option B4, Option B1, Underage Sub-Option 1, and Option B** as outlined above.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your work managing this critically important resource.

Respectfully,

Capt. Ben Whalley
www.benwhalleyfishing.com
207-274-8782

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James Boyle

From: Bob Burger <bsqared@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 10:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden coastwide TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hellos

I am writing to advocate for a 40% reduction in coastwide TAC for menhaden to provide a reasonable chance that the species is not overfished again Pleas take meaningful action to protect this important species

Thank you

Bob Burger
Guilford CT
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James Boyle

From: Alexander Colantonio <alexcolantonio@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 8:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Ocean TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Menhaden deserve a 50 percent chance to not go over the ERP fishing target, which would require 40percent reduction in TAC. I support a 40 percent reduction.

Thank you

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James Boyle

From: randolph smith <captbouncer@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 6:12 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] over harvesting menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

The harvest quota needs to be zero, but at least reduce the quota to 40% of the previous quota Sent from my iPhone
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: Donovan Cowser <ddcowser@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 5:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Ocean TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

For the Menhaden Ocean TAC I support a 40% cut to approximately 112,100 metric tons for 2027 and 2028

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James Boyle

From: Fernandez Jenaro <jenarofer@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 4:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Ocean TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Board,

I just want to let you know that I support a 40% cut to approximately 112,100 metric tons of menhaden for 2027 and 2028. We need to avoid the risk of over fishing our oceans, and we need to leave more forage for game fish, whales, ospreys and other predators.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jenaro A. Fernandez
Lindenhurst, NY
jenarofer@yahoo.com
(7870 677-1839

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James Boyle

From: dick streich <rrstre1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 10:47 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] MENHADEN

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Twice a year my wife and i tow believe boat 300 hundred miles to fish for Striped bass. Over the past two years we have noticed a severe lack of bunker (menhaden). I believe over harvesting in the middle states has greatly diminished the population of one of the primary forage fish. Striped bass need protection and the fishermen have given concessions to enhance the population. Commercial netting throws another stab in the stripers existence. PLEASE ACT RESPONSIBLY.
THINK THIS THROUGH
THANK YOU
RICHARD STREICH
SYRACUSE NY
Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer

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James Boyle

From: David Cingari <dscingari@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 4:46 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Draft Addendum II for Atlantic Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear ASMFC,

I am writing to share my concern about the future of the menhaden (bunker) population and the fishery it supports.

Over the past three years most significantly but a consistent decline for 10 years plus, I have observed a dramatic decline in menhaden throughout the Connecticut River, Western Long Island Sound, South Shore of Long Island and surrounding waters. Industrial menhaden harvest farther south, particularly in Virginia and New Jersey, is an important part of the discussion because removing large numbers of menhaden (bunker) before they migrate north can reduce the forage available to our waters.

Bunker is a critical forage species for striped bass, bluefish, and other marine life, and their abundance has significant implications for recreational fishermen, guides, charter captains, tackle shops, marinas, and coastal communities.

I encourage ASMFC to carefully consider the impacts of industrial menhaden harvest and the need to maintain a healthy forage base for the future.

Thank you for considering the observations and concerns of recreational fishermen and coastal communities as you consider Draft Addendum II for Atlantic Menhaden.

Sincerely,

David S. Cingari

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LargePrefPlaceholder-XKUz1MEJBwkOM

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James Boyle

From: DeBacco Family <debacco167@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 11:40 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am writing to speak in favor of reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by up to 50% and creating quota periods to distribute harvest under the cap more evenly throughout the fishing season.

Not only is the Chesapeake Bay a nursery grounds for many species, the Atlantic Menhaden is a key contributor to the overall ecosystem. Sub Option B4 would be a great first step toward the protection of this important fish to the Atlantic states.

I look forward to seeing the decision that is reached.

-MAtt deBacco

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James Boyle

From: Raymond west <rrrwest@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 11:25 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,
I am writing to express my strong support for increasing protections for Atlantic menhaden. As a critical forage fish, menhaden form the foundational base of our coastal marine ecosystem. They are a vital food source for key predators, including striped bass, bluefish, ospreys, and marine mammals.
I am deeply concerned by noticeable signs of a shrinking menhaden population and the resulting strain on the wildlife that depends on them. To safeguard the long-term health of our coastal waters, we must prioritize ecosystem-based management over maximizing industrial yields.
I urge the Commission to take a precautionary approach by implementing a meaningful reduction in the coastwide harvest limits and enacting a strict reduction cap on the industrial harvest. Protecting this irreplaceable forage species now is essential to ensuring the resilience of our shared marine ecosystems and coastal economies.
Thank you for your time and your dedication to managing our public marine resources.
Sincerely,
Raymond West
East Bridgewater, MA

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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James Boyle

From: Amanda Lietuvnikas <amandael98@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 9:49 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC),

I am writing today as a passionate wildlife advocate and resident to express my support for the highest protective management measure under Draft Addendum II. Specifically, I encourage the Commission to select Option B4 which implements a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap, lowering it to 25,500 metric tons. I support the establishment of seasonal quota periods to take away the severe, concentrated industrial harvest that occurs during critical wildlife breeding seasons.

Atlantic menhaden are a critical part of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. Our local wildlife is currently sending us a clear sign that the current cap is unsustainably high. Forage depletion has led to an unprecedented ecological crisis for local predator populations. Recent research from the 2026 nesting season shows that osprey reproduction rates have plummeted to near-zero levels in many parts of the Bay, with widespread chick starvation directly linked to a lack of menhaden. Bald eagles, loons, gannets, whales, and dolphins all depend on robust menhaden schools to thrive.

Allowing a single industrial entity to extract over 100 million pounds of these essential fish annually from a concentrated nursery area like the Chesapeake Bay undermines ecosystem-based fisheries management.

To protect the food web that sustains the Bay's incredible biodiversity, please pass the 50% cap reduction (Option B4) and instate strict seasonal quota splitting to distribute and minimize localized depletion.

Thank you for your time and your dedication to protecting our shared marine resources.

Sincerely,

Amanda Lietuvnikas
Manassas, VA

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James Boyle

From: Brian Kendall <ebrkrules@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 8:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Draft Addendum II/Bay Cap

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello, I support the following options for the Chesapeake Bay Cap:

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Amount
Sub Option B4 – a 50% reduction in the current Bay Cap, resulting in a Bay Cap of 25,500 mt.

3.2.1. Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period
Option B1 – Even Length & Even Harvest.

3.2.2 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period Overages and Underages
Underage Sub Option 1 – an underage in Quota Period 1 would be split evenly and rolled over to Quota Periods 2 and 3.

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision
Option B – The Chesapeake Bay Cap will be reviewed at least once every three years.

Thank you for taking my comment.

Brian Kendall
41 Lynch Rd.
Lebanon, CT.
860 319 7129

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James Boyle

From: Brian Kendall <ebrkrules@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 8:20 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Coastwide TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello, I support the option to reduce the coastwide TAC by 50% given the recently revealed overestimation of the stock. Please remember that commercial interests are not the only ones that rely on these fish.

Thank you.

Brian Kendall
41 Lynch Rd.
Lebanon, CT 06249
860 319 7129

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James Boyle

From: Joseph Bruno <jbruno2194@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 7:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II Public Comment

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hi,

I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to express my concern about the ecosystem in the Chesapeake Bay currently being threatened by the overfishing of menhaden. I believe that reducing the fishery cap by up to 50% would be a great start to supporting this ecosystem and preventing it from collapsing. Many animals that live in the Chesapeake Bay, like the Ospreys, rely heavily on a diet consisting exclusively of Atlantic menhaden.

However, the Ospreys have been suffering from a food shortage in the bay and on the East Coast as a whole due to the overfishing of menhaden. This has resulted in nearly 3 years or so of Osprey chicks starving to death due to the limited amount of menhaden, which is causing the Osprey populations on the East Coast to plummet further than they've ever been previously, even when compared to their low numbers caused by DDT pesticide poisoning between the 1940s and 1970s.

This is especially concerning given that in Illinois, Osprey chicks from the East Coast are collected and reintroduced as part of Illinois' Osprey Hacking Project. However, the food shortage resulting in a low number of Osprey chicks has been negatively impacting the recovery program. The importance of maintaining a healthy and thriving Osprey population along the East Coast, including the Chesapeake Bay area, is crucial in order to help Osprey populations continue to rebound in other parts of the country.

I kindly ask the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to consider modifying the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap to reduce the fishing of menhaden to up to 50%.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joseph Bruno

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James Boyle

From: Patricia Finn <pfinn07401@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 7:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Limit on menhaden fishing

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am concerned about the decline of the coastal osprey population. I read about this problem and am asking the commission to work to drastically reduce the number of menhaden allowed for commercial fishing. Ospreys rely on these fish, and without this food source, they cannot survive. Please consider how you can help these amazing birds survive. Thank you ;

Patty Finn
Allendale, NJ
201 787 5546

--
Pat Finn

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James Boyle

From: Thomas Kosinski <tom@sandyhookoutfitters.com>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 4:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Good Afternoon,

My name is Capt. Tom Kosinski and I am a fly and light tackle fishing guide on the northern New Jersey coast and I would like to provide my input for the upcoming decisions on the management of Menhaden.

I support the following selected alternatives for the Chesapeake Bay Cap, as ecologically and socioeconomically appropriate, to inform effective management actions, reduce the risk of overfishing, and promote resilient futures for the resource and its communities.

- 3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Amount
  - Sub Option B4 – a 50% reduction in the current Bay Cap, resulting in a Bay Cap of 25,500 mt.

- 3.2.1. Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period
  - Option B1 – Even Length & Even Harvest.

- 3.2.2 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period Overages and Underages
  - Underage Sub Option 1 – an underage in Quota Period 1 would be split evenly and rolled over to Quota Periods 2 and 3.

- 3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision
  - Option B – The Chesapeake Bay Cap will be reviewed at least once every three years.

Regarding the coastwide TAC, itmust be reduced by at least 30%, from the current 186,840mt to 130,788 mt. Ideally, the coastwide TAC should be reduced by 50%, lowering the operating TAC to 94,420 mt. These are the only options to ensure the coastwide commercial Atlantic Menhaden fishery operates at a capacity that does not carry a 100% probability of overfishing.

Paired with the appropriate management actions for the Bay outlined in Draft Addendum II, these options for the coastwide fishery offer the best path forward for resilient futures for Atlantic Menhaden.

Best,
Capt. Tom Kosinski
Sandy Hook Outfitters

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James Boyle

From: David Guyette <daveguyette@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 3:17 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden draft amendment II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom it may concern,
My name is Dave Guyette. I have been fishing the Connecticut Long Island sound for many many years. Four or five years ago I was seeing large schools of Menhaden At the mouth of the Connecticut river and areas surrounding it. Both last year and this year I have seen few if any Menhaden And believe it is severely affecting the striped Bass population. Furthermore, I believe there should be a substantial reduction in commercial harvesting of these critical fish.
Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter
Thank you

David Guyette

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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James Boyle

From: benoit & evelyne cossart <12.cossart@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 1:03 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Draft Addendum II: Support for a 50% Reduction in the Chesapeake Bay Menhaden Harvest Cap (Draft Addendum II)

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am writing in support of the 50% reduction to the Chesapeake Bay menhaden reduction fishery cap in Draft Addendum II.

I live on a tidal creek on Kent Island, Maryland, and for 5 years I have watched the ospreys here almost every day, most mornings from a kayak. I follow twelve nests along this stretch of shoreline. A healthy population needs roughly one fledged chick per nest each year. Last year my twelve nests fledged three chicks, and the year before that, three again. I cannot prove what caused those numbers, but I can tell you what I have seen this season: 2026 was the worst with only 2 chicks to fledging. Out of 12 nests, that's only 0.17 reproduction rate whereas 1.0 is the minimum for population replenishment!

One of the two chicks was born right in front of my house. The male of this nest has been feeding his mate and chick since late spring. Large menhaden have been scarce, so he has been diving again and again for fish three or four inches long, which are much harder to grip. On days he couldn't find enough, he brought home white perch or spot instead. Some days he made eight trips. Late in the season, on August 30th, I watched him dive and come up empty, something I had almost never seen from him. Nearby, on the morning of September 4th, another male made six dives in a row and was unsuccessful. That pair has not raised a chick in three years.

Earlier this summer, on July 3d, I also watched about thirty bottlenose dolphins move into a creek only six feet deep at high tide, well beyond where I would expect them. I don't know why they were there, but they were clearly working hard to find food.

I am not a scientist, and I don't claim that menhaden alone explain these observations. But ospreys, dolphins and striped bass all depend on the same small fish, and the Bay is one of the places where young menhaden grow up. When I see the animals at the top of the food web working this hard for so little, I think caution is warranted.

I urge the Commission to adopt the 50% reduction in the Bay cap, so that enough menhaden remain in the water for the wildlife that depends on them.

Respectfully,

Benoit Cossart

Stevensville, Maryland

James Boyle

From: Teddy Rice. <teddyrice77@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 12:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] ASMFC Annual Meeting, Menhaden Board

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hi There,

I'm a Norfolk, Virginia native who grew up fishing and crabbing on the Chesapeake Bay. I now live with my family in Boston, where I stay active in the summers fishing for Striped Bass. I'm also involved as an investor and advisor with several "blue economy" businesses who employ hard working people that help us share in the benefits of the ocean.

Like many, I'm deeply concerned by the growing evidence of a major environmental catastrophe in the Bay, driven by the Menhaden reduction fishery in Reedville. The impacts on Osprey are obvious to all - and if the birds are impacted, then surely the harder-to-observe species under the water are also suffering.

I want to urge you to put a complete stop to the reduction fishery in the Chesapeake, effective immediately, in order to provide wildlife an opportunity to recover while research continues on the localized impacts of the Menhaden reduction fishery.

I don't say this lightly - I'm well aware of the jobs at risk of a moratorium, and I know and love many working watermen/women who make an honest living on the water. But clearly the science-based processes that are supposed to protect our watersheds are either a) too slow to keep pace with today's industrialized fishing practices, or b) have been co-opted by Omega Protein and affiliated lobbyists to make it impossible for the research to proceed at the necessary pace. If nothing else, imposing real business costs on Omega Protein will create the urgency and financial incentive necessary to invest in the scientific work that should have been completed years ago when the impacts of the Menhaden fishery was first recognized.

Your organization helped demonstrate, years ago, that smart conservation practices could make a great impact, provided they are grounded in solid research and patient implementation. Please step up at this critical moment to regain the trust of the public and protect one of the most foundational species in our waters.

Teddy Rice
Boston, MA

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James Boyle

From: Jacob Jaskiel <jacobjaskiel@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 12:12 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Public Comment - Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Mr. Boyle, ASMFC Board Members, LWFC Members, and Public Officials,

I write to you today with grave concern for the Atlantic and Chesapeake Bay Commercial Menhaden fishery. Recent findings confirm abundance is about 37% lower than assumed, and consequently these revisions suggest recent overfishing by 275,000,000+ pounds per year. I have a hard time reconciling this reality with the constant use of words like “precautionary” and “proactive” being used throughout the ASMFC document calling for public comment on this issue. I’m happy to cover the cost of a dictionary to send to the Commission, as precautionary measures would have not resulted in over-harvest by over a quarter of a billion pounds every year. The Precautionary Principle dictates that in situations where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation. The ASMFC has made such inaction their trademark, constantly voting for inaction with the justification of waiting for new data, only to push the can down the road at the next opportunity for action with the same justification. Your constituents are tired. Just look at the striped bass population that is about to collapse, with no recruitment in the last 8 years, and excruciatingly slow management that will only do the right thing when all other options are exhausted and no fish remain. Or the fact that some proposed reductions put forth for both menhaden and striped bass do not actually reduce the overall harvest when accounting for the fact that the quota has not been reached in recent years. Enough.

Menhaden support more than international corporations making cheap animal feed and supplements. They prop up all of the Atlantic coast’s most important and charismatic species, from eagles and osprey to whales, sharks, and dolphins. They filter-feed and regulate planktonic communities that are the foundation of all marine life. They support incredible recreational fisheries that engage millions of stakeholders who spend billions of dollars on their local economies. While I am sympathetic to the *dozens* of commercial fishermen who may have their jobs impacted by these proposed changes, I encourage you to think of the downstream ways in which menhaden produce economic and intrinsic value, and acknowledge that commercial sale of menhaden does not equate to all the indirect value they provide to the ecosystems themselves, coastal culture, and the recreational fishing economy.

My thoughts on proposed regulations are as follows:

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Amount
Sub Option B4 – a 50% reduction in the current Bay Cap, resulting in a Bay Cap of 25,500 mt.

3.2.1. Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period
Option B1 – Even Length & Even Harvest.

3.2.2 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period Overages and Underages
Underage Sub Option 1 – an underage in Quota Period 1 would be split evenly and rolled over to Quota Periods 2 and 3.

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision
Option B – The Chesapeake Bay Cap will be reviewed at least once every three years.

It’s easy to reduce harvest from un-achievable quotas to the actual catch so we can pat ourselves on the back for a cheap conservation win and protect non-existent, theoretical fish. It’s hard to act in the best interest of the resource rather than just the industry, but that’s your job. Do your job.

Jacob Jaskiel, PhD

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James Boyle

From: Tom Gritt <tomg44@atlanticbb.net>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 11:36 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II Please reduce the limit of menhaden allowed to be caught in the Chesapeake Bay

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am writing to express my opinion on the calamitous results of overfishing of menhaden within the Chesapeake Bay by Omega Protein in Reedville Va. I live in Reedville. I see these massive industrial ships bringing in their menhaden catch every day.

Some days I see 6-8 ships come into Reedville loaded with millions of fish. I have witnessed the effects this overfishing has had on the local osprey population over the years. They are not reproducing or the chicks that are born literally starve to death. I have seen local wildlife rescue personnel come and try to help the osprey chicks but they tell us that the level of starvation has already passed critical and the birds die within a few days. The osprey nest in front of our house has not produced viable chicks for three seasons in a row now.

It is rather obvious how much other species have also been affected by the loss of menhaden. Rockfish, redfish, dolphins, cobia and crabs are also much less prevalent than I've witnessed over the past 11 years here in Reedville. The statistics show there is an entire economy of other businesses throughout Virginia and Maryland who rely on a healthy menhaden population and their combined value to the economy far exceeds Omega Protein's value to a relatively fewer number of working people. The lobbying efforts and the blind loyalty of our politicians is detrimental to a much larger electorate than just the local employee numbers.

And let's be clear, while plant manager Mr. Diehl cries about how Omega's employees will be affected by a reduction in a limit of menhaden inside the bay, I am not advocating for the closure of the fish reduction factory. I am calling for a large reduction in the amount of fish Omega is allowed to take from within the Chesapeake Bay. They can continue to fish in the ocean. Allow the Bay to recover for a period of years and then reevaluate. Omega will catch their limit. They may have to work harder to get it but the immense size and scale of the fishing fleet will be able to continue to make them profitable. Please reduce the limit of menhaden allowed to be caught in the Chesapeake Bay.

Sincerely,

Thomas Gritt

Reedville, Va.

James Boyle

From: Richard Seifert <huntnfishrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 10:47 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Gentlemen:

My name is Richard Seifert and I am an active surf and boat fisherman in Long Island Sound and Rhode Island. I have serious concerns about the over fishing commercially of the Atlantic Menhaden, and the impact on the marine environment resulting in poor forage for Striped Bass and bluefish, as well as severe impact on the Osprey young and chick rearing success. My personal experience is the population of Menhaden has been significantly reduced, causing both striped bass and other foragers to try to supplement with other species for their dietary needs.

I am sure you know the details of this longstanding issue, and I am praying you will act in the best interests of conservation and science in addressing the commercial quotas on these important baitfish for the region.

Thank you,

Richard F Seifert
15 Island View Terrace
East Hampton, CT 06424
315-427-3321
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James Boyle

From: eric nordquist <nordcuse@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 10:37 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

My name is Eric Nordquist from West Hartford, Connecticut. As a recreational fisherman who fishes out of Essex, CT, throughout Long Island Sound and south of Montauk, I am writing to provide public comment on Draft Addendum II regarding the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap, and to address the upcoming 2027–2029 coastwide catch specifications.

A healthy menhaden fishery is essential for a balanced marine ecosystem. When this balance is disrupted, the natural order is interrupted, and abnormal species behaviors take over. Over my time on the water, I have observed that the menhaden population has become very sparse. This lack of forage has reduced striped bass populations in their typical locations, driving them into heavily contested areas like Block Island. In turn, this unnatural concentration has driven an overpopulation of sharks in those waters. Beyond the ecological impacts, recreational fishing is a vital hobby that improves personal health and directly supports the real estate market in our coastal areas.

Because menhaden are the bedrock of the Atlantic coastal food web, I strongly support a precautionary approach to the localized reduction fishery. For Draft Addendum II, I formally support the following management options:

- **Section 3.1, Sub Option B4:** Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50%, lowering it to 25,500 metric tons.
- **Section 3.2.1, Option B1:** Establish roughly equal-length seasonal quota periods with the harvest distributed evenly among them to prevent localized depletion during critical feeding times.
- **Section 3.2.2, Underage Sub Option 1:** Split any unused first-period quota equally between the second and third periods.
- **Section 3.3, Option B:** Establish a formal review of the Bay cap at least once every three years to remain responsive to changing conditions.

Crucially, I urge the Board to manage the Chesapeake Bay cap independently. It should be based strictly on localized ecological conditions and nursery forage needs, rather than being automatically linked to the coastwide quota.

Separately, I ask that the Board apply this portion of my comment to the separate decision regarding the upcoming 2027–2029 coastwide catch specifications. For the next three-year period, I support at least a 30% reduction from the 2026 coastwide total allowable catch of 186,840 metric tons, with a strong preference for a 50% reduction.

When evaluating these catch limits, management must recognize the critical distinction between exceeding an ecological fishing-mortality target and exceeding a formal overfishing threshold. Even if the menhaden stock is not currently exceeding the formal overfishing threshold, pushing past the ecological target removes too much forage from the water, directly starving the predators that rely on them.

Protecting forage fish is an economic and environmental necessity. Both commercial and recreational fishing communities depend entirely on a healthy, balanced resource to survive. When the forage base collapses, fishing opportunities evaporate, and the coastal businesses and real estate markets that rely on our fisheries suffer the consequences.

Thank you for your time, your service to our marine resources, and for considering my comments.

Eric Nordquist
West Hartford, CT

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James Boyle

From: Richard Seifert <huntnfishrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 10:35 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Gentlemen:

My name is Richard Seifert and I am an active surf and boat fisherman in Long Island Sound and Rhode Island. I live in East Hampton, CT and have serious concerns over the overfishing of menhaden in our area which is resulting in poor forage for Striped Bass, as well as severe impact on the Osprey
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James Boyle

From: Matthew Robertson <robertson.matt.j@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 10:18 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Mr. Boyle and Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

My name is Matthew Robertson. I live in Ellington, Connecticut, and fish recreationally along the Connecticut coastline, including the Connecticut River. I am writing to support stronger protections for Atlantic menhaden through Draft Addendum II and the upcoming coastwide catch decision.

Fishing is a big part of my life. I put significant time and money into my boat, equipment, and trips, and I want my children to have healthy fisheries to enjoy as they grow up. That requires protecting the forage fish that help support the entire system. Menhaden have value in the water, and that value needs to carry real weight in these decisions.

For Draft Addendum II, I support the following:

- **Section 3.1, Sub Option B4:** Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50%, to 25,500 metric tons.
- **Section 3.2.1, Option B1:** Establish periods of roughly equal length with harvest distributed evenly among them.
- **Section 3.2.2, Underage Sub Option 1:** Divide unused first-period quota equally between the second and third periods.
- **Section 3.3, Option B:** Review the Bay cap at least once every three years.

I support managing the Bay cap independently, based on conditions and forage needs within the Chesapeake, rather than automatically linking it to changes in the coastwide quota. An increase in the coastwide quota should not automatically authorize more harvest within the Bay.

Separately, for the 2027–2029 coastwide specifications, I support at least a 30% reduction from the current 186,840-metric-ton total allowable catch, with a preference for a 50% reduction. Please include this portion of my comment in the Board's consideration of those specifications.

The revised assessment gives managers good reason to act conservatively. ASMFC has explained that the 2026 catch limit is still projected to exceed the ecological fishing-mortality target. I want management decisions aimed at meeting that target and providing adequate forage for predators.

I recognize that commercial fishermen and processing workers depend on this resource. Recreational fishermen, charter captains, tackle shops, marinas, and other coastal businesses also have a stake in its future. The economic discussion should account for all of them, including the long-term cost of diminished fishing opportunities.

From my perspective, protecting menhaden in the Chesapeake and protecting them along the rest of the coast need to happen together. Reducing pressure in one place while allowing it to increase elsewhere would leave the larger concern unresolved.

Please adopt meaningful reductions, spread Bay harvest more evenly through the season, and make protecting forage abundance a clear management priority. I want my children to inherit fisheries worth investing their time in, just as I have.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Matthew Robertson
Ellington, Connecticut

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James Boyle

From: Brian Jacoby <brian.jacoby@ringsend.com>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 10:13 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] : Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello,

I have been fishing the Norwalk islands for years. I have never seen less adult bunker in our area.

Please help.

Brian Jacoby
Service Manager
Ring's End, Inc.
phone 203-814-3079
mobile 203-858-2377
email brian.jacoby@ringsend.com
160 Avon St, Stratford, CT, 06615
www.ringsend.com

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James Boyle

From: Lynn Sholley <lsholley@sholleyagency.com>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 9:34 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] lack of menhaden in eastern long island sound

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Good morning,

I am contacting you about my concern of the lack of menhaden. I have been fishing eastern long island sound for many years and the lack of menhaden startling.

If something doesn't change with the industrial harvest of menhaden it will be devastating to striped bass and other fish in the area. Also, the sharks have now become a huge issue.

Thank you!

LYNN SHOLLEY
SHOLLEY INSURANCE AGENCY
COMMERCIAL LINES AGENT
2409 Old Turnpike Rd, Lewisburg PA 17837
T: 570.523.3251 ext. 229
F: 570.524.4256
E: lsholley@sholleyagency.com
www.sholleyagency.com

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James Boyle

From: Captain Lou <fish@roadworkahead.fish>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 9:21 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden in decline.....save our forage fish

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear ASMFC,

I am writing to share my concern about the future of the menhaden (bunker) population and the fishery it supports.

Over the past three years most significantly but a consistent decline for 10 years plus, I have observed a dramatic decline in menhaden throughout the Connecticut River, Western Long Island Sound, South Shore of Long Island and surrounding waters. Industrial menhaden harvest farther south, particularly in Virginia and New Jersey, is an important part of the discussion because removing large numbers of menhaden (bunker) before they migrate north can reduce the forage available to our waters.

Bunker is a critical forage species for striped bass, bluefish, and other marine life, and their abundance has significant implications for recreational fishermen, guides, charter captains, tackle shops, marinas, and coastal communities.

I encourage ASMFC to carefully consider the impacts of industrial menhaden harvest and the need to maintain a healthy forage base for the future.

Thank you for considering the observations and concerns of recreational fishermen and coastal communities as you consider Draft Addendum II for Atlantic Menhaden.

Sincerely,

Captain Lou Cavaliere

Captain Lou Cavaliere
RWA Tackle
226 Selleck Street Suite C
Stamford CT 06902
203-223-6151
203-223-6150 DJ

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James Boyle

From: clara <claralogo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 8:04 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am in support the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum. In addition, I support a total moratorium on the harvesting of menhaden until the study of that fish population is completed by the College of William and Mary in VA, and the fish levels return to normal. Then, a reduction of the harvest could be imposed that would sustain a desirable menhaden population.

When a moratorium on catching rockfish in the Chesapeake Bay was in effect in the past, the rockfish population increased enough to resume recreational sport-fishing with enforced restrictions. Folks today may have forgotten the loss of the sardines, and the canning industries they supported, due to over-harvesting. And generations ago, the once-abundant Atlantic Cod almost vanished, due to over-fishing.

If a total ban cannot be imposed, then a 50% harvest limit should be required, with spacing to allow times for fish-spawning. It's better than ignoring the crises and doing nothing. Scientists have learned so much more about fish life-cycles and spawning seasons. Why can't we put this information into use to keep fish numbers up to par?

I have been living on a tidal/freshwater estuary of the Chesapeake Bay for over 35 years. During this time I witnessed the return of a pair of ospreys that build a nest on my property and raise fledglings each year. This summer, there were no fledglings. The parent birds have always depended on menhaden as a source of food for their offspring. And now, those fish have almost disappeared here in the upper Bay. Next year, there may be no ospreys. What's next?

We must take action to prevent this huge threat to our environment. Please, keep menhaden harvesting under tighter control.

Sincerely,
Clara L. Gouin
420 E. Bay Front Rd.
Deale, MD 20751

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James Boyle

From: Gary Wilson <garw29@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 7:56 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dears Sirs,

In years past I have seen menhaden crowding into the rivers and streams I fish on. They were very easy to catch with a weighted treble hook, and use for bait on later trips for striped bass and bluefish. This year, the numbers of menhaden seen are very reduced. As are the bluefish and stripers. I believe this loss of forage food is having an impact on the population of fish that so many marinas, tackle shops, and boat owners depend on to make their fishing trips worthwhile, and worth the expense of owning and running a boat. Please protect the menhaden to bring their numbers back to what they were just a few years ago.

Sincerely,

Gary Wilson
East Haddam, CT
860 912 8240

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James Boyle

From: brad knopf <bdknopf@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 7:55 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Fwd: Menhaden crisis

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

While I am not a very active sport fisherman, I am involved with several non-profit environmental organizations. As someone who is in and around the Bay and tributary rivers, I have seen a dire lack of Osprey nesting and reproduction. It is worse than last year by far. When visiting the Atlantic coast in Ocean City MD, I did not see the usual purplish schooling of Menhaden. When conducting seine net surveys in the Magothy River, we did see a good amount of very small juvenile Menhaden, but none at all of any larger size. My brother lives on the shore of East Point near Onancock VA, and has also seen a severe lack of Osprey nesting and reproduction. We must not allow the decimation of the Osprey and Menhaden populations.

Thank you,
Brad Knopf
1018 Magothy Park Ln, Annapolis, MD 21409
410-353-2970

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James Boyle

From: Donovan Cowser <ddcowser@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 6:47 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I support a 30% reduction in the TAC for 2027

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James Boyle

From: Mary Ann Cushman <maryanncushman@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 8:14 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Osprey populations are falling rapidly in specific areas along the East Coast where menhaden are probably unsustainably fished.

Because osprey return from South America to the same areas where they hatched and were raised, fish abundance in those same areas needs to be able to support the returning osprey and their young. When these birds of prey return to find inadequate stocks of fish to feed on, their health suffers, their egg-laying fails, and any chicks that do hatch are left to starve.

The effects of global warming, whatever its causes, have now disrupted the once-coordinated timing of menhaden abundance and the ospreys' return from their winter homes.

The clear effects of humans on the environment in which other creatures have to survive gives us the responsibility to act when our behavior puts other species at risk.

The obvious solution is to reduce fishing of menhaden for at least several years as per, for example, the Virginia Saltwater Sports Fishing Association recommends.

Menhaden fishing needs to be limited and limits revisited every 3-5 years.

Concerned former Chesapeake Bay area resident
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James Boyle

From: Alice <greeneyesct28@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 1:41 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden commercial fishing is hurting our local fishery

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello,

As a fisher in Connecticut, My fellow Fisher's and bait shops have Seen a significant decline in fish in our Local waters, especially over the past 3 years.

We have many local experts that speak at our fishing club from Ct DEEP and other marine biologists. They are pointing to the commercial harvesting of menhaden south of Ct which significantly Reduces the amount of bait fish that make it to Long Island sound. Hence, reducing the amount of striped bass and other fish that consume menhaden.

Is it possible to find a better balance to allow commercial fishers to harvest menhaden at a lower volume so that that it is not detrimental to other fisheries along the north east coast?

Please consider modifying the amount of fish commercial fishers can take so that It doesn't ruin sport fishing for New England and other communities.

Thank you,
Alice Mulqueen

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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James Boyle

From: Robert Markow <canale374@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 12:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II and 2027-2029 Catch Limits

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I've been surf fishing for 60 years along the New Jersey coast from Sandy Hook to Island Beach State Park. When we retired we deliberately bought a house within an easy drive of Sandy Hook so we could enjoy the beach more often. Never in my life have I seen so many menhaden from shore as in 2023-2024. Along with the mossbunker came dolphins, ospreys and even whales easily visible from shore. I joined hundreds of excited surf fishermen in the fall for striped bass fishing that exceeded my wildest dreams. All of which made the scarcity of bunker, ospreys and striped bass in 2025-2026 starkly noticeable.

In retirement I read more about ocean fisheries and attended local lectures given through our excellent Monmouth County Park system. Park naturalists said the unusual prevalence of bunkers in 2023-2024 was due to regulation of the catch as well as improving water quality. The information obtained regarding the linkage between menhaden and other species confirms my own life experiences.

I am extremely concerned that bunkers are being harvested for such nonessential uses as fertilizer and that a single company dominates the harvest. This activity should be compared to the recreational fishing industry. Try visiting the Jersey shore in October and November if the bass are running and you can watch hundreds of surf fishermen along the coast, many from out of state. Visit the local tackle shops and look at the prices of lures and tackle. Shops are typically sold out of hot lures. Recreational fishing along the Jersey shore is a significant industry that is dependent on bass following baitfish like menhaden. Careful regulation of the bunker catch should be instituted.

Cut the overall harvest of mossbunker along the coast!

Reduce the Chesapeake Bay harvest by at least 50% spread evenly throughout the season!

Bob Markow, NJ surf fisherman

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James Boyle

From: William Lauenroth <wklauenroth@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 10:49 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am concerned about the decline of menhaden in lLong Island Sound and the associated decline of the striped bass sport fishery. Menhaden are a key pillar in the food web in northeast coastal waters. In addition to the sport fishery, they are important to the vibrant Osprey population.
I urge you to place more stringent limits on the commercial menhaden fishery.
Sincerely
William Lauenroth
Guilford, Connecticut

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James Boyle

From: Tim Drummey <tdrummey@insurcomm.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 10:43 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Protect The Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Just a quick observation and opinion from a weekend warrior. I work all week to chase stripers on the weekend. There are many days when I do not see or catch a striper from my kayak. I miss the days of chasing the stripers feeding on schools of menhaden. I hope the powers that manage this valuable resource will take the steps necessary to protect the future of the menhaden and its implications on many other species.

Thank you,

Tim

INSURCOMM RESTORATION
A FORTIFY COMPANY

Tim Drummey
Branch Manager- Foxborough

tdrummey@insurcomm.com
Direct:(603) 431-2278
Office:508 964 0023

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James Boyle

From: Joseph Lederer <joroleder@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 9:49 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

As a CT and RI shoreline fisherman for many years, I can say without hesitation that I've never seen such a rapid decline in the catch rate of Striped bass and Bluefish, both from shore and from boat, on the many charter trips I book throughout the season. I log every trip and the species catch and release numbers, all of which have steadily declined, especially the past three years. This year has been the worst by far and I will very likely book less trips next season.

Early season catch of bunker has been increasingly difficult and less successful each year. Shoreline areas where schools of bunker could be seen from shore especially in the fall have had literally NO bunker. I fear that the impact of the commercial harvest of these critical bait fish is going to negatively affect the fishery for years to come. Perhaps action taken now to drastically reduce the allowable catch will have an impact.

Thank you for the work that you do to preserve the precious resources that we have available in our fisheries and for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Joseph Lederer
22 Maplewood Road
Old Saybrrok CT, 06475

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James Boyle

From: Hkympton <hkympton@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 9:37 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC):

I am writing as a Maryland resident who has lived in St. Mary's County since 2017 and has developed a deep personal connection to the Chesapeake Bay. I am an avid sailor**,** a conservationist, and someone who spends considerable time on and around the Bay. I am also deeply interested in the wildlife that depends upon this remarkable ecosystem, particularly osprey, striped bass, sharks, whales, and other species whose survival is tied directly or indirectly to a healthy forage base.

I strongly support a 50 percent reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons annually. I also strongly support establishing seasonal quota periods for menhaden so that harvest is distributed throughout the year rather than concentrated in an intense summer fishing window.

The Chesapeake Bay is facing an ecological crisis that should not be minimized or postponed. Declining productivity, widespread osprey nest failures, and continued concerns about the condition of the striped bass population are warning signs that demand a precautionary approach to the management of one of the Bay's most important forage fish - **menhaden.**

Menhaden are not merely another commercial commodity. They are a foundational component of the Chesapeake Bay food web. They provide critical forage for striped bass, osprey, bluefish, weakfish, dolphins, and numerous other predators. Removing very large quantities of menhaden from the Bay during the period when they are most concentrated and most biologically important deserves particularly careful scrutiny.

The scale and timing of the reduction fishery are especially troubling. More than 100 million pounds of menhaden can be removed under the existing Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap. When that harvest is concentrated into a relatively short summer period, the ecological effect is not simply a matter of the annual tonnage. **Where and when the fish are removed matters.**

An intense summer harvest can create localized depletion at precisely the time when menhaden are serving as forage for other species. It also potentially deprives recreational anglers, commercial watermen, charter operators, and the broader coastal tourism economy of access to a shared public resource. These competing interests deserve meaningful consideration in the management process.

I am particularly concerned about allowing an annual quota to be treated as though the timing of harvest is irrelevant. It is not. A fish removed from the Bay in June is not ecologically equivalent to that same fish being harvested months later. The Bay's predators have seasonal feeding requirements, and the availability of forage during critical periods can matter greatly to their survival and reproductive success.

For that reason, I urge the Commission to establish **strict seasonal quota periods that distribute the allowable harvest more evenly throughout the year and prevent the reduction fishery from concentrating an extraordinary volume of harvest into the summer months**. Seasonal management would provide a more precautionary approach and would better recognize the fact that Chesapeake Bay is a dynamic ecosystem rather than simply another geographic allocation within a coast wide fishery.

There is also an important management issue that deserves attention. The Commission's coast wide menhaden assessment does not provide the same level of quantitative information about menhaden abundance and availability specifically within Chesapeake Bay. That uncertainty argues for caution—not for assuming that the Bay can safely sustain the maximum allowable harvest.

The Chesapeake Bay belongs to all of us. It belongs to the watermen who have made their living here, the recreational fishermen who pursue its species, the sailors and boaters who enjoy its waters, the communities whose economies depend upon it, and the wildlife that has no voice in these proceedings. Menhaden management should reflect that broader public interest.

I respectfully urge the Commission to:
1. Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons per year.
2. Establish firm seasonal quota periods for menhaden.
3. **Prevent excessive concentration of reduction harvest during the summer months.
4. Apply a precautionary approach in light of ecological uncertainty and the importance of menhaden as forage.
5. Give meaningful consideration to the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the Bay's broader tourism economy.

I have spent years watching, enjoying, and caring about the Chesapeake Bay. I have seen firsthand what makes this ecosystem extraordinary, and I am increasingly concerned about the signs that its productivity and resilience are being strained.

We should not wait until the consequences are unmistakable before acting.

The prudent course is to reduce the intensity of the reduction fishery now, protect menhaden as a critical forage resource, and distribute harvest in a manner that gives the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem a better opportunity to sustain the wildlife and fisheries that depend upon it.

Thank you for your consideration and for your responsibility to future generations of Chesapeake Bay users and stewards.

Sincerely,
Howard W Kympton
St. Mary’s County, Maryland

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James Boyle

From: Kevin Sweeney <kevinsweeney99@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 8:29 AM
To: Comments
Cc: Mike Roy Reel Cast Charters
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

I am writing as a Connecticut resident who cares deeply about the health and future of Long Island Sound and our recreational fisheries.

I am increasingly concerned about reports of significant declines in menhaden, or bunker, throughout Long Island Sound, the Connecticut River, and surrounding waters. Menhaden are a critical part of the marine food web and an important forage species for striped bass, bluefish, and other species that make our local fishery so special.

I strongly encourage the Commission to take meaningful action through Draft Addendum II to ensure that menhaden harvest levels adequately protect the forage base along the Atlantic coast, including the availability of bunker as they migrate into New England waters.

This is about more than one species. A healthy supply of forage fish supports the broader ecosystem as well as recreational anglers, charter captains, tackle shops, marinas, tourism, and coastal communities throughout Connecticut and the Northeast.

Please give serious consideration to measures that will provide stronger protection for menhaden and ensure that industrial harvest does not undermine the long-term health of our fisheries.

We need to protect this resource now so that Long Island Sound and the surrounding waters remain healthy and productive for future generations.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Kevin Sweeney
Stamford, Connecticut

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James Boyle

From: turelo57@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 8:16 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

The mass harvest of menhaden along the East Coast is pushing a critical marine ecosystem to the brink of collapse, directly threatening the future of Atlantic fisheries. Often called "the most important fish in the sea," menhaden serve as the essential foundational link in the ocean food web. They convert plankton into energy and serve as the primary food source for major commercial and recreational fish species, including **striped bass, bluefish, cod, and tuna**, as well as countless marine mammals and seabirds. By allowing industrial-scale reduction fishing to strip billions of menhaden from coastal waters annually, we are effectively starving the predator populations that rely on them. Without an abundant supply of this single forage fish, the survival rates of juvenile predators plummet, leading to stunted growth, disease, and a systemic decline in biodiversity that will leave tomorrow's oceans dangerously hollowed out.

Failing to curb the overharvesting of menhaden today guarantees a bleak reality for future generations of both fish populations and human communities. Because menhaden are a schooling fish, modern industrial fleets can efficiently wipe out entire localized populations, disrupting the critical spawning cycles required to replenish the species. This localized depletion creates ecological "dead zones" where predatory fish can no longer sustain themselves, permanently altering their migratory patterns and reproductive success. If we do not implement strict, ecosystem-based management limits now, we inherit a collapsed food web where future fish generations cannot recover. This ecological bankruptcy will not only devastate marine life but will also destroy the livelihoods of coastal fishing communities and strip future generations of the robust, biodiverse oceans they have a right to inherit.

Please do what is right and not what is in the best interest of a few large business entities with enormous financial pockets influencing lawmakers.

Thank you
Sal

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James Boyle

From: Hillock, Chris <Chris.Hillock@dell.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 9:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,
I fish Long Island Sound out of southwestern Connecticut, and I'm writing in support of stronger protections for Atlantic menhaden.
As you know Bunker are essential forage for striped bass, bluefish, and other predators. Their availability affects the quality of our fishery and the anglers and coastal businesses that depend on it. I am concerned about increasing reports of a trend developing of fewer bunker in Connecticut and surrounding waters, and I am writing to request the Board to take those local observations seriously.
For Draft Addendum II, I support the strongest proposed reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap—50%—along with measures that prevent harvest from becoming concentrated during the spring and summer. I also urge the Board to protect the forage base when it sets future coastwide harvest limits and to improve its ability to assess regional menhaden abundance.
Thank you for considering my comments.
Chris Hillock
Darien, Connecticut
215-779-6380

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James Boyle

From: Greg Saltzman <gdsaltzman@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 7:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Importance: High

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission:

I'm writing to urge the Commission to adopt strong forage-fish protections in Draft Addendum II for Atlantic Menhaden.

I fish the Connecticut River, Long Island Sound, and surrounding waters, and over the past three years I've watched the menhaden (bunker) population decline sharply in this region. That decline tracks closely with the large-scale industrial harvest of menhaden farther south, in Virginia and New Jersey, which is removing bunker before they can migrate north and reach our waters in the numbers they once did.

Menhaden are the foundation of our inshore ecosystem. They're the primary forage fueling our striped bass fishery, and their decline is already being felt up and down the food chain — fewer bunker, fewer striped bass, fewer bluefish. The impact isn't just ecological. It's economic: fishermen, guides, charter captains, tackle shops, and marinas throughout the region depend on a healthy forage base and a healthy fishery.

I ask the Commission to reduce the industrial harvest of Atlantic menhaden and to manage this resource with the needs of the broader ecosystem — and the coastal economies that depend on it — front and center.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Greg

Greg D. Saltzman
gdsaltzman@gmail.com

60 Pepperbox Rd.
Waterford, CT 06385
781-462-5650 (m)

James Boyle

From: Drew Accomando <drew.accomando@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 5:40 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Public Comment — Menhaden Management

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear ASMFC,

I'm writing to submit a public comment regarding Atlantic menhaden management and its importance to the striped bass and broader Northeast recreational fishery.

As a recreational angler and charter operator, I've seen firsthand how important menhaden are as a forage species. I encourage the ASMFC to carefully consider the latest menhaden abundance data, the needs of dependent predators such as striped bass, and the economic and recreational importance of the inshore fishery when evaluating future menhaden management measures.

Please ensure that the best available science and the interests of the broader recreational fishery are fully considered in this process.

Thank you for your work and for accepting public input.

Best,

Drew Accomando | Owner
A Team Performance and Chiropractic
C: (203) 581-1927
ATP: (203) 939-1465
www.atpplusct.com

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James Boyle

From: sallyprascus@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 5:50 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Public Comment: Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

September 26, 2026

Dear Mr. Boyle and Members of the Commission,

I am writing to urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to take immediate, strong action to protect the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem by implementing strict catch limits under Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II. Specifically, I support options that substantially lower the reduction fishing allowance in the Bay.

As a resident/supporter of the Chesapeake Bay region, I am deeply alarmed by the unprecedented breeding failures and starvation currently devastating our local osprey populations. Decades of scientific monitoring show a direct link between the lack of mature Atlantic menhaden and the inability of ospreys to successfully raise their chicks.

Menhaden are the ecological backbone of the Chesapeake Bay. Allowing industrial-scale reduction fishing to deplete this critical forage fish at the expense of ospreys, striped bass, and other native wildlife is unsustainable and unacceptable.

Please prioritize the long-term health of the Bay's ecosystem over short-term commercial harvest by implementing the maximum possible protections in Draft Addendum II. Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Sally C. Prascus
1906 Bayside Drive
Chester, MD 21619

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James Boyle

From: Mike Lombardozzi <mbardozzi@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 5:37 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear ASMFC,

I am writing to share my concern about the future of the menhaden (bunker) population and the fishery it supports.

Over the past three years, I have observed a dramatic decline in menhaden throughout the Connecticut River, Long Island Sound, and surrounding waters. Industrial menhaden harvest farther south, particularly in Virginia and New Jersey, is an important part of the discussion because removing large numbers of bunker before they migrate north can reduce the forage available to our waters.

Bunker are a critical forage species for striped bass, bluefish, and other marine life, and their abundance has significant implications for recreational fishermen, guides, charter captains, tackle shops, marinas, and coastal communities.

I encourage ASMFC to carefully consider the impacts of industrial menhaden harvest and the need to maintain a healthy forage base for the future.

Thank you for considering the observations and concerns of recreational fishermen and coastal communities as you consider Draft Addendum II for Atlantic Menhaden.

Sincerely,

Michael Lombardozzi

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James Boyle

From: Joseph Lombardozzi <joseph.lombardozzi@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 5:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear ASMFC,

I am writing to share my concern about the future of the menhaden (bunker) population and the fishery it supports.

Over the past three years, I have observed a dramatic decline in menhaden throughout the Connecticut River, Long Island Sound, and surrounding waters. Industrial menhaden harvest farther south, particularly in Virginia and New Jersey, is an important part of the discussion because removing large numbers of bunker before they migrate north can reduce the forage available to our waters.

Bunker are a critical forage species for striped bass, bluefish, and other marine life, and their abundance has significant implications for recreational fishermen, guides, charter captains, tackle shops, marinas, and coastal communities.

I encourage ASMFC to carefully consider the impacts of industrial menhaden harvest and the need to maintain a healthy forage base for the future.

Thank you for considering the observations and concerns of recreational fishermen and coastal communities as you consider Draft Addendum II for Atlantic Menhaden.

Sincerely,

Joe Lombardozzi

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James Boyle

From: Steve Collins <steveperc@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 4:12 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Save the Menhaden: Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom it may concern: I have been fishing the lower CT River and eastern LIS on the CT side for just five years, but even in that short period of time I have noticed the marked decline in the menhaden population. During this time span i have seen schools of menhaden disappear, to the point that I haven't seen a single menhaden at all this season. Not a one!!!! This is so concerning because it affects many other fish species and birds as well. Without enough forage, striped bass and bluefish suffer, which has further trickle-down effects, and the local osprey population is literally starving to death.

Please do everything you can to protect this important fish species. Please be as aggressive as you can - and then push it a bit farther. The future of so many animal species depends on your actions to protect menhaden, please do the right thing.

Thank you -
Steve Collins

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James Boyle

From: Leonard Araneo <laraneo1121@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 3:41 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Menhaden can not take another year of reduction fleet in the bays or ocean .Large bunker was no where to be found off the surf this year. They need our help please.

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James Boyle

From: todd bruno <tbruno4@att.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 2:21 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom it may concern, I am reaching out for my concern about the manhaden population in the Long Island. Over the past three years we have seen noticeable declines in their population which in turn is hurting the marine life in Long Island Sound. From the fish to the ospreys . We need stricter regulations for the commercial fishermen to take less of a quota. Thank you Sincerely Todd Bruno Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: R. Fattizzi <rsf42@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 1:42 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Protect our Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom it may concern,
The absence of Bunker in the Eastern Sound and Ct River this year has been dramatic. They are a critical food source to the health of our fisheries, and I believe that the large scale removal of bunker in the Virginia and New Jersey industrial fleets, before they migrate north is leaving significantly less fish that reach our areas, and have a significant effect on the baitfish population, and contributes to the lack of Striped Bass and Bluefish that we are seeing.

It's time to regulate the Commercial Fleets take of these essential fish.

Thanks,
Bob Fattizzi

Your time on earth is limited. Forget "aging with grace", instead age with mischief, audacity, and a great story to tell! 😎

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James Boyle

From: Nick & Robin <spinreno@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 12:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Im am writing today to request that Addendum 2 to reduce or eliminate industrial menhaden fishing in Viginia area waters be approved.

I am a sport fisherman in New England waters and I have recognized a significant decline in the menhaden population everywhere I fish which includes but is not limited to Rhode Island, Block Island Sound, fishers island sound and long island including the pawcatuck and thames river. In my opinion this has reduced the striped bass population in our area significantly. There is a startling reduction of "schoolie" stripers that are less than 28 inches. The last 3 years ive only been catching over slot fish mostly in the high 30" to 45" range. This is very concerning to me. In addition I barely see blue fish any longer. 10 years ago they were almost a nuisance.

Please push to control the industrial fishing for menhaden before its really too late and we loose another species of fish.

Nick Tamburrino
1662 Glasgo Road
Griswold CT 06351
860-608-2579

Sent from my Galaxy

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James Boyle

From: Mike Troy <michael.j.troy@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 12:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden (Bunker) Conservation

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Good Afternoon,

I live in Connecticut and fish recreationally throughout Western Long Island Sound, as well as periodically in Eastern Connecticut with local fishing guides.

Since approximately 2021, I have witnessed what appears to be a dramatic decline in the bunker population in our local waters during both the spring and fall seasons. I have observed a similar trend in Eastern Connecticut. The decline has had a significant impact on the quality of the recreational fishery. Increasingly, the limited concentrations of available bait seem to draw virtually all of the readily catchable fish into one or two areas, resulting in heavy congestion and boat traffic and a substantially diminished fishing experience.

This year, the situation has been particularly concerning. There have been virtually no bunker in many of the areas where they have historically been abundant. Even the Ospreys seem to be struggling to find them.

What is most alarming is the speed and magnitude of the decline. If this trajectory continues, it is difficult not to envision a future in which Western Long Island Sound has dramatically reduced populations of striped bass and bluefish. The historically excellent fall fishing is already a shell of what it was for decades, and the continued loss of the baitfish that supports this ecosystem threatens to further accelerate that decline.

This situation warrants urgent attention and action to better understand what is driving the decline and to protect the health of the Long Island Sound fishery.

Sincerely,

Michael Troy

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

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James Boyle

From: Matthew Kretzman <mkretzman@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 12:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Conservation

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Good Afternoon,
I live in CT and fish recreationally in Western Long Island Sound.

Since 2021, I have observed a stunning decline in the bunker population in both the spring and the fall in our local waters (and Eastern CT where I fish with guides from time to time). This decline has had a dramatic impact on the quality of our fishery and has resulted in effectively all of the readily catchable fish congregating in one or two areas (where the increasingly scarce bait has been found), making for a significantly less enjoyable experience given the resultant congestion and boat traffic.

This year, there have been virtually no bunker at all. Even the Ospreys seem to be struggling.

The speed of the decline is what is really stunning. At current course and speed, it is not hard to envision a scenario where western Long Island Sound has virtually no striped bass or bluefish within a few years. The “Fall Run” is already a shell of what it had otherwise been for decades.

Urgent action is needed. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Matt Kretzman
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James Boyle

From: Jeff Carlson <jeff.carlson76@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 12:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I believe that menhaden need to be protected in order to return the population to a historic level. Large scale commercial harvesting is depleting the fishery.

I can recall about 20 years ago when my kids were little, it would be common to see huge schools of menhaden in Niantic Bay, Connecticut, with striped bass and bluefish feeding on them. It's been many years since I have seen this.

Please reduce the commercial harvest. I believe that there would be more economic benefit to more people if this was done, as well as the environment would return to a more natural state. Perhaps my kids' kids will see schools of menhaden again.

Thank you.

My son is now 36, he caught and released this striper when he was about 12 fishing under a school of menhaden.

Jeff Carlson
jeff.carlson76@gmail.com

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James Boyle

From: David H. <d0221h@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 12:03 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] We must protect our Menhaden/Bunker population

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To Whom it may concern,

Over the past three years, we have watched the menhaden (bunker) population decline dramatically throughout the Connecticut River, Long Island Sound, and our surrounding waters.

This decline is directly tied to the industrial harvest of menhaden occurring farther south, particularly in Virginia and New Jersey. Large-scale removal of bunker before they migrate north is leaving significantly less forage available for our waters.

Bunker are the foundation of our inshore ecosystem and the primary forage driving our striped bass fishery. We are already seeing the consequences—fewer bunker, fewer striped bass, fewer bluefish, and fewer opportunities for the fishermen, guides, charter captains, tackle shops, marinas, and other businesses that depend on this fishery.

We need to protect the bunker and dramatically reduce industrial menhaden harvest.

David Hartikka

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James Boyle

From: Michael Roy <captainmike@reelcastcharters.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 11:29 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum 2

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

I am a full-time charter captain based out of Old Saybrook, Connecticut, at the mouth of the Connecticut River. I have been running charter fishing operations for 16 years and currently employ four other fishing guides. I am writing because I am seriously concerned about the future of my business and the future of the recreational fishing industry throughout the Northeast.

For more than 25 years, I have watched the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound support an enormous population of Atlantic menhaden. Historically, millions of menhaden have entered the Connecticut River and surrounding waters every year. They are the foundation of our inshore ecosystem and, more importantly to my business, they are what drives our striped bass fishery.

Over the past three years, I have watched the menhaden population decline to the point where there is now **virtually no bunker left in the Connecticut River, Long Island Sound, or the adjacent rivers.**

The consequences are already being felt.

There are significantly fewer striped bass. We have virtually no bluefish. The lack of menhaden has directly correlated with the decline in the abundance of the predatory fish that depend on them. There simply isn't enough forage here to support the fishery we have historically had.

This is no longer a warning about what might happen. We are watching it happen right now.

The fishery is on the verge of collapsing, and I believe immediate action is necessary. We need to dramatically reduce the amount of menhaden being removed by the industrial reduction fishery and put the health of the ecosystem ahead of the interests of the reduction industry.

The economic consequences extend far beyond charter captains. Striped bass are the number-one target species for the majority of inshore recreational fishermen in the Northeast. The striped bass fishery supports charter captains and guides, but also tackle shops, marinas, boat dealers, fuel docks, restaurants, hotels, boat manufacturers, and countless other local businesses.

I employ four other guides. If this continues, **my business and hundreds of other charter operations and fishing guides throughout the Northeast are at risk.** The economic impact of a healthy recreational striped bass fishery reaches thousands of people and businesses.

We need to look at the scale of the economics here. We are allowing a relatively small industrial sector to remove enormous quantities of a forage species that supports an entire coastal ecosystem and a massive recreational fishing economy.

The Atlantic menhaden fishery needs to be managed for the health of the entire ecosystem—not simply for the benefit of the companies harvesting them.

I am urging the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to take immediate action to dramatically reduce industrial removal of menhaden and increase protection of this critical forage species.

Please listen to the people who are on the water every day. For those of us who make our living on these waters, the decline is impossible to ignore. We have watched the bunker disappear, and we are now watching the fishery that depends on them disappear with it.

We need to protect the bunker. We need to reduce the industrial harvest. And we need to do it now, before the recreational striped bass fishery and the businesses that depend on it are pushed beyond the point of recovery.

I would welcome the opportunity to speak with the Commission or its staff and provide firsthand observations and information from the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Captain Mike Roy

Reel Cast Charters

(203) 710-5116

www.reelcastcharters.com

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James Boyle

From: nick hess <nickhess1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 11:23 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden over fishing disgrace

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Thank God, New Jersey has this 3 mile rule on commercial bait fishing, even though Canadian boats are in our waters, pillaging the bunker stocks I fished in Chesapeake Bay, Virginia, and what I saw was the most unbelievable thing vacuum boat, destroying the Chesapeake Bay by taking all the bait I thank them, though cause cobia fishing is great in New Jersey now I know they have to do commercial bunker fishing, cause they use them as so many products so I don't know what I'm sending is even gonna help but yes, I agree. There's way too many bunker being taken out the whole ecosystem of the Atlantic ocean relies on that fish. These greedy processes are unsustainable. My name is Nicholas Hess? My phone number is 201-780-7046 and hopefully this will help you Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Lukasz Wnek <lukaszwnek95@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 11:13 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Stop the over fishing of Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am reaching out to comment on the over fishing of Menhaden. The single most important food chain in our oceans. Me must stop allowing these commercial fisheries to net and deplete our oceans of such an important food chain for so many fish species, mammals and birds.
Get the boat out and send them home! THIS MUST END or the consequences will be far more severe once there are no more menhaden.
Thank you.
Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: rich rubin <docrubin@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 9:20 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Board Meeting

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I have been surf spin and fly fishing for over 30 years. I have been concerned about diminishing Menhaden along the Rhode Island and Massachusetts shores since at least the Bush era. Even then, there was concern about the harvest of menhaden for reduction by companies such as Omega. Given the poor state of the striper fishery along the shore areas, as reflected by the poor recruitment and low number of schoolies, it is time for significant changes to the menhaden management.
I would Urge you to ban harvesting manhaden for reduction purposes. I would continue to allow manhaden harvest for bait purposes at an amount that conserves the species.
Thank you,
Richard Rubin

Good health is true wealth
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James Boyle

From: brad knopf <bdknopf@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 10:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden crisis

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

--
Thank you,
Brad Knopf
1018 Magothy Park Ln, Annapolis, MD 21409
410-353-2970

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James Boyle

From: Lucy Wong <lucyhummer@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 9:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Fish and Ospreys

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am extremely concerned because the number of ospreys in Connecticut has declined significantly due to a lack of food. So I am asking you to please reduce the cap by 50 percent on the amount of menhaden that can be commercially harvested.
Hopefully, doing that will mean there will be enough menhaden for the ospreys as well as the commercial fishermen,
Lucy Wong
36 Vina Lane
Brooklyn, Ct 06245

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James Boyle

From: Kirk Davidson <kkirkdavidson@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 4:16 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Commissioners,

I am writing to submit my formal public comments regarding Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 of the Atlantic Menhaden Fishery Management Plan. While I currently reside in Illinois, I grew up in New Jersey and retain a deep, lifelong connection to the health of the Atlantic coast. As an avid birdwatcher who regularly observes Ospreys in Long Beach Island, NJ - including this past August after I learned of the severe Osprey chick survival challenges - I am deeply concerned by the ecological collapse of Osprey nesting success in the Chesapeake Bay driven by localized menhaden depletion.

Public resources belong to the wider public, and ecosystems do not respect state borders. Industrial depletion in our shared marine nurseries threatens avian and aquatic wildlife across the entire Atlantic Flyway. To implement true, precautionary ecosystem-based management that gives these foundational species a fighting chance, I urge the Board to adopt the following specific options:

* Section 3.1: Support Option C1e (with C2a limits) to link the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Cap directly to the coastwide Total Allowable Catch (TAC). This will cut the current cap by 50% immediately and ensure the Bay's ecosystem is protected proportionally if future coastwide cuts are made.

* Section 3.2.1: Support Option B2 (25% / 25% / 50% Quota Periods) to prevent the industrial fleet from heavily concentrating harvest early in the season when breeding Ospreys experience their highest forage demands.

* Section 3.2.2: Support Option B (Overage Payback) to ensure that seasonal quota limits function as enforceable conservation regulations rather than voluntary targets.

* Section 3.3: Support Option B (Three-Year Revisit) to mandate that the Commission regularly re-examines and adapts the cap every three years as new, localized predator-prey data becomes available.

Thank you for taking precautionary action to protect the foundation of our marine and avian food webs.

Sincerely,

Kirk Davidson

2353 W Wabansia Ave 403

Chicago, IL

James Boyle

From: Chris Wright <chriswright411@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 10:31 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Mr. Boyle and Members of the ASMFC,

I am writing to submit my public comments regarding Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II. As an advocate for the health of the Chesapeake Bay and the broader Atlantic coastwide ecosystem, I strongly urge the Commission to implement management options that prioritize localized biomass protection and strict accountability.

My specific positions on the options are as follows:

- **Issue 1: Seasonal Quota Allocation – Support Option B3 (Four Periods, 25% each) WITH Strict Paybacks.** Evenly dividing the harvest across four separate periods throughout the year is the most balanced way to prevent intense, localized depletion during critical wildlife breeding and foraging seasons. This option must be paired with **Option B (Quota Period Overage Payback)** to ensure immediate accountability.
- **Demand for a "No-Rollover" Rule:** While I support Option B's overage payback, I strongly **oppose the automated rollover of unused quota** between periods. Allowing unused quota to accumulate into later periods creates a massive loophole that lets industrial fleets heavily concentrate their fishing pressure all at once. I request that the final rule explicitly prohibit inside-the-season rollovers.
- **Issue 2: Chesapeake Bay Harvest Cap – Support Option C1e (50% Reduction) and Oppose Option C2a.** The Chesapeake Bay is facing a severe ecological crisis, evidenced by starving osprey populations and poor striped bass recruitment. The industrial reduction fishery harvest cap must be cut by 50% to **25,500 metric tons**.
- **The Proportional Link Trap:** I strongly **oppose Option C2a (Linked Cap)**. While the cap should shrink if coastwide stocks decline, a proportional two-way link means the Bay cap would automatically increase if the coastwide TAC goes up. Tying the fate of a fragile, localized estuary to broad, coastwide ocean models is a dangerous math flaw that allows coastwide increases to override severe, localized depletion in the Bay. The ASMFC must establish a **hard, fixed ceiling of 25,500 metric tons** that cannot be triggered upward by coastwide changes.

Thank you for your time and for taking necessary, precautionary steps to protect the most important fish in the sea.

Sincerely,
Chris Wright

Shady Side, MD

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James Boyle

From: Mike <g600fa@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 4:33 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Members,

I just read an article that said there were a lot of comments from the local community against reducing the menhaden catch limit. I completely understand that in these times, that people are desperately trying to hold onto their source of income and traditional ways of life. That said, the logical response would be to REDUCE the catch limit so that they actually have a sustainable livelihood well into the future. The stalling tactic of "waiting for the science" is just that, and I imagine there would still be significant resistance if the science does show that the fishery is depleted (as I imagine it will). History is replete with examples of fisheries that have collapsed because of this "get it all now" mentality. And if that were to happen here, those objecting would definitely be in a hard place. Finally, just because they are local and able to turn out in force to protest, this is not solely their resource. The health of this fishery is everybody's concern, even if they were unable to attend a meeting. I know it is hard not to be sympathetic and to let emotions (and monied interests) influence the decision making process, but please do the right thing and SIGNIFICANTLY reduce the allowable catch.

Thanks for all that you do!

Mike Horan
Richmond, VA

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James Boyle

From: Heather Maher <heathermaher@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2026 6:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount

"Option C1e: To reduce the Chesapeake Bay CAP by at least 50 percent in 2027 and link any changes to the future Bay Cap to 13.6% of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC).

Option C2a: To set the maximum upper limit in any future change at the current level of 51,000mt.

3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution

Option B2: To establish three even length quota periods for the Chesapeake Bay Cap, distributing the harvest at 25% in period 1, 25% in period 2, and 50% in period 3.

Option B: Provides any underage of Quota Periods 1 or 2 be rolled into Period 3 of the same fishing year. Any underage in Quota Period 3 would not be reallocated. Any overages would be deducted from the same quota period in the following year.

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision

Option B: Revisit the Chesapeake Bay Cap every 3 years.

Heather Maher
880 Coachway
Annapolis, MD 21401

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James Boyle

From: Susan Sterett <susanmsterett@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2026 12:21 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden industrial fishing: please halt it

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear ASMFC,

I am writing to say I support shutting down the menhaden industrial fishing industry. The harvest is contributing to the starvation of multiple species that rely on menhaden. The resurgent osprey population in the Bay is a wonderful success story, and the menhaden fishery is leading to their depletion again. Watermen need the healthy fisheries that the menhaden support.

The menhaden are necessary for species of ASMFC concern, including rockfish, bluefish, weakfish and spiny dogfish. They are also necessary for multiple bird species.

Please stop the harvest.

Thank you.

Susan M. Sterett

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James Boyle

From: KEN MARTIN <pattynken1@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2026 11:23 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am a lifetime resident of the New Jersey shore, and I currently own a large tract on the Bass River. New Gretna is quite attached to our nesting Osprey, Greta and River. To say they are struggling is an understatement. Only one of their chicks survived the summer, but is likely too weak to survive migration. As a fisherman, I have watched Omega and Cooke decimate our population of bunker with their fleet of factory reduction vessels and spotter planes. This is not traditional fishing. It is a greedy Canadian company exploiting our waters and causing catastrophic harm. Why? For the greedy politicians who received money for things like inauguration parties. It needs to stop. Didn't we learn a lesson from the market hunting of the past? Please exhibit some common sense.
Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Robin Queenan <robinqueenan@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2026 7:26 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Help Osprey's nesting at the Chesapeake Bay

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Friend,

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to comment on the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishing limits.

I support cooperation between companies and the public on fishing in the Chesapeake Bay.

I started counting migrating birds when I got cancer in 2017. I joined a group near my house, and it was a godsend. I couldn't travel and I had to be close to home in case I got sick.

Learning about migrating Ospreys and viewing their silhouettes against the blue sky and white clouds is one of the great joys of my life. I fell in love with them. They have a long wingpan when viewed from below and their wings almost seem to have a "shoulder". Later I read they have special talons and body so they can literally "dive" into the water and grab a fish to feed their young.

When I heard at a talk at my bird club that Ospreys aren't nesting around the Chesapeake because there are no menhaden fish to feed their young I was very upset. I had just retired in 2020 and I planned to enjoy watching these gorgeous birds as my hobby. Instead, I am spending my retirement years reading about environmental losses, loss of wetlands and lakes and loss of ocean and bay water quality.

Please help us control the one thing that we can help birds with and that is sharing natural resources.

I know corporations are helpful citizens in many cases, but their need to make money shouldn't come at the absolute expense of my passion.

I support

- Option B4: 50% reduction of the Bay Cap resulting in 25,500 MT cap
- Option CIE: 13.6%
- Option C2A: Upper limit: 51,000 mt
- Option B2: Even Length & uneven harvest
- Revisit Provision every 3 yrs

Thank you very much for your help.

Robin Queenan
Media, PA

James Boyle

From: Cathy Lemp <cathylemp@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 6:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission:

As a long-time volunteer at Owl Moon Raptor Center in Boyds, Md., I've witnessed the devastating impact that the dwindling menhaden fishery is having on ospreys across the Chesapeake Bay region. Far too many of the ospreys that reach Owl Moon are emaciated or starving, and we're forced to euthanize many who are unable to survive -- much less return to the wild.

As such, I'm writing to urge ASMFC to adopt the common-sense, conservation-minded recommendations proposed by the Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association to help achieve the maximum 50% reduction in menhaden harvested from the Chesapeake Bay. Specifically, I hope you will help implement the options outlined below:

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount

Option C1e: To reduce the Chesapeake Bay CAP by at least 50 percent in 2027 and link any changes to the future Bay Cap to 13.6% of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC).

Option C2a: To set the maximum upper limit in any future change at the current level of 51,000mt.

3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution

Option B2: To establish three even length quota periods for the Chesapeake Bay Cap, distributing the harvest at 25% in period 1, 25% in period 2, and 50% in period 3.

Option B: Provides any underage of Quota Periods 1 or 2 be rolled into Period 3 of the same fishing year. Any underage in Quota Period 3 would not be reallocated. Any overages would be deducted from the same quota period in the following year.

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision

Option B: Revisit the Chesapeake Bay Cap every 3 years.

Today, we are witnessing all the signs of a devastating osprey population collapse. As a recent article in the Bay Journal reported, “Osprey breeding continues to falter around the Chesapeake Bay, a new survey has found, with the meager hatching and survival of chicks this year well below what is needed to maintain the population.”

We must do more to save these stunning wild creatures, and I urge you to take strong action to achieve the maximum 50% reduction in menhaden harvested from the Chesapeake Bay.

Thank you,

Catherine Lemp
18407 Jerusalem Church Road

Poolesville MD 20837
240-338-8352

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James Boyle

From: Doug <putieue1st@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 10:49 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Harvest

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Please stop the corporate greed decimating native fish populations on the bay. It is causing a trickle up effect on Osprey breeding success.
Save the Menhaden and Womenhaden.
Sincerely, Doug of Accotink Village

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James Boyle

From: Scott Caravas <scottandmegancaravas@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 8:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello,

My name is Scott and I am a lifelong Virginian native to Virginia Beach, an avid outdoorsman, and lover of the Chesapeake Bay. I've fished the Bay extensively for a couple of decades and have spent countless hours on the water. Because I love the Bay, I am writing to advocate for the passage of the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II reducing the menhaden cap and dividing the harvest into seasonal periods. What Omega, Cooke, and Ocean Harvesters (I'll collectively refer to them as Omega as they are all the same) are doing calls for common sense regulation as more data is being collected. It is telling that Omega has lobbied extensively against that independent data collection in the first place. This addendum would serve to support local commercial watermen, recreational fishermen, bird watchers, whale watchers, and the American people who rely on the Bay for connection with nature, God, and each other. This over-consumption is unsustainable. While I recognize Omega has been fishing the Bay for decades, it is notable that it is taking them longer to fill their cap while they have greater access to advanced technology creating a more efficient harvest. The notion that a species cannot be over-harvested to decline or failure, which Omega continually asserts is the case for menhaden, is kindly untrue, but frankly ridiculous. Just ask Virginia elk, the passenger pigeon, or American bison. If you're reading this and have never seen one of the net sets in person, I'd be happy to take you out on my boat any time to watch it. While the bycatch of drum, rockfish, cobia, croakers, spot, etc. is heartbreaking, it is important to remember that the most important fish being killed in the nets are the menhaden. My wife and I are returning to the Tidewater area in the coming year and a massive piece of that decision is to show our son the Bay that we know and love. Omega's consumption has already changed the Bay enough (ask anyone who actually spends time on the water). A large number of us, with actual fisheries and environmental experts in this group, have legitimate fears that if left unchecked Omega will kill the Bay. This addendum would be a phenomenal step in the positive direction. The public outcry is strong for a reason and I ask that you listen to Americans up and down the coast! I urge you, as officials tasked to foster the Atlantic, please protect our resource now and pass this addendum in full.

Thank you from all of us!

Scott

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James Boyle

From: Donna Cole <donna@annapoliscreative.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 9:32 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Ospreys/Mehaden public comment

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I'm a bird of prey rescuer in Maryland. Seeing starving/dying juveniles ospreys has been among the most heartbreaking tragedies I've witnessed as I rescuer. This has been playing out for a few years with fewer and fewer ospreys being seen along the Chesapeake. This past summer, there were no active nests that I was aware of near my house. Normally there are several. This is a total loss of active, successful osprey nests within 2 miles of my house. This is not sustainable for the species (at least along the Chesapeake).

We must do better as humans. We have the possibility of turning this around and we need to make certain ospreys have enough to eat. That won't be done until we put further limits on the commercial/industrial menhaden fishing industry – those with spotter planes and ships that are depleting the Atlantic and the Chesapeake of menhaden. We don't have time to think about this, we don't have time to wait for another study, we don't have time to wait for another meeting.

We are watching, in real time, what very well could be the extinction (state and/or national) of a much-loved, charismatic species – the osprey. And we have the potential to stop this by further limiting the menhaden catch. Please do so and do it quickly.

Donna L. Cole

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James Boyle

From: Cristina Montejo <c_montejo@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 9:24 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Public Comment - Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello,

I am writing to let you know that I support reducing the fishery cap of menhaden in the Atlantic by 50% and creating quota periods to distribute harvest under the cap more evenly throughout the fishing season.

I have been closely following the migrating Chesapeake osprey population since I moved to Kent Island in 2022. They are a source of deep fascination for me and I watch them closely each season. I have seen the decline in the amount of young produced with my own eyes. And, I have read the scientific reports coming out of William & Mary's Center for Conservation Biology. Last year, I downloaded Osprey Watch, the citizen's science app/tool to help track the osprey nests and numbers of young produced. In just one season, there was a major decline.

I am deeply saddened and concerned about the Osprey population! Just out of college, I worked in Washington, DC on The Hill in environmental conservation, specifically overfishing. I worked for The Marine Fish Conservation Network, American Oceans Campaign and The Ocean Conservancy, and feel I have a particular understanding of the issues facing the Atlantic fisheries. I have no doubt that the overfishing of menhaden is contributing drastically to the osprey crisis, if not fueling it entirely.

I am begging you to please put a cap on the fishery of menhaden in the Atlantic by 50%. Please, also create quota periods to distribute the harvest under the cap more evenly throughout the fishing season.

We cannot risk losing this incredible species when we know what is wrong and it is in our power to correct it.

Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,
Cristina Montejo
729 Old Love Point Rd
Stevensville, MD 21666

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James Boyle

From: steve@carilon.net
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 8:55 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] menhaden reduction

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Please implement a restrition on the total allowable menhaden catch.
As a NJ striper fisherman the reduction in bunker is damaging our fishery.
Stephen Hernandez
Perth Amboy, NJ
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James Boyle

From: Michael Campitelli <michaeljcampitelli@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 6:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II)

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom it may concern

Something must be down to reduce the current menhaden consumption. I am on the water in New Jersey almost daily. I have seen a drastic decline in osprey and predator fish. This has to stop

Thank you

Mike Campitelli

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James Boyle

From: Comments
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 3:23 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Menhaden Public Comment

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 1:29 PM
To: Comments <comments@asmfc.org>
Subject: [External] New public comment for 2026 Annual Meeting

2026 Annual Meeting

Action Title

2026 Annual Meeting

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/2026-annual-meeting/

Name

Dale Neal

Email

dalewilliamneal@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Public Comment to: ASMFC Menhaden Board Members

From: Dale William Neal, Richmond, VA

I would like to share four points and a simple formula for a path forward on the upcoming TAC vote and Reallocation.

1. “Wildlife eat Menhaden, people don’t.”
Industrial reduction fishing is not about catching seafood, it’s an outlier to what ASMFC shepherds. Menhaden should be prioritized as a bait fish. It is a truly sustainable and economically sound choice. As was stated by a board member in your last meeting, “they are much more valuable when turned into Lobster rather than dog food”.

2. “Menhaden pack the most powerful nutrient punch available for wildlife.”
They are called a “keystone species” for that reason. In the Atlantic, Menhaden provide >50% more essential nutrition per gram than Atlantic Herring. In the Chesapeake Bay that number is >50% more than Mullet and River Herring, and 200-300% more per gram than Bay Anchovy or Silverside. Menhaden mature to upwards of 3/4 pound (300 grams) or larger. Bay Anchovies never reach over 7 grams, vastly smaller than even juvenile menhaden. No other biomass of fish can replace Menhaden in the critical role of supplying wildlife needs for growth, reproduction, or migration.

3. “There are many factors causing issues.”
I agree with Reduction Industry spokespeople—warmer waters, migration changes, invasive species, coastal development, runoff, pollution, and fishing pressure—are all factors in the critical ecosystem changes we are witnessing. That on its’ own should give you more impetus to conserve what’s left. And let me state the obvious, fishing pressure is the only factor you control. Everyone else is depending on you to get your piece right.

4. “Jobs: The Coastwide Bait Industry vs. The Reedville Reduction Industry.”
According to NOAA Fisheries there are an estimated 1-2,000 independent bait and tackle shops still left in business along the Atlantic Coast. Include non-exclusive retailers—such as marinas, gas stations, coastal hardware stores, convenience shops, and fishing piers—the total number of physical locations selling bait along the coast reaches well over 4,000. That’s a lot of indirect jobs depending at least partially on a sustainable menhaden supply. Now add on the 10,000-15,000 lobstermen, crabbers, and commercial hook-and-line fishermen who depend on a consistent and affordable supply provided by the many watermen who catch those menhaden. Those are all real jobs and businesses.

The reduction industry in Reedville routinely employs far less than 400 workers. Fewer than 100 work year round.
More than 10% are foreign guests on H-2B visas, 15-20% live outside of Northumberland County. The county of 12,000 residents currently reports over 4,000 total jobs and an annual GDP of nearly $500 million. The reduction industry reports $29m in annual Virginia payroll and benefits. Reedville is located within 100 miles of the DC metro area (population 6 million) and is growing as a prime coastal destination for retirement and tourism. The median age in the town is 65.5. Half of the residents are retired. Real estate values are above state averages. One third of the homes are second or vacation homes.

Industry profits from reduction fishing go to a multi-billion dollar global corporate conglomerate based in Canada.

An Equitable and Sustainable Solution
(1) Reduce TAC 30%
(2) Reduce the Virginia share to 60%
(3) Increase the other states share to 40% (increasing their metric tonnage >12%)

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James Boyle

From: Julie Dunlap <juliejdunlap@earthlink.net>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 3:14 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Commissioners,

The alarming declines in Osprey populations around the Chesapeake Bay bring back disturbing memories of the birds' earlier population collapse during the era of DDT overuse. That chemical thinned the birds' eggshells, resulting in a reproductive shortfall each year as the population dwindled until the 1972 DDT cancellation allowed the birds to slowly recover. Everyone who cares about the Bay in 2026 should be grateful for the work of those who identified the problem and gave the Ospreys an opportunity to rebound.

We are facing a regional collapse today that started in the southern Chesapeake Bay and has moved north through much of the area. Today's breeding shortfalls are worse than those during those grim years when DDT disrupted their endocrine systems. Research this time has revealed that the chicks do hatch, but they are starving due to parents' inability to catch life-sustaining fish. Specifically, the key Bay protein source of menhaden is not available in sufficient quantities to support the lived of the iconic seahawks of the Chesapeake Bay.

Ospreys are more than beautiful symbols of Chesapeake region. They are living reminders of the struggle to keep our environment healthy and our fisheries robust and resilient. Please reduce the menhaden harvest by 50% or more to give Ospreys a second chance. People today and tomorrow will thank you for fulfilling your important stewardship responsibilities.

Yours truly,

Julie Dunlap
6371 Tinted Hill
Columbia, MD 21045

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James Boyle

From: Barclay Satterfield <barclay.satterfield@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 1:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello,
Please reduce the overfishing of Atlantic menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay and surrounding waters.
I am a resident of Mayo, Maryland -- a part of Edgewater. My family and I moved to this area two years ago after a long search. The bountiful, thriving local wildlife in this area was a driving piece of our decision to purchase a home and raise our young son in this community. Unfortunately, we have watched nearby osprey nests fail and read accounts of local birders and naturalists who are actively monitoring as the health of these birds declines.
Please stop the aggressive reduction fishing of the fish that sustain this food web.
Thank you

Barclay Satterfield, PhD
609-658-0736
1310 Sundee Drive
Edgewater, MD 21037

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James Boyle

From: Susan Gagliardi <dansue101@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 11:08 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] OSPREY DECLINE

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

The osprey of Ct and the East coast are in danger of severe decline that they may not be able to recover from if action is not taken NOW. Time is of the essence. The osprey of Ct are fol 80% last year. THEY ARE STARVING. After the heroic effort of recovering from poisoning by DDT, they now are facing a manmade problem o ofverfishing. There may be other enviromental reasons for the decline of menhaden, which is urgently being studied. But overfishing for this bait fish when numbers are so low will cause unreversible damage. I have been an Osprey steward for over ten years. ALL my nests, which had been so steady and productive in the past- they all failed this year. The female osprey were crying out for food to be delivered by the male as they incubated. Then they finally had to leave the nest to get food for themselves. Osprey usually mate for life but it is unclear if they stayed together went off alone as they were desparate. This year it was so confusing as a steward. The females came and went, leaving the eggs unattended for hours. They deserted their nests and never came back. I hope they found a better food source inland. None of my nests produced even one chick. My favorite place to kayak on Great Island Old Lyme was deserted. Only 5 chicks seen where usually there were 30 nests with 1-3 chicks per nest. I ask thet fishing of menahden be reduced by 50% immediatley. dleaying one more season will be a fatal mistake.
Submitted by Susan Gagliardi
Osprey Steward Aububon

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James Boyle

From: melsoncj@verizon.net
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 11:16 AM
To: Comments; gwwabc@comcast.net
Subject: [External] ATLANTIC MENHADEN DRAFT ADDEMDUM II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Sirs, We are writing in support of the complete closure of the rendition harvest or for a 50% harvest cut for 2027. We have lived on the Chesapeake Bay since 1982 and have followed the annual rise and fall of the Osprey population along with on-going bay restoration efforts. It is destressing to witness the last few years with fewer fish to support the Osprey population during the breeding season due to commercial harvesting of menhaden. R/S, Janet and Chuck Melson, Stevensville, Maryland.

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James Boyle

From: RICHARD KRUEGER JR <rpkila953@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2026 12:36 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Joseph Grist
Subject: [External] Subject: Public Comment — Chesapeake Bay Menhaden Reduction Fishery

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission:

I am writing as a Virginia resident who lives on the water in Heathsville and has a direct and personal interest in the health of the Chesapeake Bay and the wildlife that depends upon it.

I respectfully ask the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to adopt substantially stronger protections for Atlantic menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay as it considers Draft Addendum II.

Specifically, I ask the Commission to substantially reduce the current **51,000-metric-ton Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap**, establish meaningful seasonal limits on the industrial reduction fishery, and consider linking the Bay cap more directly to changes in the coastwide total allowable catch.

I understand that the current coastwide stock assessment does not classify Atlantic menhaden as overfished and does not find that overfishing is occurring. My concern is not that the entire Atlantic menhaden population has necessarily collapsed.

My concern is what happens when very large quantities of an important forage fish are removed from a particular ecosystem — the Chesapeake Bay — during particular times of the year.

My personal observations

I live on the water in Heathsville, Virginia, and have spent considerable time observing the wildlife around my home and throughout the surrounding area.

One change I have personally noticed is a **noticeable reduction in the number of ospreys and eagles that I see in my neighborhood**.

I recognize that my observations alone cannot establish the cause of that change. I am not claiming that the menhaden reduction fishery is solely responsible.

However, the decline I have personally observed concerns me because menhaden are an important forage fish for numerous Chesapeake Bay predators.

That makes the availability of menhaden in the Bay an issue that deserves serious consideration when establishing the amount of industrial harvest that should be permitted.

The ASMFC itself has identified possible downstream effects on menhaden predators as one of the concerns underlying the current Draft Addendum. The Commission has also noted concerns about declining pound-net harvest and catch-per-unit-effort in the Bay and the increasing concentration of reduction harvest during the summer months. (ASMFC)

The Chesapeake Bay deserves specific protection

I believe the management question should be more than simply whether the Atlantic menhaden population is sustainable on a coastwide basis.

The Chesapeake Bay is a unique estuarine ecosystem and an important nursery area for many species. The current 51,000-metric-ton Bay cap was itself established as a precautionary measure in response to concerns about localized depletion, and the cap was subsequently reduced to its current level in recognition of the Bay's ecological importance. (ASMFC)

The Commission is now considering reducing that cap by as much as **50 percent** and considering seasonal quota periods to distribute the harvest more evenly throughout the fishing season. (ASMFC)

I believe those options deserve serious consideration.

Timing and concentration of harvest

I am particularly concerned about the concentration of industrial reduction fishing during the spring and summer.

Even if the total Atlantic menhaden population remains sustainable, removing very large numbers of menhaden from the Chesapeake Bay at a time when predators and other fisheries may depend heavily upon them could have localized consequences.

The Commission's current proposal recognizes this concern by considering three quota periods specifically intended to prevent excessive concentration of reduction harvest during the spring and summer. (ASMFC)

I urge the Commission to make those seasonal protections meaningful and enforceable.

The impact on local quality of life

There is another issue I believe deserves recognition.

The odor coming from the menhaden processing operation in Reedville can be extremely unpleasant. As someone who lives in the area, I have personally experienced the odor, and there are times when I find traveling to nearby Reedville unpleasant enough that I simply avoid going there while the plant is processing a trip.

I recognize that an unpleasant odor by itself is not a reason to establish a menhaden harvest quota.

I mention it because the people who live, work, boat and recreate in this area experience the effects of this industrial operation in ways that may not be reflected in an economic analysis of the fishery.

The economic value of the Chesapeake Bay should include not only the value of the menhaden reduction industry, but also the recreational, environmental, tourism and quality-of-life values associated with a healthy Bay and its surrounding communities.

My requested management actions

I respectfully ask the Commission to:

1. Substantially reduce the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap from its current 51,000 metric tons.

I encourage the Commission to give serious consideration to the **50% reduction option**currently under consideration.

2. Establish meaningful seasonal quota periods.

The goal should be to prevent a disproportionate amount of the annual harvest from being removed during the spring and summer.

3. Consider linking the Bay cap to the coastwide total allowable catch.

If the coastwide TAC is reduced, the Bay harvest allowance should not remain effectively insulated from that reduction.

4. Increase Bay-specific monitoring.

I encourage the Commission to improve monitoring of menhaden abundance, harvest locations, harvest timing, predator populations and the relationship between menhaden availability and other Bay fisheries.

5. Periodically reevaluate the Bay cap.

The cap should be adjusted as new scientific information becomes available rather than treated as a permanent entitlement to remove a predetermined quantity of menhaden from the Bay.

6. Apply a precautionary, ecosystem-based approach.

Where there is uncertainty concerning the ecological consequences of removing large quantities of an important forage fish from the Chesapeake Bay, I believe the appropriate response is to err on the side of leaving more menhaden in the ecosystem.

I recognize that the menhaden reduction industry provides jobs and economic activity in the Reedville area and has a long history in the region. I am not asking the Commission to disregard those economic interests.

I am asking that those interests be balanced against the ecological and economic value of the Chesapeake Bay itself.

As someone who lives on the water in Heathsville, I have a personal stake in seeing the Bay remain healthy and productive for the wildlife, fisheries, recreational users and communities that depend upon it.

I respectfully ask the Commission to take this opportunity to substantially reduce the Chesapeake Bay menhaden harvest, establish meaningful seasonal protections, and continue developing a management system that protects adequate menhaden availability within the Bay.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Respectfully,

Richard P. Krueger, Jr.
Heathsville, Virginia
rpkila953@verizon.net
410-207-0240
Sent from my iPhone

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James Boyle

From: Thomas Mariconda <thomas.mariconda@att.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2026 10:11 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhadden Fisheries Cap

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom it may concern:

As a person of faith and I am a sincere person of faith, a retired ordained Deacon in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut and a member of the Third Order of Saint Francis (Episcopal). I believe that we all are called to be care for creation. It is my understanding that the The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is considering changes to the amount of menhaden that can be harvested from the Chesapeake Bay. As a person of faith, I am urging the commission to reduce the fishery cap by 50 percent, a precautionary measure to ensure that menhaden, a key foundation fish and a prime food source for Ospreys, are not put in even greater jeopardy.Last year Connecticut Audubon's Osprey Nation recorded its lowest breeding success since the statewide community science program launched in 2014 to monitor the birds. This year is looking even worse. Osprey and other species that rely on menhaden do not have years longer to wait. Decisive action is needed now. I ask you to support this change in order to protect creation.

Tom Mariconda, TSSF

The worst sin towards our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them. That's the essence of inhumanity. George Bernard Shaw

The more I see of the moneyed classes, the more I understand the guillotine. George Bernard Shaw

The longer I live, the more convinced am I that this planet is used by other planets as a lunatic asylum. George Bernard Shaw

“When we are repulsed by the poor and the weak, the stranger and the immigrant, we are repulsed by God.” Sr Ilia Delio, OSF

" and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice,and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God" Micah 6:8

"Pray for the Dead and Fight like Hell for the Living."Mother Jones

"God does not demand that I be successful. God demands that I be faithful." Mother Theresa

"Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be quick to love, and make haste to be kind." Henri-Frédéric Amiel (1821-1881)

When you come to the end of all the light you know,and it’s time to step into the darkness of the unknown,faith is knowing that one of two things shall happen:Either you will be given something solid to stand on or you will be taught to fly.(Edward Teller)

"If the gospel is truly good news to the poor, we have not been preaching the gospel, for the rich and powerful have not found it disturbing and the poor have not found it liberating." Stuart Murray, Church After Christendom

“Jesus can’t be domesticated. Every time someone tries to house-train him, he breaks off the leash and starts causing trouble. " Tony Jones in "The New Christians"

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James Boyle

From: Emmit Hoyl <emmithoyl@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2026 7:13 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear James Boyle and Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for maximizing conservation measures under Draft Addendum II. Specifically, I urge the Board to adopt options that significantly reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishing cap by 50% and implement stricter localized management.

As a passionate recreational angler, I travel to **Martha's Vineyard Island** annually, investing tens of thousands of dollars into the local economy through charters, lodging, bait shops, and restaurants. Over the last few seasons, the decline in our local fishery has been devastating. This year, my trips have yielded dismal striped bass fishing and an alarming, complete absence of menhaden schools in our waters.

Industrial reduction fishing in the Chesapeake Bay—the primary nursery for the Atlantic striped bass stock—is choking out the forage base that northern migratory fisheries rely upon. When menhaden are over-concentrated or depleted at the source, the ecological ripple effects are felt directly by anglers like me on the water in New England.

Striped bass cannot recover without an abundant supply of menhaden. I urge the Board to prioritize the health of the broader ecosystem and the multi-billion-dollar recreational fishing economy over industrial harvest interests, whose economic impact is dwarfed by the recreational angler community. Please enact the maximum conservation protections available in this addendum.

Thank you for your time and leadership on this critical resource.

Sincerely,

Emmit Hoyl

Nederland, Colorado USA

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James Boyle

From: Rob Canora <robaerie@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 6:52 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Public comment - Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom it may concern:

I support fisheries management in the Chesapeake Bay that is firmly based on the best available science and considers the health of the entire ecosystem.

Atlantic menhaden are a critical forage species for striped bass, birds, and other wildlife - especially the Osprey. I urge the Commission to prohibit industrial-scale commercial menhaden fishing within the Chesapeake Bay, consistent with the restrictions adopted by the other Chesapeake Bay states. Virginia should not remain the exception.

Commercial harvest can continue in appropriate ocean waters, but the Bay itself should be protected as an essential nursery and feeding area. Please prioritize the Bay's long-term ecological health over short-term commercial interests.

Sincerely,

Rob Canora
robaerie@iCloud.com / 917.373.1676

Do your part to reduce ignorance. Listen to OnBeing AT onbeing.org

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James Boyle

From: Bonnie Torcivia <bltorcivia@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 8:01 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom it may concern- I live in Fair Haven, NJ in a home on the Navesink River. 10 years ago I installed a stand for an osprey nest next to my dock and have been watching the nest be used every year since. I was alarmed to see nest failure in the last two years. By that I mean that the adults returned and sat on the nest but no chicks were ever visible. This is very alarming as the ospreys were a very active part of the local ecosystem. I am not sure of the cause but I would report seeing less fish being caught and returned to the nest. The ospreys are very vocal. I have observed that the male will fly around announcing his catch and then perch in my tall trees to prepare that catch, by tearing out gills and other non edible parts, before returning to the nest to feed the roosting female. This activity has been less common over the past 2 years and I would say that it is likely due to less menhaden available for catching. The caught fish also appear to be smaller. It is heartbreaking that we are allowing our ospreys to be starved, please pass the addendum to reduce the permitted amount of menhaden that can be harvested so that our ospreys can thrive!

Sincerely,
Bonnie Torcivia
Concerned citizen of Fair Haven, NJ

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James Boyle

From: Mel Medick <melmedick4@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 9:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Fishing vs Wildlife

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Please stop believing that we can greedily strip our ecosystems and expect it to continue to provide those resources. Companies will steal life from the wildlife of the bay for their own profit until they see the end of the existence if the resource. Then they call it a successful profit margin for past years and then pivot to a new venture leaving devestation in it's wake. They dont care about Virginia or Maryland or the bay or who and what they impact. This is why they must be regulated to do so.

We regulate the fishing industry or look like a fool as the ecosystem stops serving the humans that abused it. Make the change- every good decision sets the example and sends ripples into forever.

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James Boyle

From: Chris Bruch <CHRISB@donohoe.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 1:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] DRAFT ADDENDUM II TO AMENDMENT 3 OF THE ATLANTIC MENHADEN INTERSTATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Importance: High

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom it may concern,

It is unconscionable that Virginia is the only Atlantic state that still allows industrial menhaden fishing inside state waters and the Chesapeake Bay.

Please take action to drastically reduce harvests before irreputable harm is caused to the Bay's ecosystem and the osprey population.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chris Bruch
Colonial Beach, VA

CHRIS BRUCH
PRESIDENT & CEO
The Donohoe Companies, Inc.
A: 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700, Bethesda, MD 20814
P: 202.625.8402
E: chrisb@donohoe.com **W:** DONOHOE.COM
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James Boyle

From: Brandon Sakelaridos <brandon@delvalrestaurantconsultants.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 12:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am writing to support substantial additional protections for Atlantic menhaden and to request that Draft Addendum II include stronger measures addressing concentrated commercial harvest, particularly in nearshore and estuarine waters.

Menhaden are not simply another commercial species. They are a foundational forage fish supporting striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, marine mammals, seabirds, and the broader Atlantic coastal food web.

ASMFC's ecosystem reference points recognize this ecological role. The 2025 assessment also identified fishing mortality above the ecological target and indicated that a TAC reduction of 50% or greater would substantially reduce the probability of exceeding that target.

Just as importantly, ASMFC acknowledges that its current assessment cannot determine menhaden stock status at smaller spatial scales. A healthy coastwide biomass does not establish that intensive harvest cannot reduce forage availability within an individual bay, inlet, migration corridor, or nearshore region.

I therefore request that the Board add or consider the following measures in this Addendum:

1. **A meaningful coastwide reduction in commercial harvest**, including consideration of a 50% or greater TAC reduction consistent with the ecological reference-point analysis.
2. **Daily, weekly, and seasonal vessel limits** in addition to the coastwide TAC. Annual quotas alone do not prevent enormous quantities of forage from being removed from one location over a very short period.
3. **Seasonal nearshore closures during major predator and bird migrations**, including consideration of April 1–June 15 and September 1–November 30. Final regional dates can be established using the best available migration data.
4. **A coastwide nearshore and estuarine harvest buffer**, with seven miles from shore as a starting point for consideration. Bays, inlets, and other concentrated forage areas should receive comparable protection.
5. **Limits on industrial harvesting capacity and technology**, including consideration of restrictions on spotter aircraft, vessel capacity, and other technologies that enable extremely rapid removal of concentrated schools.
6. **Stronger bycatch monitoring and accountability**, including electronic or independent monitoring where appropriate and substantial penalties for excessive or preventable bycatch.
7. **Independent verification of landings and fishing activity**, including vessel tracking, electronic reporting, and dockside verification for high-volume harvesters.

8. **Meaningful consequences for quota violations.** Illegal or excess harvest should be confiscated. Serious or repeated violations should result in escalating fines, permit suspension, and ultimately permit revocation. Penalties should eliminate the economic incentive to exceed regulations.
9. **A per-pound commercial menhaden assessment dedicated to management.** Revenue should directly support state fisheries enforcement, independent monitoring, ecosystem research, and development of improved spatial assessments. The cost of adequately monitoring an industrial fishery should not fall entirely on taxpayers.
10. **Evaluation of the end uses driving reduction-fishery demand.** Fish meal, fish oil, dietary supplements, fertilizer, and aquaculture inputs should be examined individually, particularly where practical substitutes exist. Harvest allocation should account for menhaden's value as forage, not simply market demand for the landed product.
11. **Automatic ecosystem safeguards.** The Addendum should establish measurable triggers tied to forage abundance, recruitment, predator condition, or other scientifically appropriate indicators. Crossing those thresholds should automatically produce additional harvest reductions, spatial closures, or temporary moratoria.

I also urge the Board to address **localized depletion directly**. The inability of a coastwide assessment to measure localized depletion should not become a reason to postpone protection until better models exist. Where uncertainty exists and the potential consequence is loss of forage from important nearshore feeding areas, management should be precautionary.

Atlantic herring provides a warning of how difficult recovery can become after a forage stock is severely depleted. Fisheries management should not require menhaden to approach that condition before stronger protections become justified.

If commercial menhaden harvest is going to continue at substantial scale, the industry should accept equally substantial safeguards: lower harvest, spatial protection, limits on concentrated removals, comprehensive monitoring, strong enforcement, and financial responsibility for the management necessary to sustain the resource.

Menhaden's value cannot be measured solely by the price received at the dock. Their greatest value is the life they support while remaining in the Atlantic ecosystem.

Please strengthen Draft Addendum II accordingly.

Respectfully,

Brandon Sakelaridos

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James Boyle

From: Elizabeth Gillooly <elizabethgillooly1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 12:16 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I strongly agree that menhaden fishing should be drastically reduced, if not eliminated entirely. In 10 years, we have seen an abundance of osprey chicks along nests on the visible horizon, to less than 3-4 since 2022, dying chicks in 2023,24,25 and none this year at all.

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James Boyle

From: Smith, Raymond /US <Raymond.Smith@sanofi.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 11:04 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II and 2027–2029 Catch Limits

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I strongly believe that meaningful limits should be placed on the harvest of menhaden to ensure the long-term health of our coastal waters, fisheries, and wildlife. Menhaden **are not** just another fish species. They are a vital link in the marine food chain and support countless species that depend on them for survival.

Too often, fishery management focuses on the economic value of a species as a commercial product while overlooking its ecological value. When large numbers of menhaden are removed from the ecosystem, the effects ripple throughout the entire **food web**.

Setting reasonable catch limits is not about eliminating fishing. It is about balancing economic interests with responsible stewardship. When you don't have safeguards in place, intensive harvesting can reduce local populations. This ultimately harms both the ecosystem and the coastal communities that depend on healthy fisheries.

Menhaden also provide environmental benefits beyond their role as prey. As filter feeders, they help improve water quality by consuming plankton and organic matter. In estuaries and bays that already face pollution and environmental stress, maintaining robust menhaden populations can contribute to healthier aquatic ecosystems.

Once a population declines significantly, recovery can take many years. Preventative conservation measures are far more effective and less costly than emergency restrictions imposed after damage has already occurred.

I fully support science-based catch limits that account for both the abundance of menhaden and the needs of the broader ecosystem. Fisheries managers should prioritize sustainable harvest levels, protect important spawning and nursery areas, and regularly adjust quotas based on current scientific data. These measures will help ensure that future generations inherit healthy oceans and productive fisheries.

I strongly support establishing and enforcing limits on menhaden harvest to ensure their long-term sustainability and the health of our coastal waters.

"More bunker in the water means more food for the coast we love. Help us make that the priority this November."

Ray Smith
Red Bank, NJ
Avid Shore Recreational Steward

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James Boyle

From: Richard Odom <richard_odom@ymail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 10:59 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I would suggest a significant reduction or stopping menhaden reduction fishing in Chesapeake Bay while measuring the impact on bay wildlife. East coast states other than Virginia do not allow menhaden reduction fishing in their states waters and what is Virginia's justification not to follow what other states have determined?

Richard Odom

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James Boyle

From: Paul Nugent <nugentpaul@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 10:43 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am writing to express my deep concerns about the status of our fragile ecosystem in the oceans, bays, and rivers. We have been allowing commercial vessels to come in and indiscriminately destroy what has been a thriving ecosystem.

These menhaden are the foundation of this ecosystem and they are food for natural predators such as whales, tuna, striped bass, bluefish, drum, etc. When we remove the food source we impact all of these species negatively as well. In addition, when these massive nets come into harvest huge quantities of these fish, they also capture and kill the predatory species that are actively feeding on the menhaden- resulting in thousands of dead bycatch discarded.

Not to mention that menhaden are filter feeders and are constantly cleaning our waterways.

I believe we are at crisis levels here; I see it first hand on the water multiple days a week. We are quickly making our oceans a desert and we need to stop all commercial harvesting of menhaden now. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Paul Nugent

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James Boyle

From: MAUREEN DROUIN <mamdrouin@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 10:38 AM
To: Comments
Cc: Maureen Drouin
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Commission Members,

I am writing to you from Connecticut, where I live along the beautiful shoreline of Long Island Sound.

A concerning observation that our area has identified is the lack of menhaden fish in our waters this summer. The impact of this had been devastating to our seabirds, in particular the Osprey, who depend on this food source during the summer in New England. Of the Osprey nests that have cameras, a large majority of the young Osprey starved to death this season. This has been extremely concerning and difficult to observe. Heartbreaking.

The menhaden is considered one of the most important fish in the sea due to its place in so many food chains, and as you are well aware these essential fish originate in the Virginia/Maryland coastline and come up north during the warmer weather.

The overfishing in your Virginia/Maryland waters is the probably cause of this decline of this essential food source for our wildlife. In particular Omega Protein.

THIS HAS TO STOP. PLEASE ACT TO PLACE LIMITS on the fishing for the next season, in tandem with the proposed studies regarding the decline in menhaden.

Any delay in implementing these limits will have a devastating and maybe irreversible impact on these majestic birds - Osprey.

I am also confused when I heard that that status of a federally protected bird like the Osprey is not taken into account when managing fishing numbers. This does not seem to align with the spirit of federal protections???

I have also sent this email on to Gov. Spanberger to ensure her office is aware of this urgent issue.

I thank you for your consideration - please do the right thing.

Sincerely,
Maureen Drouin
73 River Rd
Madison CT
203-506-3136

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James Boyle

From: JONATHAN HARWIN <jharwin67@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 8:54 AM
To: Comments
Cc: Shanna Madsen
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Attn. James Boyle

Hello,
Thank you for your attention to my comment regarding Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II.

My name is Jay Harwin, and I am a strong proponent of maximally restricting the menhaden fishery. This would include the Bay Reduction Fishery Option B4. I am also in favor of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) being restricted as much as possible throughout the Atlantic Fishery.

I am a resident of the Connecticut shoreline, residing in Branford. I have been fortunate enough to live on Branford Harbor for the last 30 years. I've raised my children there, and feel enormous gratitude to have spent time almost every day engaged in activities on my local water.
I am a physician, an avid citizen scientist and a passionate observer of the local ecosystem. I am also an osprey steward with the CT Audubon Society, monitoring several local osprey nesting sites.

Menhaden (we always refer to them as bunker in our local waters!) have been a conspicuous presence through my life in Branford. By mid to late summers, the schools of mature individuals have been thick, remarkable, meandering masses of hundreds of thousands of individuals covering acres of our local harbors and estuaries. Sport fish have been active in our local waters. The schools are seen to "boil", or spill onto our local beaches when sport-fish are feeding, which was traditionally a daily occurrence. My children and I cherished the time of year when our evening paddles would lead us through this remarkable show of dense, mature menhaden literally filling our local waters.

Our local osprey population has successfully grown over the last several decades, and traditionally, almost every overhead osprey returning to its nest site was noted to be carrying a mature adult menhaden.

Everything changed in the 2024 season.
For the first time, spotting a menhaden school became rare. The change was frighteningly conspicuous and sudden, a profound change from 2023 to 2024.
In 2025, there were no menhaden visible in our local waters.
This 2026 season continued the disturbing trend. I inquired widely and heard of no mature menhaden schools throughout the CT shoreline or the vast, critical and recently healthy ecosystem of Long Island Sound.

There has been no successful sport fishing locally this season.
Our osprey population has struggled profoundly. You will hear a great number of anecdotal reports of this struggle. Our local Audubon scientists will quantify a bit more objectively the abrupt and coincident change in fledglings per nest. Our observers all witnessed the tragedy of starving nestlings, the grisly death of nestlings, starving adults, and the profound, sudden change in the frequency of food delivery to nest sites.

I am disappointed that despite these concerns for several years, the objective science to guide your decisions does not yet truly exist.

In the absence of objective data to guide your decisions, the only reasonable way to proceed is with thorough cost/benefit analysis.
If we make errors in our best subjective decisions, the risk of being overly restrictive is a socioeconomic cost that can be measured to corporate fisheries, and includes the unfortunate harm to the livelihoods of a modest number of employees and fishermen.

If we err by being too permissive with the TAC and the Bay Fishery, the risk would potentially be further devastation to an entire, profoundly complex Atlantic ecosystem.
Fish, shorebirds, raptors, crabs, shellfish, countless private fishing captains along the Atlantic seaboard all suffer.
This is a risk we simply cannot possibly tolerate. We must do everything possible to protect the vital ecosystem from any further possible disruption. There simply is no other responsible way forward.

Please do the only reasonable thing and protect the ecosystem that is giving us conspicuous and profound warnings that it is in trouble.

Please support the most restrictive TAC limits and the B4, most restrictive options in the Bay Reduction Fishery

Thank you for your attention to my comment.
I would be happy to provide any further feedback at any time

Jay Harwin
Branford, Connecticut

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James Boyle

From: Benjamín Hernández <bh554692@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 11:22 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Chesapeake bay

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Please put some regulations and take care of overfishing so the cheasepeake bay can survive and help the ecosistem

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James Boyle

From: christopher oconnor <christopherxoconnor3@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 4:58 PM
To: Comments
Cc: christopher oconnor; info@littoralsociety.org
Subject: [External] Overfishing of Atlantic Menhaden in last two years

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

- "NJ Fish & Wildlife said strong striped bass fishing in 2022 was partly due to large, reliable schools of menhaden staying along the coast longer."
- If I am not mistaken, it was around that time (2022) that residents in the coastal areas of New Jersey and even in the big city of New York started to marvel at the majestic sight of WHALES off shore.
- Whale sightings are apparently down this year (2026). I cannot help but suspect that this is due to the documented decrease in Atlantic menhaden.
- -- Christopher X. O'Connor
- 90 Luke Street
- South Amboy, New Jersey 08879 (on the shores of the Raritan Bay)
- Tel: 505-218-3478

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James Boyle

From: Bob Burger <bsqared@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 2:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden reduction please

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello-

I am writing to urge the ASMFC to reduce the catch limits on menhaden by 50% to allow this building block species to rebound to a healthier level. In Connecticut we have seen virtually no bait in our waters all year and only small amounts in 2025. This has caused all of our local fisheries to fall apart, with no sport fish staying in Long Island Sound since the middle of June
Pleas act to conserve these vital fish to protect the fishing public's interests

Thank you-

Bob Burger
Guilford CT

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James Boyle

From: Sandy Soule <sandy.soule@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 1:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Save the Ospreys!

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I have lived on the Mianus River in Riverside CT for 25 years, and it's been glorious to see the growth of our local osprey population. I fully support all measure to help keep them safe and strong!

--
Sandy Soule
18 Lakeview Drive
Riverside CT 06878
203-637-7642
203-278-1735 (mobile)

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James Boyle

From: Mark <msl@marksethlender.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 12:50 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] STOP the Menhaden Apocalypse

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

We DO NOT have the right to vacuum the sea of its fundamental life source, for any reason, and certainly not for PROFIT. And the Profit of the Few at that.

The virtual extirpation of menhaden - and that is exactly what is happening on your watch - is a gross evil, a crime against Nature and therefore against Humanity. You will be held accountable by the generations of today and those of a diminished future. Do not fail to act.

CUT THE MENHADEN QUOTA!

REIN IN OCEAN HARVESTERS AND OMEGA.

Sincerely yours,

Mark Seth Lender
Clinton Connecticut
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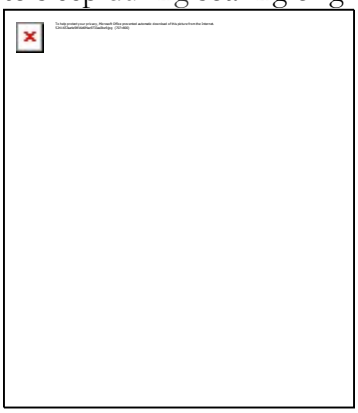
James Boyle

From: Rebecca Canright <rebeccagroovypeace@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 12:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II and 2027–2029 Catch Limits.

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Greetings! As a young person, I care a lot about protecting coastal wildlife. I think you for your work to safeguard the many amazing species call our region home. I respectfully ask managers to cut the Bay's industrial menhaden harvest cap by at least 50%, spread the allowed harvest more evenly across the season, and make a substantial coastwide catch reduction that meets sustainable ecosystem targets at once.
Thank you for your consideration!!
Take care, Rebecca

--
Frigate birds fly for months over the ocean and can engage in both regular sleep and use half their brain at a time to sleep during soaring or gliding flight.



Compassion for all creatures great and small.

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James Boyle

From: Lynn Moceri <lmo54@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 12:43 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II and 2027–2029 Catch Limits

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello my name is Lynn Moceri of Middle Township NJ.

As a member of the American Littoral Society, Surfrider Foundation and a citizen living along tidal water, I am writing about my concern of menhaden overfishing.
I don't need scientists to tell me the bunker population decline along the NJ coast has affected all manner of marine life that depend on this fish for feed.
With several osprey nests in view of my home, I can see for myself first the starvation of chicks and then the following year, the osprey just don't produce offspring at all. Out of a dozen nests I see while on the water, only one had chicks this year. After the dedicated efforts to restore the osprey population since the 1970's, it is a shame to be risking the health of this species yet again.

Please cut the industrial harvest cap by at least 50%, spread the
allowed harvest more evenly across the season, and make a substantial coast-wide catch reduction that meets ASMFC's ecosystem target.

I hope you will take the observations of the public into account when revising the rules.

Thanks you for reading,

Lynn Moceri

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James Boyle

From: Greg Cooner <luckyseas1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 12:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Time for studying is past. Almost every other State has banned or at least moved the reduction fleet offshore. Canadian companies shouldn't have the right to rape our natural resources. A complete moratorium for 5 years and then re evaluate the situation. A moratorium worked to bring back striped bass and now the starve bec there's not enough forage fish. Everything in the bays and ocean depends on menhaden population being healthy. Once plentiful in SW Florida they are now no existent because they were over harvested. Same will happen in the bay is this isn't stopped. Virginia commercial fisherman are going bankrupt trying to compete with farm raised inferior seafood flooding the market and the very food native fish need is being harvested to feed farmed fish. Not only not as healthy but we need to look out for American commercial seafood not foreign countries. Don't wait till everything is dead. Act now. A 50% reduction is just a stall tactic to buy foreign owned companies Time. Please put Americans first and stop this slaughtering of our essential natural resources. 🙏

Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer

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James Boyle

From: Richard Devers <rickd.dcc@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 10:56 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

For Consideration, I have a residence on Gwynn's Island and have some history with the water and environment surrounding that area. As the 50 years have passed and we see fewer fish and osprey, we ask ourselves what is going on? Well, it seems we have a clue, Maybe not an answer but certainly a clue. The loss of manhaden is certainly a part of the clue. Maybe not the entire answer but a clue. The depletion of fish and osprey would not even be an issue if manhaden were not fished out, so why can't a limit be imposed? I suggest, and recommend that this limit of 50% be imposed. This will allow the fishing and osprey to return and it can be a good guideline to see if there are improvements without stopping the menhaden fishing industry completely. If this measure does not pass, please provide a reason behind such a vote rather than just a 'no" vote. There is more to enjoying the Chesapeake Bay than oil and cosmetics.

Sincerely,

--
Rick Devers
Devers Construction & Renovations
CGC1520677
Phone # 352-222-2073
E-mail: Rickd.dcc@gmail.com

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James Boyle

From: RomanAround5246 <romanaround5246@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 9:47 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Action

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hi ASMFC,

After years of kicking the can down the road, and doing virtually nothing about the overfishing of Atlantic Menhaden, the time has come for you to do your job of managing species for the future. Like many species that you have kick the can down the road to no helpful avail, it's time to do some about the Atlantic Menhaden. This is a unique species that fits into many economic and ecological scenarios. They are a food source for birds of prey, marine mammals and fish and humans. One of these factors seems to be destroying the species population.

Not only is the commercial sector destroying the population of Atlantic Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay region but now they are moving out to other areas to decimate the population out there. The use of spotter planes is also helping in that feat.

We keep allowing Omega Protein, alongside its contracted fishing fleet company, **Ocean Harvesters to keep overfishing this species and making the birds and and the marine species suffer because of them.**

It's time for commonsense and the time for action is now. We see it in the Herring Industry with the River Herring being decimated in the ocean and the numbers haven't come back in the rivers. We need a reduction of 50% total and not just the Chesapeake Bay region but everywhere and a closure during the entire month of August for both the Striped Bass and Osprey to ensure a food source for them during that period. No rolling over quotes from one period to another. If they don't catch their quota, there is a reason for that and it's called Overfishing and will need to stop fishing if they meet their quota or face penalties. The Cap can be reviewed every three years and adjusted either way if need be. I also don't mind to see a reduction in the recreational sector. Do we really need to be taking 50 fish or a 5 gallon pail of them? No. If we want the commercial sector to take a cut, so should the recreational sector.

I know that there will be complaints about job loss but just think about the fact that the total loss of that fishery means the loss of all those jobs. What will they do if there are no Atlantic Menhaden? Maybe consider them onboard watchers to make sure the boats are doing everything by the book.

Thank You for taking time out of your busy schedule to read and document my opinion for the record. I know in the past the majority of the public wanted a more strict outcome for striped bass which the council disregarded but I am hoping they will take this more seriously.

Sincerely,

Roman Dudus

Sent from my Galaxy

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James Boyle

From: Joseph Mallory <jsmallory3@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 8:46 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Ospreys

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I strongly support the measures to limit menhaden catches so that dwindling Osprey populations can survive!

Joseph S Mallory
Greenwich, CT
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James Boyle

From: Jeannine Pond <pondjeannine@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 8:33 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Reduce commercial fishing, keep Ospreys thriving

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

We love watching Ospreys, a beautiful bird, gliding over the water or flying overhead as we walk along the shoreline or sunbath on the beach, or hike at Milford Point
Reduce commercial fishing by 50% so our Ospreys will thrive and we can continue to observe and enjoy their presence in our lives year after year.
Jeannine Pond
Milford, CT

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James Boyle

From: Laura Mae <lauralovesbirds@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 6:04 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear FMP Coordinator James Boyle and Members of the Commission,

I am writing as a concerned Virginia resident to express my support for Draft Addendum II and to urge the Commission to finally implement the strictest possible protections for Atlantic menhaden, particularly within the Chesapeake Bay.

Menhaden are the ecological foundation of our coastal ecosystem. Decades of intensive industrial reduction fishing have disrupted the local food web, leading to devastating impacts on wildlife that depend on them. We are currently witnessing an ecological crisis with our local osprey populations, where nesting success has plummeted due to a severe lack of food. Osprey chicks are starving to their death in their nests because industrial purse seines are clearing out the localized menhaden biomass.

To allow the menhaden population to fully restore and to protect critical predators like the osprey, I strongly urge the ASMFC to adopt the following measures:

- Implement a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery harvest cap immediately.
- Establish strict seasonal closures during peak osprey nesting and migration seasons to prevent localized depletion.
- Prioritize ecosystem-based management that factors the nutritional needs of marine mammals, seabirds, and predatory fish into harvest quotas, rather than managing menhaden solely as a single-species commodity.

We cannot afford to wait for decades of further study while our osprey populations collapse. Please take decisive action now to restrict industrial overharvesting and restore the balance of the Chesapeake Bay.

Thank you for your time and your dedication to protecting our shared marine resources.

Sincerely,

Laura Mae, Chesapeake VA

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James Boyle

From: Pamela Langer <langer.pamela@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 9:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Stop the unsustainable harvest of Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear ASMFC,

Atlantic Menhaden are being decimated by the factory fishing activities of a single Virginia-based company, Omega Protein, which is owned by the privately-held Canadian company, Cooke, Inc. The impact to the Chesapeake Bay is the destruction of the Bay's web of life. Menhaden are crucial to the survival of our Ospreys, who depend on this fish as their primary food. They are not able to provide Menhaden to their chicks as the Menhaden are no longer available due to Omega Protein overfishing. The chicks are starving. These actions are negatively impacting ospreys leading to a 14% annual decline in the Osprey population. It appears to be as devastating as DDT was in the past. More than 30% of adult female Ospreys are failing to breed. Other fish also are being negatively impacted, which in turn impacts local fishing. Allowing the destruction of the Chesapeake Bay food web must be stopped soon to stop the negative impacts from this one company. There are other ways of finding protein for humans and feed for cattle or salmon. Maryland outlawed the use of ocean-going purse seiners more than 50 years ago for good reasons. Unfortunately, all the Atlantic coastal states haven't outlawed purse seiners.

Besides osprey, this overfishing also affects prey items for Bald Eagle, Brown Pelican, Common Loon, and Royal Tern. Fish species affected by collapsing Menhaden numbers include ASMFC species of conservation concern: rockfish (overfished), bluefish (rebuilding), weakfish (depleted), and spiny dogfish (reproduction declining). Menhaden have been termed the most important fish in the sea.

You have the power to stop the unsustainable harvest of Menhaden and I respectfully ask that you do the right thing and stop Omega Protein from their current methods of harvesting Menhaden as they are currently doing. Letting one company get away with this destruction in order to profit harms the many.

Sincerely,
Pamela Langer

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James Boyle

From: Ellen Crabtree <ellenhcrabtree@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 5:40 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear FMP Coordinator James Boyle and Members of the Commission,

I am writing as a concerned Virginia resident to express my strong, unequivocal support for **Draft Addendum II** and to urge the Commission to implement the strictest possible protections for Atlantic menhaden, particularly within the Chesapeake Bay.

Menhaden are the ecological foundation of our coastal ecosystem. Decades of intensive industrial reduction fishing have disrupted the local food web, leading to devastating impacts on wildlife that depend on them. We are currently witnessing an ecological crisis with our local **osprey populations**, where nesting success has plummeted due to a severe lack of food. Osprey chicks are quite literally starving in their nests because industrial purse seines are clearing out the localized menhaden biomass before these birds can forage.

To allow the menhaden population to fully restore and to protect critical predators like the osprey, I strongly urge the ASMFC to adopt the following measures:

- **Implement a 50% reduction** in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery harvest cap immediately.
- **Establish strict seasonal closures** during peak osprey nesting and migration seasons to prevent localized depletion.
- **Prioritize ecosystem-based management**that factors the nutritional needs of marine mammals, seabirds, and predatory fish into harvest quotas, rather than managing menhaden solely as a single-species commodity.

We cannot afford to wait for decades of further study while our osprey populations collapse. Please take decisive action to restrict industrial overharvesting and restore the balance of the Chesapeake Bay.

Thank you for your time and your dedication to protecting our shared marine resources.

Sincerely,

Ellen H. Crabtree

6109 Powhatan Ave.

Norfolk, VA 23508

Sent from my iPhone

James Boyle

From: Patrick Huban <patrick@albatrossflyfishing.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 2:20 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II Comments

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I support the following items for Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 of the Atlantic Menhaden Interstate Fishery Management Plan.

Section 3.1 - Sub Option b4

Section 3.2.1 - Option B1

Section 3.2.2 - Underage Sub Option 1

Section 3.3 - Option B

Coastwide TAC - PAPER REDUCTIONS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE. What is the point of reducing a percentage of a harvest quota that wasn't reached? Can we please use basic common sense. Unless we reduce the coastwide TAC by at least 30% - there is a 100% probability of overfishing. This should ideally be reduced to 50% or even more. Please prioritize the recreational economy over bad actors making food for animals.

Please see my further comments below:

It is clear Atlantic Menhaden has been grossly mismanaged, the effects of this are clear. As a full time fishing guide in Connecticut, I have visibly seen the amount of Menhaden go from harbors full of these important fish to hardly any at all. For the past three years, my son and I have not gone to our local salt marsh to net a few menhaden, attach them to a circle hook, and virtually guarantee a bite from a striped bass for my enthusiastic son. There are no Menhaden there. Not only does my now 6-year-old son, probably not remember those great moments from when he was 3, but we may never have them again. Not to mention the impact on my professional income as a guide. ASMFC has impacted my ability to make a living through this blunder in Menhaden management, compounded by equally grievous blunders in striped bass management and pretty much any other fish that falls under your purview.

There's no other way to describe this but borderline criminal, you are destroying our fisheries by prioritizing bad actors who have no concern for keeping this fishery sustainable. Do something now, for my son, and so I can continue to do what I love and earn a living SUSTAINABLY as a professional fly fishing guide.

Captain Patrick Huban
860-416-1339
ALBATROSS FLY FISHING

James Boyle

From: Steve Samlal <smcrea19@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 1:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden. Draft Addendum 11..

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I fully support a 50% reduction in the harvesting of Menhaden. I believe that such reduction would help the Stripe bass population and other species. I would support a five year reduction.
Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 1:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/va-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Bateman

Email

jbateman@lancova.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Omega Protein Economic Impact in Lancaster County

Commercial fishing and aquaculture are heritage industries in Lancaster County. As such, they remain an economic priority. In fact, recent evidence points to a resurgence in commercial fishing and aquaculture activity in Lancaster. This is primarily due decades-long state and local efforts to preserve and restore the Chesapeake Bay.

Working waterfront and water-dependent industries are historically the lifeblood of Lancaster County, and the region's economy. They remain a top economic and workforce development priority for Lancaster County and GoVirginia Region 6. Many of the projects funded through the Virginia Growth & Opportunity Fund are directly related to supporting these industries and their workforce.

Lancaster County's comprehensive and economic strategic plans specifically call for the preservation of working waterfronts and the growth of the water dependent industries they support. Lancaster County's efforts to grow its workforce by 1,000

persons by 2035 are directly tied to the growth of these industries.

Workforce Impact

Between the two companies, Omega Protein and Ocean Harvesters, they directly employ 260 personnel, of which 73 are residents of Lancaster County.
Annual payroll/benefits of over $29 million to these Omega and Ocean Harvesters employees, of which $12 million of goes to Lancaster County residents.
A majority of senior leadership resides in Lancaster County
-VP Sales (Nick Sterrett)
-Sr. Dir. Refined Oil (Jane Crowther)
-Dir. of Environmental Compliance (Hannah Smith Long)
-Production Manager (Sonny Abbott)
-Vessel Manager (Auston Robbins)
-Resident Project Engineer (Donald Blue)
-Captains/Spotters (Allen Hinson, Lee Robbins, Roger Smith, Michael Stevens)
100% of employees are US Citizens; no use of H2B migrant labor
-Most are multigenerational going back 5-6 generations
-Workforce is 52% African American
-Fishermen on vessels are organized under the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Union, Local 400
Indirectly employ over 250 others through service providers, contractors, construction, logistics, etc.

Local Business Impact

Over the past three years (2023-2025) Omega have directly spent $5,907,665 million with various businesses or charities in Lancaster County leading to an estimated indirect economic impact of over $11 million.

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James Boyle

From: CAROL schreter <c.schreter@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 11:12 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Consider this quote from Margaret Mead: "It was not until we saw a picture of the earth, from the moon, that we realized how small and how helpless this planet is - something that we must hold in our arms and care for."

In the Chesapeake Bay, Osprey chicks are starving and many adult pairs are not even attempting to nest. This is due to the depletion of their principal food, the Atlantic Menhaden, by the factory fishing activities of a single Virginia-based company, Omega Protein, which is owned by the privately-held Canadian company, Cooke, Inc.

Please stop this unsustainable harvest.

Carol Schreter
1905 Dixon Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21209
(410) 664-5151 (land line)
C.Schreter@comcast.net

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James Boyle

From: Waiva Worthley <wworthley@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 10:50 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Supporting complete closure of the reduction harvest of menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission:

I write as a resident of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, a birder, and a veterinarian in support of the closure of the menhaden fishery.

It's painful to watch osprey chicks starve in the nest because their parents can not find enough food to sustain their offspring while menhaden are being harvested by thousands of metric tons for the reduction fishery. Our own Maryland watermen cannot find enough menhaden for use as bait.

We do have alternative sources of protein for pet and agricultural animal diets that do not depend on menhaden. Insect protein- based animal feeds are increasingly available to supply this market - but ospreys do not have an alternative source of food for their young.

Please close the menhaden reduction fishery.

Sincerely,
Waiva Worthley
939 Wesley Road
Finksburg, Maryland 21048

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James Boyle

From: Camille Woodbury <camillewoodbury69@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 4:57 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum 11

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

The Menhaden fish population has plummeted due to overfishing and there needs to be a ban on fishing them to repopulate their numbers successfully.

Our osprey keep track of what is going on in our waters. Osprey populations have dropped tremendously due to the lowered menhaden population from overfishing. The osprey is a vital indication of clean water and abundant fish population and helps keep aquatic ecosystems healthy.

We need ospreys, clean water, and abundant fish. Regulation of fishing means some control of how much fishermen can fish without destroying their populations totally and that way the imposed fishing regulations help to continue the industry while keeping our waters clean and healthy.

Thank you,

Camille Woodbury

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James Boyle

From: Susan Brandon <susanobrandon@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 9:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II.

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom it may concern,

I am concerned about the declining osprey population in Maryland. I have recently learned that the overfishing of menhaden in coastal waters and the bay are a big part of the problem. I support a closure of the rendition harvest or at least a 50% harvest cut for 2027. I also support spacing the harvest equally over May through November. The osprey population was growing so well after the use of DDT was banned in 1972. It's a shame that overfishing might cause it to reverse the growth we've had since then.

Susan Brandon
Annapolis, MD

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James Boyle

From: Charles Stirrat <stirrcr1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 4:10 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Charles Stirrat
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I write to express my strong concerns over the dramatic crash in Osprey breeding success in the Chesapeake Bay due to industrial fishing of Menhaden. I am a resident of Maryland that is a birder.
My first choice would be for ASMFC to act to close the industrial fishing responsible for 70% of the take coast-wide. If they are unwilling to do that, I would insist on at least a 50% reduction in current rendition harvests in Virginia. I would also strongly support spacing the harvest equally over May through November as proposed in Option B2.
I note that spreading out the Bay harvest will do little to assist the Osprey as when the Ospreys are breeding, there are already too few Menhaden in the Bay to support successful reproduction. **It is best to implement a complete closure of all harvest for rendering.**
Thank you for considering my concerns and recommendations.
Charles R. Stirrat
13318 Hunt Rdg
Ellicott City, MD 21042
443-462-8234
stirrcr1@gmail.com

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: Kevin Omland <omland@umbc.edu>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 2:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

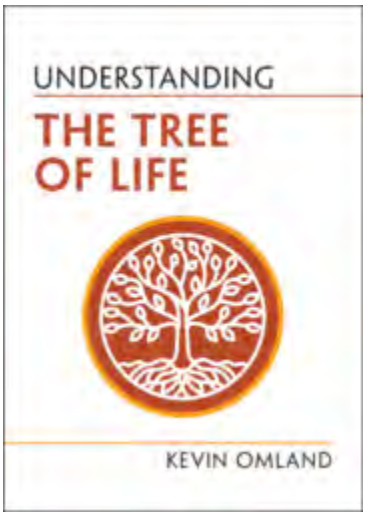
Dear ASFMC, I'm a professor of biological sciences at UMBC where I teach and do research in ecology and conservation. I also happen to go fishing a lot in my kayak on the Chesapeake, including in the Severn and nearby tributaries. The decline in striped bass in recent years is very discouraging for me both as a fisher and as an ecologist. The overharvesting of menhaden is one of the worst environmental disasters that I am aware of in recent years on the East Coast. Please vastly constrain or put a moratorium on menhaden harvest so that this crucial part of the food chain is restored to the Chesapeake and other nearby waters.

Sincerely, Kevin Omland.

--
Kevin Omland, Professor of Biological Sciences
UMBC Presidential Research Professor 2016-2019
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, MD 21250

Book Recently Published: **"Understanding the Tree of Life"**
Cambridge University Press, 2025

https://www.amazon.com/Understanding-Tree-Life/dp/100920730X?asin=100920730X&revisionId=&format=4&depth=1



CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: pvaldata@charter.net
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 1:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I write as a concerned resident of Maryland who is appalled at the sudden decline in Osprey reproduction, which is directly tied to the overfishing of Menhaden by Omega Protein, which uses a fleet of 10 vessels, including large purse seiners, to harvest 70% of the Bay's Menhaden. (Cooke Inc. of Canada purchased the company in 2017 for $500 million.)

I urge you to initiate long-overdue restrictions on this Virginia-based slaughter that also affects prey fish for Bald Eagles, Brown Pelicans, Common Loons, and Royal Terns. Other fish species affected by collapsing Menhaden numbers include ASMFC species of conservation concern: rockfish (overfished), bluefish (rebuilding), weakfish (depleted), and spiny dogfish (reproduction declining). But it's the Menhaden that Ospreys depend on to feed their chicks. Osprey fledging success for 70% of Bay Ospreys has dropped to a frighteningly low 0.25 per nesting pair in 2026, which is well below the ideal replacement level of 1.15 and even lower than the worst years of DDT-crashed reproduction in the 1960s. This data, from biologists surveying 900 nesting pairs throughout Maryland and Virginia Bay waters, reflects *drops from 0.5 to 0.35 in the last two years alone. This equates to an alarming Osprey decline of 14% a year.* Similar declines are being observed in Delaware, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts as Omega Protein and their harvesting affiliates scoop millions of Menhaden from the Bay and Atlantic Ocean.

Please close the harvest until Osprey populations recover, and after that, impose and enforce strict harvest restrictions of at least 50% in Virginia. Thank you.

Patricia Valdata
Crisfield, MD

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: Valerie Portney <valerieportney@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 1:31 PM
To: Comments
Cc: robin.todd@mdbirds.org
Subject: [External] URGENT: Ospreys starve as Menhaden are over fished

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Potomac River Fisheries Commission:

I am writing to urge you to take immediate action to protect Atlantic Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Menhaden are a critical food source for Chesapeake Bay Ospreys, yet their availability has declined dramatically. Biologists are reporting an alarming collapse in Osprey reproduction, with chicks starving because their parents cannot find enough of these nutrient-rich fish. Menhaden once made up approximately 75% of the Osprey diet in key areas of the Bay; today, that figure has reportedly fallen below 30%. The consequences extend beyond Ospreys—Menhaden are a vital part of the Chesapeake food web, supporting Bald Eagles, Brown Pelicans, loons, terns, rockfish, bluefish, and many other species.

I respectfully ask Maryland DNR and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission to use every regulatory and interstate avenue available to advocate for an end to industrial Menhaden harvesting for reduction purposes in the Chesapeake Bay and for stronger coastwide protections. If a complete closure cannot be achieved, please support substantial reductions in industrial harvest levels and measures that prioritize the ecological needs of the Bay. We cannot continue removing millions of these essential forage fish while Osprey chicks starve and the Chesapeake ecosystem suffers. **Please act now to protect the Menhaden, the Ospreys, and the future of the Chesapeake Bay.**

Sincerely,

Valerie Stutman Portney

Valerie Portney • 301-775-1857
CONSULT VALERIE

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James Boyle

From: Ron Scharlack <ron@scharlack.com>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 1:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

We are experiencing an ecological disaster affecting both fish and bird populations along the east coast of the United States due to Menhaden overfishing in the Chesapeake Bay. The main purpose of the overfishing is the production of fish oil. An immediate reduction of at least 50% of the allowed Chesapeake Bay Menhaden catch is needed. Since 75% of the Menhaden catch is allocated to the Chesapeake Bay, a 50% reduction still allocates 37.5% of the total catch to the Chesapeake Bay. Further reductions may be necessary in the future to restore both fish and bird populations that depend on Menhaden.

Ronald Scharlack
Westport, Massachusetts

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James Boyle

From: Mary Rieser <mary.rieser@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 1:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden draft Addendum I

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Please completely close the rendition harvest of Menhaden until an objective study of the Chesapeake Bay Menhaden population is undertaken and completed. The Osprey and other native marine and bird life are suffering because Omega is vacuuming up the Menhaden. Please put a stop to this.
Sent from my iPhone
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: Nikki Gamer <nikkigamer19@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 12:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board:

I am a 45-year-old Baltimore resident, bird lover, and nature enthusiast writing to urge you to take meaningful action to protect the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem by reducing the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap by 50 percent. I am not a fisheries scientist, and I do not make my living from the Bay. I understand that people do, and that decisions about commercial fishing affect real workers and communities. But I also know what it means to live near the Chesapeake and to see its wildlife as part of the fabric of this place.

One of my favorite sights is an Osprey perched high above Fort McHenry in Baltimore. An Osprey is one of those birds that can make you stop what you are doing and just watch. They are enormous and graceful at the same time. Seeing one hover over the water and then plunge after a fish is thrilling no matter how many times you have seen it.

That is why it is so disturbing to learn that a bird that appears so powerful is struggling simply to find enough food to successfully raise its young. Researchers have documented serious reproductive failures among Ospreys in parts of the Chesapeake Bay, including chicks dying from starvation and reproductive rates falling below the level needed to sustain populations.

Virginia's reduction fishery, operated by Ocean Harvesters and supplying Omega Protein, is the only one of its kind operating inside the Chesapeake Bay. I recognize that scientists are still working to understand exactly how local menhaden abundance, commercial harvest, and other environmental factors interact. But scientific uncertainty should not become an excuse for doing nothing when the warning signs are this serious.

That is what the precautionary principle is for.

We have been here before with Ospreys. Their populations were devastated by DDT in the 20th century. We changed course, and these remarkable birds recovered. It would be heartbreaking to watch that recovery unravel because we were unwilling to leave enough food in the water for them.

Please adopt the strongest conservation option before you: reduce the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap by 50 percent and spread the allowable harvest across the fishing season so that enormous quantities of menhaden are not removed during critical periods for wildlife.

I want someone standing at Fort McHenry 20 or 30 years from now to be able to look up and see an Osprey perched above the water—and to feel the same awe I do today.

We know enough to act. Please do so.

Sincerely,
Nikki Gamer
3206 Beverly Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21214

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James Boyle

From: Ricky Arnold <rickyarnold119@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 11:45 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden harvest comments

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom it may concern-
I appreciate your willingness to listen to comments regarding the ongoing overharvesting of Menhaden for rendering in Chesapeake Bay. I fully support efforts to close the commercial fishery in VA that is impacting wildlife and other fisheries throughout the Bay. The data is damning and clear. It is time to close this fishery.

Thank you-
Richard Arnold
Ocean City, MD
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 10:28 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Frank DEBLASIO

Email

nutleysigns@optonline.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

STOP taking menhaden, it is ruining everything.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 12:15 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

mary trombetta

Email

mary.f.trombetta@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

Please do whatever has to be done to save the wildlife specifically the Osprey population. When I read what is happening to the Ospreys it made me sick at heart. It is disgraceful and sad that their chicks are starving! This is similar to what happened to the Eagles! The Ospreys need to be able to access a supply of Menhaden for producing and maintaining healthy chicks. Please extremely limit whatever greed driven actions are contributing to this deplorable situation , including the chemical industry's contribution to climate change. Biological diversity is important for now and our future!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2026 8:50 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/?sfnsn=mo

Name

Ann Moak

Email

andymoak58@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I wish to voice my concerns about the “state” of the Osprey population declining due to the lack of food/fish. Please help!!!
Thank you, Andy

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2026 7:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Melissa Leonescu

Email

mleonescu@msn.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I am in support of limiting the overfishing of Menhaden, to help save Osprey feeding. Thank you

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2026 6:12 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Charles Bowman

Email

cbowman@landuse.us

State

New York

Comment

I am a professional ecologist for over 40 years, grew up on the south fork of Long Island an have been president of the New York Marine Rescue Center for over 25 years. The commercial menhaden catch has to be reduced or eliminated. As a professional, I have witnessed the drastic reductions in fisheries dependant on this resource. We have spent decades improving ocean/bay water quality, have seen the return of ceataceans and Ospreys to our waters only to see massive factory ships in our bays, offshore limiting the forage species needed to continue the species restoration we have worked so hard for these many years. Why when other protein sources are available would your commission continue these catch policies that directly oppose all the restoration successes we have made to date. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Charles Bowman

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2026 6:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Charles Bowman

Email

cbowman@landuse.us

State

New York

Comment

I am a professional ecologist for over 40 years, grew up on the south fork of Long Island an have been president of the New York Marine Rescue Center for over 25 years. The commercial menhaden catch has to be reduced or eliminated. As a professional, I have witnessed the drastic reductions in fisheries dependant on this resource. We have spent decades improving ocean/bay water quality, have seen the return of ceataceans and Ospreys to our waters only to see massive factory ships in our bays, offshore limiting the forage species needed to continue the species restoration we have worked so hard for these many years. Why when other protein sources are available would your commission continue these catch policies that directly oppose all the restoration successes we have made to date. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Charles Bowman

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2026 5:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Eric Dechert

Email

edechert@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

The overfishing of menhaden is having far reaching effects on wildlife who rely on this fish as a food source up and down the east coast

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2026 5:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kathleen Cash

Email

kathleen.cash77@outlook.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Please reduce the amount of menhaden that can be fished from the Chesapeake Bay. Animals starving because they depend on this food source is devastating to the ecology and is heartbreaking. The Chesapeake Bay is essential to so many aspects of the region. One being the beauty of nature.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2026 5:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kai Garcell

Email

kai.m.garcell@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Yes, reduce the amount of menhaden people can harvest and spread harvesting out over the season! We need healthy and sustainable menhaden populations for our osprey!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2026 4:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jeff Stonehill

Email

machodoccreekmarina@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

We need a bay cap for sure. We need to stop this type of fishing in the BAY at ALL times.
Keep them 3 miles off the beaches.
I have lived through this kind of fisheries destruction before....I do not want to do it again!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2026 3:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Mark Pantle

Email

pantlesr@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

STOP the insanity. STOP overfishing.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2026 3:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/?sfnsn=mo

Name

Megan Andrew

Email

megan.andrew@me.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Please stop over fishing so the Osprey and other wildlife can flourish !

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2026 2:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/?sfnsn=mo

Name

John Kelly

Email

jkelly2732@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Menhaden are critical to the health of the bay and should have stricter regulations limiting their harvesting.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2026 2:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/?sfnsn=mo

Name

kate goldberg

Email

kgoldberg21617@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

We saw far fewer osprey this year compared to previous years

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2026 1:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Robert Taylor

Email

rtaylor878@hotmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Recommend Reduction = B4, Quota Periods = B2. I'm an avid fisherman who used to fish more than once a week on the Potomac from Ragged Point - Piney Point and all the way downstream to Pt Lookout - Smith Point Lighthouse. Last couple of years it is very noticeable the lack of menhaden in the Potomac and the corresponding lack of Stripers. And if I catch any Striper before the fall migration, the fish are undernutrition and hardly worth keeping. Also, we used to have 4-6 Ospreys on our creek off my dock and this year we had just 2. They did manage to have one chick but it didn't make it to maturity (don't know what happened to it). Maybe the lack of menhaden isn't the only reason it may no longer be worth sport fishing but it is definitely a major cause.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2026 1:33 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Nicholas Molteg

Email

nmolteg@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Good afternoon, my name is Nicholas Molteg and I am an avid fisherman and outdoorsman from NJ. I fish the raritan bay mostly and I have noticed a drastic reduction in bunker. 10 years ago I used to see schools all over the bay and birds working bait everywhere. I'm on the water at least once a week from April through November and I haven't seen a school of adult bunker inside the bay in at least 3 years. It's scary to think what this over fishing is doing the our ecosystem. The information on osprey chicks and populations suffering from starvation is enough for me to support a reduction in the menhaden fishery alone. I hope you will act responsibly and save this valuable resource for the health of our coastal ecosystems as well as for the next generations of young fishermen and women as well as wildlife enthusiasts. Thank you for your consideration in the matter.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2026 1:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Cynthia Romanow

Email

btkayK@aol.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Hello - I am a resident of NJ , loving along the Jersey shore in Brick,NJ all of my adult life . Being a nature lover I have always observed the many varied shorebirds , including the osprey ,and remember its plight back in the 70s due to the use of DDT and its remarkable comeback . This summer , before I was even aware there was a problem , I noticed there seemed to be fewer Osprey . When I came to my attention there there was a crisis due to the depletion of menhaden , I increased my observation and have to say I've only seen a very small amount and only one nest with a chick . Discovering the issue of the overfishing of menhaden I implore you to reduce the amount t of fishing to help restore the osprey population . It would be such a shame to lose these great fisher birds esp coming back from near extinction in the 70s - there needs to be a cap on how much menhaden can be taken from our waters
Thank you for listening
Cynthia Romanow

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2026 12:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lea Marshall

Email

leam811@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I beg you to implement the 50% cap. The osprey who depend on menhaden are starving. On the principle of Occam's Razor - the simplest explanation is usually correct - there must not be enough fish for them to eat. We must take fewer. Please choose responsible stewardship over profit.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2026 11:46 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jim Roszkowski

Email

jjroszkowski6@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I strongly support a minimum 50% menhaden catch reduction, if not more. A healthy, stocked menhaden population is critical to the short and long term survival of many saltwater species throughout the Mid-Atlantic waters as well as various bird species such as Osprey.

I've seen a significant decline in menhaden over the past few years, action must be taken to address this issue.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2026 11:27 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Tom Melhuish

Email

tmelhuish54@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I live in Reedville and see the Menhaden boat going out and coming back in. At times I count 6 boats coming in in one day. They are now running all year around and don't seem to be any limit on them. Their fishing needs to be at cut at least by 50% or more or shut down completely. The 100 or so jobs supposedly that the Omega factory employs is nothing compared to the fisherman and charter boats staff that have been cut due to the scarcity of fish on the bay. We hardly see any ospreys anymore. Years ago we use to see some swarms of Menhadens but not anymore.
Reedville will prosper much better without the Omega factory and doesn't need the Omega factory to survive. More jobs and businesses will appear in Reedville without the Omega factory.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2026 11:22 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Nichole Hoffman

Email

flowerchildnj@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Stop fishing for menhaden fish as the osprey chicks are starving and dying off in great numbers. Osprey need this fish while they're breeding. we do not have time to wait for a two year study, we need to act now and stop over fishing in order to preserve healthy ecosystem and save the ospreys.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2026 10:22 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Laura Epperson

Email

lauraepperon6135@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I am in favor of enacting the proposed annual fishery cap to 50% of its current level. The current amount of fish being harvested is reducing the number of Menhaden to such low levels that it is bringing the entire natural ecosystem that relies on them a food source to the brink of collapse.
Regards,
Laura Epperson, concerned citizen

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2026 10:19 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Keith Letourneau

Email

keith@sleepinggiantcanecorso.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I would like to see a 50 percent reduction in the Bay Cap, with option B2 for how the catch is distributed in amounts across time!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2026 10:19 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Monta Lee
Email
montalee54@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Don’t approve

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2026 10:10 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Thomas Mariconda

Email

thomas.mariconda@att.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

As a person of faith and I am a sincere person of faith, a retired ordained Deacon in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut and a member of the Third Order of Saint Francis (Episcopal). I believe that we all are called to be care for creation. It is my understanding that the The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is considering changes to the amount of menhaden that can be harvested from the Chesapeake Bay. As a person of faith, I am urging the commission to reduce the fishery cap by 50 percent, a precautionary measure to ensure that menhaden, a key foundation fish and a prime food source for Ospreys, are not put in even greater jeopardy.Last year Connecticut Audubon's Osprey Nation recorded its lowest breeding success since the statewide community science program launched in 2014 to monitor the birds. This year is looking even worse. Osprey and other species that rely on menhaden do not have years longer to wait. Decisive action is needed now. I ask you to support this change in order to protect creation.
Deacon Tom Mariconda

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2026 9:33 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Carla Norris

Email

carlaknorris@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

As a long time resident on the Potomac River I have witnessed decline of the fish population and most recently the absense of the beloved Osprey. I'm not a scientist but it doesn't take a scientist to figure out what the problem is. The change in our water's ecosystem is devastating, tragic and very frustrating! And it is fixable! It will take time to repair the damage but the powers that be MUST keep politics out of the matter and do what is right for our fragile Chesapeake Bay ecosystem by drastically limiting the amount of allowable catch of the Menhaden. This is a fight for the survival of the "the most important fish in the sea", the lifeblood of the Bay's ecosystem! In the short run I support Amendment II !!! But That's NOT Enough! Far more must be done! This isn't a political matter! It's a choice between what is right and what is wrong! Allowing 1 company to depleat the Bay and Atlantic Ocean of an essential natural resource for financial gain or choosing to take step to protect our waters for long after we are gone!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2026 7:43 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Charles Bruckner

Email

jbbruckner@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Get the MANHADEN fishing out of the Chesapeake Bay and off the coast 3 miles out in Federal Waters. They are raping the bay and destroying a National Treasure. We were recreation fishing on our 9/16/2026 and there were no less than five commercial manhaden boats with spotter planes raping the bay. Did not catch one keeper fish all day! Wake up and protect the Chesapeake Bay from a foreign owned company!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 9:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Andrea Steegmayer

Email

andrea.steegmayer@vcuhealth.org

State

Virginia

Comment

I support a reduction of at least 50 % of Menhaden catch with observers on board of vessels. I work as a nurse and there are checks on us- why not on a Canadian fishing industry?
Our Virginia nursery is being depleted of the very important Menhaden. This fish is esssential to Osprey and mammals, wildlife and fish. Menhaden is not essential to dog food!
I am shocked that this board has let this go on that long!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 6:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kareen Canora

Email

robaerie@aol.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I support fisheries management in the Chesapeake Bay that is firmly based on the best available science and considers the health of the entire ecosystem. Atlantic menhaden are a critical forage species for striped bass, birds, and other wildlife. I urge the Commission to prohibit industrial-scale commercial menhaden fishing within the Chesapeake Bay, consistent with the restrictions adopted by the other Chesapeake Bay states. Virginia should not remain the exception. Commercial harvest can continue in appropriate ocean waters, but the Bay itself should be protected as an essential nursery and feeding area. Please prioritize the Bay's long-term ecological health over short-term commercial interests.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 5:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Dale Neal

Email

dalewilliamneal@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

A Legacy Story.

In the 1870's a commercial fishery began operating in the Chesapeake Bay.

Seven generations of watermen have depended on a productive menhaden harvest to support their families.

Those watermen are crabbers, and they currently number in the thousands.

Both VMRC and MDNR acknowledge a 90% drop in the menhaden bait harvest over the past decade.

The cost to crabbers for menhaden has more than doubled in the same time period.

The Chesapeake is categorized by ASMFC as the primary nursery for the Atlantic Menhaden biomass.

We ask you to prioritize it as a bait fishery and manage it for abundance, to the benefit of commercial watermen in the

Chesapeake and across the Atlantic Seaboard.

Thank you.

Dale Neal, Virginia

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 5:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

James Hedeen

Email

chantillycarpets@earthlink.net

State

Virginia

Comment

Its time to get reduction fishing out of the Chesapeake bay and let it be the amazing breeding ground it should be.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 4:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Murray deMuth

Email

demuth4@comcast.net

State

Maryland

Comment

Cutting Omega to a 50% reductions is too small. Omega and Ocean Harvesters should be pushed outside the 3 mile limit along the entire Atlantic Coast. I have fished the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and Mid Atlantic for over 60 years and I've seen the change for the worse. There used be abundant schools of menhaden being chased by predator fish all the time and regardless of the time of year. Those days are gone and don't even try to tell me that my eyes are lying. You can see what no longer exist. For too many years Omega and Ocean Harvesters have taken a Public Resource and made a profit out of it. Based upon that business model what legal duty of stewardship do they currently have to do no harm to the ecosystem they continue to exploit to the significant detriment to others that rely on a functioning and healthy ecosystem. When a developer buys private land they have a legal duty to pays all the fees associated with the transfer of ownership. Then why is Omega allowed to harvest a public resource and have no legal duty to pay a fee for the transfer of ownership of these fish. When the developer decides to build on the property then they are held to the standards and requirements to Do No Harm to the local community. Again I ask then why is Omega allowed to develop these fish without any standards of Do No Harm to the local/regional community and this instance that is the Chesapeake Bay and the species that are supported by a healthy population of menhaden. NO FOOD EQUALS NO FISH. It's basic Biology 101. In times of famine reproduction rates fall. It's built-in fail safe biomechanical response to preserve the breeding stock of the species from the stress of famine. My eyes don't lie and I can't see what is not there. Unless there is a change in how the menhaden are managed it will only get worse.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 1:59 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/ny-ct-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

David Kinder

Email

davek6733@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Years ago we had bunker I could walk across
Now nothing , sharks and dolphins coming in close which never did before
They are looking for food
Help please
Dave Kinder

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 12:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Doug Michalowski

Email

douglas131004@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Please reduce fishing for Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay by atleast 50%. I can tell you that while fishing recreationally on my boat in the southern Cheaspeake Bay this year I did not encounter a single school of Menhaden. They have been greatly over fished.

Regards,

Doug Michałowski

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 11:46 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Alison Keroack

Email

a.keroack@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I support the proposed Draft Addendum II. I kayak regularly in the Chesapeake Bay area; seeing osprey in their nests, feeding their young is an amazing experience. Menhaden are a crucial food source for osprey. The current 'pulse fishing' practices can locally deplete schools just when osprey need them most. Lowering menhaden harvest caps while spreading out the harvest season throughout the year will help ensure there is enough of this keystone species to support both the osprey and other wildlife, as well as Bay area fishermen's livelihoods.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 11:23 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Tim Riley

Email

timriley@hotmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I am a New Jersey resident, recreational fisherman, and boater who spends a significant amount of time on our coastal waters. I am on the water approximately once or twice every week during the boating season, and I have watched the condition of our local marine environment closely for years.

What I have observed in recent seasons is deeply concerning.

There has been a dramatic reduction in the menhaden, or bunker, that I see in New Jersey waters. At the same time, I have observed substantially fewer of the predators that depend upon this forage base, particularly striped bass, dolphins, and whales. I recognize that personal observations cannot establish scientific causation, and that many factors affect the distribution and abundance of these species. But when people who spend hundreds of hours a year on the water repeatedly observe these changes occurring together, those observations should not simply be dismissed because a coastwide assessment does not detect localized depletion.

That distinction is particularly important because ASMFC itself acknowledges that the current stock assessment evaluates Atlantic menhaden on a coastwide basis and cannot determine stock status at smaller regional scales. The coastwide stock is

presently classified as not overfished and not experiencing overfishing, but the most recent ecological reference point assessment also found fishing mortality above the ERP target and fecundity below the ERP target. ASMFC consequently reduced the 2026 TAC by 20%, and its own technical analysis indicates that reductions of 50% or more would be necessary to lower the probability of fishing mortality remaining above the ERP target.

That is exactly why I believe a precautionary approach is warranted.

I strongly support the maximum available reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap under Draft Addendum II. However, I am equally concerned that protecting the Chesapeake without meaningfully reducing overall fishing pressure could simply redistribute harvest into the Atlantic Ocean and other coastal areas.

Please do not solve a Chesapeake Bay problem by moving fishing pressure somewhere else.

New Jersey cannot become the release valve for restrictions imposed elsewhere.

ASMFC's own Draft Addendum recognizes the possibility of localized effects and acknowledges that recent concentrations of reduction harvest may affect menhaden availability to other fisheries and predators. The document notes that in 2023 and 2024 more than half of Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery landings occurred during a six-week period, and the Commission is considering these measures specifically because localized availability matters even when the coastwide population may appear sustainable.

That same principle needs to apply beyond the Chesapeake Bay.

I urge the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board to substantially reduce coastwide allowable harvest and to establish protections that prevent fishing effort displaced from the Chesapeake from simply concentrating in New Jersey or elsewhere along the coast. I would also urge New Jersey representatives on the Board to protect menhaden abundance in New Jersey waters specifically, including consideration of substantial reductions in harvest where necessary to maintain adequate forage.

For those of us who fish and boat here, menhaden are not simply another commercially harvested species. They are one of the foundations of the coastal food web.

Striped bass, bluefish and numerous other predatory fish depend heavily upon this forage. Marine mammals and seabirds also utilize menhaden. ASMFC's ecological reference point system itself recognizes menhaden's importance as forage and specifically incorporates the needs of striped bass into management.

There is also a significant economic issue that should not be overlooked.

Personally, I spend tens of thousands of dollars every year participating in recreational fishing and boating. That spending supports marinas, fuel docks, tackle shops, marine mechanics, boat dealers, restaurants and other coastal businesses. I have already reduced the number of fishing trips I take and the number of guests I bring onto the water because the quality of the fishery has declined.

I am one person, but recreational fishing and boating represent an enormous coastal economy. Menhaden should therefore not be valued solely according to the pounds that can be commercially landed. Their greatest economic and ecological value may be realized by leaving substantially more of them in the water as forage supporting the rest of the ecosystem.

Once a forage base is seriously diminished locally, rebuilding the ecosystem that depends upon it is much harder than protecting it in the first place.

I therefore ask the Board to take the strongest precautionary action available under Draft Addendum II, including the maximum reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap, while also taking action on the coastwide TAC and future management measures so that harvest pressure is genuinely reduced rather than geographically redistributed.

Protecting menhaden in the Chesapeake while allowing depletion to occur off New Jersey is not comprehensive ecosystem management. Atlantic menhaden are a coastwide resource, and their management needs to reflect their coastwide ecological importance.

Please protect this forage base before the loss becomes something that is obvious in a stock assessment only after fishermen, boaters and coastal communities have been watching it disappear for years.

Thank you for considering my comments.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 10:49 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

kevin hoffman

Email

hoffmanhomekevin@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

stop the madness of this fishery , at the very least move them away from the chesapeake and adopt the CBF reccomendations , or wait until it is collapsed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 10:47 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

http://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Denise morin

Email

dm.1113@hotmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Menhaden fishing boats should be BANNED from the Chesapeake Bay!
Stop the large scale boats and planes from stealing our natural resources.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 10:35 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sean Elliott

Email

elliottsautocare@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

To whom it concerns,
It is clear the Omega 3 commercial fishing vessels are rapidly depleting the stock of this vital species. We are seeing very low numbers in the north east . The fish that are there are juvenile in size. Many species of marine life depend on Menhaden and other bait fish as their source of food. It would be a travesty if Menhaden are completely depleted. The marine eco system will be devastated.

Respectfully Sean Elliott

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 10:14 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for MD & PRFC Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

MD & PRFC Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

MD & PRFC Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/md-prfc-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Wendy Balder

Email

webalder@outlook.com

State

Maryland

Comment

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation has repeatedly called for a closure of the Virginia rendition fishing. CBF notes how industrial fishing continues to empty the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia must pause Menhaden reduction fishing in the Bay.
The Menhaden industry has not once offered public support for funding state Menhaden research. The continued political pressure from Omega Protein and their McGuireWoods lobbyists to delay science is damning—and should concern everyone who cares about the Bay.
Meanwhile, Chesapeake Bay watermen are seeing Menhaden catches plummet, blue crab fishermen are spending more on bait, and Osprey chicks are starving to death.
But if the ASMFC is unwilling to act to close the industrial fishery responsible for 70% of the take coast-wide, join CBF, other conservationists, and me in insisting on at least a 50% reduction in current rendition harvests in Virginia. Also support spacing harvest equally over May through November as proposed in Option B2.
But note that spreading out the Bay harvest will do little to assist the Osprey as when the Ospreys are breeding, there are already too few Menhaden in the Bay to support successful reproduction. It is best to call for complete closure of all harvest for rendering.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 9:53 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Edward Delaplaine

Email

akbar@mac.com

State

Maryland

Comment

The osprey population in the severn river watershed is collapsing these past couple of years. Let's err on the side of caution and restrict menhaden fishing and see if this helps. One of the theories about the collapse is the reduction of the right size of prey, and this may very well be linked to overfishing of menhaden.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 9:20 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sue Davidson

Email

grrrrrr2@aol.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Please control the Overfishing of the menhaden!
The reduction of these small fish has a Large and very negative impact on our environment.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 8:24 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jeffrey Mays

Email

amaysnfoods@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

It's time to finally limit this fishery for the widespread effect it has on the native foraging species that hunt the Chesapeakes waters. The capture of the bulk of biomass of menhaden wiping out the majority of the migration must stop or be greatly reduced. I support the 50% harvest reduction but support lawmakers to increase the harvest amounts and methods of harvest considering migratory patterns for the optimum time for harvest closures. Our current president is making it more difficult to protect our natural resources. It's time we fight back and reclaim our healthy Earth

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 7:45 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lisa West

Email

dreamsnsand@charter.net

State

Virginia

Comment

Born and raised in Virginia, we should all realize how vital the Bay is ..an ecosystem, that depends on its own health of clean water and diversity to sustain a multitude of species in and out of the water…Weren't things like this going on in the 70 80 into the 90, over harvesting, pollution, and weren't regulations put in place to bring back oysters, fish and Eagles …oh and Osprey too I believe … Many living things depend on the Bays health. Stop allowing the overfishing of menhaden.. for the sake of us all stop corporate greed.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 7:03 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sarah Lawson

Email

sarahguilinger@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Hello,

I am very concerned about the reduction of fishery cap. This will greatly impact the number of available fish for the rest of the ecosystem. We have already seen a huge decline in the successful chick rate in our top level predator, the osprey. This means the rest of the food chain is already impacted. We need stronger regulations to increase wild fish populations.
Thank you,
Sarah

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 4:41 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

http://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Katrina Field

Email

standkatrina@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Osprey are a treasure for the Chesapeake Bay and their ability to thrive should be protected. Regulating the menhaden population to ensure the success of the osprey ia vital. Please protect these amazing creatures.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 3:09 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Bruce Lanier

Email

brucel3@comcast.net

State

Maryland

Comment

Reduce the menhaden catch by 50%
Adjust catch limits in 3 years

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 12:12 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

James Shelton

Email

James_Shelton32@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I think it is needed to ban menhaden industrial menhaden reduction industry from Virginia Waters. The reduction industry has greatly reduced menhaden numbers everywhere they have existed. The numbers are only. A few percent of 1970 levels.

Menhaden feed whales, bluefish and drum in addition to osprey which are starving. Bluefish and drum are reducing crab, herring and shad because there are not enough menhaden.

I support the strongest reduction in the reduction industry in Virginia Waters. If the best option is reducing the catch limit by half and moving the fishing away from osprey nesting season, that is helpful. But we should not be protecting this foreign industry at the cost of so much wildlife and Virginia economy. If 300 low paid jobs oh menhaden vacuumers is the issue, then let's hire them to plant trees and build oyster reefs. There is no need to protect the reduction industry.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 11:49 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

April D

Email

apriljrn81@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Stop the over fishing.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 11:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Barbara Stauder

Email

bastauder1@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I support the Ct Audubon position to reduce the fishery cap by 50% to ensure sufficient menhaden, a key food source for ospreys whose populations are low and birthrates plummeting.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 10:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lisa Driscoll White

Email

lisa.woodascreek@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Please limit by 50% or greater. This will affect all species in the Chesapeake Bay, including the osprey.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 10:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

jennifer Frank

Email

jennifergfrank@cox.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

Menhaden are such a critical food fish for so many bird species as well as larger fish species throughout New England (Maine to New York). It is critical that this species not be overfished or depleted far to the south in Maryland. Of particular concern in Connecticut is the availability of Menhaden for our struggling Osprey population. The numbers of Osprey and their offspring continue to decline from year to year.

Please consider the big picture and implement the 50% reduction in the Bay Cap, and follow option 2B for how the catch is distributed in amounts across time.

Thank you for listening.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 10:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Katherine Louthan

Email

mlouthan4@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I fully support the proposed restrictions made by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to limit the harvesting of menhaden from the Chesapeake Bay both by lowering the catch amount and time-of-year restrictions. We are losing our beloved ospreys to overfishing of this important forage fish not to mention the deleterious effects upon the game fish in the Bay that are dependent upon menhaden.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 10:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/va-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sophia Buckaloo

Email

sophiabuckaloo9@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

We have to do what we can to support these populations. I have experienced this first hand. We drove the shoreline during a trip, recently, and truly saw none of these beautiful birds that once frequented these waters.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 9:16 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/va-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ann Porter

Email

abwporter1@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I strongly support capping the allowed menhaden catch. Our wildlife deserves food. Too long the menhaden catch has been out of control. We no longer see menhaden in the ocean and our wildlife is starving. Do something right for the environment instead of supporting business by overfishing to the detriment of nature.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 9:14 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

http://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Anne Jones

Email

a.k.m.jones@icloud.com

State

Virginia

Comment

My husband and I live near the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia Beach, Virginia. We are both avid nature photographers and have been photographing osprey and osprey nests at First Landing State Park and Pleasure House Point Natural Area for the last ten years. We've noticed a sharp decline in the number of osprey and in recent years, where we used to see nests with chicks being fed by adult osprey, the nests are eerily empty.

We strongly support the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 8:50 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Susan Allen

Email

susanallenn@icloud.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Hello. I'm a wildlife photographer and content creator who documents the Jersey Shore. Fish were my first nature interest at a young age. I surveyed my local streams and creeks by bike with a net and bucket and was encouraged by two local scientists who worked for the NJDEP to pursue math and science and continue exploring the environment. I later began to focus on birds too. Ospreys have always been easy to spot in coastal NJ, but after a devastating two years with nest productivity at levels lower than the DDT era, I fear for the species. This summer, a juvenile osprey was sitting at a local lake unable to fly. It was weakened by starvation and died a couple days later. The local wildlife refuge used to have many active nests. This year, by the end of the season, many were empty from failure. Ospreys are carrying back fish that are tiny and barely a meal to feed chicks. The bunker are not there. When the most important fish in the sea is missing, the species above on the food chain begin to crash. If we don't take action now to limit the total catch, it will be too late. We don't have time for longterm scientific studies. Species are starving now. Bunker populations need a chance to rebound. Rachel Carson warned us of a silent spring. The bunker are warning us of a barren beach.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 8:30 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/ny-ct-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sharon Klots

Email

sklots118@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I encourage the Commission to reduce the cap on the number of menhaden that can be caught in order to strengthen the fish population which is a critical food source for osprey and other wildlife.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 8:21 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Anton Sorkin

Email

avs_23229@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I strongly believe that Atlantic Menhaden is in trouble and declining. I support 50% reduction of fishery cap as good first step.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 8:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kate Fisher

Email

klamf2019@gmail.com

State

Florida

Comment

Please restrict menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay-its an unnecessary disruption of the balance of nature...just so we can sell fish feed to fish farms across the world????

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 8:13 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Hilary Mossberg

Email

hilaryhartman@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

You need to cap it way more than 50%. I am a Virginian and a resident and I feel very strongly that our ecosystem will be irreparably harmed by the continued overfishing of these waters.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 8:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jack Egan

Email

jpe.2@icloud.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Hello, I live in Stamford, CT and this summer (2026) I have absolutely witnessed fewer Ospreys in the area. Perhaps not coincidentally, I have seen ZERO schools of bunker in Westcott Cove where I routinely paddle. This is a stunning observation, as I typically spend summers surrounded by schools on bunker. To see NONE for entire summer is shocking and upsetting to say the least. The “downstream” effects of over fishing is environmental collapse and Ospreys, on this case, are the canaries in the coal mine. Protecting and stewardship is paramount!
Jack

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 7:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

http://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Tamela Stevens

Email

tamelahstevens@aol.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I've seen a year over year decline in osprey on the Rappahannock River in the past 3 years. They come in the spring but disappear as quickly as they cane. It seems their food is being taken from them. Please stop this and save these innocent, beautiful, birds! Stop those taking their food!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 7:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Donohue

Email

jdonohue124@aol.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

It's incredible not one bunker in the ocean from Belmar to Seaside Heights likely everywhere else no whales starving since May

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 7:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

James Quinn

Email

Nantucketoc@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Menhaden are the most important part of the food chain. In New Jersey, they have had a very poor year in 2026. Ospreys were on the verge of recovery in 2025. There were so many empty nest and vacated nests in 2026 that it was the worst Osprey breeding season in a long time. The government of the state of Virginia has for too long been beholden to the commercial Menhaden fishery. Reduce the fishery quota on all fronts rather than shifting it from one area to another.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 7:27 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Chris Schaubach

Email

chrisschaubach@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

We must balance the needs for both sides: 1) the ecological needs for the mehhaden, and 2) jobs and products that result from harvesting the menhaden. Neither side should completely control this. It has to be a balance between the two sides. Both sides must live in harmony, sharing this important resource.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 6:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

http://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Janet Swords

Email

jmswords@cox.net

State

Virginia

Comment

Enough of the planes spotting the schools of menhaden. The trawlers have such an advantage and the by catch is such a total waste of resources. Watching the trawlers in the Rappahaock River taking everything as the planes go on to direct more of the fleet to destroy more crab pots and sport fish and watching the dead by catch float on the surface is beyond words. Reduce the quota and restrict or ban the use of spotter planes.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 6:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Frank DEBLASIO

Email

nutleysigns@optonline.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

Stop these ships from taking our menhaden, they are ruining the fisheries

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 6:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Glen Zeeck

Email

gzeeck@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

It is my opinion that the decrease of menhaden on our Atlantic coast is hurting the recreational fishery. In the last two years our fishery has been declining at a serious rate and I think it's directly related to a decrease in menhaden. It'sy understanding that these forage fish are being taken from our waters, processed and sent to Canada to feed Salmon in fish farm's. If that's true that doesn't seem fair to the Americans who rely on menhaden for their lively hood. Please put more restrictions on the harvesting of menhaden especially to foreign countries.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 5:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Todd Wolf

Email

trailridernj@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

The overfishing of menhaden in our waters is causing a region wide catastrophe, and the industry must be reigned in, and regulated more strictly, and in accordance with the recommendations from the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 4:52 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

JAMES SHADBOLT

Email

jshadbolt@verizon.net

State

Virginia

Comment

Please stop OMEGA protein from overharvesting Menhaden. I live on Stingray Point where the Rappahannock and Piankatank meet. The size of the Menhaden are 3- 4inches long and we have not seen a Striped Bass in the Fall in 3 years . State Senator Richard Stuart has over protected a small group of Harvesting fisherman. I need to committee to protect US (the recreational fisherman) from large corporations, selling our baitfish overseas. 4 of the local charter boats in Deltaville have sold out as there is no fish in the fall to support their business. No Rockfish = No paying customers to spend money shopping and buying supplies in Middlesex county

I don't feel it is right for Omega to take such large quantities of Baitfish so there is nothing for striped bass to eat except smaller striped bass , baby flounder and small Speckled trout . Our Bay area in front of our home is devoid of baitfish as we no longer see Gannets in the fall at P1 and P2 buoys on The Piankatank estuary .
I pay significant taxes to live on the water and feel a Canadian for profit Company (Omega) Ocean Harvesters has the right to steal our fish. Please limit their catch significantly NOW

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 4:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Letitia Johnson

Email

letitiaRJohnson@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I Stand with CBF and call on the ASMFC to approve conservation-minded reforms that better protect menhaden and support a healthy Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, including reducing the Bay Cap by 50 percent in 2027 and implementing quota periods to more effectively distribute reduction fishing pressure throughout the season. Specifically, CBF supports the following options in Draft Addendum II:

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount: Support option C1e that would reduce the Bay Cap by 50 percent and limits it to 13.6 percent of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC). Also, support option C2a which sets an upper limit of 51,000mt for the Bay Cap, which is the current level.

3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution: Support option B2 which establishes three even length quota periods for the Bay Cap, but distributes harvest 25 percent in period 1, 25 percent in period 2, and 50 percent into period 3. Also, support option B which establishes quota period overage payback and rollover of unused quota within a fishing year.

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision: Support option B Revisit Provision to reassess the efficacy of these new management tools every 3 years.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 4:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II - Fort Monroe

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II - Fort Monroe

Action Title

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II - Fort Monroe

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/va-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii-2/

Name

Emily Wingfield

Email

Aewingfield@msn.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I support any and all actions that afford maximum protection for Osprey as an interim step while scientist figure out what level of Menhaden fishing is compatible with a healthy ecosystem in the Bay.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 4:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jennifer Hughes

Email

jen_o@hotmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I am very concerned about what's happening with the Chesapeake Bay and wildlife. We need to do more to protect these vital habitats by reducing the human impact we have on the area directly and indirectly through the many things we do on land, in the air, and water that feed into these habitats. There is no second chance here. We need to act immediately to curtail our destructive behaviors and save what is left before it, too, is gone. We have been over fishing the menhaden and the Osprey are already suffering dramatically. We need to reduce the fishing allowed immediately to give these critical species a chance to survive.
I live alongside the Elizabeth river and near a few typically active osprey nests, that were completely empty this summer. This cannot continue. Protect the fish to give our birds a chance. Please. Reduce the fishing allowed to give our other beloved species a fighting chance to survive.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 3:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

http://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sandra Brock

Email

sbnewjournwy@gmail.com

State

South Carolina

Comment

Please address the plight of these precious. Birds. OSPREY AS they are not capable of proucing their . Offspring. Due again. Too MAN kind!!!
Ripping away at their
environmental factors ,.!
We need to take action now bc tomorrow will be toooooo. Late

Thank you for taking action!!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 2:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Nic BREEN-FRANKLIN

Email

nic@breenfranklin.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I am writing to express my serious concerns regarding the current harvest levels of Atlantic menhaden and their localized impact on the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem over the past decade. As a resident who frequently spends time on the water in the upper parts of the Bay, I have observed a troubling trend concerning our native raptor populations—specifically osprey and bald eagles—that rely heavily on menhaden as a primary food source.Over the last ten years, local researchers and community observers have documented declining nesting success and increased chick mortality among upper Bay ospreys. Menhaden are a vital, energy-dense nutrient source necessary for these birds to successfully rear their young. When industrial and commercial harvest levels deplete these localized schools, our apex predators are forced to rely on less nutritious alternative prey, leading to localized starvation in nests.While coastwide stock assessments may show that menhaden are not technically "overfished," a coastwide metric fails to account for the localized depletion happening right here in the cradle of the Atlantic population. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) committed to Ecological Reference Points (ERPs) to manage this fishery with predators in mind. I urge the Board to fully honor that commitment by implementing stricter localized harvest caps within the Chesapeake Bay.Please prioritize the health of the entire food web and lower the harvest limits to ensure our raptors and the broader Bay ecosystem can recover and thrive.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 2:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Scheinman

Email

now4better@aol.com

State

Maryland

Comment

On behalf of myself and Coal Kills Baltimore,

We are strongly in support of the proposed draft addendum that would reduce the Chesapeake Bay menhaden harvest cap by up to 50% and spread harvest more evenly throughout the season.

We all know, menhaden are a major forage fish, a critical food source for a wide range of predators, including striped bass, bluefish osprey, and other fish and wildlife. These predators are not only withdrawing but dying. The osprey population in our watershed is in sharp decline.

When large numbers of menhaden are harvested in concentrated areas during certain periods, the impacts may extend beyond the menhaden population itself. Changes in their availability can affect the larger food web and the species that depend on them.

As someone who personally uses Omega 3 supplements (not sourced from menhaden, but, rather anchovies, sardines, mackeral and herring) I appreciate one of the primary products and am sensitive to the needs of the industry that is

harvesting, also for livestock feed, bait, and whatever other uses.

We already are predicating an industry on the extermination of living things, acceptable, I suppose, when managed correctly, but when it endangers the interwoven web that keeps alive an entire ecosystem in the third-largest estuary in the world, we must recalibrate. These decisions must be based on research and science, not business first. If the balance is disturbed, species - and humanity - suffer permanent harms, even the threat of extinction.

We strongly side with Chespeake Legal Alliance and others in support of this draft addendum.

Sincerely,
John Scheinman, Olivia Yates
Coal Kills Baltimore

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 2:33 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Nicholson

Email

fboatbum@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I am writing to express my strong support for Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3, specifically urging the Board to adopt robust measures to address localized depletion of Atlantic menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay. As the primary nursery ground for menhaden and a vital feeding area for striped bass, bluefish, and osprey, the Bay suffers when industrial reduction harvest is heavily concentrated in localized waters.

For too long, a Canadian company has been allowed to take way too large of a portion of the menhaden for non-essential products and profits. The Reedville fishermen will need financial help to shift jobs but the economic benefit to tourism and other fisheries will far outweigh their losses.

To meaningfully protect this critical habitat, I urge the Board to significantly lower the Chesapeake Bay reduction cap (by up to 50%), link the Bay cap directly to changes in the coastwide Total Allowable Catch (TAC), and establish seasonal quota periods to prevent heavy harvest concentration during peak summer months.

Precautionary management is vital to preserving the ecological integrity of the Chesapeake Bay, and I appreciate your commitment to strong marine stewardship.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 2:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

charles jack

Email

charliejack57@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Ban all purse net fishing for menhaden in Virginia waters.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 2:12 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/ny-ct-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Maureen Drouin

Email

mamdrouin@aol.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please support limits on the current over fishing of the menhaden fish as well as other species. The starvation of so many osprey young this season has been devastation and terrible to watch. Why isn't the status of a federally protected bird being taken into consideration when deciding on fishing limits? That seems to clash with the spirit of what federally protected means.
Thank you for doing the right thing,
Maureen Drouin
73 River Rd
Madison CT

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 2:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Eleanor witkowski

Email

eleywit@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I live on the Mullica River in Sweetwater nj I have noticed a dramatic decline in the number of Ospreys Please protect these and other birds by restricting the amount of commercial fishing in our area I support the Menhaden Draft Addendum II. It our responsibility to protect our fragile ecosystem
Thank you!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 1:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Chris Bruch

Email

cabruch@msn.com

State

Virginia

Comment

It is unconscionable that Virginia is the only Atlantic coast state that still allows industrial reduction fishing in its state waters and the Chesapeake Bay, while every other Atlantic state effectively bans or restricts this large-scale reduction within their respective state waters.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 1:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Frederick Menage

Email

fmenage@verizon.net

State

Maryland

Comment

SAVE THE CHESAPEAKE BAY! Stop the menhaden netting and let Mother Nature's filter feeders help to clean up the water by straining plankton and converting the sun's energy into fat and protein to feed predators up and down the bay.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 1:33 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Tom Hastings

Email

tomghastings106@Aol.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I'm all for protecting our coastal waters from over-fishing, especially Bunkers. My question is how the Fishery Management will be able to enforce these new regulations. We've all witnessed Poachers from our Neighboring States, namely Maine and Massachusetts(the worst offenders). With the State of our Country being in such a crap condition, most Coast Guard assets are more involved with Drug enforcement, along with assisting illegal emigration patrolling & control. Even the Navy is over-extended so my question is Who's Left? Maritime enforcement for Fisheries is pretty low on the totem pole for having the ability to enforce ANY new quotas or Regulations that are decided upon. I wish the Commission all the best with bringing the base stocks of game fish & Bait fish back to healthy condition.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 12:52 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michael Mounie

Email

sodiumaqua@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I have enjoyed the Chesapeake Bay and it's tributaries for more than 50 years. Over the last 15 to 20 years I've seen a significant decline in adult menhaden. Prior to this it was all too common to see miles of menhadden schools flashing on the surface as I headed out early in the morning. Today I'm lucky if a spot a single school of menhaden and in fact most times I do not. While fishing the Chesapeake Bay I noticed the large scale Menhadden boats wiith their huge nets encircle entire schools of menhadden along with game fish bi-catch. The use of this fishing technique, spotter planes and large industrial need to stop. It has proven unstainable and a severe detriment to every fish and crustation that feeds on these fish. Please end this in our bay. Thank you. Michael Mounie

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 12:37 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Brandon Sakelaridos

Email

brandon@delvalrestaurantconsultants.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Atlantic menhaden should be managed first and foremost as forage, not simply as a harvestable commodity.

Menhaden support predators throughout the Atlantic coastal ecosystem, including striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, marine mammals and seabirds. ASMFC's own ecological reference-point framework recognizes this role. Yet the 2025 assessment found fishing mortality above the ecological target, and ASMFC determined that a reduction of 50% or more from the previous TAC would be necessary to substantially reduce the probability of exceeding that target.

Equally important, the current assessment evaluates menhaden primarily at a coastwide scale. ASMFC acknowledges that existing models cannot determine stock status at smaller spatial scales. A coastwide determination that menhaden are not overfished therefore should not be treated as proof that intensive, concentrated harvest cannot reduce forage availability within individual bays, nearshore waters or migration corridors.

That uncertainty argues for precaution, particularly where industrial-scale harvest overlaps concentrated schools of forage fish, predators and migrating wildlife.

I support substantially reducing commercial menhaden harvest and establishing the following coastwide protections:

1. Substantially reduce the coastwide TAC. At minimum, management should seriously consider the 50%+ reduction identified by the 2025 assessment as necessary to reduce the risk of exceeding the ecological fishing-mortality target.
2. Establish vessel-level daily, weekly and seasonal limits. A coastwide annual quota alone does not prevent intense removals from one place over a short period. Limits should prevent individual vessels or fleets from removing an ecologically significant concentration of forage.
3. Establish seasonal closures during major migrations. I support prohibiting directed commercial menhaden harvest from April 1–June 15 and September 1–November 30 in coastal migration corridors. The precise dates should be refined using regional migration and ecosystem data.
4. Create a minimum seven-mile coastal and bay buffer. Large-scale commercial harvest should be moved away from beaches, inlets, estuaries and other areas where predators and forage become concentrated. The appropriate distance should be evaluated scientifically, but meaningful spatial protection is needed.
5. Limit participation and industrial fishing capacity. Management should evaluate limits on permits, vessel capacity and consolidation of harvest privileges so that increased efficiency cannot continually increase localized fishing pressure.
6. Strengthen bycatch requirements. Harvesters should be responsible for minimizing bycatch through improved gear and fishing practices, with meaningful penalties for preventable or excessive bycatch.
7. Require comprehensive monitoring. Landings, locations, bycatch and fishing effort should be independently verifiable. Electronic monitoring, vessel tracking and dockside verification should be considered for high-volume operations.
8. Make violations economically irrational. Illegal or excess harvest should be confiscated and substantial quota violations should carry escalating fines, permit suspension and, for serious or repeated violations, license revocation.
9. Create a per-pound conservation and enforcement assessment. Commercial menhaden harvest should contribute directly to the cost of monitoring, fisheries enforcement, ecosystem research and improved spatial stock assessment.
10. Prohibit spotter aircraft and evaluate restrictions on high-capacity harvesting technology. Management should consider whether technologies that enable extremely rapid removal of concentrated schools are compatible with ecosystem-based forage-fish management.
11. Prioritize essential uses of a limited forage resource. Regulators should examine the end uses of reduction-fishery products and whether demand for fish meal, fish oil, supplements and aquaculture inputs can be reduced through viable alternatives. Menhaden's ecological value should be considered alongside its commodity value.
12. Establish measurable ecosystem triggers for further action. If forage availability, recruitment, predator condition or other scientifically defined indicators deteriorate, management should automatically trigger additional reductions, spatial closures or a temporary moratorium rather than waiting for the next prolonged regulatory process.

Atlantic herring demonstrates why precaution matters. The 2026 assessment estimates Atlantic herring spawning-stock biomass at approximately 35,528 metric tons compared with a target of 188,214 metric tons—only about 19% of the target—and the stock remains classified as overfished.

We should not wait for menhaden to reach a comparable condition before taking aggressive action.

The central issue is not simply whether the coastwide menhaden stock has crossed an overfished threshold. The question is how much forage should remain in the ocean, where it should remain, and whether concentrated industrial removals are compatible with a healthy coastal food web.

When scientific models cannot yet quantify localized depletion, that uncertainty should not be interpreted as evidence that localized depletion does not occur. It should justify precaution.

Menhaden are worth more to the Atlantic ecosystem than their landed value alone. Management should reflect that reality by substantially reducing harvest, protecting nearshore forage concentrations, limiting concentrated removals, and placing the burden of monitoring and compliance on those commercially benefiting from the resource.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 12:30 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

http://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Caitlin Burns

Email

cait.burns018@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

This addendum is desperately needed. We have seen what overfishing does first hand in regards to ecosystem breakdown (i.e. food chains become dismantled leading to die offs of marine birds and other aquatic species) I understand that the fisheries need to fish to survive and be able to pay the bills. However, we know that protecting the future of the entire ecosystem works when we cap fishing amounts of certain species and couple it with restoration efforts of the waterway. This addendum will protect all of us for the future.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 12:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Stasche

Email

jstash1@icloud.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Stop the commercial taking of the menhaden/bunker. They are killing our fishing!!!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 12:08 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jean Jerbert

Email

j.jerbert@yahoo.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please have The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission reduce the amount of menhaden that can be harvested from the Chesapeake Bay by 50 percent.
Our Connecticut Osprey population need this food source to thrive.
Thank You
Jean Jerbert

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 12:04 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lynn Kieffer

Email

lynnkieffer@icloud.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Please take action to stop the overfishing of Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay. Chesapeake Osprey chicks are starving by the thousands from the decline in Menhaden, portending a substantial 14% annual decline in the Osprey population. More than 30% of adult female Ospreys are failing to breed. This tragedy is linked to the massive harvest of Menhaden allowed by Virginia to feed the Omega Protein fish meal production pipeline in Reedville, VA.

The Omega Protein argument that reducing the Menhaden harvest will ruin jobs is grossly incorrect. By overfishing, there will unlikely be enough fish for Omega Protein to continue processing, thus eliminating jobs entirely. And ospreys are not the only concern. As menhaden disappear so do blue crab populations and sport fish such as rock fish, weakfish, bluefish and spiny dogfish. The loss of key commercial marine life will negatively impact residents and the many businesses that support tourism and outdoor adventures.

These combined disasters would be a significant economic loss to the entire Chesapeake Bay region, the state of Maryland, and points beyond. The need for urgent action is now. Thank you for your attention.

Lynn Kieffer

Member Maryland Ornithological Society, Frederick Chapter
Board member Audubon Society of Central Maryland

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 11:48 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

George Seff

Email

limcon@verizon.net

State

Virginia

Comment

Please stop the harvest. They are killing the bay with their greedy inexplicable pillaging.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 11:33 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Philip Sciortino

Email

tackleboxfishingco@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Please end all reduction fishing for menhaden now! In the Chesapeake and Atlantic Ocean! We are on the brink of a catastrophe!!
Ecological and economic disaster!!!
The time is now!
Enough is enough!
Capt. Phil Sciortino, Jr.
3rd generation bait & tackle shop owner
Tackle Box NJ

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 11:33 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

David Madison

Email

madisonconcretesolutions@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

You can not have a healthy predatory fish and bird population with out a healthy feeder fish population. Stop letting politicans accept bribes to ruin our waterway to enrich a canadian company. The loss of tourism, fishing limits, and overall loss of wildlife is astounding and obvious to anyone paying attention. Do better

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 10:55 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Christopher Malgee

Email

chris.malgee@vbbackwater.com

State

Virginia

Comment

As a USCG Captain operating a fishing charter business both inside the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, I am strongly in support of Addendum II and hope that there will be strong consideration to maximize the "up to" 50% reduction and help protect the Atlantic Coast. While many issues affect population and migration in the Mid-Atlantic area, none is as impactful as the Menhaden reduction fishery. Please protect our bunker and wildlife that depend on them before it's too late.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 10:47 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Robert Ryan

Email

rryan12@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

As a concerned citizen of the Chesapeake Bay fishery and a sportsman, i urge the committee to vote the following:

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount

Option C1e: To reduce the Chesapeake Bay CAP by at least 50 percent in 2027 and link any changes to the future Bay Cap to 13.6% of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC).

3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution

Option B2: To establish three even length quota periods for the Chesapeake Bay Cap, distributing the harvest at 25% in period 1, 25% in period 2, and 50% in period 3.

Section 3.2.2 – Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution – Quota Period Overages & Underages

Option B: Provides any underage of Quota Periods 1 or 2 be rolled into Period 3 of the same fishing year. Any underage in

Quota Period 3 would not be reallocated. Any overages would be deducted from the same quota period in the following year.

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision

Option B: Revisit the Chesapeake Bay Cap every 3 years.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 10:15 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

James Foster

Email

jfoster4603@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

A sustainable harvest should include Menhaden hatchery and farms in any Addendum. Not simply vacuuming natural Menhaden from the Ocean and Bay. There are other strains on the fish such as habitat loss and pollution which need to be considered as well. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 10:15 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ray Tripodi

Email

Ray.tripodi@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Reduce the catch to 50% of the current catch

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 9:44 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Christopher NASTASI

Email

cnastasi33@verizon.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

Here in New Jersey, from my personal Observations , I have seen a large drop off of every year class menhaden In our rivers bay's coastal and Offshore waters.
This is evidenced by the lack of whales and other marine mammals , right along the shoreline , who are custom to feeding on these menhaden from the spring Through late fall.
I support all Actions to protect and reduce the commercial pressure on the stock.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 9:32 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Powers

Email

john@mrpowers.net

State

Virginia

Comment

Subject: Public Comment on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II – Chesapeake Bay Cap and Allocation
To: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC)
From: John Powers, Tidewater Anglers Club Recreational Angler, Virginia Resident, VSSA Member
Dear Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,
I am writing to submit formal comments on Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 of the Atlantic Menhaden Fishery Management Plan. As an angler and advocate dedicated to the long-term ecological health and economic vitality of the Chesapeake Bay, I urge the Board to adopt the most robust, precautionary conservation measures available under this draft.
Atlantic menhaden serve as the critical keystone species of the Chesapeake Bay, underpinning the forage base for striped bass, bluefish, osprey, and countless other species. Because the Bay functions as the primary nursery ground for both menhaden and key predator populations, localized depletion from concentrated industrial purse-seine fishing severely threatens the entire estuarine ecosystem.
To safeguard this critical resource and enforce strict accountability, I strongly support the following options:
Section 3.1: Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount
• Support Option C1e: Reduce the Chesapeake Bay CAP by at least 50% in 2027 and link any changes to the future Bay Cap to 13.6% of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC).

o Rationale: A 50% reduction is an essential, long-overdue step toward preventing localized depletion. Concentrating industrial reduction harvest in the restricted, shallow waters of the Bay deprives predators of sufficient biomass during crucial feeding periods. Furthermore, pegging the Bay Cap to a maximum of 13.6% of the coastwide TAC ensures that Chesapeake waters are not disproportionately burdened by future shifts in coastwide quotas.
• Support Option C2a: Set the maximum upper limit in any future change at the current level of 51,000 mt.
o Rationale: Establishing a strict ceiling at 51,000 metric tons guarantees that, regardless of future coastwide stock assessments or TAC increases, industrial harvest within the vulnerable Chesapeake Bay cannot expand beyond historic baselines. This provides an absolute safeguard for nursery habitats.
Section 3.2: Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution and In-Season Management
• Support Option B2: Establish three even-length quota periods distributing harvest at 25% in Period 1, 25% in Period 2, and 50% in Period 3.
o Rationale: Dividing the quota prevents the industrial fleet from sweeping through schooling menhaden in a short window during early-season nursery and predator feeding windows. Spreading harvest pressure limits immediate localized shortages, giving juvenile fish and resident predators the forage buffer they need during peak spring and summer months.
• Support Option B (Accountability & Rollover): Allow underages from Periods 1 or 2 to roll into Period 3 of the same fishing year; do not reallocate Period 3 underages; deduct any overages from the same period in the following year.
o Rationale: This structure enforces real accountability. A 100% pound-for-pound payback for overages creates a meaningful deterrent against exceeding limits. Concurrently, retiring unharvested quota at the end of Period 3 ensures that unused fish remain in the water to fulfill their ecological role rather than artificially inflating subsequent harvest caps.
Section 3.3: Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision
• Support Option B: Revisit the Chesapeake Bay Cap every 3 years.
o Rationale: Given ongoing fluctuations in climate, water quality, and predator health (particularly the struggling Atlantic striped bass stock), management decisions cannot be left static. A mandatory three-year review cycle guarantees that ASMFC regularly integrates the latest Ecological Reference Point (ERP) data, local diet studies, and juvenile abundance indices into the Bay's harvest limits.
Conclusion
The Chesapeake Bay cannot afford business-as-usual management for industrial reduction harvest. The ASMFC has made significant strides in embracing ecosystem-based management, and adopting Option C1e, Option C2a, Option B2 (with Option B accounting), and Option B under 3.3 will put those principles into practice where they matter most.
Thank you for your dedication to our marine resources and for giving strong consideration to these vital conservation measures.
Sincerely,
John Powers
Norfolk, VA 23510
Member, Tidewater Anglers Club

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 2:42 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jess White

Email

jessbonnanwhite@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

To whom it may concern:

I would never have envisioned myself taking the time to make a public comment about caps on fishing if it were not for the story of finding a starving osprey on our Stockton University campus (Galloway, NJ). Ospreys, as it would have it, are our school mascot, and I have been following the work of one of my colleagues, Melanie Schroer, who has been exploring the possible causes of the depletion of the osprey population across the Eastern seaboard.

What seems to have become clear is that ospreys are starving - they are starving because the supply of feed fish is diminishing. To see pictures of emaciated ospreys and the chicks they were unable to raise is horrible, and unlike many of the issues we face in our world today, this is one we have the potential to change. I strongly oppose lifting the caps on the fishing of Menhaden. I am old enough to remember the days when the threat of losing the Bald Eagle and Condor was real - we have seen those populations surge again, but we should not choose this (and, yes, it would be a choice) for ospreys.

Please, we cannot let our legacy of environmental stewardship be the bodies of emaciated birds of prey for our children to look at and wonder what their parents might have done.

Please see:
https://sites.google.com/stockton.edu/melanieschroer/research

https://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local/skin-and-bones-osprey-chicks-struggle-to-survive-along-jersey-shore/4463737/

https://www.nbcnewyork.com/video/on-air/as-seen-on/osprey-population-in-crisis-along-the-jersey-shore/6548179/

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 2:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jen Cookus

Email

jencookus@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

My name is Jen Cookus, and I am a concerned citizen from Baltimore, Maryland. I am deeply concerned about declines in osprey populations and the potential impacts of menhaden depletion on the health of our coastal ecosystems.

I support precautionary, science-based menhaden management that recognizes their essential role as a forage species and the importance of maintaining sufficient populations to support the birds, fish, and other wildlife that depend on them.

Osprey populations can serve as an important indicator of ecosystem health. Their success is closely tied to the availability of healthy fish populations and functioning aquatic ecosystems. I believe the concerns raised by Dr. Brian Watts and other scientists studying osprey and menhaden along the Atlantic coast warrant serious consideration in management decisions.

I urge the Commission to take a precautionary approach that prioritizes the long-term health of menhaden populations and the broader ecosystem over short-term harvest levels. Management decisions should be informed by the best available science, including research on predator-prey relationships, and should account for uncertainty and potential ecological consequences.

Protecting menhaden is not just about sustaining one fish species; it is about supporting the interconnected health of the Chesapeake Bay and our coastal ecosystems for future generations.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 2:34 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

scott a price

Email

sprice365@outlook.com

State

Maryland

Comment

The value of the bay to the community, watershed, mid-Atlantic, and the nation cannot be overstated. It's iconic for its history, natural beauty, and as an economic powerhouse. A cap on harvesting menhaden, the life blood of the bay, is a fair and reasonable approach to ensuring that the bay is healthy and productive for decades to come.

As a resident of Maryland, one who lives on the water, and admirer of the Osprey, I am witnessing firsthand the reduction in productivity as a result of overfishing the menhaden. Although there are likely many other contributors to reduced food for the osprey, there is no greater direct correlation than the reduction of their immediate and favorite food source!

Elected Officials - Please Act NOW to put safeguards, quotas and caps on overfishing the menhaden to protect our bay!!!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 2:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Donovan Cowser

Email

ddcowser@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

As a recreational angler I support a 50% reduction.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 12:43 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Chris Wiegard

Email

valibn656@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I am a resident of Chesterfield County, VA. Although I cannot claim to be a fisheries expert, I think I have common sense. The impact on osprey populations is a concern. The impact on striped bass is another concern.
The problem as I see it is that Omega Proteins has a technology edge over Menhaden. Omega proteins has spotter planes and vast nets. Menhaden only has one weapon, the ability to reproduce. So far, it does not appear that Menhaden is keeping up in this competition.

Menhaden is not in danger of extinction. The danger is that it simply is not able to serve as the keystone species for other fisheries and ospreys, while also feeding the enormous demand from a heavily leveraged industry that has to pretend that there is plenty for all the consumers of menhaden.
There isn't plenty to go around. It is a similar situation to the Colorado River water lifeline to the Southwest USA. The difference is the glaring situation with the Colorado River is now resulting in hard choices being made, while the Menhaden mess is just resulting in more pretending.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 12:04 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Greg Brand

Email

gregbrand22@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

It's been incredible to witness the resurgence of the ospreys along the Jersey shore. My grandparents bought a house in Barnegat Light in 1978 and I've been fortunate enough to spend every summer of my life there. I even recently got into fishing in the bay by the lighthouse.

The past couple of years have been disheartening. It's been hard watching the ospreys fly out to sea and back over and over throughout the day without a single catch. Myself and other fisherman wait and wait for a nibble and come up with nothing. The decimation of menhaden, a keystone species, is a dire warning that our actions, not only commercial fishing but also carbon emissions, are exhausting the ecosystem faster than it can repair itself.

Drastic regional action is imperative. A 50% reduction in the fishery cap does not go far enough. Funding to better understand the impact of climate change on the menhaden population and possible solutions is also required, along with a task force for rapid implementation. These converging crises are not waiting around for us to act.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 11:53 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Stephen Schwing

Email

stephen@schwinghomes.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Shut down the commercial harvest of Atlantic Menhaden. They have killed the fishery for rockfish and tuna.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 10:36 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

David Bye

Email

dbye@comcast.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

As a recreational saltwater angler, I see firsthand the importance of a healthy menhaden population to the overall health of our fisheries. I believe menhaden management must prioritize the health of the marine ecosystem and ensure that sufficient forage remains available for predator species.

I strongly supports taking additional steps to protect and rebuild Atlantic menhaden populations. Menhaden are one of the most important forage fish in our coastal waters and are a critical food source for striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, tuna, Osprey and many other species

I urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to adopt responsible management measures that reduce fishing pressure on menhaden and protect this vital resource for future generations of recreational fishermen.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 10:35 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Dirck Bartlett

Email

dbartlett@ilexconstruction.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I have no ospreys left. I have even built them a nest on a piling and platform in the cove that I had built just for ospreys. No takers for the third year in a row.

We no longer see the schools of baitfish that used to be abundant in our river. (Tred Avon River). It is no wonder there are fewer ospreys.

Send that Canadian (Omega) company who works in the Chesapeake Bay back to Canada with a note to Prime Minister Carney that says “Return to Sender”.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 10:17 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Timothy Begin

Email

northendfishingco@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

Hello - I support the following options for the menhaden addendum 2.

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Amount: I support sub option B4

3.2.1 Chesapeake Bat Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period: I support option B1

3.2.2 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period Overages and Underages: I support underage sub option 1

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision: I support option B

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 9:41 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Robertson

Email

waterman1527@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Please consider passing amd 11 we need protection now. We don't want another fishery going down the same road as the herring and American white shad !! Our children deserve a healthy bay,not a lifeless water desert! Thanks for your service.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 9:37 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Rogard Ross

Email

info@friendsofindianriver.org

State

Virginia

Comment

Dear Commissioners,

The Friends of Indian River is a local community group striving to improve the quality of life for all the residents of the community in Chesapeake, Virginia, by promoting and preserving a healthy and clean river, shorelines, parks, and green spaces. Our local waterway is a tributary of the Elizabeth River on the Chesapeake Bay. As has often been said, menhaden may be the most important fish in the sea at the base of the aquatic food chain. Striped bass, osprey, red drum, marine mammals, and many other species depend on menhaden. Recreational fishing is important in our community. We are just now seeing the return of otters to the Indian River. Ospreys are an iconic bird in our skies. But all of these are threatened by the shrinking of the menhaden fish population. The failure of osprey nests is perhaps one of the most easily observed issues.

We urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to take action to better protect menhaden and support a healthy Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, including by reducing the Bay Cap by 50 percent in 2027 and implementing quota periods to more effectively distribute reduction fishing pressure throughout the season. Specifically, we support the following options in Draft Addendum II:

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount: Support option C1e that would reduce the Bay Cap by 50 percent and limits it to 13.6 percent of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC). Also, support option C2a which sets an upper limit of 51,000mt for the Bay Cap, which is the current level.

3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution: Support option B2 which establishes three even length quota periods for the Bay Cap, but distributes harvest 25 percent in period 1, 25 percent in period 2, and 50 percent into period 3. Also, support option B which establishes quota period overage payback and rollover of unused quota within a fishing year.

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision: Support option B Revisit Provision to reassess the efficacy of these new management tools every 3 years.

Urgent action is needed. We respectfully ask that you implement the above listed options at your next meeting.

Sincerely,
Rogard Ross
President, Friends of Indian River
https://www.friendsofindianriver.org/

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 8:10 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

william suplee

Email

suplee4@verizon.net

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

Dear Members of the Council:

I am writing to urge you to fully adopted reductions in menhaden harvest and to ensure that annual harvest remains below 115,000 metric tons. If management and scientific considerations allow, I also encourage the Council to pursue a harvest level of 100,000 metric tons or less.

Menhaden are an important forage fish and provide a critical food source for striped bass and numerous other marine species. Keeping harvest within a conservative limit is important to maintaining a healthy and resilient coastal ecosystem.

I respectfully ask the Council to:

Enforce a maximum annual menhaden harvest of less than 115,000 metric tons.
Consider 100,000 metric tons or less as a more conservative management target where supported by the available science.
Maintain rigorous monitoring and reporting of menhaden landings throughout the fishing season.
Take timely enforcement action when harvest approaches or exceeds applicable limits.

Make harvest, monitoring, and compliance information publicly available.
Continue evaluating scientific data and fishery conditions to determine whether further reductions are appropriate.

Adopting a reduction is only the first step. Consistent enforcement and transparent monitoring are essential to ensuring that management measures achieve their intended conservation objectives.

Thank you for your consideration and for your work to protect the long-term health and sustainability of our coastal fisheries.

Sincerely,

william suplee

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 6:03 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Joseph Gieger

Email

joe.gieger@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

As commissioner in Harvey Cedars, New Jersey responsible for parks, public property and Public Works. Our town has an osprey nest within our park located on the Barnegat Bay. We have seen distressed osprey up close and as a community we would like to voice our concerns that we must do whatever can be done to protect this species. Their needless starvation must be stopped. It is noted by all who visit Sunset Park Park….we need to preserve this majestic bird for all to enjoy
Thank you
Joseph f Gieger's
Commissioner Harvey Cedars
NJ

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 5:12 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Matthew Yoder

Email

matthew.ian.yoder@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

My name is Matthew Yoder and I am a Virginia resident concerned about Chesapeake Bay menhaden as well as the species and communities dependent on a healthy menhaden population.

Osprey are these beautiful birds that soar and dive for exactly the fish that is currently being decimated. They are dying. Unable to feed their chicks, their families collapsing. 4 out of 5 nests failed this year. Speaking with other bird watchers, I've learned that the numbers don't lie, there are far fewer of this magnificent creature in Virginia that in the past as their food source is hoarded away.

The birds are not the only ones who suffer. The dolphin and whale populations, as well as game fish, heavily rely on these bait fish. That means that to feed the fish oil industry, we are killing our own game fishing industry, whale/dolphin watching industry, and a magnificent part of our bird watching industry/tourism.

This unchecked menhaden fishing has got to be reined in. I support Addendum II to Amendment 3 of the Atlantic Menhaden Interstate Fisherery Management Plan.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 3:06 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jeffrey Fackenthal

Email

jeffrey.fackenthal@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

The Atlantic Menhaden fishery is overfished. The most important fish of the sea is critical for every predator in the epipelagic zone. Not only are they important prey, the schools are very effective for their ability to filter feed.
They are the largest filter feeders and clean the water better than oysters, because of the mass, and ability to swim.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 10:16 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Andrew Proctor

Email

awproctor99@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I own a property in Middlesex County, Virginia, on the Rappahannock River. My road (Montague Road) has frontage on the river of about 3/4 mile. In that span of frontage, there are around 10 platforms on pilings for Osprey. When I bought the property in 2015, there would only be one or two empty platforms. This summer, there is only one nesting pair of Ospreys along this span. I no longer see schools of peanut bunker off my dock like I used to. Something is not right.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 9:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Chad Brooks

Email

76brooks@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

The omega Fleet in the Chesapeake Bay destroys the population of Menhaden also reduces the population of all the other fish feeding on them.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 9:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kathy Saltzman

Email

kathywsaltzman@gmail.com

State

Delaware

Comment

Please support this addendum.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 8:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Margaret Fikrig

Email

m8fikrig@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I have monitored three Osprey nests for the Connecticut organization Osprey Nation for the past 5 years. My nests are located on the shore of the Long Island Sound in the town of Guilford, CT. My nests were successful every year, each producing 1-2 offspring. This year, the adult ospreys arrived at the nest platforms, but all 3 nests were abandoned after a few days. All of my friends who monitor nests in this part of Long Island Sound had similar experiences. We have since heard that it is because the Menhaden population in the Sound is markedly reduced due to over-fishing them for fertilizer production. The lack of Menhaden in the Sound meant the larger fish had nothing to feed on, thus drastically reducing the number of fish in the Sound. Osprey only eat fish, so their only source of food was gone, and they did not stay in the area and did not reproduce this year. We hope this situation can be remedied.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 6:59 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Cheryl Severini

Email

cherylsev@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Limiting menhaden harvesting is vital to the survival of sea life, mammals and osprey. Here in NJ we lost multiple baby osprey this year due to starvation. Allowing for commercial fishing to deplete these natural resources will destroy ecosystems. Aren't humans doing enough to destroy everything valuable on this planet already or will we only be happy with total obliteration.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 5:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ernest Harris

Email

pdlqlt@mac.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Essential to support a healthy menhaden population for ospreys and other dependent enterprises.
Re: Draft Addendum II ; I prefer Option B2

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 4:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Donna Kiffe

Email

donna.kiffe@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I support a reduction in the cap on menhaden fishery quantities allowed in the Chesapeake Bay. I also support a later distribution of those allowable limits during the seasons to protect against the early achievement of the maximum allowed limit. Finally, I support the more fair distribution of fishery allowed amounts up and down the entire Atlantic seaboard so such an abundant percentage does not come from the Chesapeake Bay itself. I would like to see a reset of the balance of commerce and nature that has unfortunately been lost in favor of the fisheries and away from wildlife in the Chesapeake ecosystem.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 4:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michael Lloyd

Email

mlloyd79@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I support the 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay TAC, this should not be linked to the total coastwide TAC. I also support a 30% or more reduction in the total coastwide TAC. I live in Ocean City, Md. Schools of bait fish are nowhere to be found. Juvenile fish can no longer be found in my canal and in the backwaters of the Coastal Bays. The ASMFC needs to take drastic action NOW. Do your job and stop protecting special interests that only represent a very tiny population of the citizenry. Kicking the can down the road will have dire ramifications for multiple species. Furthermore, unused quote should not be reallocated to other States. You will just create a crisis in a different ecosystem, like is happening in the Chesapeake. It is clear to me that there are not as many Menhaden in our bays and oceans as was once previously thought. Thank you. ~Michael Lloyd, OCMD.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 4:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Greg Jewell

Email

cgjewell14@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Omega somehow feels that the menhaden in the oceocean are their fish. These forage fish are there for use by first the species that use them for their sustenance. Then next for the commercial and recreational fishermen of the United States. This Canadian company is taking forage fish from our costal waters to the detriment of the fish and wildlife who depend on them. Ecologically they are an important filter feeder to cleanse the ocean. Omegas harvesting practices are barbaric Allowed unchecked they would be happy to net every last bunker. The products that Omega is selling with the reduction are available by other means. I question if they are even sold in the USA. Our fish for their profit to other countries. My opinion is their operation should be removed entirely from the east coast

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 3:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Christa Peters-Lidard

Email

christa@lidard.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I live on a creek that drains into the Chesapeake Bay, and for two years now, the ospreys in the nest next to my dock have not produced successful offspring. I'm growing increasingly concerned that the declining menhaden population is the limiting factor. It is critical that sustainable fishing limits be established and implemented ASAP to save the declining osprey population and for the overall health and economic viability of the Chesapeake Bay food web.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 3:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Thomas Winner

Email

tomwinner@hotmail.com

State

New York

Comment

I have witnessed the return of whales and dolphins to New York Harbor, and seen their recent absence. We must limit the catch of Menhaden; I believe we should suspend or restrict the reduction fishery, push Omega Protein out of the Chesapeake Bay past the 3-mile line, and cut their quota by more than 50 percent.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 2:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Dan Faoro

Email

dfaoro@live.com

State

Delaware

Comment

Stop the overharvesting of Atlantic menhaden in the Mid-Atlantic region and Chesapeake Bay. This is highly destructive to fisheries and has resulted in some of the worst fishing in many years. Plus all manner of wildlife, including osprey and eagles look to menhaden to sustain life. Protect our environment and wildlife for the next generation, don't destroy it for corporate greed.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 2:33 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Paula Labieniec

Email

plabieniec@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Headlines such as this one "2026 osprey breeding performance was the worst ever recorded for the Chesapeake Bay" published by the Center for Conservation Biology at William and Mary are alarming. Many factors contribute to the variability in osprey breeding success, but this year they noted that food stress was notable. The food stress appears to be tied to the decline in the availability of menhaden. Why are the menhaden unavailable to the osprey at the time that they are breeding (April, May, and June)? This is a key question to answer and if the menhaden decline is caused by commercial harvests, then I believe those harvests should be regulated with a fisheries cap.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 2:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II - Fort Monroe

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II - Fort Monroe

Action Title

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II - Fort Monroe

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/va-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii-2/

Name

Ron Belbin

Email

ronbelbin@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Read the history of menhaden harvesting from New England and the history of menhaden harvesting in Virginia, North Carolina and Louisiana. Once you've educated yourself on this subject, you'll understand that this fishery will not be sustainable without taking proactive steps now. Nor, will the many other species of fish and fowl be able to thrive without an abundance of menhaden. I urge everyone to contact their representatives at all levels and encourage them to do the right thing and protect OUR resources, before there's nothing left to protect. Let's stop fighting this battle on social media and start fighting it in the voting booths.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 2:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jacki Ruark

Email

sweetpea7r@comcast.net

State

Delaware

Comment

I am writing to convey the need for stronger protections for the future of osprey on the coast. Based on present 2026 monitoring, osprey nest success in Rehoboth, Assawoman Bay and Lewes is below the minimum levels for osprey populations to thrive due to starving chicks and the depletion of a their main food source—Atlantic menhaden. This is due to over harvesting and no or minimal guidelines and laws that will lead to the inevitable extinction of osprey on our coast if left to continue unchecked. It is critical that we enact fishing policies now to allow enough food for osprey survival. The best time to do this was yesterday, and the next best time is NOW. Please help protect our beautiful and beloved raptors and wildlife on our coasts. Thank you!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 12:40 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Peter Auster

Email

peter.auster@uconn.edu

State

Connecticut

Comment

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. Below are my recommended actions based on the alternatives (Section 3) in the document for public comment. For clarity I follow the section numbers and alternatives as they are described.

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount, Option B, sub-option B4.

This option yields a 50% reduction in the current Bay Cap, resulting in a Bay Cap of 25,500 mt. This option is an important precautionary measure to rapidly address multiple issues of availability of menhaden in Chesapeake Bay for reproduction as well as functional ecosystem needs such as prey for multiple predators.

3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution.

3.2.1. Quota Period, recommend Option B1.

This even length and even harvest strategy results in three quota periods that allow 33%, 33%, and 34% exploitation of the

total Bay Cap. While option B2 slightly reduces exploitation during the earlier part of the fishery, it would allow a larger disturbance to menhaden numbers and distribution during the third quota period. Given the functional role that menhaden play as prey for multiple predators within the Chesapeake ecosystem, spreading the effect of the fishery evenly throughout the annual fishing cycle minimizes prey depletion effects across predator species, predator size classes, and distribution of menhaden aggregations (all where predator-prey interactions and resultant energetic benefits can be both dependent on prey size and distribution).

3.2.2 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period Overages and Underages. Recommend Option B (I think).

I recommend this alternative should yield no payback for overall underage between fishing years but allow rollover of unused quota within a fishing year. An underage in Quota Period 1 would be split evenly and rolled over to Quota Periods 2 and 3 rather than be added only to Period 3. This would avoid the ecological effects described in my recommendation for quota period.

The detailed descriptions of these alternatives in the addendum were hard to follow so my previous statement hopefully adds clarity to my intent.

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision, Recommend Option B.

To assess the response in menhaden populations to management actions, I recommend the Chesapeake Bay Cap be reviewed every three years, unless there is such a rapid reduction in the Bay population (fishery or non-fishery related) that a management response is necessary.

Coastwide TAC

To address an earlier error in the assessment process that predicted a larger menhaden population than a subsequent analysis produced, the 2025 Coastwide TAC was cut by 20%. Unfortunately, the calculation for the 2025 TAC was equal to the actual 2024 catch. It appears that the reduced TAC produced no real conservation benefit. A 50% reduction, to 94,420 MT (conserving the potential for overage), should be implemented to address recovery and sustaining the ecological role this species plays along the coast.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Peter J. Auster, PhD
Research Professor Emeritus
Department of Marine Sciences
University of Connecticut
Groton, CT 06340

Affiliation is for identification purposes only and the recommendations here are my own and do not necessarily represent those of The University of Connecticut.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 12:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Laura Oliver

Email

palaurao@hotmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I moved to the eastern shore in 2003 for the beauty of the ecosystem. That has drastically changed for the worse since then with the loss of habitat, killing of insects and other food sources for larger animals and the number of birds have suffered drastically. I am begging you to please do the right thing here and place a hold on ALL menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed immediately until numbers can have the chance to improve. We do not have time to waste here. I am personally witnessing the death of so many osprey chicks. It is utterly heartbreaking and completely unnecessary. We don't have time for two or more years of surveys when everyone knows exactly what the problem is. If I were not scheduled to be out of country, I would be there in person to fight the fight. We are destroying this world faster than I could have ever imagined possible and we are losing everything that is beautiful about it. The amount of suffering we caused to the natural world and the animals in it is preventable. We must do better!
Let's start here.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 12:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

http://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Scott Fitzgerald

Email

scott.d.fitzgerald@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

The 50% reduction in menhaden fishing allowed is a critical first step to recovering what we have lost in the bay. Omega says there is no evidence it is their reduction fishing, but anyone with two eyes and half a brain can see the causation. They come through with their ships catching millions of tons of menhaden, and in their wake, fish and osprey starve. The fishing has plummeted in recent years. Lifelong fishing guides have had to close their businesses, and my children have not enjoyed what I have enjoyed my entire life: fishing successfully on the bay. Reduction fishing for menhaden should be banned, but this is a step in the right direction.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 11:17 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/me-nh-ma-ri-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jeffrey Smith

Email

smith.jeffrey66@gmail.com

State

District of Columbia

Comment

We must put the health of the biosphere first before all other considerations or we will destroy the planet and all its life, including humanity. Stop allowing the mass harvesting of menhaden and let the population recover.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 11:06 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Edward Okeefe

Email

edwardsillsokeefedds@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Omega"s gross overfishing of menhaden in the Chesapeake is an obvious horror story.The birds no longer catch them in my Norfolk creek.I have not seen an osprey on the Lafayette this year.I can not believe that our legislators are so craven and corrupted by Omega money.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 10:36 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

James Dobahue

Email

jim.donahue51@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Menhaden are one of the most important fish on the AtlanticCoast. They are vital not just as a food source to the birds and fish that callthe coast home, but also as a key forage fish species that many of our baitfisheries, coastal communities, and small businesses rely on. The Ospreypopulation has struggled in recent years, and it has become clear that ahealthy menhaden population is critical to the health of the entire ChesapeakeBay ecosystem.

As a concerned stakeholder, I want to thank you for theopportunity to comment on Draft Addendum II. I support the following managementoptions:

3.1: Options C1e and C2a. I support a precautionaryreduction in the Bay Cap by 50% of the current 51,000 metric tons for thereduction fishery. This will help increase the number of menhaden available inthe Chesapeake Bay, an important nursery for Atlantic menhaden.

3.2: Option B2. I support the establishment of three quotaperiods for the Bay Cap at a 25/25/50% harvest distribution percentage perquota period. This will help reduce food competition for birds like ospreyduring the most vulnerable times of their life cycles.

3.3: Option B. I support reviewing the Chesapeake Bay Capevery 3 years. This gives the Commission the ability to plan and react tochanging conditions and new information.

These options best support the Chesapeake Bay and ensure thehealth of our birds, people, and planet.

Sincerely,
James M Donahue

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 10:10 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/me-nh-ma-ri-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Karen Gallo

Email

kgallo55@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please use common sense and pay attention to the needs of our wildlife and ecosystems. Everything we do affects something else. There must be a balance. Please impose stricter catch limits and harvest levels.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 9:50 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jan Hamilton-Sherwonit

Email

janh.2005@comcast.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

Menhaden are critical food source for many species, especially Osprey. This year, due to depletion of menhaden by over-fishing, Osprey population collapsed. Very few chicks fledged and adults starved.
Since the ban on pesticide DDT in the 1970s, Osprey and Bald Eagle populations recovered spectacularly. Now those populations are being starved. We cannot allow this to continue.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 9:10 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michelle Blake

Email

ptowngal@aol.com

State

Virginia

Comment

The need to drastically cut the taking of menhaden is loooong past due. An immediate reduction of 50% could go a long way toward quickly reversing the negative effects of the declining menhaden population.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 8:35 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Allen Carter

Email

allencarter44@msn.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I advocate for a 50% reduction in the Ches Bay menhaden fishery to support our declining osprey population as well as other vital ecosystem components. Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 8:25 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Nancy Morand

Email

simon.nuhn@snet.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

As a concerned stakeholder, I want to thank you for theopportunity to comment on Draft Addendum II. I support the following managementoptions:

3.1: Options C1e and C2a. I support a precautionaryreduction in the Bay Cap by 50% of the current 51,000 metric tons for thereduction fishery. This will help increase the number of menhaden available inthe Chesapeake Bay, an important nursery for Atlantic menhaden.

3.2: Option B2. I support the establishment of three quotaperiods for the Bay Cap at a 25/25/50% harvest distribution percentage perquota period. This will help reduce food competition for birds like ospreyduring the most vulnerable times of their life cycles.

3.3: Option B. I support reviewing the Chesapeake Bay Capevery 3 years. This gives the Commission the ability to plan and react tochanging conditions and new information.

These options best support the Chesapeake Bay and ensure thehealth of our birds, people, and planet.

Sincerely, Nancy Morand

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 8:22 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

LORENE MEADOR

Email

gailhorse1@aol.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Please reduce the menhaden co)ection by 50%. Let's save our osprey. Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 8:10 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Simone Healey

Email

shealey@vikkihealey.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

It is IMPERATIVE that the Menhaden fishery be protected to the MAXIMUM amount in order to protect the bay from ecosystem collapse! When top tier predators like Osprey are dying of starvation you have a BIG problem. There needs to be a menhaden catch moratorium until populations can rebound.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 8:09 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/me-nh-ma-ri-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

David Govatski

Email

david.govatski@gmail.com

State

New Hampshire

Comment

We need a moratorium on commercial harvesting of Menhaden for a minimum of five years, preferably longer. This will allow the recovery of menhaden that are a vital part of the food chain in the North Atlantic. We are seeing indications that over harvesting of menhaden is causing declines in striped bass and other marine and terrestrial species.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 8:01 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Mickie Nance

Email

koolmickie@msn.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Growing up in Ocean View in Norfolk, Va, I had never seen a bald eagle or an osprey in the wild. Years later as the Chesapeake Bay became healthier, we would see them! Such a thrill!
However, now they are threatened by starvation due to overfishing by commercial companies. Please consider enacting a policy to reduce what can be harvested so there's enough to provide food for these magnificent birds and other creatures that depend on menhaden to survive.
Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 7:52 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Doug McLennan

Email

lobstarz@hotmail.com

State

Maine

Comment

I would like to ask the ASMFC members to consider a regional management program be used in the quota selection for the states that harvest menhaden. Maine and other states in New England have lost fishing opportunities this year because of the displeasure of Omega Industries huge quota, and fishing practices in the Chesapeake Bay Area. The Maine Lobster Industry depends highly on using the biomass in Maine waters to provide and local and affordable bait supply to the lobstermen of Maine. This fishery also takes fishing pressure off the obstetrician resources, as it allows people to diver their fishing operations into another resource, which is important for the small coastal towns that have only one fishery to utilize.Maine has lost an entire month of harvest opportunity this year with the 20% reduction in quota this year, even with transfers from other states.Maine has its conservation measures in place for small scale harvest operations, and the event that overfishing would occur is minimal with the boat size and weekly harvest limits. We could manage things better at a state level, but the state quota needs to be stable in order for that to happen. It was stated in the meeting last fall at ASMFC that there was no available science on the menhaden biomass above Rhode Island. This is why I believe regional management of resource that is spread out such a great distance needs to be implemented.Thank You ,Doug McLennan Spruce Head Maine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 7:33 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lesley Orlowski

Email

ishopwindows@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Menhaden are one of the most important fish on the Atlantic Coast. They are vital not just as a food source to the birds and fish that call the coast home, but also as a key forage fish species that many of our bait fisheries, coastal communities, and small businesses rely on. The Osprey population has struggled in recent years, and it has become clear that a healthy menhaden population is critical to the health of the entire Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

As a concerned stakeholder, I want to thank you for the opportunity to comment on Draft Addendum II. I support the following management options:

3.1: Options C1e and C2a. I support a precautionary reduction in the Bay Cap by 50% of the current 51,000 metric tons for the reduction fishery. This will help increase the number of menhaden available in the Chesapeake Bay, an important nursery for Atlantic menhaden.

3.2: Option B2. I support the establishment of three quota periods for the Bay Cap at a 25/25/50% harvest distribution percentage per quota period. This will help reduce food competition for birds like osprey during the most vulnerable times of their life cycles.

3.3: Option B. I support reviewing the Chesapeake Bay Cap every 3 years. This gives the Commission the ability to plan and react to changing conditions and new information.

These options best support the Chesapeake Bay and ensure the health of our birds, people, and planet.
Sincerely,
Lesley

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 7:22 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Anne Goetz

Email

alouisegoetz1@gmail.com

State

Delaware

Comment

No stop with that idea.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 7:19 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Wendy Iles

Email

wiles12212@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I am overwhelmingly in support of easing the pressure on menhaden populations caused by industrial harvesting. My family enjoys the waterways of the Chesapeake Bay and understand the critical issues of overfishing.

Public service in a coastal city means paying close attention to critical issues like this, even when they aren't decided at City Council. We absolutely need leadership that understands what's happening in our waters and listens to the people who depend on it.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 7:02 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Aaron Bridgeforth

Email

deadguy859@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Please vote to protect our marine ecosystems healthy and preserve our natural heritage. Osprey are by far my favorite raptor species and have spent countless hours and days watching them. To hear they're now facing a decline after decades of healthy populations is absolutely heartbreaking. We need to remember that we are a part of the ecosystem and the natural cycles of this planet and wholeheartedly embrace a change of mindset to protect the living things that cannot stop the destruction of industry. Please protect the bay!!!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 6:17 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kathleen Dolan

Email

kadolan72@comcast.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please reduce the amount of menhaden that can be taken by commercial fishers. Osprey and other wildlife depend on menhaden for their offspring. They are dying of starvation.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 5:50 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Gail Giewont

Email

almostbrave@hotmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Please reduce the menhaden harvest by 50%. We need to support native species like osprey that rely on this fish for food.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 5:47 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lynne Evans

Email

portnoyjohnson@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Good people try. Noble people attempt to abrupt harm. We all are watching catastrophic flooding in our country the past 5-8 years on a regular basis now. It's not once every 10-15 years in a state we mulled over that it couldn't be prevented because that's how bad luck works. Clearing the tree canopy, bulldozing small & large wooded tracts, paving over small strips of vegetation & removing the topsoil on development sites has all contributed to local flooding and the collective shift in wind & water currents that stall & endanger life in chaotic arrival. Deposition or rain & speed of ground strike along with the extensive removal of natural strips of land with varying overlooked topography as valuable, has been man made by development continuing past need or public wish. Our counties & cities are creating peril to lives & home & cars with risk in travel & stress in maintaining jobs that pay ever increasing tax assessment that enriches county coffers & whims, but continues to strain mental & physical adaptability for residents & citizens countrywide. I worked with a developer for several years & he said he could get men to open their wallet & buy just by inflating ego with "It's all about you". What is happening to our wildlife as all this distraction is occurring? Our whales are beaching showing starvation. High tech fishing trawlers are using their new technology to locate & net entire schools of small feeder fish to grind up & use as cheap fertilizer. Then they vacuum the fish from the nets & move to the next school already mapped out & soon located. Vacuum that school & go to the next. The whales are starving to death because they require a huge volume of tiny fish in order to make it to their migration site or to a breeding ground where just one baby will be born months later. They can't reach their destination for migration or safe nursery

as dozens beach showing "they are like a hollow bag of bones. No fat. No insulation or energy available". People did this by their government's allowance & people can stop it. Birds are arriving to their migration routes seasonally & no food is present. We have changed the season of provisions by massive pollution & aerial spraying too. Caterpillars used to provide but are not present as birds race through storm & winds & miles to go. Hawaii allows the tilling of plastics into the soil from Dole? A paradise of poisons in the drinking water & high rates of cancers in ... paradise? What about birds that rely on food from bays & oceans? Raiding everything that isn't even humanly edible, osprey are starving too. We are killing all life on the planet by overt actions of clearing & development & toxic pollution or poisons. Starving whales & osprey? That has the same cause. No food to sustain. Unimaginable? It once was 15 years ago. You choose. Don't let anyone take the right to choose for you.

Thank you ...

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 3:29 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Bernard Berne

Email

bhberne@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Draft Addendum II, which will consider reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by up to 50%, does not go far enough. The Chesapeake Bay fishery cap needs to be reduced by at least 80%. The present uses of menhaden benefit nobody except those who profit by catching and processing the fish and selling the finished product. None of the uses are actually necessary. In contrast, the fishery's adverse environmental impacts, which likely include declines in populations of other fish species, ospreys, bald eagles, and other parts of the food chain, are immense.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 9:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Balthis

Email

balthis.john@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Please control/restrict the fishing limits on the Bay…for all of us (humans/wildlife)!!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 9:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Meredith Getz

Email

mdstanton02@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

As a concerned citizen who cares about the health of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, I strongly support a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap. There is declining productivity and widespread nest failures among ospreys, which signals an urgent need for precautionary conservation. Your immediate attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 9:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jean Hollings

Email

hollingsjean@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I support a 50% reduction in the
menhaden catch. Although the there is not certainty that overfishing of menhaden is causing the abysmal reproduction rate of osprey, the evidence strongly suggests that this is so. Menhaden ate a keystone species in our coastal waters, and their depleted numbers are hurting more than osprey.

Thank you,
Jean Hollings

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 8:41 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Gene Leganza

Email

gleganza@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I support the establishment of three quota periods for the Bay Cap at a 25/25/50% harvest distribution percentage per quota period. This will help reduce food competition for birds like osprey during the most vulnerable times of their life cycles.

I strongly feel that our public institutions must support a balance of needs for humans, wildlife, and the planet in general. We're seriously impacting our natural environment and any time policy decisions can help maintain human needs and those of the natural environment we need to be very careful.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 8:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Britt Altizer

Email

altizerbd@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I am in full support of a total reduction in menhaden harvest within the Chesapeake bay. The bay is overfished—there's no reason for harvest of menhaden in state waters.

Reduce the quota!!!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 8:37 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Russell Brisson

Email

russellbrisson50@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I'm 51 years old and I've been fishing the bay my whole life I've seen many changes over the years . These commercial boats need to be moved into federal waters

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 8:33 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Van Ly

Email

visually2@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Hello, the 50% reduction of harvesting of menhaden is not enough. You must go for a 100% reduction of current harvest allowance. The current harvest amounts have already done the damage; it is a multi-year accumulation of damage. To stabilize further environmental deterioration, you must stop the bleeding.

If you were driving down the road and saw that you are about to hit a wall, would you step on the brakes at 50% or 100%?

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 8:17 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Maryanne Yingst

Email

yongstma@aol.com

State

Delaware

Comment

I monitor osprey nests along a small part of the Indian River Bay, and there are either no parents or no fledglings that can fledge because they become too emaciated to fly and catch fish.
I would like a 50%/13%/25%/60 split every 3 years to see and/or prove that it is indeed the overfishing of menhaden. There is only one way to know: enact the Menhaden Addendum.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 7:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Holly Dickson

Email

jesusnaturelover@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I amin support of tge reduction to 50%.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 7:34 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Aaron Bridgeforth

Email

deadguy859@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Please vote to protect our marine ecosystems healthy and preserve our natural heritage. Osprey are by far my favorite raptor species and have spent countless hours and days watching them. To hear they're now facing a decline after decades of healthy populations is absolutely heartbreaking. We need to remember that we are a part of the ecosystem and the natural cycles of this planet and wholeheartedly embrace a change of mindset to protect the living things that cannot stop the destruction of industry. Please protect the bay!!!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 6:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Annaliese Tassano

Email

msannaliese@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I support a 50% reduction in menhaden fishing for a sustainable future.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 6:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sam Ashbee

Email

captnsam@verizon.net

State

Virginia

Comment

Need to close bunker fishing in the Chesapeake Bay period.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 5:50 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Carol Hummel

Email

hohumhills@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Save the Ospreys before it is too late. Please reduce the Chesapeake Bay fishery cap by 50% and create quota periods to distribute harvest under the cap more evenly throughout the fishing season. It is the responsible thing to do.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 5:36 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Andrew Wilson

Email

andrew314wilson@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Menhaden are a vital part of the food web and recent impacts in the population of predators upon menhaden suggest that the reduction fishery is taking too many tons and should be reduced by 50%.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 5:08 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Karen Runde

Email

rundezoo@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

There MUST be catch limits across the entire Chesapeake Bay region. At least a 50% reduction from current numbers. ZERO osprey nestlings survived in our neighborhood near Cobb Island, MD

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 5:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Karen Runde

Email

rundezoo@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

There MUST be catch limits across the entire Chesapeake Bay region. At least a 50% reduction from current numbers. ZERO osprey nestlings survived in our neighborhood near Cobb Island, MD

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 5:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Earl Hodnett

Email

earlhodnett@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

As a professional wildlife biologist, I have witnessed the gross over harvesting of this fishery for years. I would recommend an immediate 50% reduction in harvest at a minimum. The Bay is not a location that can support this type of industry.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 4:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Doug Donegan

Email

ceo@ssihq.net

State

Maryland

Comment

I am writing as a former Naval officer, a waterfront landowner along the Chesapeake Bay for over twenty years, and an avid boat operator to urge the Board to approve Option B4 (a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction cap to 25,500 metric tons) and establish seasonal quota distributions under Draft Addendum II.

Navigating these waters for more than two decades, both professionally and as a private mariner, I have developed an acute operational awareness of the Bay's surface conditions and marine life. In years past, running the tributaries and open reaches meant regularly encountering dense, surface-breaking schools of Atlantic menhaden. Today, those once-prevalent bait schools are conspicuously absent from our sounders and wakes.

The consequence of this absence is an undeniable ecological crisis. Atlantic menhaden serve as the primary caloric engine of the Chesapeake Bay's food web. Without this critical, lipid-dense forage base, our top predators are starving—most visibly our resident osprey population. From the water and my shoreline, I have watched returning pairs search empty shallows for hours, only to return to nests where chicks steadily perish from malnutrition. Coastwide single-species models declaring menhaden "not overfished" completely obscure the destructive reality of localized depletion caused by industrial purse-seine reduction operations in nearshore nursery waters. Industrial fleets scooping up entire schools to manufacture aquaculture pellets, animal

feed, and oils are systematically stripping the estuary of its life support.

To restore balance to these vital waters, I ask the Board to enact:

Bay-Specific Ecological Reference Points (ERPs): Quotas must account for the multi-species forage needs of Bay predators (osprey, bald eagles, and striped bass) rather than treating our enclosed estuary as an unconstrained single-species fishery.

Seasonal Quota Distributions: Restricting purse-seine reduction harvest during critical chick-rearing months (April through June) will eliminate direct resource competition when fledglings require the highest caloric density to avoid nest mortality.

Nearshore Spatial Exclusions: Industrial reduction vessels must be moved out of sensitive shallow bays, river mouths, and nursery zones into the open Atlantic, stopping commercial fleets from wiping out local schools in primary osprey hunting depths.

Option B4 — 50% Cap Reduction (25,500 MT): Lowering the cap will leave tens of millions of pounds of schooling biomass inside the Bay to sustain predatory fish and raptors rather than fishmeal processing.

Please vote for Option B4 and implement seasonal quotas to safeguard the Chesapeake Bay's maritime heritage and living resources.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 4:50 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Amanda Barlup

Email

abdonegan@comcast.net

State

Maryland

Comment

I am writing as a waterfront landowner of over a decade on the Chesapeake Bay and an active wildlife photographer to strongly urge the Board to adopt Option B4 (a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction cap to 25,500 metric tons) and establish seasonal quota distributions under Draft Addendum II.

For more than ten years, I have documented the seasonal rhythms of the Chesapeake through my lens. In earlier years, tracking hunting ospreys was simple: dense, "boiling" schools of Atlantic menhaden regularly dimpled the surface across our creeks, coves, and shoals. Today, those vibrant bait balls are an increasingly rare sight, and my camera now records a distressing ecological collapse.

Atlantic menhaden are the vital caloric engine powering the Bay's entire food web. Without this forage base, our iconic raptors are starving. Across multiple seasons, I have watched returning pairs expend exhausting energy searching barren shallows, only to return with inadequate prey. Nest platforms that once reliably fledged two or three vigorous chicks now stand abandoned, or worse, harbor fledglings that slowly perish from nest-level starvation. Coastwide stock models showing "healthy" biomass completely fail to reflect the severe, localized depletion inflicted by industrial reduction fishing in the Bay's most vulnerable nursery shallows.

To reverse this crisis and protect our wildlife, I ask you to enact the following measures:

Option B4 — 50% Harvest Cap Reduction (25,500 MT): Slashing the reduction cap in half will keep tens of millions of pounds of essential forage biomass inside the estuary for predatory fish and raptors rather than fishmeal and oil rendering.

Bay-Specific Ecological Reference Points (ERPs): Quotas must be set based on the verified forage requirements of Bay predators—including ospreys, eagles, and striped bass—rather than single-species biomass models that treat this fragile estuary as an unconstrained fishery.

Seasonal Quota Windows: Purse-seine reduction operations must be restricted or delayed during peak chick-rearing months (April through June), directly eliminating food competition when young broods require maximum caloric intake to survive.

Nearshore Spatial Exclusions: Industrial reduction vessels must be prohibited from netting in shallow bays, river mouths, and nursery shoals, shifting operations into the open Atlantic and preserving shallow waters where ospreys dive.

The Chesapeake Bay cannot sustain the relentless removal of its keystone forage species. Please vote for Option B4 and implement strict seasonal quotas to protect our ospreys, our fishery, and the legacy of our waters.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 4:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Cindy Andre

Email

cindy.andre@verizon.net

State

Maryland

Comment

I am writing as a concerned waterfront landowner along the Chesapeake Bay to urge the Board to adopt Option B4 (a 50% reduction of the Chesapeake Bay reduction cap to 25,500 metric tons) and implement seasonal quota distributions under Draft Addendum II.

Living along these shores, I have witnessed a heartbreaking ecological shift firsthand. Where broad, "boiling" schools of Atlantic menhaden once rippled the shallows throughout the spring and summer, sightings have grown alarmingly scarce. Most distressing is the visible crisis among our resident ospreys. Menhaden serve as the primary caloric engine of the Chesapeake Bay's food web. In recent nesting seasons, platforms that once reliably fledged healthy chicks now sit empty or host broods that starve in the nest. Industrial "reduction" fishing—scooping up massive schools to grind into livestock feed, aquaculture pellets, and omega-3 supplements—causes severe localized depletion in the very foraging grounds these raptors depend upon. Coastwide biomass calculations mean little when localized foraging grounds are left empty.

To protect the wildlife, nursery habitat, and communities that depend on a healthy Bay, I ask you to approve:

Option B4 — 50% Cap Reduction (25,500 MT): Slashing the industrial cap in half will keep tens of millions of pounds of lipid-

rich biomass inside the estuary for breeding raptors and predatory sportfish like striped bass, rather than sending it to industrial rendering vats.

Seasonal Harvest Windows: Purse-seine reduction operations must be restricted or delayed during peak chick-rearing months (April through June). This eliminates direct food competition during the exact window when young fledglings require the highest caloric volume to avoid nest mortality.

Nearshore Spatial Buffers: Large-scale reduction vessels must be excluded from sensitive shallow bays, river mouths, and nursery shoals, moving industrial harvest into the open Atlantic and out of the critical dive zones of nesting ospreys.

Bay-Specific Ecological Reference Points (ERPs): Management must explicitly account for the forage needs of Bay predators (osprey, bald eagles, striped bass, and marine mammals) rather than relying on single-species yield models that treat the estuary as an unconstrained fishery.

The Chesapeake Bay is our nation's premier estuary and an indispensable nursery ground. Please honor the intent of the public comment period ending October 9, 2026, and vote for Option B4 alongside seasonal quota protections to safeguard the future of our ospreys and the Bay's broader food web.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 4:33 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kathleen Cooke

Email

kkcooke33@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

STOP STARVING CHICKS

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 4:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Tom Bennett

Email

sevastreetglide@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

In order to save what remains of our CB natural resources, we, the citizens of Virginia and concerned recreational fishermen, request that lower catch limits (or a moratorium, on tge menhaden fishery be put into place as soon as possible. Consideration should also be made to limiting more of the catch just outside of the mouth of the CB, out into the ocean.

We are sick and tired of decades of a Canadian company, Omega Protein, exploiting natural resources of the CB and the state of Virginia.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 4:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

James McGinnis

Email

mcginnis6010@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I support the reduction of the menhaden fishery in the Bay by 50%. There have been a drastic decline in the Osprey population as well as of species in the the Chesapeake Bay that depend heavily on the major food source that is the menhaden.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 3:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Erica Decker

Email

razelberiswirl@hotmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I am writing in support of stronger protections for Atlantic menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay and thoughtful consideration of the options before the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission in Draft Addendum II.

Across Maryland and Virginia, communities and lawmakers have invested enormous time, energy, and resources in restoring and protecting the Chesapeake Bay. In this day and age, we have the technology, scientific knowledge, and community commitment to continue do better - not worse - for this vital ecosystem.

It is a tragedy to see wildlife like Osprey suffer from a lack of the food resources, in an era when we have the ability to understand these systems and manage them responsibly. In 2026, Osprey saw a staggering, record loss of offspring due to starvation. Menhaden are an important part of the Bay's entire food web, and the current Addendum process actively recognizes concerns about the quantity of menhaden harvest and potential downstream effects on crucial ecosystem predators.

Our communities should not have to choose between a healthy Bay, sustainable practices, or productive fisheries. We need our lawmakers and fishery managers to work with the people who care for this watershed. This should be a partnership based

on sound science, transparency, concern for the environment, and mutual cooperation.

I urge the Commission and our elected leaders to hear the communities of Maryland and Virginia and take meaningful action to ensure that the Chesapeake Bay has enough menhaden to sustain the wildlife and ecosystem we have all worked so hard to restore.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 3:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Margaret Altizer

Email

maggiemay1000@comcast.net

State

Maryland

Comment

I have lived on the Chesapeake Bay for over 50 years now and one of my favorite times of the year is around St. Patrick's Day because around this time is when I can see the return of Ospreys to our area. This year I noticed a dramatic decline in the number returning. Not only the osprey but also numerous other species in the bay depend on the menhaden for their survival. Please put a cap on the netting and removal of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay. The survival of not only the Osprey but also the entire bay depend on putting a stop to the removing of the menhaden from our waters.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 3:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Picard

Email

johnpicardiwcc@aol.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please do the right thing and stop the overfishing of menhaden.

Thanks, John

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 2:50 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kacie Collins

Email

kaciecollins@outlook.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I am writing in strong support of the most protective options in Draft Addendum II for Atlantic menhaden management in the Chesapeake Bay. Menhaden are the foundation of the Atlantic coast's marine food web and are critically important to striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, ospreys, bald eagles, marine mammals, and many other predator species. The Chesapeake Bay serves as one of the most important nursery areas for Atlantic menhaden, making conservation of this resource especially important.

I urge those in consideration to adopt the largest reduction under consideration for the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap. The current draft recognizes concerns about concentrated industrial harvest within the Bay and the potential ecological impacts of removing large quantities of forage fish from a critical nursery ecosystem. A meaningful reduction in the Bay cap would better protect the Bay's food web, provide more forage for predators, and reflect the ecological importance of this area.

I also support linking the Chesapeake Bay cap to the coastwide total allowable catch so that reductions and increases occur proportionally over time. This approach would provide a more consistent and precautionary management framework and ensure that Bay protections keep pace with future changes in coastwide management.

In addition, I support establishing quota periods that distribute harvest more evenly throughout the fishing season. Concentrated harvest during key periods can have disproportionate impacts on predator-prey relationships and on other fisheries that depend on healthy menhaden availability. Spreading harvest across the season is a commonsense measure that can help reduce localized depletion concerns and lessen ecosystem impacts.

The Chesapeake Bay is the only place on the Atlantic coast where a large-scale reduction fishery continues to target menhaden for fish meal and fish oil production. Given the Bay's ecological significance and the growing concerns from anglers, conservationists, and other stakeholders, the Commission should act conservatively and prioritize ecosystem health over short-term harvest opportunities.

Thank you,

Kacie Collins
Annapolis, MD

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 1:52 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Patricia Kennedy

Email

p-kennedy@comcast.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please help the Ospreys and all the other interconnected life forms!

Dear ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden.I am writing to express my support for taking meaningful action to protect Atlantic menhaden populations, preserve local ecosystems, and support balanced user groups along the Atlantic coast and the Chesapeake Bay.Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap (Bay Cap): I support reducing the Bay Cap. A reduction of up to 50% is a critical step toward preventing concentrated fishing pressure in the Chesapeake Bay. Lowering the cap helps protect local predator species—such as striped bass and ospreys—that rely heavily on menhaden as a primary food source.Quota Periods and Distribution: I support establishing distinct quota periods. Spreading the harvest more evenly across the fishing season rather than exhausting the cap too quickly prevents intense localized depletion and reduces gear conflicts with other fisheries.Setting the Cap as a Proportion: [Choose one: I support / I do not support] setting the Bay Cap as a fixed proportion of the coastwide total allowable catch, ensuring that management scales dynamically with the coastwide stock status.Thank you for your time, dedication, and consideration of sustainable management practices for this vital forage fish.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 1:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Robert Carter

Email

njsideshowbob@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

It seems counter intuitive to try to manage all of the predator species that prey on menhaden without addressing the overfishing of menhaden in the chesapeake bay. It seems pretty clear to me that the striped bass numbers in the bay are related to a reduction in foraging species.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 1:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sylvia Batong

Email

sbatong1@comcast.net

State

Maryland

Comment

Please restore habitat for our magnificent osprey by limiting commercial catches affecting the menhaden population.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 11:16 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Diane Vulcano

Email

dvulca55@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please reduce the menhaden catch quota. The Canadian industrial fishery in the Chesapeake is over fishing and Osprey's are starving all along the coast! Stop this now!!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 10:19 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Judith Lane

Email

jkclane5855@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I support (1) Up to 50% reduction on menhaden fishery limits so there should be more food for ospreys.

(2) Spreading out the fishing season to avoid stress in the spring and summer, when the ospreys breed and feed their chicks.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 9:48 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lori Rossbach

Email

lorirossbach@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I support the proposal to cap the Chesapeake harvest by a full 50% and establish seasonal quotas to spread out the catch until we have a full understanding of the Chesapeake's role as an ocean nursery. A brief history of Atlantic Coast fisheries reveals resource economics and long-term sustainability exist in a fragile, never-ending balance. Most notably, the complete collapse of New England's cod fisheries in 1992-93 and its enduring effects on populations of haddock and flounder. Despite decades of strict U.S. limits, cod remains ecologically collapsed while haddock and flounder show fragmented recoveries and re-collapses.
In the 1960s-70s along the northeast coast, the menhaden industry collapsed as a result of overharvesting, effectively wiping out the reduction factories in New England and leaving only a highly regulated pocket in the Chesapeake Bay. At the same time, overfishing of Atlantic mackerel off the U.S. coast led to a population crash. Today, the commercial mackerel fishery faces near-total closures and strict rebuild mandates. Other high-profile collapses resulting from overharvesting include 19th century collapses of Eastern oysters and Atlantic halibut.
In the long run, conservation is less costly than restoration. By acting conservatively, you are actually protecting future harvests and jobs. Thank you for your dedication to the health of our fisheries.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 9:31 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Marcus Quenzer

Email

mquenzer690@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

I support sub options
3.1 B4
3.2.1 B1 for harvest time
3.2.2 option 1
3.3 option B

T think there also need to be a 30 percent cut to the ocean stock. I think the commercial harvesters should pay bock the past quota overages

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 9:09 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Fletcher Chayes

Email

tworiverschartersnj@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Dear Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,
My name is Fletcher Chayes, and I am a 30+ year charter boat captain in Monmouth County NJ. I am writing as a regular user of our coastal waters to express my strong support for Option B (a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction cap) and the implementation of Seasonal Allocations under Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3.
I have witnessed, first hand, the negative effects of the lack of menhaden in our waters. There are very few menhaden in our waters and there are not multiple year classes. More times than not there AREN'T any in our waters. This has had a negative impact on my earning a living chartering. So much so I have had to diversify my income earning ability. I have witnessed adult osprey carrying palm size menhaden to their nests for their chicks. Not near big enough meal for the chicks. A look with the binoculars confirms the chicks died. No food no life. The current industrial reduction cap of 51,000 metric tons allows an unsustainable concentration of harvest within the delicate nursery grounds of the Chesapeake Bay. This has led to severe localized depletion, which directly threatens the foundational health of the entire ecosystem.Leaving more menhaden in the water is absolutely critical for the following reasons:
Apex Predator Recovery: Our most iconic sportfish, the striped bass, is struggling. Without an abundant, reliable food source like menhaden, coast wide rebuilding efforts for striped bass will continue to falter.
Avian Wildlife Protection: Localized depletion has had devastating, visible impacts on our regional osprey populations, with

scientists documenting widespread nesting failures and starving chicks due to a lack of menhaden.
Broad Economic Value: While the reduction fishery supports a concentrated industry, a healthy, bait-rich Bay supports a far larger and more diverse economy. Thousands of livelihoods depend on this ecosystem, including recreational anglers, charter boat captains, local crabbers, and coastal ecotourism businesses.Furthermore, implementing seasonal allocations is a necessary step to stop industrial fleets from wiping out entire generations of baitfish in short, concentrated summer windows. Spreading the harvest out ensures that wildlife and local watermen have access to forage fish throughout the active season.
I urge the Board to prioritize the long-term ecological balance of the Chesapeake Bay and the thousands of communities that rely on it by enacting the maximum conservation measures in Draft Addendum II.
Thank you for your time, leadership, and consideration of my comments.
Sincerely,
Capt. Fletcher Chayes
Two Rivers Charters
Monmouth County
New Jersey
tworiverschartersnj@gmail.com

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 8:29 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Diane Grasso

Email

dtg9000@hotmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

The Osprey population is being decimated by overfishing. The hatchling rate of Ospreys along the Connecticut River is dramatically reduced this year, to almost nothing. It is critically important that the menhaden catch quota be drastically curtailed. Action must be taken now. Do not allow human greed to obliterate this graceful species.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 12:48 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Patricia Petro

Email

papetro@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I support:

(1) Up to 50% reduction on menhaden fishery limits so there should be more food for ospreys

(2) Spreading out the fishing season to avoid stress in the spring and summer, when the ospreys breed and feed their chicks.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 9:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Taryn Sanders

Email

tsanders3789@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and state regulators to implement stricter management policies and significantly reduce industrial menhaden harvesting in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

As a frequent kayaker on the Patuxent River, I have a direct, firsthand view of our local ecosystem. Over recent seasons, I have observed a deeply concerning decline in the number of ospreys along the river. Where I used to reliably see thriving pairs and active nests, I now see empty nests and far fewer birds hunting.

The connection between industrial menhaden reduction fishing and the starvation of osprey chicks is well-documented. Menhaden are the vital, high-energy foundation of the Chesapeake Bay food web. When industrial purse seine vessels deplete these localized fish populations, the impacts ripple upward immediately. Ospreys simply cannot find enough food to sustain themselves or successfully fledge their young.

Personal observations like mine along the Patuxent River are matching what scientists are finding across the region: our

ospreys are in crisis.

I urge you to prioritize ecological management over commercial reduction fishing interests. Please establish stricter catch limits, move industrial reduction fishing out of the Bay entirely, and ensure that enough menhaden remain in the water to support the ospreys and other wildlife that rely on them.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Taryn Sanders

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 9:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kenneth Pariser

Email

kpariser@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

I fully support drastically limiting the annual Menhaden fishing. Today sport fishing is capped and my fellow sport fishers have been following those rules for years. It's time for commercial fishermen to do the same.

There are multiple renewable agricultural sources of protein and omega 3 fatty acids. We need to support these renewable resources and stop depleting our natural fishing stocks before it is too late.

Kenneth Pariser

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 8:37 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Elizabeth Sanders

Email

sanders305@msn.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I Fully support the 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap (Option B4-reducing the cap to 25,500 metric tons) AND support for seasonal quota periods.

I have lived and recreated on the bay my entire life, and I care about the health of the bay ecosystem.
The sharp decline of osprey nest success is very alarming. I personally have 3 osprey nest platforms on my waterfront property, and for the past 4 years there were NO successful nestling fledges. The past two years the adults did not even stay at the nest platform. This is alarmingly concerning and calls for immediate action to help recovery in whatever way necessary. The lack of adult menhaden fish which provides the vital nutrients these birds need to survive is most likely a major reason the osprey population has crashed in the Chesapeake Bay area.
The Chesapeake Bay once had the largest population of ospreys in the United States. Not anymore.

Industrial fishing taking over 100 million pounds of fish in the summer season, disrupts the local food web and deprives watermen, fishermen, tourism fair access.
I urge you to implement strict quota periods which distributes harvest evenly across the year instead of an intense summer

harvest.
Thank You,

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 7:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Chase McCarthy

Email

jfchasemccarthy@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

“ASMFC itself says its existing models cannot determine whether localized depletion is occurring within individual portions of the menhaden’s range, including the Chesapeake Bay.

That uncertainty should lead to better research.

It should lead to better monitoring.

It should lead to conversations about when and where fishing occurs, how harvest can be distributed throughout the season, how predator needs should be considered and what level of harvest is sustainable.

What it should not automatically lead to is the conclusion that hundreds of years of Northern Neck fishing heritage should disappear.

Protect the Bay and the people who live here.

I don’t want an unhealthy Chesapeake Bay.

The fishermen don’t either.

Their livelihoods depend on healthy water and healthy fisheries perhaps more directly than almost anyone criticizing them from behind a keyboard.

We should absolutely demand responsible fishing. We should demand compliance with environmental laws. We should continue improving the science used to manage menhaden.

But protecting the Chesapeake Bay should also mean confronting agricultural runoff, stormwater, wastewater, shoreline degradation, development and the many other pressures affecting this enormous watershed.

And when regulators consider another reduction in menhaden harvest, the families of Reedville and the Northern Neck should not be treated as collateral damage.

Protect the fish. Protect the Bay. But protect the people whose lives have depended on that Bay for generations, too.

That is what balance actually looks like.”

Without proper study instead of survey or matters of opinion no policy or decision should be made that would hurt those who rely on the fisheries. Do not let this be decided by emotion before facts.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 7:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

DJ Yee

Email

djyee100@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Yes, implement the proposal so that the ospreys will have more food to survive and breed. I support a 50% reduction in the fishery cap.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 7:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Patricia VonOhlen

Email

wvonohlen@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I've noticed a big decrease in the number of Osprey that we usually see flying above our local waterways. Their absence is of great concern. I've read about the connection between Atlantic Menhaden and our iconic shorebirds and request that your commission use your power and position to act now to slow/stop this unfortunate decline. Please put a moratorium on removing menhaden from the bay and surrounding waters. If you can't stop them from being removed, at least put strict limits on the amount of menhaden that can be taken. The loss of menhaden is terrible environmental problem and you are able to act and tackle this problem.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 6:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ann Porter

Email

abwporter1@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

You can let commercial entities fish at the current level or more and they make money that year. The other fish and ospreys suffer for years. We need to protect our wildlife. They are innocent and dependent on menhaden. It absolutely makes zero sense to stress out wildlife. Cut the fishing caps!!!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 4:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kathleen Kraft

Email

kathykraftnj@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

As a Cape May resident and a person who supports environmental conservation. Please do not let greed rule. Plan for future generations and conserve our ocean resources.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 12:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

jack meyerhoff

Email

meduv2@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I have lived on the waters of Maryland's Eastern shore for 44 years. First hand I have seen the decline in fish and birds (Osprey) on the Eastern shore of Maryland in our area of the Miles River. As a Marine Fisheries Commission I would hope that you have longer ranged implementations for OUR wildlife's future. Wildlife that has been stressed by so many factors have rebounded and greatly benefitted from either moratoriums or catch(bag) limit decreases.

Please make adjustments concerning the TONNAGE catch limits on Menhaden for the future existence of OUR wildlife. Giving wildlife time to rest and rebound is a momentary interruption that has been proven to be extremely beneficial. Please make adjustments before there is no need for a Commission due to no fish or wildlife.

Thank you

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 11:49 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Constance Springer

Email

cspringer43@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Stop the overfishing of Menhaden. We must save the food source for our dwindling Ospray population or they will soon be gone.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 11:22 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Harold Quinn

Email

haquinn@comcast.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

Whales, Osprey, Tarpon, Striped Bass, Bluefish and many other animals depend on a healthy stock of Menhaden. However, Menhaden have been severely overfished. Osprey are starving. I have witnessed this firsthand. Marine mammals and fish are also being impacted. A complete closure to the commercial fishery should be enacted until the stock is completely recovered to historic levels. The resource should come first. Get the politics out of the equation. The employment provided by the commercial fishery is quoted at around 270 individuals and hardly compares to the employement impacts of a healthy Menhaden stock in the Atlantic and the Gulf. Forget the notion of a Menhaden surplus. That approach has helped to get us where we are now.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 11:21 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Delmont Gould

Email

melander@comcast.net

State

Maryland

Comment

The industry must be controlled by rational quotas in order to restore a balance in the overall regional eco system. This is completely necessary and the responsible action to take. Mankind is guilty enough as it is for destroying eco systems around the world. Need it continue?

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 11:05 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Randy Waesche

Email

randywaesche@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Greetings,
I have the pleasure of watching and hearing osprey hunt near Harbor Light in New London, CT. They will sit atop the railing of the lighthouse and watch the water below. Their beautiful plumage, alert eyes, and high pitched chirps are a delight to observe. I see their amazing head first dives into the water and the power of their wings as they strive to pull back up into the air. I always check the little shake off of water and the talons to see if dinner was caught. I also note how many attempts are made, sometimes as many as 5 dives to procure one small
fish and more frequently after searching and diving, they leave without catching any fish. They are such hard working birds of prey and are chased by gulls for their little fish which the osprey will drop for the gulls to take. Once I saw an smaller osprey catch a fish too large to carry and he drug it across the rocks with the talons of one foot. As the osprey started to eat his big meal, he constantly watched the sky and soon gulls came and dive bombed the osprey. The osprey abandoned his meal and cried above the scene as his food disappeared. The large gull took the fish in the water and devoured it quickly.
I also watch the plentiful cormorants, terns, and gulls follow the schools of bait fish, feasting on them along the coastline. From my perch, I also see the commercial fishermen with their nets dragging behind their boats frequently. There are also small skiffs laying nets out near the shore, and coming back the next day for the harvest. It is no surprise that with all the stress on the aquatic environment, the osprey are losing their ability to feed their young.

We must recognize their struggle to survive and place controls on human harvest of the very important menhaden's position in the food chain.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 10:46 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Bernard Hirsh

Email

bernardhirsh@comcast.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

I am an active recreational fisherman in NJ coastal waters. I have observed a significant reduction in menhaden schools last year and this current season. I would support a significant reduction in the menhaden quota across all waters. I would also advocate for a possesion limit of peanut bunker for bait by recreational anglers on the order of one gallon, having observed the netting of thousands of juvenile bunker by individual fisherman for chum.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 10:41 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Brian Keane

Email

bpkonline@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

As a homeowner on the Bay I support a reduction in the human menhaden harvest to ensure wildlife have sufficient prey.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 10:30 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Paul Zukis

Email

paulzukis@comcast.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

I have been fishing for striped bass for over 20 years and have noticed a sharp decline in the number of stripers at and near the mouth of the Connecticut River. I have also noticed a very sharp decline in the number of Atlantic Menhaden as well. Where there were always large schools of Bunker now there are very few if any. Please revise the quota of Menhaden before it is too late.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 10:20 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

David Dzwonkowski

Email

ski.david123@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

As an avid recreational fisherman based in NJ, I am writing to urge the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board to adopt a significant reduction in the overall commercial Atlantic menhaden quota across the coastwide fishery not just the Chesapeake Bay. Menhaden are not simply a harvested commodity; they are a foundational forage species that supports striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, seabirds, marine mammals, and the broader health of the Atlantic coastal ecosystem.
ASMFC has already recognized the importance of ecological reference points in menhaden management, and recent management discussions indicate that current harvest levels may remain above the level needed to meet ecosystem-based targets. A modest reduction is not enough if the goal is to rebuild forage availability, support predator recovery, and reduce the risk of localized depletion in important areas such as the Chesapeake Bay and other nearshore waters.
I respectfully ask ASMFC to take a precautionary, ecosystem-first approach by substantially lowering the total allowable catch for commercial menhaden harvest across all jurisdictions, rather than relying only on narrow area-specific adjustments. A coastwide reduction would better reflect menhaden's role in the food web, help ensure adequate prey availability for dependent species, and demonstrate that forage fish management is being guided by long-term ecosystem resilience rather than short-term extraction.
Commercial fishing communities deserve thoughtful transition planning and fair implementation, but those concerns should not prevent meaningful conservation action where the science and ecosystem risks point to the need for stronger limits.

Menhaden abundance benefits many sectors, including recreational fisheries, wildlife-dependent tourism, coastal communities, and the long-term sustainability of commercial fisheries themselves.
For these reasons, I urge ASMFC to adopt a significant coastwide reduction in the commercial Atlantic menhaden quota and to continue advancing ecosystem-based management measures that protect menhaden as a critical forage species. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
- David Dzwonkowski

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 9:41 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Howard Kympton III

Email

hkympton@aol.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I strongly support reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent—from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons per year—and establishing strict seasonal quota periods for menhaden. The Chesapeake Bay is too important, and the ecological warning signs are too serious, to continue managing this critical forage fish as though the timing and location of harvest do not matter.
I have lived in St. Mary’s County since 201 and have developed a deep personal connection to the Chesapeake Bay. I spend considerable time on and around the Bay. I care deeply about the wildlife that depend upon it, particularly osprey, striped bass, and other species whose survival is tied to a healthy and abundant forage base.
We are seeing warning signs that should demand a precautionary response. Declining productivity, widespread osprey nest failures, and continuing concerns regarding the Chesapeake Bay striped bass population are not isolated issues. They are reasons to examine carefully whether we are removing too much forage from the Bay at the wrong time and are warning signs that demand a precautionary approach to the management of one of the Bay's most important forage fish - menhaden.
Menhaden are a foundational forage species. They feed an extraordinary range of predators, including striped bass and osprey. Yet the reduction fishery can remove more than 100 million pounds of menhaden from Chesapeake Bay under the existing annual cap. When a substantial portion of that harvest is concentrated into an intense summer fishing window, the issue is not simply how many fish are removed annually.

It is both when and where those fish are removed that matter. A menhaden harvested from a concentrated school in the Bay during the summer is no longer available to the predators that depend upon that school. Concentrated removal can create localized depletion during a biologically important period and can affect the availability of forage to other users of this shared public resource.
The consequences extend beyond the reduction fishery. Menhaden support the Bay's recreational fishing economy, commercial and charter fishermen, watermen, wildlife, and coastal tourism. One user group should not be permitted to concentrate an enormous harvest of a shared forage resource during the period when that resource is most important to the rest of the ecosystem and to other Bay users.
For that reason, I urge the Commission to take the following actions:
• Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent to 25,500 metric tons annually.
• Establish strict seasonal quota periods that distribute harvest throughout the year rather than permitting an intense summer harvest.
• Apply a precautionary management approach in light of uncertainty regarding localized menhaden abundance and the ecological condition of the Chesapeake Bay.
• Give greater consideration to the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the broader Chesapeake Bay economy.
The Chesapeake Bay is not simply a location on a fisheries management map. It is a complex and interconnected ecosystem, and menhaden are one of its essential links.
We should not wait for further deterioration before taking action.
As someone who lives here, sails these waters, swims in them, and cares deeply about the wildlife that depends upon them, I believe the Commission has an obligation to manage menhaden conservatively and to recognize that the health of the Bay must take precedence over maximizing a concentrated industrial harvest.
Reduce the cap. Establish meaningful seasonal quotas. Protect the forage base. Give the Chesapeake Bay—and the people and wildlife that depend upon it—a greater margin for recovery.
Thank you for considering my comments.
Sincerely,
Howard Kympton
St. Mary’s County, Maryland

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 9:34 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Susan Jackson brown

Email

susanjacksonbrown63@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Please save the osprey. I live on the wicomico river and have noticed their decline now for years. I applaud any help you can give them.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 9:24 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/me-nh-ma-ri-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jake Naso-Kushner

Email

birdshark@gmail.com

State

Rhode Island

Comment

I write to urge the commission to take strong action to protect the Atlantic Menhaden fishery. Specifically, I support the following changes options in the pending draft addendum:

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Amount: Sub Option B4

3.2.1. Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period: Option B1

3.2.2 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period Overages and Underages: Underage Sub Option 1

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision: Option B

Additionally, the coastwide TAC must be further reduced by at least 50%, but not less than 30%.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 8:07 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Thomas Mulvaney

Email

thomas.p.mulvaney@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Reduction fishing for Menhaden or any fish should not be allowed in our state waters.
No other states on the east coast allow this to occur in their state waters and neither should we, especially by a non US company.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 12:06 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

http://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-Menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Humin Shao

Email

hushao@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

please save the ospreys they are very important

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 10:33 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

james macalusp

Email

jmacmetro@aol.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

As an avid fisherman and also an Osprey Watch volunteer, I am appalled at the lack of action taken by the AMSFC (or inadequate action) to protect this vital natural resourse. It appears that money and power are more important than the pulblic's interest in our fragile environment. I sincerely hope that you do the right thing and accept a 50% reduction in the number of Manhaden catch in the very near future.
James Macaluso

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 9:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kelly hardy

Email

Kelly.tubman.hardy@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Dear Commissioners,

I live on the Upper Magothy River in Pasadena, Maryland. Each year the ospreys arrived in March and their chirping could be heard throughout the neighborhood until September. We had several pairs on our small stretch of the river, and they were visible all summer. We also had fish activity all summer long. Last year the nest the ospreys built on our platform failed. This year, there were no osprey nests in our stretch of the river, and downstream, the few nests that were attended failed. We also noticed a dramatic decrease in fish activity. We cannot ignore these warning signs. Please protect the menhaden, which support life in the bay and its tributaries.
Sincerely,

Kelly Tubman Hardy.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 9:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Justin Getz

Email

jg7198@yahoo.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

I support a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap and support seasonal quota reductions periods. I'm from Pennsylvania, but I visit family in Maryland several times per year. May wife's parents have a house on the Chesapeake Bay, so we stay at their house for extended weekends. We spend most of our time outside enjoying the Bay. Bird watching is one of our favorite things to do, but I have noticed a drop in Osprey and other predator species over the last couple of years. I believe it's related to the heavy amount of industrial fishing- especially concentrated in the summer months. This is why I'm supportive of Option B4, which reduces the fishery cap. I believe this will help reduce overfishing and allow predator species like Osprey thrive again. Thank you for taking the time to read my comment - and for your consideration to help preserve this precious piece of nature.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 6:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Rebecca Sodano

Email

bexsoda@verizon.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

Joseph Cimino, Administrator ,
I support for a 50% reduction of the
harvest of menhaden allowed in the Chesapeake Bay
Option B-B4
And
Option B2
We need to give the menhaden a chance to recover
The size and numbers are dwindling and they are an important for fishermen and food source for Osprey . They are still struggling to recover their numbers. Over fishing affects humans and wildlife. It is imperative that the menhaden have a chance to grow and reproduce
Rebecca Sodano

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 3:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/ny-ct-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Matthew Wylong

Email

mwylong@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

All public resources should be preserved for that of the public, for “personal use”. Not for commercial / corporate gain. Commercial
Fishing has devastated sought after fish stocks, allowing that same system to destroy bait fish stocks to feed commercially farmed fish because when they already decimated natural fish stocks makes absolutely no dam sense.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 3:16 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/me-nh-ma-ri-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

woodrow albin

Email

walbin2@ccox.net

State

Rhode Island

Comment

Commercial fishing for menhaden should be abolished except for use as bait by sports fishing. It makes more economic sense to restore menhaden in order to support higher value sport fishing. In addition, to higher value tuna, swordfish, stripers and other sport fish that depend on menhaden so do marine mammals and osprey.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 2:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Anne Brunson

Email

annebrunson@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I am writing to urge the ASMFC to take immediate, strong action to protect the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem by implementing strict catch limits under Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II. Specifically, I support options that substantially lower the reduction fishing allowance in the Bay.

As a resident/supporter of the Chesapeake Bay region, I am deeply alarmed by the unprecedented breeding failures and starvation currently devastating our local osprey populations. I am a volunteer with the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center's Project Osprey Watch, and we have witnessed the collapse of the osprey population that we monitor at CBEC. In 2026, we had 4 of 9 platforms populated, three nests had ospreys on eggs, and shortly thereafter, all platforms/nests were abandoned. We had NO osprey hatchlings this year. Nor did we see any successful nests in the entire Kent Narrows area. Our observations concur with decades of scientific monitoring that show a direct link between the lack of mature Atlantic menhaden and the inability of ospreys to successfully raise their chicks.

Menhaden are the ecological backbone of the Chesapeake Bay--a keystone species. Allowing industrial-scale reduction fishing to deplete this critical forage fish at the expense of ospreys, striped bass, and other native wildlife is unsustainable and unacceptable.

Please prioritize the long-term health of the Bay's ecosystem over short-term commercial harvest by implementing the maximum possible protections in Draft Addendum II. Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 11:01 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Charlene Osman

Email

charleneosman@oz7.org

State

Maryland

Comment

Please limit menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay. Don't let osprey starve. Charlene Osman

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 10:57 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

rav freidel

Email

rav@agencyrav.com

State

New York

Comment

The depletion of Menhaden in the Chesapeake is very troubling. I fear the failure to reduce the catch will make matters even worse for the incredibly diverse body of marine life that depend on them for their survival, including stripped bass, bluefish, sea trout, tuna, cod, sharks, whales, dolphins as well as many species of birds from fish hawks to gannets.

The fishermen will say they're not the problem. It's the seals or the cormorants, or some other excuse to do anything that affects the bottom line.

You have the responsibility to ensure the sustainability of these species. I urge you to do the right thing and reduce the human impact. Reduce the cap.

Respectfully, Rav Freidel, Montauk, NY

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 10:33 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

James Lee

Email

JAMESTERP@GMAIL.COM

State

Maryland

Comment

As climate change and pollution put more stress on the bay, menhaden catches need to be reduced to live fish a chance to survive and population to rebound. I support a reduction to the menhaden commercial catch.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 10:25 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Westerdale

Email

john.westerdale@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Menhaden harvest should be more than a spreadsheet projection. Does 50% reduction mean the population is the same? Should harvest be based on the number of fish present? Maintaining a healthy breeding population seems more important. Perfect net doesn't catch all the fish

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 8:00 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Robert Vaughan

Email

vaughan3449@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I am in favor of significantly cutting menhadden harvests in the Chesapeake Bay. It is obvious that damage has been done as can be seen in the striped bass and osprey populations. This has persistently been fought by groups connected to the menhadden processing industry. First they helped pass a bill to prevent studying the problem, and now they want to delay things until it can be 'scientifically' studied. Their time is up. Injury has occured, and it is time to both decrease the harvest and study the issues further.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 7:39 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Cynthia Leitzel

Email

cdpeach17@comcast.net

State

Maryland

Comment

Dear ASMFC:

I am sending this comment in extremely strong support for a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap. (Option B4/reducing the cap to 25,500 metric tons) and support for seasonal quota periods.

As a long time resident of Drum Point in Calvert County, MD I have enjoyed the beauty and health of our Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. I reside on Mill Creek right around the corner from Solomons Island harbor. We have numerous osprey nests on the creek that used to be filled with active parents and their young. We would throw sticks in the back yard and watch the osprey swoop down to scoop them up for nest repair. We wanted to ' give them a hand' so to speak as they work so hard to build their nests to provide a safe haven for raising their young. The wonder of these tremendous raptors never ceases to amaze me and the fear of their disappearance sickens me. We witnessed an abandoned chick in the Leason Cove nest where the parents had to leave their young babe in order to survive themselves.

The industrial concentration extracts over 100 million pounds of fish in one summer window. This is the most precious time for osprey as their reproductive season is severely comprised by the lack of nutrient rich Menhaden. Their young are born weak,

if at all, and they suffer and die due to starvation and dehydration. We had only 4 surviving chicks in our area and I remember when every nest was occupied with young years ago.

The widespread failures among the osprey and stressed populations of striped bass is a signal for dramatic and swift action. The fact that these industrial conglomerates extract such an enormous amount of a life supporting food source MUST be reined in and managed to allow fair access for all to benefit. We must protect this delicate ecosystem as we are merely visitors here and want our future generations to be able to enjoy the beauty of a healthy and prosperous Chesapeake Bay.

I am urging managers to PLEASE implement strict quota periods that will make a significant impact for our osprey and marine life. Distribute the quota across the year rather than allowing an intense summer harvest severely depleting a food source for so many species that need it to survive.

Extremely Concerned Citizen on Mill Creek in Calvert County, MD
Cynthia Leitzel

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 6:39 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Melissa Ritti

Email

missyritti@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I live in an Audobon IBA-designated area (Clarks Pond Wildlife Management Area) and am gravely concerned for our Ospreys, which were once plentiful here but now appear to be dwindling in population. Please consider making whatever changes can reasonably be made to the Menhaden fishing schedule and quota that will give these majestic raptors a fighting chance.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 12:03 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Gregory Palmer

Email

r38012@aol.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Please consider the health of the entire bay and all of the different species that depend on the bay as habitat. In this case specifically the Osprey, reduce the catch of menhaden. Counting on you to do the moral thing. Abuse of the environment is a sin against the creator. I'm

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 11:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Marc Millman

Email

mfunk2@pipeline.com

State

New York

Comment

I live all summer on Fire Island. It was quite clear that the amount of bunker this year was well below what we've seen in recent years.
I read that we allowed these giant Canadian vacuum ships to suck up vast quantities from our waters. These fish need to be led to feed the other marine life like the dolphins and whales and even sharks.
They need to be left to feed the birds.
It's time to stop killing this world by destroying key parts of the food chain!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 9:59 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

http://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-Menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Fiona Tanner

Email

fionatanner5@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

This is a devastating ecological disaster and must be handled through strict regulation. Business interests should never take supremacy over life-sustaining ecosystems. Some humans have done enough destruction to their planet, and it's past time to embrace methods that put nature first over short-term profits.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 9:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

http://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-Menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Fiona Tanner

Email

fionatanner5@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

This is a devastating ecological disaster and must be handled through strict regulation. Business interests should never take supremacy over life-sustaining ecosystems. Some humans have done enough destruction to their planet, and it's past time to embrace methods that put nature first over short-term profits.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 6:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Robin Anderson

Email

robinanderson238@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I and as others who are concerned with the ecosystem ask for a 5 year moratorium on the manufacturers over harvesting of Bunker fish/ Atlantic Menhaden! The population is now at a alarming low, which affects the ecosystem all the way to people! Please take in consideration the now affects of all living creatures including mankind!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 6:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Robin Anderson

Email

robinanderson238@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I and as others who are concerned with the ecosystem ask for a 5 year moratorium on the manufacturers over harvesting of Bunker fish/ Atlantic Menhaden! The population is now at a alarming low, which affects the ecosystem all the way to people! Please take in consideration the now affects of all living creatures including mankind!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 5:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

George Woolley

Email

george.woolley@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I completely and wholeheartedly support the 50% reduction in the menhaden quota for the Chesapeake Bay. There are plenty of fish in the open ocean

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 5:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

tony pucill

Email

bostonboat55@aol.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please save the menhaden up north in connecticut Fairfield Stanford areas there is no more MENHADEN anywhere to be seen , it's been getting bad the last three years but the last year and a half it's like they're all gone please save these fish save our favorite fishing spots ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 5:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Peter Weems

Email

pwsailordude@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I'm on Wright's Cove off the Coan River and in my thirty years here it is clear the bay waters have been depleted of wildlife. This is not just my opinion. It comes from discussions all around the Chesapeake. The belief is that we have become too efficient at cleaning the fish out and we must back off. If we want healthy fish, we can't take them all out.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 2:33 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/me-nh-ma-ri-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Nathaniel Paige

Email

npaige@yahoo.com

State

Maine

Comment

It's criminal that one company gets gets most of the catch. And that most of the catch goes to just one State. C'mon, it just doesn't make any common sense. At the very least distribute it around.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 11:27 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for MD & PRFC Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

MD & PRFC Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

MD & PRFC Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/md-prfc-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

GEORGE Wilkinson

Email

GEORGE@OC-FISHING.NET

State

Maryland

Comment

The negative effects of the commercial reduction fishery are apparent to any observer who has spent any time on or around the Chesapeake Bay over just the past few years.

My personal experience over the past 26 years living near a Western shore river has seen a significant decline in the abundance of menhaden in the Bay and its tributary rivers. Where once the surface of the rivers teemed with baitfish, and their attendant flocks of birds feeding from above and predator fish species feeding below, the waters now are still.

It is clear, too, that the species that depend on these important fish as food are struggling as well. Abundance of Striped Bass, whose species has historically been centered on fertile spawning grounds in the Chesapeake have declined dramatically. Osprey, who have returned each year, with generation after generation roosting on the channel marker just off our neighborhood's shore successfully spawned year after year, but have failed to produce offspring in each of the last 5 years.

The commercial reduction fishery is not the only contributor to the Bay's decline, but it is clear to me that their massive

removal of important biomass from the Chesapeake Bay, and the removal of these important filter feeders that clean the Bay's water, has had tremendous negative impacts on the Chesapeake Bay and all who call it home.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 10:51 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/me-nh-ma-ri-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

james riggs

Email

jr5743@gmail.com

State

Rhode Island

Comment

I would like to see the Atlantic states adopt the Maine model by enforcing a forage fish sanctuary off our coasts. Let nature heal to abundance, not just manageable numbers. The industry that is pillaging the fishery is a foreign company, for profit, affecting fewer than 250 people.
While we, who want serious change represent taxpayers and citizens providing millions of dollars of money as well as hundreds of jobs going into our local economies. Thousands of recreational fishermen and women see firsthand the very real effects of over fishing....
Change is hard but necessary.....do the right thing for nature and let her heal.....and find a balance..... She will, with your help.....Thank you.... JR

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 10:49 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/va-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Julie Kacmarcik

Email

juliekazz@comcast.net

State

Virginia

Comment

Stop menhaden over-harvesting in the Chesapeake Bay. We have one Bay. One chance to save this critical ecosystem. Do not be distracted by the almightly dollar. It has been proven that the value of keeping menhaden in the Bay is far more profitable and beneficial then taking them out of the Bay.

As a decision making body you can not sit back and watch the largest estuary in the country be raped by less then 300 jobs sending our most valuable forage fish to a foreign country to feed a farm raised fish while taking the native fish out of the mouths of our natural resource.

The Bay belongs to the public. It is not a monoply to be manipulated by Omega protein.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 9:25 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Kelly Meineke
Email
meinekek@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
Over the last year I have followed the story of the decline of osprey numbers in my home state of Connecticut. It is upsetting to see such a dramatic decline. These birds are a vital part of our environment. Commercial fishing limits need to be put in place to make sure important resources are shared with other aspects of our environment. We see so many ways human greed and selfishness is ruining the nature around us. Please do something to help limit human damage of a known and solveable problem.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 8:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Paul Caouette
Email
paulcaouette@rocketmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
The needs of Ospreys must be addressed immediately

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 7:50 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Beverly Propen
Email
bpropen@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
As a Board member and volunteer at the Connecticut Audubon Society Coastal Center, as well as a Master Wildlife Conservationist, I urge the AAMFC to put a 50% cap on the capture of menhaden along Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic coast so our osprey population isn't starving to death. Ospreys had made a major comeback after the banning of DDT use. Now the ospreys numbers have had another major decline because there is not enough food (primarily menhaden) for them. As a steward for Osprey Nation, Connecticut recorded its lowest breeding success since the Osprey Nation launched its monitoring program in 2014. Ospreys are part of America's majestic wildlife and we must protect them! Humans can consume any number of fish but Ospreys rely on a steady supply of menhaden to feed their chicks. A 50% cap on the capture of menhaden must be passed to ensure our Osprey population will bounce back and continue to thrive!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 6:59 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Cynthia Conrad
Email
cynconrad@msn.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is considering changes to the amount of menhaden that can be commercially harvested from the Chesapeake Bay. I personally have watched 3 osprey couples return to the marsh near my home to raise offspring each year for several years now. However, friends tell me that they have seen a decline in returning couples and viable offspring in their areas. I agree with the position of Connecticut Audubon -- this organization (of which I am a member) is urging the commission to reduce the fishery cap by 50% to help ensure enough menhaden remain available for Ospreys and other wildlife.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 6:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Ruth Woollett
Email
rgwoollett@yahoo.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Osprey and other wildlife are starving. I urge the commission to reduce the fishery cap by 50% to help ensure enough menhaden remain available for Ospreys and other wildlife.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 6:21 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Edward Lee
Email
leesuper73@yahoo.com
State
Maryland
Comment
To protect the Bay's ecological integrity, I strongly advocate for the following specific options:Section 3.1 – Chesapeake Bay Cap Amount: Support Option B4 (50% Reduction in the Bay Cap). The Bay Cap must be cut immediately from 51,000 mt to 25,500 mt. Menhaden serve as the fundamental food base for ecologically and economically vital species such as striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, and osprey. Concentrated industrial removals deprive these predators of critical forage in essential nursery grounds. Section 3.1 – Linking Cap to TAC: Support Option C1e. If the Board chooses to link the Bay Cap directly to the coastwide TAC, it must lock in the lowest possible proportion (13.6%) to ensure that future shifts in coastwide allocation do not allow localized effort in the Bay to expand. Section 3.2 – Quota Periods: Support Option B2 (Even Length & Uneven Harvest). Industrial fishing concentrated into short, mid-summer windows causes severe localized depletion and directly disrupts local traditional fisheries, including pound net operations. Restricting mid-summer removals (limiting early periods to 25% each) prevents Omega Protein from stripping the Bay of forage during peak ecological demand. Section 3.3 – Revisit Provision: Support Option B (Mandatory 3-Year Review). The Board must mandate formal re-evaluations of the Bay Cap every three years to continuously assess localized impacts and scientific data. The Chesapeake Bay is a nursery, not a private industrial extraction zone. Decreased localized catch rates, declining predator stock health, and severe losses in local bait and pound net catches all point to the urgent need for strict limits. I urge the Management Board to adopt the most restrictive measures available in Draft Addendum II to safeguard the Chesapeake Bay forage base.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 5:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Alison Zyla
Email
barral11@att.net
State
Connecticut
Comment
The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is considering changes to the amount of menhaden that can be commercially harvested from the Chesapeake Bay. Connecticut Audubon is urging the commission to reduce the fishery cap by 50% to help ensure enough menhaden remain available for Ospreys and other wildlife.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 5:40 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Diane Kaslow
Email
kaslow99@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
My husband and I have enjoyed watching the Ospreys and their chicks over the years in the shoreline area of CT near Old Saybrook. We have been sad that the last couple of years, there have not been any chicks and understand that over-fishing in the Chesapeake Bay could be a cause of this. The state of CT worked very hard to nurture the osprey population, and now I believe there is a danger of a significant reduction in population. It would be a travesty to lose these magnificent birds and the joy they bring, in addition to their role in our eco system. Please help cap the fishing and support our osprey population. Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 5:08 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Bruce Doyle
Email
ulkydog1@aol.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I enthusiastically support the 50% cap and the other proposal regarding restrictions and limits on the catch season.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 5:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Philip Dutton
Email
kabina@charter.net
State
Connecticut
Comment
The science behind the need to limit the commercial harvesting of menhaden for Osprey (and other species') benefits is pretty clear: Ospreys nesting along the coasts where menhaden is being commercially fished are being grossly negatively affected. Menhaden being harvested for fertilizer and fish oil for human consumption is killing ospreys. It's clear. The harvest needs to be limited. It can't wait.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 4:50 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Kathleen Jacobsen
Email
kmjake17@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
Please limit menhaden catch limits to protect our osprey in CT and along the eastern shoreline. Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 4:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Michael Buggy
Email
milob10822@gmail.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
I wholly support a 50% reduction in the menhaden cap under consideration. This is actually long overdue. Osprey young are starving. Striped bass are not feeding as well and they then eat more blue crabs. Menhaden is the feeder fish of the ecosystem. So many livelihoods depend on a healthy menhaden population in the Chesapeake Bay. Management of this species should be science based and not a political decision based on political funding. Omega Protein has depleted the menhaden stock with massive nets and spotter plains. I beg you to act now!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 4:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Daniel Dykes
Email
danielpauldykes@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
I went on an Audubon Society trip to look at the swallow flocks on the Connecticut River, and there were far fewer ospreys than usual. Our guide showed us research indicating that southern ospreys have likely declined in recent years due to menhaden overfishing, and that it might be happening in Connecticut now. We must save ospreys before it is too late — reduce menhaden fishing now.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 4:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Diane Napert-Houle
Email
deenapert@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
I request that you change/reduce the fishery cap on menhaden due to the serious threats facing osprey. It is particularly disheartening for their populations to be at risk again after such a wonderful comeback. I am sure you have seen the numbers from CT indicating a higher rate of failed nests. I monitor a nest and while it appeared to be active earlier in the summer it has now been abandoned. Watching the osprey thrive is a source of joy for so many people, even those who are not particularly interested in nature or birds. Please assist them so they can thrive once again. Thank you for allowing us to comment on this important matter. Diane Napert-Houle

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 4:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Nancy Clark
Email
nancyclarkbirder@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
Please reduce the fishery cap by 50% to help ensure there are enough menhaden for the osprey to eat! The birds are starving.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 4:14 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Ken Skidmore
Email
kskidmore29@comcast.net
State
Connecticut
Comment
I ask that there be limits on the amount of menhaden that can be fished. There have been significant reductions in the osprey and the amount of babies they had this year because the osprey did not have enough to eat because menhaden have been over fished. We have osprey in our backyard. This year they did not have any babies that lived. The 5 other osprey nests in our marsh also did not have babies this year. Thank you, Ken Skidmore

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 4:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Michelle Cubria
Email
ldyshellan@aol.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
For the past 10 years we have been watching decades of conservation efforts erode. The Osprey is another casualty of we as a society becoming complacent in our minor success at restoration of a species. The money and effort of conservation should be seen as an investment and protected accordingly. No one takes their stocks,bonds and IRA to Atlantic City for weekend spree. They are our legacy and are fiercely guarded. Our wildlife are also our legacy and should be treated the same.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 3:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Donald Pirro

Email

dpirro1@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I have fished both the Chesapeake Bay and Ocean for over 60 years and have seen the rapid decline of many of our fisheries including striped bass and bluefish. Much of it is attributed to a lack of their primary forage fish menhaden. It is high time to take action now to conserve these important baitfish. I support the most conservative options to protect and conserve menhaden in the ASMFC Menhaden Addendum Draft II. This is what I support in the document:

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount
I support option C1e: that reduces the CAP by at least 50 percent in 2027 and limits the future Bay Cap to 13.6% of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC).
Also, I support option C2a, which sets an upper limit of 51,000mt for the Bay Cap, which is the current level.
3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution
I support option B2, which establishes three even length quota periods for the Bay Cap, but distributes harvest 25% in period 1, 25% in period 2, and 50% into period 3.
Also, I support, option B, which establishes quota period overage payback and rollover of unused quota within a fishing year.
3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision
I support the Option B Revisit Provision, to reassess the efficacy of these new management tools every 3 years.

Please take strong action now,
Thank you
Don Pirro

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 2:52 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
George Galdo
Email
galdo115@aol.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
This is to inform you that I support the reduction of permitted commercial catch of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay. I have seen a significant reduction in menhaden in Barnegat Bay and adjacent estuaries which I attribute to the overfishing. This in turn has had negative impact on other species in the bay's fisheries and wildlife, specifically the Osprey. Please help preserve the natural treasure of the Barnegat Bay by reducing commercial fishing of menhaden. Thank you, George Galdo 40 Robert Dr. Manahawkin, NJ 08050

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 2:23 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Tom Cuchara

Email

lymphocyte67@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

I am writing to urge you to reduce the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery cap by 50%.

Ospreys are among the birds I most enjoy observing and photographing. As a nature photographer, I have spent many hours watching them hunt, interact, raise young, and return year after year to familiar nesting areas. Those experiences have given me a deep appreciation for how dependent these birds are on healthy coastal waters and an adequate supply of fish.

What concerns me most is the dramatic decline in nesting success that is now being reported in Connecticut.

By August 1, 2025, 113 of 706 monitored Osprey nests had failed, about one in six. During the same period this year, 171 of 691 nests had failed, approximately one in four. At Great Island in Old Lyme, one of Connecticut's historically important Osprey areas, 37 chicks fledged in 2024, 27 fledged in 2025, and only five fledged this year.

A decline of that magnitude should not be dismissed as ordinary year-to-year variation.

Ospreys are particularly valuable indicators of environmental conditions because fish make up nearly all of their diet. When adult birds cannot consistently find enough prey, the consequences are quickly reflected at the nest. Chicks may receive too little food, breeding attempts may fail, and population declines can follow.

Atlantic menhaden are an essential part of the coastal food web. They support not only Ospreys, but also other birds, predatory fish, and marine wildlife. They therefore have ecological value far beyond their commercial harvest.

I understand that fisheries management must consider many competing needs. Commercial fishing is important, and sustainable harvest is a legitimate goal. But sustainability should include the needs of the entire ecosystem, not simply the maximum amount of fish that can be removed without collapsing the target species.

When wildlife that depends on menhaden begins showing signs of severe food stress, that should be taken seriously.

Ospreys are also one of conservation's great success stories. After suffering dramatic declines in the twentieth century, they recovered because people recognized a problem and acted. It would be tragic to watch that progress erode because we failed to respond to a new threat when warning signs were already visible.

As someone who has spent much of my life photographing and appreciating birds and wildlife, I want future generations to have the same opportunity to watch an Osprey plunge into the water, rise with a fish, and carry it back to a waiting chick. Those moments are part of the natural character of our coast, but they depend on a functioning food web.

I therefore strongly support a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery cap. Taking a precautionary approach now is far better than waiting until Osprey populations experience a much more serious decline.

Please ensure that enough menhaden remain in the ecosystem to support the Ospreys and other wildlife that depend on them.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your work to protect both sustainable fisheries and healthy coastal ecosystems.

Sincerely,
Tom Cuchara
Nature Photographer and Educator
Hamden, Connecticut

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 2:22 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lisa Cuchara

Email

lymphocyte@comcast.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

I am writing to urge you to reduce the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery cap by 50%.

Ospreys are extraordinarily important to me, both as a nature photographer and as someone who deeply values birds, wildlife, and healthy ecosystems. I have spent countless hours observing and photographing Ospreys, and that time has only strengthened my appreciation for how remarkable they are. Watching an Osprey hover, plunge into the water, emerge with a fish, and return to its nest is not simply a photographic opportunity. It is a reminder of how closely the survival of wildlife is tied to the health of our waterways and food webs.

Ospreys are also important because they function as a sentinel species. Their breeding success can provide an early warning that something is changing in the aquatic environment. Because their diet is overwhelmingly composed of fish, declines in prey availability can quickly translate into failed nests, hungry chicks, and reduced reproductive success.

The recent numbers from Connecticut are deeply concerning. By August 1, 2025, 113 of 706 monitored nests had failed, approximately one in six. During the same period this year, 171 of 691 nests had failed, roughly one in four. The situation at Great Island in Old Lyme is even more alarming. Thirty-seven chicks fledged there in 2024, 27 in 2025, and only five this year.

Those numbers should command our attention.

Atlantic menhaden are not simply a commercial resource. They are a critical forage fish supporting Ospreys and many other species throughout the coastal ecosystem. Management decisions therefore need to consider not only how many menhaden can be harvested, but how many must remain in the ecosystem to sustain the wildlife that depends upon them.

We have seen before what happens when Ospreys warn us that an ecosystem is under stress. Their historic decline helped draw attention to the devastating ecological effects of contaminants such as DDT. Their recovery became one of conservation's great success stories. We should not ignore another warning simply because the cause may now be different.

As a photographer, I value the opportunity to document these magnificent birds, but this issue reaches far beyond photography.

Ospreys are part of Connecticut's natural heritage. They are predators, indicators of ecosystem health, and a visible connection between our waterways, fish populations, and coastal wildlife.

I recognize that fisheries management requires balancing ecological, economic, and commercial interests. But when nest failures are rising so dramatically and a formerly productive Osprey stronghold has fallen from 37 fledged chicks to only five in two years, precaution is warranted.

Please support a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery cap and ensure that enough forage fish remain in the ecosystem to support Ospreys and the many other animals that depend on them.

Protecting menhaden is not about protecting one bird species alone. It is about protecting an interconnected coastal ecosystem.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your work on behalf of sustainable fisheries and healthy coastal environments.

Sincerely,
Lisa Cuchara, PhD
Nature Photographer, Nature Lover, and Educator
Connecticut

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 2:21 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Samantha Centore
Email
sami81537@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
Please support the reduction of the menhaden fishery cap by 50%. This fish is the main diet of Osprey and just when we saw their numbers thriving after the DDT ban, their numbers are decreasing again due largely in part to their food availability being limited because of overfishing. According to Connecticut Audubon, “Last year, Connecticut Audubon’s Osprey Nation recorded its lowest breeding success since the statewide community science program launched in 2014 to monitor the birds. By Aug. 1, 2025, out of 706 nests with up-to-date reports, 113 had failed — about 1 in 6. In the same timeframe this year, of 691 nests with up-to-date reports, 171 have failed — roughly 1 in 4.“ Menhaden fisheries should be limited to a 50% decrease so that Osprey and other wildlife who use this fish a main food source can continue to thrive.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 2:17 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
David Fiorio
Email
davidfiorio@yahoo.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
I support urging the commission to reduce the fishery cap by 50% to help ensure enough menhaden remain available for Ospreys and other wildlife. David Fiorio 860-377-0571

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 2:13 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Derek Kettig

Email

dairyfreefishing@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Public Comment in Support of Reducing the Chesapeake Bay Menhaden Reduction Fishery Cap

To the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am writing in support of a meaningful reduction to the Chesapeake Bay menhaden reduction fishery cap, including consideration of the full 50% reduction proposed in Draft Addendum II.

Menhaden are much more than a single commercial fishery. They are a critical forage species that supports striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, cobia, red drum, tuna, marine mammals, seabirds, and many other species. Protecting adequate menhaden abundance in the Chesapeake Bay can therefore have benefits that extend well beyond the Bay itself.

This issue also has an important economic component. Recreational and charter fishing supports thousands of small businesses along the Atlantic Coast. Bait and tackle shops, charter captains, marinas, boat dealers, marine mechanics, fuel docks, restaurants, hotels, and coastal tourism businesses all benefit when anglers have healthy fisheries to pursue.

These businesses are spread throughout coastal communities from the Chesapeake Bay to New England and the Southeast. When forage fish such as menhaden are abundant, predators have access to an important food source and anglers have greater opportunities to encounter those predators. Those fishing opportunities translate directly into people buying tackle, booking charter trips, purchasing fuel, maintaining boats, paying marina fees, traveling, eating at local restaurants, and supporting other small businesses.

The Chesapeake Bay is also an important nursery and feeding area. Management should recognize that the value of menhaden cannot be measured solely by the amount that can be harvested and processed. Menhaden left in the ecosystem have value as forage and can contribute to recreational fisheries and coastal economies far beyond where those fish originated.

I therefore support reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by 50% and establishing quota periods that distribute harvest more evenly throughout the fishing season. Spreading harvest throughout the season could help address concerns about concentrated fishing effort while a lower cap would provide an additional precaution against localized depletion.

This is not about eliminating commercial fishing. It is about balancing the needs of one fishery with the ecological and economic importance of menhaden to the entire Atlantic Coast.

A healthy menhaden population supports healthy predator populations, recreational fishing opportunities, and the countless small businesses and coastal communities that depend on them.

I respectfully ask the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board to adopt strong conservation measures under Draft Addendum II and reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by 50%.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your continued work managing Atlantic menhaden for the benefit of the entire ecosystem and all stakeholders who depend on it.
-Derek Kettig

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 2:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Russell McKelway
Email
mckelwayfam@aol.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I favor reduction in allowed catches for menhaden. The Bay and its fisheries and wildlife are in a fragile state. Giving them time to recover will be in everyone's long term interest.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 1:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Rosemary Tindall-Gibson
Email
Ludwig91@msn.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
Connecticut Audubon is urging the commission to reduce the fishery cap by 50% to help ensure enough menhaden remain available for Ospreys and other wildlife. I am deeply concerned about the dwindling Osprey population in Connecticut. In the current political climate support programs to enable populations of birds and all species to remain stable have been drastically cut. This is wrong. I join my voice with the Audubon Society in asking you to support the Osprey population by capping the fishery numbers for menhaden by 50%. Thank you. Rosemary Tindall-Gibson

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 1:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
William Tucker
Email
Formula2332000@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I do not support the reduction of the bay quota for menhaden. We have had an abundance of young fish since early March. I fish on the bay daily and see schools of smaller fish everywhere. Those will be next year's harvest size fish.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 1:43 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Michael Wills
Email
mwills98@yahoo.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I would like to add that the menhaden fleet should face financial penalties for bycatch mortality of game fish species. Too many times have I witnessed the blue boats hitting schools of bunker the same say or day after we were catching Spanish, cobia, stripers, drum, etc feeding on these schools. They without a doubt are killing large numbers of “illegal” fish that a recreational angler would be severely punished for.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 1:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Sharon Wilson
Email
dsojwils@comcast.net
State
Connecticut
Comment
Dear Commission, Please reduce the fishery cap by 50% to help the Ospreys and other wildlife. Sharon Wilson

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 1:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Ronald Isensee
Email
esquifpc@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I'm in support of this Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum. Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 1:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Michael Wills
Email
mwills98@yahoo.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I enthusiastically support the 50% bay cap and use of quota periods. This travesty has been going on for far too long while we do study after study after study. It's long past time for this body to show some backbone and authority to take a major step to save our bay. Common sense over the past 40-50 years illustrates how destructive this fishery has been to the Chesapeake. Discards and spills due to net tears also need to apply towards the quotas.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 1:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Diane Volz
Email
dedevolz@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
Ive been an osprey steward for several years in Old Saybrook, Ct. This year was particularly heartwrenching and devastating, as I watched all 3 healthy appearing offspring die of starvation. Neither parent brought enough Menhaden bait fish to make survival possible. Local fishermen have bemoaned the lack of bait fish. Commercial fishing of these vital fish desperately need regulation. If the decision to do years of research before legislating restrictions occur, Im fearful that worsening the already widespread starvation will result. Please, act quickly!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 1:16 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Judy Nh
Email
59jnh77@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
The research and up to date status of this free for all on the Atlantic Menhaden fish is a terrible idea. Raptors including Osprey and Eagles have begun their resurgence after the poisons of the past. Now the committee wants to cut food from them? Honestly, is there more pressing issues that need addressing other than a food supply being compromised. I believe in the research and data the Ct Audoban releases. Please reconsider this terrible idea.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 1:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
lisa carnevale
Email
carnevalelisa@yahoo.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
Please reduce the fishery cap by 50% to help ensure enough menhaden remain available for Ospreys and other wildlife. Our selfishness of always taking more from this earth and robbing from those with no voice must be considered. There is clear evidence that we are killing off this species. The decline at Old Lyme's Great Island, once a former Osprey stronghold, has been particularly severe. Thirty-seven Osprey chicks fledged at Great Island in 2024. In 2025, that number decreased to 27. This year, only five chicks fledged. Because Ospreys feed almost exclusively on fish, the Osprey Nation community science program serves as an early-warning system for the health of Connecticut's waters and the abundance of prey species like Atlantic menhaden.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 1:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Stephen Marsi
Email
steve@mediavine.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
As a Connecticut shoreline resident for over 15 years, Osprey have been living alongside us as an glowing example of what wildlife conservation and environmental preservation can be. Now, given their alarming recent population declines in recent years, they are also reminder of how fleeting and tenuous those success stories can be if we, the stewards of their habitat, don't remain vigilant. These declines are real and I urge you safeguard and properly manage their food supply to ensure a balanced ecosystem where wildlife and people thrive in harmony. I am neither a fishing expert nor a wildlife expert, but you don't have to be either to observe harmful industry practices with outsized impacts. Please, consider the Osprey as a symbol of the health of Connecticut and beyond and protect their future through sustainable fishing policies. Thank you. Stephen Marsi

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 1:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Sydney Anderson
Email
sanderson@wpsir.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
WE MUST SAVE THESE MAGNIFICENT OSPREY!! We brought them back from near extinction from the DDT scourge - we cannot let them die from hunger now. When we banned DDT, cleaned up the water, built raised platforms for their nests, they rebounded. The menhaden are their primary food source, but the Chesapeake over-fishing is preventing millions of the fish from reaching CT. I believe that Virginia is the only Eastern state that still allows purse seine net fishing, which captures monstrous amounts of these fish, all for cat and dog food ??? Please, please, please PUT A CAP on the amount of menhaden that can be caught in the Chesapeake. These majestic osprey are starving. Sincerely, Sydney Anderson Old Saybrook, CT

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 1:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Monica Cardoza
Email
monicacardoza5@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
There is growing concern that Osprey populations along the Eastern seaboard are declining due to a lack of food. Here in New Jersey the evidence is obvious from dead young osprey that died from starvation. I urge the commission to reduce the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery cap by 50%. Thank you. Monica Cardoza

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 12:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Douglas Van Tornhout
Email
doug.vantornhout@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
While I recognize the importance of the menhaden fishing industry and the uses of these products, I strongly advocate the implementation of a 50% reduction in the annual fishing quota. There is substantial information indicating a decline in the fish population. for the stability of the industry and to balance concerns for the osprey and other wildlife groups that depend on this fish for food, a quota reduction is required.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 12:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Zachary Schwartz
Email
zachjschwartz@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
I strongly support the reduction of the menhaden fishing cap by the highest possible amount. The research we're seeing about population decline among Osprey in the Chesapeake Bay watershed is staggering. From this article: https://www.audubon.org/magazine/ospreys-chesapeake-bay-are-starving-death-disastrous-rates-what-will-it-take-save-them "[Su]rveying 1,025 nests [...] [t]hey found that Ospreys throughout the main stem of the Bay were producing less than half of the young required for the population to survive—a reproductive rate even lower than during the height of DDT." "[T]he number of menhaden that Ospreys bring to their chicks, CCB data show, has dropped by 80 percent over the past 40 years. " "Virginia-based Ocean Harvesters [...] was permitted to harvest approximately 350 million pounds of menhaden annually, including 110 million pounds from the Chesapeake. This amounts to roughly 70 percent of the catch for the entire Atlantic menhaden population." "Two years earlier, Colonial Beach had 55 successful fledglings from 35 nests. That summer they had 8 fledglings. " And in New Jersey: "There were 40 nests in the immediate area, all historically successful. The year before, they had produced 55 young. I asked how many had been successful this past year. 'Five,' Wurst said." The impact of overfishing of menhaden is undeniable. While other factors, including climate change, surely contribute to the overall population decline of that species, it is our responsibility to respond and adapt to that decline to ensure the sustainability of the species AND the industries they support. "A 2025 report from the Potomac River Fisheries Commission found that menhaden landings for bait fishermen were one-third of the all-time low, set just two years before." Urgent action is needed. Osprey populations will continue to starve without it; an ignoble end for a magnificent species. Humans have taken collective action to save this beautiful bird once before, and we can do so again.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 12:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Leslie Goldstone
Email
lmg728@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
It is imperative for the survival of osprey and other wildlife that rely on menhaden as an important food source that the fishery cap is reduced by 50%.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 12:33 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Helene Marcy
Email
hemarcy@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
Dear Board members, Osprey populations along the Eastern seaboard are declining due to a lack of food. Last year, Connecticut Audubon's Osprey Nation recorded its lowest breeding success since the statewide community science program launched in 2014. This year is looking even worse. Last year, by Aug. 1, 2025, 16% of nests had failed. This year, by August 1, 2026 25% had failed. The Osprey Nation community science program serves as an early-warning system for the health of Connecticut's waters and the abundance of prey species like Atlantic menhaden. I urge you to reduce the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery cap by 50%. Thank you for listening. Helene Marcy

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 12:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Vicky Livoti
Email
teriyaki_tofu_steak@yahoo.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
Last year, Connecticut Audubon recorded its lowest breeding success in ospreys since the statewide community science program, Osprey Nation, launched in 2014 to monitor the birds. This year is looking even worse, with potentially 1 in 4 nests failing to successfully fledge chicks. Because Ospreys feed almost exclusively on fish, the Osprey Nation volunteer community science program serves as an early-warning system for the health of Connecticut's waters and the abundance of prey species like Atlantic menhaden. As an Osprey Nation volunteer and lover of these beautiful birds, I urge the commission to reduce the fishery cap by 50% to help ensure enough menhaden remain available for Ospreys and other wildlife. Thank you.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 12:12 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Adam Gibson

Email

agibson3131@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I am a Virginia resident and recreational angler who spends substantial time on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. I strongly support reducing Atlantic menhaden harvest and substantially reducing—and ultimately eliminating—the industrial reduction fishery within the Chesapeake Bay.

Menhaden are not simply another harvested species. They are a foundational forage fish in the Chesapeake ecosystem, supporting striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, other predatory fish, marine mammals, and birds. Management should therefore consider not only whether the coastwide menhaden stock meets a conventional overfished/overfishing threshold, but whether enough menhaden remain available where and when Chesapeake Bay predators need them.

The Draft Addendum notes that more than half of the Bay reduction landings in 2023 and 2024 were taken during a six-week period in midsummer and acknowledges that concentrated removals may affect menhaden availability to other fisheries and predators. It also documents substantial declines in Chesapeake Bay pound-net catches and CPUE in 2024, as well as a dramatic decline in the Maryland DNR Choptank River adult menhaden index in 2024 that remained low in 2025. These observations do not prove that reduction fishing is the sole cause of reduced local availability, but they are precisely the kind of warning signals for which precautionary management is appropriate.

There is also increasingly concerning ecological evidence. A large 2026 study of Chesapeake Bay ospreys found widespread reproductive deficits and evidence of food stress in higher-salinity portions of the Bay, with the authors identifying reduced availability of Atlantic menhaden as a likely primary driver of poor reproductive performance in those areas.

For Draft Addendum II specifically, I support the maximum reduction presently available under Section 3.1: Option B4, a 50% reduction of the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap to 25,500 metric tons. I prefer B4 to a mechanism that could automatically increase the Bay Cap again if the coastwide TAC rises in the future. If the Board instead chooses to link the Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC under Option C, I support C1e, the lowest proposed proportion at 13.6%, paired with C2a so that there is no lower floor preventing additional reductions when the coastwide TAC declines.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 12:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Philip Ribolow
Email
philribolow@yahoo.com
State
New York
Comment
We all love wildlife. Menhadin is the bait fish that drives he health of our ecosystem. It is imperative that this resource not be overfished to the point where it is detrimental to other stake holders. Please do the responsible thing as stewards of the environment and set catch levels 50% lower than what is being proposed. Thank you.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:59 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Michelle Stewart
Email
vms@cshore.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
I am writing to urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to PLACE A 50% REDUCTION in menhaden catches in the Chesapeake Bay. This step is necessary to protect the ospreys along the seaboard. I live in Connecticut and as a birder, enjoy that ospreys are a common sight. They thrived along our coast after DDT was eliminated and their presence is often touted as proof that Long Island Sound is healthy. However, this year I noticed a decline in nests in locations - fewer nests and/or fewer chicks - where previously there were several successful ones. Data emerging from CT Audubon Society have confirmed that across our state ospreys are raising fewer chicks and more are starving. Menhaden serve as a primary source of food for the ospreys throughout the region. Over-fishing by commercial fleets has adversely impacted the number of fish leading to this sudden and precipitous decline in osprey numbers. Just as with the DDT threat to the osprey's survival, humans caused the problem and we can solve it. Ospreys are telling us that we are taking too much from the sea. The greed of commercial companies should not control the fate of these magnificent birds. We must give them a chance by doing all we can to protect their environment, starting with protecting their primary food source. TAKE ACTION NOW - REDUCE THE CATCH BY 50%!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:55 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Stephanie Mastri
Email
smastri13@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
Hello! It was very disheartening to learn about the decrease in fledged Ospreys in the past few years. I wholeheartedly hope that you will support lowering the fishing cap so that there are enough fish for everyone, including the birds!! Thank you!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:49 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Louise Crocco
Email
silverbeachkid@optonline.net
State
Connecticut
Comment
I am totally in favor of reducing the fishery cap for menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay by 50%. Osprey were nearly wiped out before by the use of DDT. Now, we are introducing a new hazard that will be detrimental to their survival by eliminating their food source.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:50 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Sean Hickey
Email
seanohic17@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
I strongly support the Connecticut Audubon in urging the commission to reduce the fishery cap by 50% to help ensure enough menhaden remain available for Ospreys and other wildlife.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:47 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Douglas Williams
Email
dwtreeman13@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
I live in Easton Ct and observe the activities of Osprey off Fairfield Bridgeport, Stratford & Milford CT. I am a regular kayaker boater & beach goer. What I have been observing is the increased amount of time and distance it takes the birds to find and catch the bunker (maidenhair) this year. It is significantly longer than past years. It's also sad that the bluefish are disappearing from Long Island Sound, persuadably from the lack of food (bunker). I trust you will strongly consider the reduction of commercial fishing to "balance" the food sources for our native fish, birds & other animals. Sincerely, Doug Williams

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:46 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
David Katz
Email
davkatz7@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
Biodiversity is not merely this planet's greatest treasure, but also the bedrock supporting survival and vitality for all interconnected species, humans included. The case might be made that Ospreys are no less deserving of their food supply than are we- but we need not be so selfless. Taking a selfish position: our failure to share the resources of this planet with other species puts our own at risk by disrupting entire ecosystems, a phenomenon we see playing out all around the world. We teach our children the virtues of sharing- and we are right to do so. Will we not heed our own lessons? I speak for the Ospreys, who cannot speak for themselves. And I speak for us, too- for they, and we, are both part of something bigger than any one species. Life itself is a gift we share; the sustenance of life must be shared as well. Thank you- David L. Katz, MD, MPH; CT resident, parent

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:40 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Anne Kugielsky
Email
jkugielsky@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
The status of Osprey in Connecticut is alarming. We have monitored nests for 12 years and last year, 3025, and this year show a huge decline in successful hatchlings. To further imperil these and other wildfowl by allowing commercial fishers to take a larger number of fish, would be a crime against wildlife, which is already struggling to live. Think about a world without Osprey swirling on the updrafts; our children and grandchildren would never see those free flying magnificent birds. That would be so sad. Thank you, Anne Kugielsky

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:37 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
MARK ZABAWA
Email
MARK.ZABAWA@ASHCROFT.COM
State
Connecticut
Comment
Menhaden have a critical place in the food chain that supports birds and fish along the coats from the Mid-Atlantic to New England. Thus this should be recognized by the NOAA scientists and appropriately protected if the goal is to maintain the balance in species that rely upon this food source. As a citizen who spends a lot of money on recreational activities associated with the coast I feel that the total recreational $s invested far outweigh the commercial impact on the economy.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:36 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
M S Staniford
Email
m-mmyers@comcast.net
State
Connecticut
Comment
We support limiting the fishing of “bunkers” to 50 percent of what is being done now as a first step. We do not want the same fate as the cod. Bunkers are needed in the food chain for blues, striped bass, osprey, etc. We also support no use of drones for offshore fishing. Also support no wide net dragging/fishing. Suggest to fisher folks they invent a replacement for the bunker! Thank you Martha Staniford

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:34 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jeremy Schreifels

Email

jschreifels@live.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Public Comment in Strong Support of a 50% Chesapeake Bay Cap Reduction and Seasonal Quota Distribution in Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3

Commenter: Jeremy Schreifels, PhD

I am writing in strong support of the most protective measures under consideration in Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. I urge the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board to cut the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50% and to spread that harvest across the season with seasonal quota periods.

I also urge the Board to go further: require real monitoring and public reporting of the reduction fishery, restrict purse-seine fishing in sensitive areas and at sensitive times, and limit the use of spotter aircraft that help the fleet find and empty out schools of fish.

As a homeowner on the Severn River, I've watched the Bay's fish and bird life change from my own backyard. My observations aren't a substitute for scientific monitoring, but they line up with a growing body of research documenting real food-web and reproductive problems in parts of the Chesapeake Bay.

Requested management actions
I respectfully ask the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board to adopt the following:

1. Cut the Chesapeake Bay cap by 50%
Reduce the current 51,000-metric-ton cap to 25,500 metric tons a year (or lower). This is the most protective option in Draft Addendum II, and it's the level ASMFC's own 2025 assessment says is needed to meaningfully reduce the odds that fishing mortality stays too high. [1, 2]

2. Split the cap into three seasonal quota periods
Spread the reduced cap across three periods so the fleet can't take it all in one spring-and-summer push — exactly when Bay predators need menhaden most. This option is already on the table in Draft Addendum II and directly addresses ASMFC's own concern about concentrated fishing effort. [1]

3. Require real electronic monitoring and public reporting
Every reduction-fishery vessel operating in the Bay should report electronically, not just through weekly landings totals. At minimum, the system should include:
- electronic, trip-level reporting of catch, effort, date, time, location, and vessel identification for every landing in the Bay
- vessel monitoring systems (VMS) or equivalent electronic location tracking on all reduction-fishery vessels
- real-time or near-real-time quota accounting as the Bay cap is approached, with automatic closure before it's exceeded
- independent auditing of landings and compliance
- public reporting, both ongoing aggregate data and a public annual report on compliance, quota use, fishing locations, effort, and bycatch

The 2019 cap violation, discussed below, shows why this matters: a cap nobody can verify in real time isn't a real limit.

4. Add stronger time and area protections
Establish closures or other protections for menhaden during critical periods and in areas important for spawning, nursery habitat, and predator feeding. This is consistent with the precautionary options the Chesapeake Bay Work Group has already considered. [3]

5. Restrict purse-seine fishing in ecologically sensitive areas
Limit purse-seine operations in tributaries and other areas where concentrated harvest could strip a local area of menhaden or interfere with predators feeding there.

6. Restrict or prohibit spotter aircraft and drones in the Bay
Spotter planes and drones make it far easier for the fleet to find and quickly harvest concentrated schools of fish. That capability deserves real limits inside a confined system like the Chesapeake Bay.

7. Improve location-specific monitoring and assessment
Fund and require better data on menhaden abundance, catch, effort, and predator interactions at the Bay and tributary scale. ASMFC already identifies better fine-scale data and models as a research priority. [1]

Why these measures are needed
Based on the scientific literature, ASMFC's analyses, and what I've observed, the following evidence supports my requested management actions:

1. Menhaden are a key foundation for the Chesapeake Bay food web

Atlantic menhaden aren't just another commercially caught fish, they're a forage species, meaning much of what they eat gets passed up the food chain when bigger fish, birds, and other predators eat them. NOAA Fisheries describes menhaden as an important prey species and highlights their role in the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. [1]
Menhaden also link the Atlantic Ocean to the Bay through their life cycle: they spawn offshore, their larvae drift into estuaries like the Chesapeake to grow up, and the juveniles eventually head back out to coastal waters. [1] The Bay has long been an important nursery for menhaden, and research shows it contributes substantially to the coastwide population. [2, 3]

Because menhaden are such important prey here, removing large numbers from one area of the Bay during the season when predators depend on them has consequences that go well beyond the fish that were caught.

2. Menhaden abundance has remained low compared with historical levels

The long-term record backs up the case for greater caution. A peer-reviewed analysis of six decades of Atlantic menhaden data found that abundance remains well below the highs of the 1970s and '80s, and that recruitment (i.e., the number of young fish surviving to join the population) has stayed unusually low in the Bay. The study flagged that persistent low recruitment as a real concern for managers trying to sustain both the fishery and menhaden's role as forage for other species. [4]

3. The osprey population is suffering

Recent research led by Bryan Watts and colleagues at the Center for Conservation Biology at William & Mary, working with the U.S. Geological Survey and other institutions, provides strong evidence of widespread reproductive problems in Chesapeake Bay ospreys.

A 2026 peer-reviewed study monitored 571 osprey nests across the Bay during the 2024 breeding season. Nests in high-salinity areas produced far fewer surviving young than nests in low-salinity areas. The produced so few, in fact, that every high-salinity area studied was losing ospreys faster than it was producing them, while low-salinity areas were producing a surplus. The researchers concluded that reduced menhaden availability is a primary driver of the poor reproduction in high-salinity waters. [5]

Earlier research in the lower Bay documented a long-term decline in how much food ospreys were bringing to their nests and in their reproductive success, tied to swings in menhaden availability. [6] The long-term numbers are troubling: in Mobjack Bay, the rate at which menhaden were delivered to osprey nests dropped by more than 80% over the study period. Because menhaden

are unusually calorie-dense compared to other fish, that shift cut the overall energy value of the osprey diet by roughly half. [6]

We're seeing reduced food availability and reproductive failure right now, in a highly visible, fish-dependent predator. I've tracked osprey nests along the Severn River near my home. In 2024, two of four monitored nests failed. In 2025, two of three failed. In 2026, only two pairs returned to these sites. I know this is a small sample that can't establish cause on its own. I offer it as a local observation consistent with the much broader scientific evidence of food stress and reproductive problems now being documented across parts of the Bay.

The Commission shouldn't wait until local populations have declined past the point of recovery before acting.

4. A coastwide "healthy" stock does not resolve the problem in the Chesapeake Bay

ASMFC's current assessment doesn't classify Atlantic menhaden as overfished or experiencing overfishing coastwide. [7] But that doesn't answer the question in front of the Board. ASMFC itself acknowledges that its current models can't produce a stock status or harvest advice for a smaller region like the Chesapeake Bay separately from the ocean as a whole. [1]

The real question for the Bay is: is there enough menhaden in the Bay to support the Bay's ecology? ASMFC's own Chesapeake Bay Work Group couldn't answer that question. It still identified changes in menhaden availability, predator needs, and the timing of the Bay fishery as reasons to consider additional precautionary management. [3]
That uncertainty is a strong argument for caution, not for leaning on a coastwide average that wasn't designed to answer this question.

5. The 2019 cap violation demonstrates the need for stronger monitoring and enforcement

The history of the Bay cap itself shows why stronger monitoring and public reporting matter. ASMFC established the current 51,000-metric-ton Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap under Amendment 3 in 2017. [1] Virginia hadn't yet written the new cap into its own regulations when, in September 2019, Omega Protein notified ASMFC that it intended to exceed it. ASMFC records show Virginia had been monitoring landings and had already told Omega Protein to stay under the cap. [8]

Omega Protein exceeded it anyway. At its October 2019 meeting, the ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Management Board reported that the reduction fishery had blown past the 51,000-metric-ton cap on September 6, with Bay landings about 27% over the limit (reaching roughly 65,000 metric tons). [8]

This episode matters for two reasons. First, a cap nobody is actually watching isn't much of a conservation measure. Second, the public still has very little access to the location and operational data needed to independently check how the reduction fishery is affecting the Bay.

ASMFC reports that it currently relies on state and federal partners for monitoring and that Bay landings are reported weekly. [1] Weekly landing totals are a poor substitute for the real electronic monitoring described above.

6. ASMFC's Ecological Reference Points (ERPs) support a substantial reduction

There's another reason to support a 50% reduction: it's what ASMFC's own numbers point to. The Commission's 2025 assessment found that Atlantic menhaden fishing mortality was above the Ecological Reference Point (ERP) target and that fecundity (i.e., the population's egg-producing capacity) was below its ERP target. [9]

In response, the Board cut the 2026 coastwide Total Allowable Catch from 233,550 metric tons to 186,840 metric tons, a 20% reduction. That gets fishing mortality to a zero percent chance of exceeding the ERP threshold, but it still leaves a 100% chance that fishing mortality stays somewhere between the ERP target and the threshold, rather than getting back down to the target itself. [2, 9] Most importantly, ASMFC's own analysis states plainly: "[t]o have a lower probability of being at or above the ERP F target, a 50% or more reduction in the TAC would be required." [2]

A 50% reduction isn't an arbitrary ask. It's the number ASMFC's own technical analysis says is needed to meaningfully reduce the odds that fishing mortality stays at or above a target the stock is not currently meeting.

7. Concentrated harvest is a different problem from coastwide harvest

Fishing pressure isn't spread evenly across a species' range, and its effects aren't either. The Chesapeake Bay cap exists in the first place because of concerns about localized depletion. ASMFC set the original cap in 2006 as a precaution against exactly that. [1] Draft Addendum II raises the same concern again: the Board is looking at cutting the cap by up to 50% and spreading it across three quota periods because reduction-fishery effort has been concentrating in spring and summer, with knock-on effects for other fisheries and the ecosystem. [1]

A school of menhaden pulled out of one tributary isn't available to the osprey, striped bass, or bluefish hunting in that tributary just because plenty of menhaden exist somewhere else, hundreds of miles away. Menhaden's value to the ecosystem depends on where and when they are, not just how many exist coastwide.

Spring and summer matter more than other seasons for this reason. That's when fish and birds need extra energy for growth, migration, breeding, and raising young. Osprey research shows what happens when enough high-energy forage isn't there during the breeding season. [5-6, 11] A single annual quota gives the fleet every incentive to harvest heavily whenever menhaden are most concentrated and easiest to catch, which is often exactly when localized depletion does the most ecological damage. Splitting the cap across three periods spreads that pressure out over the year, so predators aren't left short during the months they need menhaden most.

That's why I support both the 50% cap reduction and the seasonal quota periods.

8. Purse-seine fishing creates additional ecosystem concerns

The Board should also weigh how menhaden are caught, not just how many. Purse seines are extremely efficient at capturing schooling fish, and when paired with spotter aircraft that can locate schools from the air, they let a fleet remove large quantities of fish very quickly from a small area. I'm not arguing purse seines are inherently wrong for catching menhaden, I'm arguing that using them in a confined, ecologically complex estuary like the Chesapeake Bay calls for more caution than using them far offshore.

9. Environmental conditions can concentrate fishing effort

How environmental conditions interact with purse-seine fishing also matters. Langseth and colleagues studied the Gulf menhaden fishery and found that as dissolved oxygen dropped, both menhaden and the fishing fleet shifted toward particular areas, changing where fish could be caught and how easily. [12]

Environmental conditions can change where menhaden gather and where fishing effort follows them. The Bay already sees real variation in oxygen levels, salinity, and temperature across its waters and through the year. Combine that with highly efficient fishing gear, and it's worth watching closely where and when industrial harvest is actually happening.

10. Spotter aircraft and drones should be addressed

I also urge ASMFC and the states to look at restricting spotter aircraft and drones in the Bay. Aircraft dramatically improve the reduction fleet's ability to find dense schools of menhaden, and in a confined system like the Chesapeake, that makes rapid, highly localized removal much easier. Restricting or banning aircraft-assisted purse-seine fishing in the Bay would blunt the fleet's ability to quickly find and empty out isolated concentrations of fish. It also fits the same precautionary logic that led ASMFC to set the Bay cap in the first place.

11. The Commission has already recognized the need for precaution

The strongest argument for precaution is that the Commission has already recognized the problem itself. The Bay cap exists because of concerns about localized depletion. [1] In 2024, ASMFC responded to concerns about menhaden fishing's effects on ospreys by asking USGS scientists for data on osprey abundance, distribution, and diet, and then formed a Work Group to evaluate precautionary options. [3] That Work Group went on to consider time and area restrictions meant to protect fish-eating birds and fish during critical parts of their life cycles. [3] Draft Addendum II now proposes cutting the Bay cap by up to 50% and spreading it across quota periods. [1]

None of this means the Commission has failed to see the problem. It means the opposite: the Commission recognizes that current management may not adequately protect against localized harm. The right response is to act on that recognition.

Conclusion

None of this depends on claiming the entire Atlantic menhaden population is collapsing, or that menhaden are endangered. The case is narrower than that. Menhaden are a foundational forage species, the Chesapeake Bay is one of their most important nurseries, and multiple independent lines of evidence, including juvenile abundance, osprey reproduction, ASMFC's own uncertainty about Bay-specific stock status, the 2019 cap violation, and the Commission's own ERP analysis, all point the same direction.

The question in front of the Board isn't whether we can prove continued harvest will cause ecological collapse. It's whether we have enough information to justify continuing to remove large quantities of a foundational forage species from a confined, ecologically important estuary, when the Commission itself acknowledges real uncertainty about the Bay's local stock status and ecological needs. The short and clear answer is: we don't.

The cost of precaution is a smaller industrial harvest. The cost of not being precautious could be a depleted forage base, struggling predator populations, and a Chesapeake Bay food web in worse shape than the one we have now. I urge the Board to choose precaution:
- cut the Bay cap by 50%
- spread it across three seasonal quota periods
- require real monitoring and public reporting
- move forward on the additional time, area, and gear restrictions described above.

References

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[3] Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). Atlantic Menhaden Work Group Report on Chesapeake Bay Precautionary Management. Committee Summaries And Reports To The Board. April 23, 2025. https://asmfc.org/resources/management-technical-committee/atlantic-menhaden-work-group-report-on-chesapeake-bay-precautionary-management-april-2025/
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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:34 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Maureen Scalia
Email
mlscalia@yahoo.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
Please add my voice to those requesting a lower limit for catching menhaden. It has been brutal and heart wrenching to watch the osprey nestlings starve to death in their nests for lack of food. Thank you.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:29 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Eve Burhenne

Email

eveoo@aol.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Dear Chair and members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

My name is Eve Burhenne, and I live in Fairfield, Connecticut, on Long Island Sound, where a healthy Osprey population is one of the clearest signs of a healthy Sound. I'm writing to urge the Board to adopt the strongest option in Draft Addendum II and reduce the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap by 50%.

The evidence is no longer ambiguous. Center for Conservation Biology researchers found that in 2025, Ospreys nesting in the Bay's higher-salinity waters — where they depend most heavily on menhaden — produced only about 0.33 young per pair, far short of the 0.8–1.3 needed just to hold the population steady. Seventy-four percent of the 741 pairs studied there raised no young at all. When researchers hand-fed chicks in failing nests, those chicks thrived while unsupplemented nests kept collapsing — direct evidence that food scarcity, not weather or disease, is driving the decline. Meanwhile, the current Bay Cap — set in 2018 under Amendment 3 — still allows up to 51,000 metric tons of menhaden to be removed from the Bay annually, concentrated in the very months Ospreys are raising young. Draft Addendum II's own Option E, cutting that cap to 25,500 metric tons, is described by ASMFC's Technical Committee as the option that provides "the most conservative buffer" for menhaden and the wildlife that depend on them.

Menhaden anchor the food web for Ospreys, striped bass, and much of what makes Atlantic coastal fisheries and wildlife possible. Modest cuts have not been enough to reverse this decline. Please don't wait for Osprey populations to collapse the way striped bass once did — adopt the 50% cap reduction now, while it can still make a difference.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely, Eve Burhenne Fairfield, CT

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:28 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Thomas Waller
Email
1tnwaller@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I've concluded based on ever article I could obtain that it is very clear the over harvesting of bunkers is having a detrimental effect on the health of the bay and its fisheries. Strongly support establishing harvest limitations.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:20 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Elijah McCormack
Email
elijahmccormack@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
As a native of the Connecticut coast, I consider ospreys an iconic aspect of coastal wildlife. I am deeply concerned that fishing in the Chesapeake Bay is directly contributing to osprey population decline, which also symbolizes disruptions throughout the ecosystem. I encourage the commission to consider these concerns and reduce the menhaden fishing cap by 50% per the CT Audubon Society's recommendation.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:18 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Robin Chapin
Email
robinc123@snet.net
State
Connecticut
Comment
In October 2025, the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board (Board) initiated Draft Addendum II, which will consider reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by up to 50% and creating quota periods to distribute harvest under the cap more evenly throughout the fishing season. The Draft Addendum responds to concerns about a concentration of effort that may be affecting other fisheries within the Bay and other potential ecological impacts. I support this Draft Addendum II to save the osprey. A quota is essential. Please pass this!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 4:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Christopher Morgan

Email

csmorgan@verizon.net

State

Maryland

Comment

I have lived on the St Mary's River in Drayden, MD since 2018. I frequently visit our dock and I go fishing an average of 2x weekly. During this time I have noticed a drastic decline in the numbers and size of Atlantic Menhaden in the St Mary's and Potomac rivers.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 3:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

June Bourdat

Email

junebourdat@comcast.net

State

Maryland

Comment

If they continue to overfish the menhaden there won't be any fish left in the bay. It is a keystone species which supports the ecosystem of the Chesapeake bay and the repercussions of this over fishing are already occurring. The osprey nestings failed this summer the chicks starved in the nest. Bald eagles are also dependent on this food source, as are the terns, seagulls and waterfowl. A fifty percent reduction at least, might lead to a more balanced environmental impact.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 3:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michael Jefferys

Email

michaelfjefferys@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

I strongly support meaningful reductions to the Chesapeake Bay menhaden reduction fishery cap and support the most precautionary management measures available under Draft Addendum II.

As a recreational angler and someone who cares deeply about the long-term health of our Mid-Atlantic fisheries, I have become increasingly concerned about the concentration of large-scale menhaden harvests in the Chesapeake Bay and surrounding waters. Menhaden are one of the most important forage species on the Atlantic Coast and serve as a critical food source for striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, osprey, dolphins, whales, and many other predators. The health of these species is directly connected to the availability of menhaden in local ecosystems.

The ASMFC has acknowledged concerns that concentrated harvest effort may be affecting other fisheries in the Bay and causing broader ecological impacts. Draft Addendum II was initiated specifically to evaluate reductions in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by up to 50% and to distribute harvest more evenly throughout the season. These measures are intended to address concerns about concentrated fishing effort and ecosystem impacts.

From New Jersey to Maryland, many anglers, charter operators, and coastal communities have observed fewer bait schools,

changing predator behavior, and localized impacts that raise legitimate concerns about the current management approach. While stock-wide assessments may indicate the species is not overfished, localized depletion remains a serious concern when such an ecologically important forage fish is removed in large quantities from a relatively concentrated area.

I urge the Commission to adopt a significant reduction in the Chesapeake Bay cap, preferably the maximum reduction under consideration, and implement seasonal quota periods that prevent excessive harvest during key feeding and spawning periods. Taking precautionary action now is a responsible step that will help protect biodiversity, strengthen the forage base for recreationally and commercially valuable species, and support the long-term resilience of the Atlantic marine ecosystem.

Menhaden are far more valuable in the water as a forage species supporting healthy fisheries, wildlife, and coastal economies than they are as an industrial reduction fishery commodity. I respectfully ask the Board to prioritize ecosystem health and adopt the strongest conservation measures available in Draft Addendum II.

Thank you for your consideration.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 3:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Heather Williams

Email

walklet@sbcglobal.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

There are no menhaden schools left in Long Island Sound. This is a direct result of the commercial fishing being done in the Chesapeake. Species are starving and this has created an unsustainable scenario for the wellbeing of the ecosystem. Do the right thing, and recommend a halt on the overfishing of this fish which feeds so many species.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 3:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Melissa Paeglow

Email

mmrp380@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

To the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission: ATLANTIC MENHADEN DRAFT ADDENDUM II

I am writing to strongly urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to adopt the strongest protections being considered under Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II, including the maximum 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay menhaden reduction-fishery cap and meaningful seasonal harvest limits.

I live in Northampton County on Virginia's Eastern Shore, just a short walk from the Chesapeake Bay. My husband and I have spent more than twenty years turning our property into a haven for birds and other wildlife, and watching the wildlife of the Chesapeake is one of the great joys of living here. Osprey are an especially treasured part of life on the Bay. Each spring, their return feels like the return of an old friend.

That is why the 2026 findings from the Center for Conservation Biology at William & Mary are so heartbreaking.

Researchers monitored 937 osprey pairs throughout the Chesapeake Bay during the 2026 breeding season and recorded the worst breeding productivity ever documented for Chesapeake Bay osprey.

In waters with salinity above 5 parts per thousand, researchers monitored 769 osprey pairs. They produced an average of only 0.25 young per pair—far below the estimated 0.8 to 1.3 young per pair needed to maintain a stable population.

Even more alarming, 81 percent of those osprey pairs failed to fledge a single young.

This is not an isolated bad year. Productivity in these portions of the Chesapeake has fallen from 0.51 young per pair in 2024, to 0.35 in 2025, and now to just 0.25 in 2026.

These are not abstract statistics to those of us who live on the Chesapeake Bay. Many of my neighbors live directly on the water and have osprey nesting on pilings just offshore from their beaches. I hear them talk about the same heartbreaking thing year after year: the osprey return and occupy their nests, but there are no surviving offspring or fledglings.

Scientists are now documenting what those of us living along the Bay are witnessing firsthand.

The contrast within the Chesapeake is especially troubling. In tidal freshwater areas, 168 monitored osprey pairs produced an average of 1.04 young per pair—above the minimum level required for population maintenance. Yet throughout the saltier waters, where osprey depend much more heavily upon Atlantic menhaden, reproductive success has collapsed.

Researchers have documented unmistakable signs of severe food stress: reduced food delivery to nests, emaciated and underdeveloped chicks, shrinking brood sizes, nest abandonment, and young starving in their nests.

Menhaden may be small fish, but their importance to the Chesapeake ecosystem is enormous. They are a highly nutritious forage fish and an essential food source for osprey, striped bass, and numerous other predators.

When we remove menhaden from the Chesapeake Bay on an industrial scale, we are not simply harvesting one species of fish. We are removing food from an interconnected ecosystem that depends upon them.

I understand that commercial fishing is an industry and that people depend upon it for their livelihoods. But the Chesapeake Bay is not merely a resource to be extracted from. It is an ecosystem that belongs to all of us, and one we have an obligation to protect for future generations.

The appropriate question should not simply be how many menhaden can be harvested without collapsing the menhaden population itself. We must also ask how many menhaden need to remain in the Chesapeake Bay to perform their essential ecological role and sustain the osprey, striped bass, and countless other species that depend upon them.

Scientists have appropriately acknowledged that commercial harvest may not be the only factor affecting menhaden availability. Climate change, changes in distribution, and the timing of menhaden entering the Bay may also contribute. But that uncertainty is not a reason for inaction. It is a reason for precaution.

We cannot control every environmental factor affecting the Chesapeake Bay. We CAN control how many menhaden we remove from it.

For that reason, I strongly support the maximum 50% reduction being considered for the Chesapeake Bay menhaden reduction-fishery cap, along with seasonal quota periods designed to prevent excessive harvest from being concentrated during critical portions of the osprey breeding season.

If we act aggressively now and later discover that we were more cautious than necessary, the Chesapeake ecosystem will have benefited from having more forage fish in its waters. But if we wait until the evidence becomes impossible to ignore, we may discover that we waited too long.

The Chesapeake Bay supports the largest breeding population of osprey in the world. Scientists now estimate that, without improvement in reproductive success, this population could decline by approximately 14 percent per year and by roughly 50 percent over the coming decade.

I do not want a Chesapeake Bay where future generations look at empty nesting platforms and abandoned pilings and hear stories about how plentiful these magnificent birds once were.

Please protect the menhaden that sustain the Chesapeake food web.

Protect the osprey.

Protect the striped bass and the countless other species that depend upon a healthy Bay.

The Chesapeake Bay cannot speak for itself, and neither can the wildlife that depends upon it. Those of us who love this

extraordinary place must speak for them.

Please adopt the strongest protections available under Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Respectfully,

Melissa R. Paeglow
Northampton County, Virginia
Virginia Eastern Shore

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 3:41 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ken Skidmore

Email

kskidmore29@comcast.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

I am writing to request that there be significant reductions in the amount of Menhaden that can caught by commercial fishermen. I have witnessed first hand the impact commercial fishing has had on the osprey population. This year in our marsh there were no osprey that had babes out of the 5 nesting oprey nests. We usually have 2 to 3 osprey babies per nest. Thank you in advance for significantly reducing the amount of Menhaden that can be commercially fished to protect the osprey.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 3:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Patricia Decker

Email

pattidecker@hotmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I support the 50% reduction with option B2 to help our Osprey population recover as this is the worst breeding session in the 13 years of Audubon surveillance.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 3:27 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Julie Marks

Email

juliehmarks@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

The osprey are beautiful creatures who are vital to our ecosystem. They need to eat to survive, and so their populations can flourish. Please do whatever you can to ensure they have enough fish to eat.

Best,
Julie Marks

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 3:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Brian Zukauskas

Email

zukauska@optonline.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

I cannot urge you strongly enough to reduce the Chesapeake menhaden harvest to help preserve the endangered osprey which are experiencing severe stress due to nutrition uncertainties.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 3:14 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Morgan Werner

Email

wernermd1985@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I live at the West end of Hammonasset Beach State Park in Connecticut and have been a monitor for Osprey Nation of CT, and this year was noticeably different. Every morning I walk to our nearby beach at sunrise to photograph birds and watch the osprey fish. This year, the osprey seemed to go out farther into Long Island Sound and often return with no fish or very small fish, not like in the past. It was disconcerting to watch, and my fears that there was a more systemic problem seem to have been borne out by the statistics gathered by the state of Connecticut..As a cardiologist, I have been concerned about the overfishing of Menhaden as a primary source of Omega-3 fatty acids since the 1990's. My fears appear to be justified. There is strong preliminary evidence that a lack of nutrition is the cause.
Please consider a moratorium at some level to stop the critical loss of ospreys before it is too late.
Thank you
Morgan Werner
Madison CT

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 3:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jon Levin

Email

levinjl@icloud.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

The ASMFC should reduce the fishery cap by 50%, a precautionary measure to ensure that menhaden, a key foundation fish and a prime food source for ospreys, are not put in even greater jeopardy.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 3:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

LEE JACOBUS

Email

leejacobus@aol.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I'm near the coast and have for years watched the noble Osprey in Hammonasset STate Park. I have also boated in the Long Island Sound and fished for menhaden, their prey. It is important that the state do its best to maintain the diminishing population of the menhaden so that the Osprey may survive much as the eagles in this area have survived. Save the fish, save the Osprey.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 3:03 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Luella Landis

Email

gwla620@yahoo.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please help our ospreys which are diminishing.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 3:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Morgan Werner

Email

wernermd1985@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I live at the West end of Hammonasset Beach State Park in Connecticut and have been a monitor for Osprey Nation of CT, and this year was noticeably different. Every morning I walk to our nearby beach at sunrise to photograph birds and watch the osprey fish. This year, the osprey seemed to go out farther into Long Island Sound and often return with no fish or very small fish, not like in the past. It was disconcerting to watch, and my fears that there was a more systemic problem seem to be borne out by the statistics. Being a cardiologist, I have been concerned about the overfishing of Menhaden as a primary source and certainly in Chesapeake Bay. It seems to have reached a critical mass, and now the ospreys and their young are potentially starving to death or unable to produce offspring.
Please consider a moratorium of some kind to stop the critical loss of ospreys.
Thank you
Morgan Werner
Madison CT

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 2:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Luke Giroux

Email

girouxluke12@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Dear ASMFC,
I have been an osprey lover for decades, always watching the skies of the New England coast for osprey, from March to September. I have also been an osprey steward with CT Audubon for 4 years. The evidence we're seeing, with the crash of the osprey population in Chesapeake Bay and New Jersey, and now with the new report from CT Audubon, with the discouraging results of the 2026 osprey season, I am begging you to reduce the amount of menhaden that can be commercially fished along the eastern seaboard.
Given the success of the environmental movement of the 70's, to establish the Clean Water Act and halt the use of DDT as a pesticide, it's been heartening to watch the remarkable comeback of all birds of prey - from the bald eagle, to osprey, to the red tailed hawk. It would be a crime to have that effort be for naught, only to have the osprey taking another hit due to the scarcity of their primary food source. The birds are literally starving to death in their nests. Please do not give in to the lobbying efforts of Omega 3 - please do the right thing and reduce what they can take. They've already taken too much. Thank you in advance for your efforts.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 2:34 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ian Cassell

Email

ian.cassell@yale.edu

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please limit how much menhaden can be fished out of the Chesapeake Bay. It is crucial to the osprey and the greater ecosystem of the East Coast corridor.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 2:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Christia Hoffman

Email

christiamadacsi@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please take action to protect the ospreys' primary food source, including menhaden. As a precautionary measure, I'm urging the ASMFC to reduce the fishery cap by 50% to ensure that the survival of both menhaden and the osprey are not further jeaopardized.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 2:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Amanda Baker

Email

amandabaker2036@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

To the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

I am a committed conservationist and I have a particular focus on ospreys and other bird species. As a member of the Connecticut Audubon Society, I have been an osprey nest monitor for a number of years. Since 2014, the CAS has run the Osprey Nation Program in partnership with CTDEEP. It monitors the size, productivity and health of Connecticut's osprey population. Approximately 450 volunteer stewards monitor nearly 1,000 nests each season. In 2025, the program recorded its lowest breeding success ever. While we are waiting for the final report, it is already evident that this year is even more devastating. (Reports available online and upon request).

Menhaden play a key role in supporting Connecticut's osprey populations and it is becoming apparent that the decline in migrating menhaden populations from the Chesapeake Bay are having an effect on our waters in the Long Island Sound. This year, Connecticut's osprey monitors witnessed first-hand, too many young osprey starving to death because of inadequate supplies of menhaden.

I urge you to take the following decisive action:

Adopt Sub Option B4: a one-time 50% reduction in the bay cap
Adopt Quota Period B2: 25-25-50% allocations to delay seasonal harvests

Thank you for your serious consideration of adjusting the harvest quotas and timing to ensure the sustainability of osprey and other species within the menhaden food chain.

Amanda Baker
4 Somerset Lane
Old Lyme, CT 06371
amandabaker2036@gmail.com

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 2:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

ALISON MEAD

Email

alimead@hotmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please protect our Osprey!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 2:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

G. Bloom

Email

gpbloom3@hotmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

the dramatic fall in Osprey fledging requires prompt action to improve their food sources

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 2:42 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Carolyn Lyle

Email

lylecnl@yahoo.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please save our beautiful Osprey population!
We live on Long Island Sound and have noticed the very low numbers of Osprey diving for fish in the Sound. We have also noticed the absence of menhaden schools being chased by the blues. They just are not there !
Correct this situation by limiting the amount of menhaden fished out of the Chesapeake.

This resource for the Osprey is critical and must be restored.

Thank you

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 2:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Matthew Griffiths

Email

mattg7022@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Amid growing concern that Osprey populations along the Eastern seaboard are declining due to a lack of food, I urge the ASMFC to reduce the fishery cap by 50%, a precautionary measure to ensure that menhaden, a key foundation fish and a prime food source for Connecticut's Osprey, are not put in even greater jeopardy.

Even more so now, the numbers show that Osprey and other species that rely on menhaden do not have years longer to wait. This year, Osprey Nation also saw a high number of nest failures and a severe drop in the number of nests that fledged three chicks. Of 679 total nest attempts, 40% failed. Failures include nests where incubation was unsuccessful as well as nests where chicks hatched but did not survive to fledging. Both types of failure can be associated with food stress, although weather, disturbance, predation, inexperience, and other factors can also contribute to unsuccessful nests.

Meanwhile, only 23 nests — less than 6% of all nests — fledged three chicks this year. In previous seasons, up to 20% fell into this category.

Please reduce the fishery cap by 50% to help Connecticut's Osprey!

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 1:43 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

GREGORY Shute

Email

ifishmd@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

As a fishing guide/charter captain and recreational boat salesman for over 15 years, I advocate for reducing the mehaden harvest in the Chesapeake Bay by 50%. The Chesapeake Bay is a vital estuary to sustaining many species that many other jobs outside of Omega Protien rely upon, including mine. The localized depletion over the years has resulted on many ill-effects on the abundance of many fish species and wildlife. I cannot think of one species that is thriving or growing in abundance that relies on upon menhaden as a food source in the Chesapeake Bay as a result. This has had effects on many coastal fisheries as well.

I cannot speak to the overall coastal harvest of menhaden but know that the Chesapeake estuary is too vital to the overall health of many other fisheries. Do not tie the Chesapeake to the coastal harvest either. The Chesapeake should alwasys be evaluated seperately and regularly to ensure abundant food sources for all other species are maintained.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 1:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Janice Wolfkiel

Email

jan@wolfkiel.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I support the reductions in menhaden fishing endorsed by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (50% reduction in cap, 3 quota periods to ensure protection of fish populations during critical months, and evaluation of effectiveness).

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 1:21 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Peter Abdu

Email

remotecaptures@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

ASMFC reports that recreational harvest accounts for only about 1% of Atlantic menhaden landings, meaning that virtually all menhaden harvested are taken by commercial fisheries. Menhaden are a public fishery resource and I believe their management should place greater emphasis on the benefits they provide to the broader public and the marine ecosystem, rather than primarily on their value after commercial harvest.

As a saltwater fisherman, underwater photographer, and biologist, I would like to see more menhaden remain in the ocean. Menhaden are a critical forage species that transfer energy from plankton to larger predators and provide an important food source for species including striped bass, bluefish, tuna, marine mammals, and seabirds. Their value therefore extends far beyond the value of the fish that are commercially harvested.

More abundant menhaden can benefit recreational fisheries, wildlife viewing, marine predators, coastal ecosystems, and the people and businesses that depend on those resources. I would like to see menhaden managed first and foremost for their ecological role as forage and for the broad public benefits that result from healthy and abundant menhaden populations.

A healthy marine food web requires a strong forage base. Menhaden are an important part of that base, and removing them

from the ecosystem has an opportunity cost: every fish harvested for reduction or bait is a fish that is no longer available to support predators and the surrounding ecosystem.

Please manage Atlantic menhaden as the important public resource they are, with greater consideration for the anglers, wildlife, coastal communities, and marine ecosystems that benefit from abundant menhaden, and not primarily for the commercial interests that harvest them for products such as fish meal and fish oil.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 12:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Carl Safina

Email

admin@safinacenter.org

State

New York

Comment

Submitted by: The Safina Center, 80 North Country Road, Setauket, NY 11733

Subject: Recommendations for Addendum II to Amendment 3 of the Atlantic Menhaden Fishery Management Plan.
October 3, 2026
To Atlantic Menhaden Management Board:
The crisis of regionwide menhaden collapse requires the most protective measures on every point. We ask the Commission to implement:
(§3.1, Option C1e). 25,500 mt Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap, as a fixed 13.6% share of the coastwide TAC.
1. (§3.1, Option C2a). Set an upper limit on the Cap of 51,000 mt with no lower limit;
2. (§3.2.1, Option B2). Split the Cap into 3 seasonal quota periods of even length and uneven take, which reduces catch during critical breeding periods for menhaden-reliant species in the Bay;
3. (§3.2.2, Option B). Implement a quota period overage payback with rollover of unused quota within a fishing year, and ensure that rollovers of unused quota transfer from Quota Period 1 to Quota Period 3 to protect other wildlife that rely on menhaden during their breeding seasons (No to Underage Sub Option 1, §3.2.2);
4. (§3.3, Option B). Revisit the Bay Cap every three years, given the uncertainty of menhaden's status in the Bay and ongoing

work to develop a scientifically realistic Bay Cap.
Commentary: ASMFC's most protective Addendum options remain inadequate. Population models should reflect reality. Your menhaden model has been in a crisis of wildly disparate estimates of natural mortality, while the most visible bioindicator (Osprey) is starving wholesale, and recreational and commercial fishermen in the Mid-Atlantic region report widespread menhaden scarcity or absence. These realities falsify the menhaden population model; your model has been essentially worthless.
Your fundamentally flawed model cannot reasonably justify the obvious, ongoing ASMFC-sanctioned destruction of this keystone species that shapes countless people, fish, and other wildlife throughout our region. The 'most important fish in the sea' is most valuable in the sea of the United States–not sent to Canadian salmon farms.

ASMFC has acute social and legal responsibilities to revise the stock assessments using corrected menhaden natural mortality published by Ault & Luo (2026), and to fully incorporate mammals, birds, and a wider variety of fishes into ecological references, so that menhaden can regain their population strength, rebuild, and re-contribute their historic ecological values.

Sincerely,
Dr. Carl Safina
President

Dr. Ben Mirin
Director of Programs

Ault, JS and J Luo. 2026. Investigation of Atlantic menhaden mortality rates,
Fisheries Research 303:107865,

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 12:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Eric Zullo

Email

eric.zullo@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

My name is Eric Zullo and I am a lifelong angler and member of the Rumson Fair Haven Regional HS Fishing Club in Rumson, NJ. I am writing to express my strong support for the most protective and aggressive conservation options presented in Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden.

As a stakeholder concerned with the health of our coastal ecosystems, I urge the Commission to implement a 50% reduction to the current Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap. Menhaden are a vital forage species, and industrial-scale reduction fishing in the Bay severely impacts local ecosystems, depriving critical predators like striped bass and ospreys of their primary food source.
Furthermore, I support establishing strict seasonal quota periods to prevent heavy harvest concentrations during critical summer months, alongside robust periodic review provisions to continuously adapt management based on localized depletion data.

Please prioritize ecosystem-based management and approve the most restrictive options to safeguard the Chesapeake Bay

and our coastwide marine life.

Thank you for your consideration.
Eric Zullo

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 11:54 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Phil Reynolds

Email

philreynolds60@hotmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Save Manhattan

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 11:38 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lawrence O'Brien

Email

Lobrien16475@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC):
I am writing as a Maryland resident who has lived in St. Mary's County since 1952, and I have developed a deep personal connection to the Chesapeake Bay. I am an avid sailor, boater, angler and conservationist, and I am someone who spends considerable time on and around the Bay. I am also deeply interested in the wildlife that depends upon this remarkable ecosystem, particularly osprey, striped bass, sharks, whales, and other species whose survival is tied directly or indirectly to a healthy forage base.
I strongly support a 50 percent reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons annually. I also strongly support establishing seasonal quota periods for menhaden so that harvest is distributed throughout the year rather than concentrated in an intense summer fishing window.
The Chesapeake Bay is facing an ecological crisis that should not be minimized or postponed. Declining productivity, widespread osprey nest failures, and continued concerns about the condition of the striped bass population are warning signs that demand a precautionary approach to the management of one of the Bay's most important forage fish - menhaden.
Menhaden are not merely another commercial commodity. They are a foundational component of the Chesapeake Bay food web. They provide critical forage for striped bass, osprey, bluefish, weakfish, dolphins, and numerous other predators. Removing very large quantities of menhaden from the Bay during the period when they are most concentrated and most

biologically important deserves particularly careful scrutiny.
The scale and timing of the reduction fishery are especially troubling. More than 100 million pounds of menhaden can be removed under the existing Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap. When that harvest is concentrated into a relatively short summer period, the ecological effect is not simply a matter of the annual tonnage. Where and when the fish are removed matters.
An intense summer harvest can create localized depletion at precisely the time when menhaden are serving as forage for other species. It also potentially deprives recreational anglers, commercial watermen, charter operators, and the broader coastal tourism economy of access to a shared public resource. These competing interests deserve meaningful consideration in the management process.
I am particularly concerned about allowing an annual quota to be treated as though the timing of harvest is irrelevant. It is not. A fish removed from the Bay in June is not ecologically equivalent to that same fish being harvested months later. The Bay's predators have seasonal feeding requirements, and the availability of forage during critical periods can matter greatly to their survival and reproductive success.
For that reason, I urge the Commission to establish strict seasonal quota periods that distribute the allowable harvest more evenly throughout the year and prevent the reduction fishery from concentrating an extraordinary volume of harvest into the summer months. Seasonal management would provide a more precautionary approach and would better recognize the fact that Chesapeake Bay is a dynamic ecosystem rather than simply another geographic allocation within a coastwide fishery.
There is also an important management issue that deserves attention. The Commission's coastwide menhaden assessment does not provide the same level of quantitative information about menhaden abundance and availability specifically within Chesapeake Bay. That uncertainty argues for caution—not for assuming that the Bay can safely sustain the maximum allowable harvest.
The Chesapeake Bay belongs to all of us. It belongs to the watermen who have made their living here, the recreational fishermen who pursue its species, the sailors and boaters who enjoy its waters, the communities whose economies depend upon it, and the wildlife that has no voice in these proceedings. Menhaden management should reflect that broader public interest.
I respectfully urge the Commission to:
1. Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons per year.
2. Establish firm seasonal quota periods for menhaden.
3. **Prevent excessive concentration of reduction harvest during the summer months.
4. Apply a precautionary approach in light of ecological uncertainty and the importance of menhaden as forage.
5. Give meaningful consideration to the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the Bay's broader tourism economy.
I have spent years watching, enjoying, and caring about the Chesapeake Bay. I have seen firsthand what makes this ecosystem extraordinary, and I am increasingly concerned about the signs that its productivity and resilience are being strained.
We should not wait until the consequences are unmistakable before acting.
The prudent course is to reduce the intensity of the reduction fishery now, protect menhaden as a critical forage resource, and distribute harvest in a manner that gives the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem a better opportunity to sustain the wildlife and fisheries that depend upon it.
Thank you for your consideration and for your responsibility to future generations of Chesapeake Bay users and stewards.
Sincerely,
Lawrence P "Larry" O'Brien
St. Mary's County, Maryland

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 11:33 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lisa Swain

Email

lisauswain1@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Menhaden are one of the most important fish on the AtlanticCoast. They are a vital food source for Osprey and other sea-bird species and fish along our shoreline. They are also a key forage fish species that many of our bait-fisheries, coastal communities, and small businesses rely on. The Osprey population has struggled in recent years. Research has shown that a healthy menhaden population is critical to the Osprey's survival as well as the health of the entire Chesapeake Bay.

As a concerned stakeholder, I want to thank you for the opportunity to comment on Draft Addendum II. I support the following management option.

**3.2: Option B2. I support the establishment of three quota periods for the Bay Cap at a 25/25/50% harvest distribution percentage per quota period. This will help reduce food competition for birds like osprey during the most vulnerable times of their life cycles.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 11:24 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michael Coughlin

Email

michaeljcoughlin68@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Members of the Board,

I support the Board implementing the recommendations contained within the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II. There is sufficient evidence and support for further restrictions on the amount of reduction fishery harvest permitted in the Chesapeake Bay.
I support Virginia's businesses, but one company should not be permitted to over-harvest the menhaden to the detriment of other users and the ecological health of the Bay. The current restrictions are insufficient and illogical, and the proposed management program is a step in the right direction.
As for the specific additional restrictions, I defer to professional staff for their recommendation, but it must accomplish the goal of restoring the menhaden population in the Bay to a sustainable level.
Osprey chicks are not receiving sufficient food because the menhaden population is too low. The striped bass population is down. And the population of menhaden in the Bay is down.
Something must be done to restore the menhaden population to a health level.

Sincerely,

Michael Coughlin
2506 Terrett Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 11:21 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore CBES

Email

info@cbes.org

State

Virginia

Comment

CBES supports the largest reduction, by at least 50% in 2027. We also support the proposal to implement quota periods for the harvest, to distribute the menhaden harvest throughout the year and reduce the impacts of concentrated removals by the menhaden reduction fishery.
CBES is a nonprofit organization serving the Eastern Shore of Virginia since 1988. Our mission is to promote balanced growth, enhance the quality of life for all Eastern Shore citizens, and preserve the region's cultural and natural resources.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 11:19 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

David Yates

Email

pogyone@aol.com

State

North Carolina

Comment

I have been a Menhaden fisherman full time since 1974. I began in 1971 during school vacations. My daddy was in the business before I was born. Although I've been fishing the Gulf for awhile now my career began fishing out of Beaufort, NC. I guess my strongest argument against farther restrictions on the Bay Area would be six Omega Protein Fishing boats and two bait boats can never hurt the stock in a million years. That's eight two purse boat rigs on the entire East Coast. Common sense says that few boats can not hurt a fishery that has thrived out of Reedville for over 100 years. Thank You, David Yates retired menhaden Captain

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 11:13 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

William Cuthbertson

Email

wjc3721@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Please limit commercial fishing for Menhaden and help the Ospreys

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 11:02 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

DAVID BENTLEY

Email

davew5161@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

It's extremely important to cut back on menhaden annual harvest. We need stricter quotas and caps. The entire eco system relies on this precious resource. DO NOT OVERHARVEST. It's time to cut back. We need drastic measures now.

Do not wait until we lose it all. The signs are in place, do not ignore the warnings!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 10:35 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Craig Nuckles

Email

clntmhs@gmll.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I have lived on Timberneck Creek for 10 years.
I watch the water daily.
Last summer, the osprey failed to produce a hatching. This year, one was produced, but died.
Seeing porpoise used to be almost a daily delight. This year I may have seen them 4 times.
There's no food.
Before this year, I could listen to fish jumping in the pier lights. That has virtually stopped. There's no food.
I urge you to substantially reduce menhaden limits and strictly enforce them.
In the early'90's you could virtually walk across the recreational fishing boats on the York River. Now, you're lucky to see 4.
There's no food!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 10:11 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Donald Blue

Email

donaldblue@outlook.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Dear Commissioners:

I am a process engineer at the Omega Protein reduction plant in Reedville — the last menhaden reduction plant on the Atlantic coast. I am not an industry spokesman and I was not asked to write this; these are my own comments. I don't fish for a living, so I'll confine myself to what I can speak to with certainty: the effect of Draft Addendum II's timing structures on shore-side plant operations, and the record you already have in front of you.

On the cap (Section 3.1). The current 51,000 mt cap already represents a 53 percent reduction from the 109,020 mt set as a precaution in 2006, and Bay landings have come in under the cap every year of its existence except 2019. Bay harvest also counts against Virginia's state allocation, and the Board has already cut the coastwide TAC 20 percent for 2026. A further one-time cut of 10 to 50 percent (Option B) would be pure precaution — not a response to any finding about the Bay — taken while the research this Board says it needs is finally funded and underway: $2 million to VIMS from Virginia, a $2.5 million federal earmark, and an industry-supported study already in progress. Any move below Option A should wait for those results. Option C, which links the cap to the coastwide TAC, should be treated as what it is: a standing, automatic cut that transmits every future TAC vote straight into the Bay without a separate Bay-specific finding.

On quota periods (Section 3.2.1). I don't dispute the Board's premise that concentrating over half of Bay landings in a six-week midsummer window, as happened in 2023 and 2024, is a working hypothesis worth investigating. Your Plan Development Team said plainly its analysis was inconclusive at the resolution evaluated — and it also could not rule out that the concentrated 2024 harvest affected upper-Bay availability. That is exactly why the funded research matters, and why I accept the Board may act on timing. But the structure chosen should not quietly become a deeper cut. An option allocating half the cap to the final period (Option B2, 50 percent across September 13–November 19) allocates the quota to the weeks when both weather and the menhaden's own seasonal movements make Bay harvest least reliable. Quota that goes uncaught in the Bay is not conserved coastwide — the same fish are still taken against the coastwide TAC once they leave the Bay, and the Bay fishery absorbs the loss. If the Board wants a real reduction, it should make that case under 3.1 and weigh it honestly. If it wants to moderate timing, Option B3's uneven periods — which preserve a genuine midsummer operating window — are the least damaging structure on offer. And the Commission's own presentation on this addendum acknowledges that seasonal restrictions may constrain periods of high catch efficiency and limit processing throughput. Let me make that concrete from the plant floor. Menhaden is among the most perishable raw materials there is — landed in the morning, running through the plant the same day. Our schedules, crew rotations and maintenance planning are built around a predictable, midsummer-centered season. Forced idling in good months followed by maximum-rate operation in hurricane season does not average out; it stacks reliability risk on an irreplaceable plant. If periods are adopted, quota-period paybacks (Section 3.2.2, Option B) should be rejected — they add pressure to fish marginal weather days to avoid next-year forfeitures, the opposite of the safety margin crews are trained around.

On the osprey question, some honesty from my side. I won't tell the Board there is nothing wrong in the Bay. Peer-reviewed work from William & Mary's Center for Conservation Biology links starving chicks in menhaden-dependent areas to prey shortage, and the recent multi-state survey found only about 28 percent of saltwater nesting areas producing enough young. What I will point out is that the same researchers name two possible causes: prey quantity, and menhaden entering the Bay later in the breeding season. Our own season started about five weeks late in both 2023 and 2024 — meaning that in those springs, pound-net catch rates were below average before the reduction fishery had put a net in the water. What's driving the shift — environment, abundance, distribution, or some combination — is precisely what the funded studies are designed to untangle. Punishing the Bay fishery's annual tonnage for a timing problem the coastwide cap cannot fix is not the tool that fits.

Reedville has processed menhaden for well over a century. What the Board decides in November determines whether the last reduction plant on this coast keeps a workable operating pattern — not whether the fish get caught somewhere else, but whether they're caught by the people of one small town. Please keep the cap at status quo, keep any timing structure workable, and let the science decide the rest on the three-year revisit clock.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 9:58 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Robert Royer

Email

robert.royer@verizon.net

State

Maryland

Comment

Pulling out the bottom of the food chain and pretending that it will be okay is beyond stupid. Don't let corporate greed and their associated hush money destroy the Bay and all of the life that depends on the menhaden!! Be responsible to the citizens who own the Bay and not Omega Protein who are leeches!!
Stand up for what is right - tell Omega Protein to LEAVE THE MENHADEN IN THE BAY!!!!!!!!!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 9:19 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Cecil Kay

Email

janeandjim@charter.net

State

Virginia

Comment

Ocean Harvesters and other commercial fishing endeavors are willing to mine fish populations but make no contributions to maintaining fish populations. These endeavors should be shut down until historical populations can be maintained.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 9:11 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Malia Hale

Email

maliainva@hotmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

As a raptor rehabilitator, I have seen alarming changes first hand to the Chesapeake Bay's Osprey population. Juvenile Osprey are suffering from starvation from the lack of Menhaden. The past three years have been catastrophic to Osprey. Now is the time to take strong action to ensure the menhaden population is healthy and can support all life on the Bay.

I support reducing the cap by 50 percent in 2027 and implementing quota periods to more effectively distribute reduction fishing pressure throughout the season.

Specifically, I support the following options in Draft Addendum II:

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount: I support option C1e that would reduce the Bay Cap by 50 percent and limits it to 13.6 percent of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC). Also, I support option C2a which sets an upper limit of 51,000mt for the Bay Cap, which is the current level.

3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution: I support option B2 which establishes three even length quota periods for the Bay Cap, but distributes harvest 25 percent in period 1, 25 percent in period 2, and 50 percent into period 3. I also support option B

which establishes quota period overage payback and rollover of unused quota within a fishing year.

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision: I support option B Revisit Provision to reassess the efficacy of these new management tools every 3 years.

Thank you

Malia Hale

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 9:05 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Suzanne Shoemaker

Email

owlmoonrc@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Founded in 2002, Owl Moon Raptor Center is a state and federally licensed wildlife rehabilitation center specializing in birds of prey. Our mission is to rescue and rehabilitate injured, sick, and orphaned birds of prey and return them to the wild in sound, athletic condition, and to educate the public about raptors in the process. Owl Moon is located in Boyds, Maryland and serves the entire state of Maryland.
Over the years, Owl Moon has treated hundreds of Osprey that have come in sick or injured. Typically, young Osprey are admitted to Owl Moon after encountering trouble while learning to fly. Returning a nestling to its nest, or placing it in a foster nest after injuries are treated, was common and largely successful. However, beginning three summers ago in 2023, an alarming number of juvenile Osprey were admitted suffering from starvation. In 2024, the number of Osprey admissions doubled, going from 48 in 2023, to 93 in 2024, with 66% of the juveniles in emaciated body condition. Many of these juveniles were extremely lethargic and weak, often dying within 24 hours of admission. Many others died after 3-4 days, suffering from refeeding syndrome.
In 2025 and 2026, Osprey admissions declined overall, with an unusually low number of juveniles admitted. Based on calls received and outreach to on-the-ground scientists, we believe many juveniles unfortunately died while still in the nest, without ever making it into care and rehabilitation, and survival rate of those admitted to Owl Moon was low.
A recent study from the William and Mary Center for Conservation Biology noted that 2026 was the worst Osprey season they

have ever documented. Our numbers this summer are consistent with those findings. Juveniles made up almost half of the total patients and of those juveniles, 70% were emaciated.

It is clear from our perspective at Owl Moon that the Osprey population in the Chesapeake Bay is crashing. Juveniles are either dying in the wild or soon after they arrive for care. They are too weak from malnutrition to survive. Osprey depend on menhaden after returning from South America, to prepare for the breeding season. Once chicks have hatched, menhaden become critically important to their growth and survival. It is clear from the Center for Conservation Biology's report that those Osprey depending on menhaden as a primary food source are unable to properly feed their young, and as a result nest failure is dramatically increasing not only in the Chesapeake Bay, but also along the east coast. This is a crisis, and immediate measures must be taken now.

The proposed Addendum by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, to reduce and reschedule industrial menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay, is necessary now. The Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery cap should be reduced to zero, to properly address the crisis happening now in the Bay. In addition, creating quota periods would distribute the menhaden harvest throughout the fishing season and allow more opportunities for Osprey to have access to menhaden in critical ecological periods such as nesting and fledgling seasons.

The Chesapeake Bay is home to the largest population of Osprey in the world. There is consensus that the population is in serious decline. Now is not the time to simply fund more studies or make a less-than-meaningful cut to the cap. If strong action is not taken now, scientists predict the population could decline by half in the next 10 years. We no longer have time to wait.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 9:04 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jeanne Kinnard

Email

Jeannepkinnard@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

As a concerned stakeholder, I want to thank you for the opportunity to comment on Draft Addendum II. I support the following management option.

3.1: Options C1e and C2a. I support a precautionary reduction in the Bay Cap by 50% of the current 51,000 metric tons for the reduction fishery. This will help increase the number of menhaden available in the Chesapeake Bay, an important nursery for Atlantic menhaden.

3.2: Option B2. I support the establishment of three quota periods for the Bay Cap at a 25/25/50% harvest distribution percentage per quota period. This will help reduce food competition for birds like osprey during the most vulnerable times of their life cycles.

3.3: Option B. I support reviewing the Chesapeake Bay Cap every 3 years. This gives the Commission the ability to plan and react to changing conditions and new information.

Thank you for caring and taking your part in saving these magnificent birds.
Jeanne Kinnard

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 8:59 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Robin Todd

Email

robin.todd@mdbirds.org

State

Maryland

Comment

As behalf of the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) and our 2600 members, I urge the ASMFC to choose the maximum reduction in the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery cap for the Bay, preferably a complete cessation of the menhaden harvest by purse net factory fishing to allow its population to recover.

Failing this we favor;
Sub Option B4: 50% reduction, resulting in a Bay Cap of 25,500 mt

We are very concerned about that decline in the ospreys and predator fish and deplore the undue deference given to the reduction fishing business at the expense of the Bay ecosystem.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 8:54 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Suzanne Shoemaker

Email

owlmoonrc@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

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A recent study from the William and Mary Center for Conservation Biology noted that 2026 was the worst Osprey season they

have ever documented. Our numbers this summer are consistent with those findings. Juveniles made up almost half of the total patients and of those juveniles, 70% were emaciated.

It is clear from our perspective at Owl Moon that the Osprey population in the Chesapeake Bay is crashing. Juveniles are either dying in the wild or soon after they arrive for care. They are too weak from malnutrition to survive. Osprey depend on menhaden after returning from South America, to prepare for the breeding season. Once chicks have hatched, menhaden become critically important to their growth and survival. It is clear from the Center for Conservation Biology's report that those Osprey depending on menhaden as a primary food source are unable to properly feed their young, and as a result nest failure is dramatically increasing not only in the Chesapeake Bay, but also along the east coast. This is a crisis, and immediate measures must be taken now.

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The Chesapeake Bay is home to the largest population of Osprey in the world. There is consensus that the population is in serious decline. Now is not the time to simply fund more studies or make a less-than-meaningful cut to the cap. If strong action is not taken now, scientists predict the population could decline by half in the next 10 years. We no longer have time to wait.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 8:30 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lisa Matteson

Email

llmatteson@yahoo.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Please we need limits on the fishing of Menhaden immediately! We have worked so hard in Chesapeake Bay and all its tributaries to maintain and improve the Osprey population and now with their food source diminishing they will not recover!!!! Something needs to be done to prevent the large companies fishing the main source of the Ospreys food supply on the East Coast. We need everyones help now.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 8:18 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michael Flanagan

Email

mjflanagan2@hotmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Bunker are a public resource that needs to be shared among numerous users and as a publicly owned resource, highest value use should control. Grinding up the vast majority of this "most important fish in the ocean" by one foreign company employing a few hundred people to create something readily available elsewhere is a very low value use of this community owned resource. And selfish. It is yesterday's low value industry using today's technology to deplete all of our fish.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 7:59 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Shirley McCarthy

Email

shirley.mccarthy@yale.edu

State

Connecticut

Comment

Menhaden are one of the most important fish on the AtlanticCoast. They are a vital food source for Osprey and other sea-bird species and fish along our shoreline. They are also a key forage fish species that many of our bait-fisheries, coastal communities, and small businesses rely on. The Osprey population has struggled in recent years. Research has shown that a healthy menhaden population is critical to the Osprey's survival as well as the health of the entire Chesapeake Bay.

As a concerned stakeholder, I want to thank you for the opportunity to comment on Draft Addendum II. I support the following management option.

3.1: Options C1e and C2a. I support a precautionary reduction in the Bay Cap by 50% of the current 51,000 metric tons for the reduction fishery. This will help increase the number of menhaden available in the Chesapeake Bay, an important nursery for Atlantic menhaden.

**3.2: Option B2. I support the establishment of three quota periods for the Bay Cap at a 25/25/50% harvest distribution percentage per quota period. This will help reduce food competition for birds like osprey during the most vulnerable times of their life cycles.

3.3: Option B. I support reviewing the Chesapeake Bay Cape every 3 years. This gives the Commission the ability to plan and react to changing conditions and new information.

Thank you for helping these birds.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 7:52 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Susan Leonard

Email

sclabq@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

We must help save the Osprey! I support Option 2, 25/25/50 per cent quotas for fishing Menhadden especially during Ospreys' breeding and other periods when they are most vulnerable

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 11:16 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Gary Lowe

Email

goslowlowe@me.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Anyone who's ever been on the bay can see there's a fraction of life left compared to even 5 years ago,never mind about the good ol days. Hardly ever do we see the birds working schools of fish . Nor can you count on catching striped bass coming out of the York river. The only menhaden you see are when foreign owned fleets are scooping them up EVERY DAY in the Chesapeake bay because They are allowed hundreds of thousands of metric tons of one of the most valuable resources of the food chain that Virginia has . No group or individual or lobbyist should be granted this right to pillage and rape a watershed of its most valuable link on which multiple species survive on . It's not the recreational sportsman that needs restrictions , it's the million ton guys that need microscopic scrutiny . Thank you for your attention to this matter. Gary Lowe. Yorktown Va.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 9:36 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Tom Milan

Email

tom@vahome.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I just want to say I fish the lower bay regularly. There are times the bay seems so full of life with fish everywhere then the omega fleet comes through for a few weeks and its like a dead zone.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 9:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Nicole Vesey

Email

veseyn005@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Dear Members of the Board,
I am writing to you as a lifelong resident of Connecticut and the East Coast who grew up loving the wildlife and waters around us that we all cherish. I urge you to pass the Addendum that will reduce the current fisheries cap. We must do our part as a humanity to support the wildlife around us and protecting such fragile ecosystems not only for the wildlife and vegetation that enriches our lives but to ensure a healthy future for us all. If things remain the way they are, we may see further devastating species depletion and further ripple effects. Please do the right thing. We have the chance to do the right thing and help ensure a bright and healthy future.

Thank you for your time,
Nicole Vesey

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 9:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Doug hoyer

Email

22dhoyer@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

We need to perserve this threatened population that supports the entire food chain of game fish. Overfishing, disease, and pollution puts the population at greater risk. You have the ability to control one of these factors and a duty to be a steward of our resources.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 7:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Eileen Dunn

Email

eileenbd@me.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Menhaden are one of the most important fish on the AtlanticCoast. They are vital not just as a food source to the birds and fish that callthe coast home, but also as a key forage fish species that many of our baitfisheries, coastal communities, and small businesses rely on. The Ospreypopulation has struggled in recent years, and it has become clear that ahealthy menhaden population is critical to the health of the entire ChesapeakeBay ecosystem.

As a concerned stakeholder, I want to thank you for theopportunity to comment on Draft Addendum II. I support the following managementoptions:

3.1: Options C1e and C2a. I support a precautionaryreduction in the Bay Cap by 50% of the current 51,000 metric tons for thereduction fishery. This will help increase the number of menhaden available inthe Chesapeake Bay, an important nursery for Atlantic menhaden.

3.2: Option B2. I support the establishment of three quotaperiods for the Bay Cap at a 25/25/50% harvest distribution percentage perquota period. This will help reduce food competition for birds like ospreyduring the most vulnerable times of their life cycles.

3.3: Option B. I support reviewing the Chesapeake Bay Capevery 3 years. This gives the Commission the ability to plan and react tochanging conditions and new information.

These options best support the Chesapeake Bay and ensure thehealth of our birds, people, and planet.

Sincerely,
Eileen F. Dunn

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 7:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Isaiah Wilson

Email

iwo56955@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I want to support ATLANTIC MENHADEN ADDENDUM II we need our Atlantic menhaden for recreational fishing,environment and many other species need to survive I give full support

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 7:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

janet messick

Email

janetmessick@sbcglobal.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

I am urging you to protect the osprey and menhaden populations by adopting substantially stronger, ecosystem-based management of menhaden by adopting a 50% reduction in the industrial harvest, or by totally ending industrial menhaden reduction fishing along the East Coast or by closing the Chesapeake Bay to industrial harvesting until independent science demonstrates that the fishery is not harming the ecosystem.
Menhaden are the most important fish in our coastal waters. As filter feeders, they consume phytoplankton and algae, helping to improve water quality. They are also a foundational food source for many iconic Atlantic species, including striped bass, red drum, bluefish, ospreys, pelicans, dolphins, and whales.
This year's breeding season has been devastating for ospreys along the Atlantic seaboard. Researchers, wildlife rehabilitators, and conservation groups have documented widespread nesting failures, with many chicks starving, adults struggling to find enough food, and some parents abandoning their nests because they cannot feed both themselves and their young.
Please act and reduce the menhaden fishing quota by 50%.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 5:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jennie Bentz

Email

jenniebentz@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I grew up sailing and fishing on the Chesapeake Bay and continue to do so to this day. The only thing is in recent years - the fish are not plentiful, my recreational fishing hook remains empty, and the channel makers I pass along the way are empty of osprey. Please bring this Addendum II to fruition and make real efforts to implement commercial overharvesting and provide protection to Chesapeake Bay wildlife in and above its waters. Please do so for the wildlife and future generations who should know what its like to catch a fish in the Bay or see an Osprey capture its prey.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 5:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Alisa Anania

Email

alisaanania@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

It is my hope that the fisheries commission will do something about managing Chesapeake. The current policies and overfishing created fish large enough to have severe impact on the Delta population population offspring population and. Although we need more studies, there's enough evidence of the case.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 5:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Shannon McDonald

Email

spotts5420@gmail.com

State

Florida

Comment

As a biologist, I can attest to the importance of protecting our coastal ecosystems...both for the animals and plants that live there, and also for us! Please, do everything in your power to protect the ospreys and the fish they rely on for their very survival. No effort is too small or too great. What we do to the web of life, we do to ourselves.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 4:52 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ronald Tate

Email

the2tates@verizon.net

State

Maryland

Comment

While there may not yet be scientific evidence establishing a direct link between menhaden abundance and the decline in numbers of numerous species, the evidence is clear that the health of the Chesapeake Ecosystem is in serious trouble. The historical record of our abuse of the priceless resource is also very clear. We are at a critical point in the health of the Bay. It would seem prudent to place stricter limits on harvest of menhaden until the situation can be investigated, rather than wait until the entire fishery has collapsed to decide to act.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 4:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Cheryl Lumsden

Email

clumsden@outlook.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Stop allowing reduction fishing in the bay, leaving the bay as a nursery for menhaden as nature dictates. Doing otherwise will eventually lead to the fall of the Chesapeake Bay. My question is why is Virginia the only state left on the East coast that allows this type of fishing? All other East coast states have banned mass fishing and reduction fishing based on studies. Are they all wrong? There is only one reason why reduction fishing is allowed in Virginia...money. Considering the location of a processing plant minutes from the 3 mile limit for reduction fishing Omega Protein (Cooke, Inc.) must be saving millions. So who gets their savings? How much does the state get? Have you considered the income the state COULD be receiving for tourism from anglers, nature lovers, boaters etc. What happens when Omega pulls out of Reedville because the fish are no longer there? Don't think that will happen? Think again! Do the right thing...push them to the Atlantic with regulations that will be upheld and save the bay for future generations. If you don't then better hurry and change Virginia's state slogan!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 4:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

WILLIAM CAVERS

Email

wcavers@ctaudubon.org

State

Connecticut

Comment

Bill Cavers, Interim Executive Director, Connecticut Audubon Society
Summary of Testimony given to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission on September 16, 2026

My name is Bill Cavers. I am the Interim Executive Director of the Connecticut Audubon Society. We are headquartered in Fairfield, Connecticut. We have nearly 9,000 members, and 6 regional centers across the state – including 3 on the coast. I'm testifying to you tonight to urge you to adopt the 50% Bay Cap reduction. Why? For the most precaution.

Our Viewpoint
We are not fish experts, but we're committed Conservationists and we have a particular focus on Ospreys. Since 2014, we've run our Osprey Nation Program in partnership with CTDEEP. It monitors the size, productivity and health of Connecticut's Osprey population. Approximately 450 volunteer stewards monitor nearly 1,000 nests each season. Last year, our program recorded its lowest breeding success ever. This year is looking even worse.

Matt Joyce, our Conservation Science Manager, testified to our specific findings. But from the Executive Director perspective, I would just like to impress upon you how deeply our organization and its members care about our Ospreys and this year's

alarming breeding season. You yourself can witness this care online:

1) We set up an “Osprey Cam” at our Milford Point Coastal Center this year and linked it to our website. Since March, it has received over 28,000 views! This surpasses, by far, anything else we've posted on the website.

2) We set up a now independently run Facebook page, Osprey Stewards of Connecticut. On it you’ll find our volunteers posting endearing pictures and videos of their nests and charges. The posts reveal heart-felt care for these beautiful birds and their place on the Connecticut shoreline.

Our Advocacy
To be precautionary, to acknowledge the key role that Menhaden play in supporting Connecticut’s Osprey populations, we urge you to take the following decisive action:

- Adopt Sub Option B4: a one-time 50% reduction in the Bay Cap
- Adopt Quota Period B2: 25-25-50% allocations to delay seasonal harvests

On behalf of Connecticut Audubon's members and our Osprey Nation stewards, thank you for listening.

Bill Cavers
Interim Executive Director
Connecticut Audubon Society

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 4:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Deborah Glick

Email

glickd@nyassembly.gov

State

New York

Comment

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Members,

Menhaden are an important part of the ecosystem of the Chesapeake Bay, as a food source for birds and other fish, and as a key forage fish species that are relied on by costal communities. Ensuring the health of the menhaden population is important for many, particularly the struggling Osprey population.

The ASMFC's focus on utilizing ecological reference points (ERP) to manage the menhaden population is appreciated, as is your interest in hearing from the public on Draft Addendum II.

I support the following options:

3.1: Options C1e and C2a. This precautionary approach would reduce the Bay Cap by 50% of the current 51,000 metric tons, which would recognize the importance of the menhaden population to the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

3.2: Option B2. To help reduce food competition for birds like osprey during the most vulnerable times of their life cycles, I

support the establishment of three quota periods for the Bay Cap at a 25/25/50% harvest distribution percentage per quota period.

3.3: Option B. Reviewing the Chesapeake Bay Cap every three years will give the ASMFC the information with the ability to plan and react to changing conditions with updated information.

I believe these options will optimally support a healthy Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, which is what is best for not just the fish, birds, and other animals, but the people and the Earth.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Deborah J. Glick
New York State Assemblymember, District 66
Chair, NYS Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 3:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Thomas Heyer

Email

theyer@verizon.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

I support the 50% cap on the menhaden catch and quotas to distribute the catch to better promote the health of the menhaden population. Much more must be done to promote the restoration of this species in the Chesapeake and through-out the Mid-Atlantic. 60 years ago the waters off New Jersey were black with vast schools of menhaden. Today they have all but disappeared. The efforts to restore the Chesapeake fishery should be the start of an all-out effort to bring this population back and the many other species that depend on it.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 1:33 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

James Granahan

Email

nancygranahan@yahoo.com

State

Maryland

Comment

The menhaden reduction limits need to be reduc

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 1:27 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Brady Lybarger

Email

scallopshackfarms@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I am both a commercial and recreational fishermen. I realize the importance of having a sustainable fishery that over harvesting dosent occur so we don't put ourselves out of buisness. But sometimes it's a hard choice if you have to protect what also affects the financial decisions for every day living.
But I'm a firm believer that taking the necessary harder cuts now will pay off sooner than later and kicking the can down the road. Rebuilding at a higher stock than waiting until the bare minimum level will ultimately come back sooner. I don't have enough info to say what percentage has to get cut back but I think taking the firmer approach will hurt now but the benefit will out perform in the long run.
Hoping for a healthy fishery soon.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 1:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Susan Haynie

Email

hayniesusan1@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I am 100% against any more cuts, quotas, or limits to the menhaden fishing industry located in Reedville, VA.
Doing so, would be a horrible travesty to our small town, our economy and our jobs!
Our industry and residents have been harassed by these sport fishing groups, for decades, who see no limits to close down a 148 year industry that is being managed by many agencies with quotas and limits. The amount of hate, misinformation and lies in articles, magazines and social media has been abundant.
Their latest ploy is saying the menhaden are overfished and the osprey are hungry. The bald eagles, which are no longer endangered, play a huge part in the demise of the osprey chicks. They are seen scooping up the babies and stealing the nests. The adults move to new locations and are seen healthy in new areas where they relocate.
The environmental groups, who are in this “close Omega down” campaign don’t talk at all about the sewage dumped into our rivers and streams, how many new properties are built near the water with run off resulting. They try to blame everything on Omega so they can get more money for their organizations, spewing misinformation by creating some crisis while not addressing others.
Omega Protein/Ocean Harvesters are great stewards to the communities, offer good paying jobs, health insurance, 401k plans, educational aid and a family atmosphere for their workers.
Many generations have worked with the fishing industry as Captains, Mates, Pilots, Bosons, crew, fish spotters, plant employees, and office personnel.
My father-in-law was a Captain, my husband a vessel Chief Engineers, my son a boiler operator, my granddaughter a new

employee this summer. Our neighbors were captains. Now their grandchildren are fishing, plane spotters,etc.
I retired in March, 2025 after 49 years in the office, shipping meal, oil and solubles, accounts payable, Quality Control Lab, and the last 25 years keeping records for the many agencies that manage the fisheries.
It is sickening to see the lies and misinformation these groups say about my past work family.
In the meantime, while waiting for the new investigation about the menhaden fishing situation, leave everything as is until science proves there is a problem!
I was glad you all made the trip to Heathsville to hear the heartfelt testimonies and observations from those hardworking men and women who call this company their work family. Reedville is truly a gem and the fishing factory is the reason behind this town's success.
Susan D. Haynie
Reedville, VA

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 1:13 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Peter Mohlin

Email

pmohlin@gmail.com

State

Maine

Comment

My name is Peter Mohlin and I am a recreational saltwater fisherman from Maine commenting on the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II. I support the following options under this draft Addendum II:

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Amount
Sub Option B4 – a 50% reduction in the current Bay Cap, resulting in a Bay Cap of 25,500 mt.

3.2.1. Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period
Option B1 – Even Length & Even Harvest.

3.2.2 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period Overages and Underages
Underage Sub Option 1 – an underage in Quota Period 1 would be split evenly and rolled over to Quota Periods 2 and 3.

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision
Option B – The Chesapeake Bay Cap will be reviewed at least once every three years.

Please do the right thing and enact measures to protect this valuable fishery so all stakeholders can sustainably enjoy this resource.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 12:30 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Earl Berkley

Email

elberkley26@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

At one time there was over Twenty Menhaden Factories on the East Coast. North Carolina banned Menhaden Factories years ago. Now there only one left. If closing nineteen factories and shutting down fishing for Menhaden in North Carolina haven't helped. Then I don't think changing the Quota is going to help anything. Something not yet determined is affecting the Menhaden population.
I hope someone figures it out.....

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 12:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Greg Decker

Email

gregdecker041@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission:
As a resident of Niantic, Connecticut, I am the co-founder of Pandion Partners, a volunteer organization dedicated to repairing/replacing aging and weathered nesting platforms. I strongly advocate for reducing the Chesapeake Bay Atlantic menhaden fishery cap by 50%.

I have been involved with osprey restoration in southeastern Connecticut since 1974, erecting 30 artificial nesting platforms and having participated in the CT-DEEP osprey banding efforts until 2014. I have witnessed both their recovery and their recent decline.

The recent reduction of the Connecticut osprey productivity is alarming. At Great Island in Old Lyme, 37 Osprey chicks fledged in 2024, 27 in 2025, and only 5 in 2026. Statewide, reported nest failures through August 1 also increased substantially. These declines should be viewed as an important warning about the availability of prey in our coastal ecosystem. Ospreys are highly visible indicators of marine ecosystem health, and declining reproductive success deserves a precautionary response. Menhaden are not simply a commercial resource. They are a critical forage species supporting Ospreys, striped bass, bluefish, and many other predators. Removing large quantities of menhaden from the food web reduces the prey available to osprey during the breeding season.
I urge the Commission to reduce the Chesapeake Bay menhaden harvest cap by 50%. Maintaining a larger menhaden

population will provide a greater margin of safety for ospreys and the broader marine ecosystem.
As a Connecticut resident who has personally witnessed changes in our local osprey population, I believe we should act now rather than wait until further declines occur.
Thank you for considering my comment.
Sincerely,
Greg Decker
Pandion Partners
Southeastern Connecticut

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 11:46 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jonathan Rudnick

Email

JONR@JONRUDLAW.COM

State

New Jersey

Comment

The fishery is in dire straights, in 5 years the Osprey and the Fish (ALL) population will completely collapse and we will all be in real trouble and those profiting will only move on and leave the mess to fix after it is too late:

Lets us be smart here and lets share in the benefits of the Menhaden- as this is a real option.

In response to the options contained Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II, the Hi-Mar Striper Club selects and endorses the following:

• Bay Cap Amount: Sub-Option B4 – a 50% reduction resulting in a 25,500 mt cap
• Quota Periods: Option B1 – even length periods with evenly distributed harvest.
• Linking the Bay Cap to Total TAC: – Option C1e. – 50% Reduction linking the Bay Cap to Coastwide TAC (25,500mt – 2027)
• Underage Provisions: Underage Provisions Sub-Option 1 -roll Period 1 underages evenly into Periods 2 and 3.
• Revisit Provision: Option B – revisit the Bay Cap every three years.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 11:42 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Norman Sanin

Email

nsanin@yahoo.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I support the following:

• Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent to 25,500 metric tons annually.
• Establish strict seasonal quota periods that distribute harvest throughout the year rather than permitting an intense summer harvest.
• Apply a precautionary management approach in light of uncertainty regarding localized menhaden abundance and the ecological condition of the Chesapeake Bay.
• Give greater consideration to the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the broader Chesapeake Bay economy, not just one Virginia based fishing company.

Sincerely,
Norman Sanin

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 11:34 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ryan Seagraves

Email

rms211292@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

As a surfcaster from the south shore of Long Island , New York …it is evident from NYC to Montauk waters that the bunker population is dwindling. Almost no where to be found where you used to be able to find them year after year. I strongly suggest a larger cap on the allowed catch for commercial menhaden harvesting.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 11:06 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Martin Bromser-Kloeden

Email

martinbk@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

My opinion following extensive reading concerning Osprey reproduction devastation in the Bay areas where they depend on Menhaden is either ban such industrial level fishing in the Bay or significantly reduce the catch. Waiting for under funded research that proves what Bay fisherman and conservationists already know could doom theses magnificent birds as well as thousands of fisherman's livelihoods. The Osprey survived the DDT fiasco, let's save them again. There are plenty of unfilled jobs in Virginia for displaced reduction workers. Further, I believe the last working reduction industry here is forigen owned. That is NOT Making America Great Again!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 10:42 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ash Cassel

Email

amcassel@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

As a marine science student attending university, and someone who lives at the Jersey shore, it is so important to me that menhaden be protected and their fishing regulated, so that other species such as the osprey can thrive. Without Atlantic menhaden, young ospreys starve to death, as we have seen this past season. I urge you to please put a tighter cap on menhaden fishing, and implore you to work to implement and enforce policy that will help rebuild this critical food web, and others like it.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 10:35 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Deb Bargar

Email

db20659@yahoo.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I request the ASMFC to lower the cap on the Menhaden harvest in the Chesapeake Bay by 50 percent.
Living on Cat Creek off the Patuxent River for 52 years, we have noticed the decline in ospreys over the past 2 years.
Any option to help the osprey to continue to be present in the Chesapeake Bay should be done.
Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 10:29 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michael Ashford

Email

mashford@aol.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, I support adoption of the Draft Addendum II, which intends to reduce the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery cap by up to 50% and create quota periods to more evenly distribute the harvest throughout the fishing season. Although this will likely have negative consequences for some commercial harvesters -- particularly industrial harvesters serving the demand for vitamin and mineral supplements -- these considerations are outweighed by the risk of much deeper and longer-lasting negative economic impacts for the Bay's entire marine life ecosystem. Thank you for considering my opinion. Mike Ashford

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 10:25 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Mary Steveling

Email

mesteveling@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Lower the cap on the Menhaden harvest in the Chesapeake Bay by 50 percent!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 10:09 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

June Bourdat

Email

junebourdat@comcast.net

State

Maryland

Comment

The over fishing of the Chesapeake bay has many environmental repercussions. I'm concerned that the birds, specifically Osprey, have had a serious decline and their nesting has completely failed, chicks are starving to death. This has been documented by the Audubon Society. Other birds rely on this food source, the bald eagle and the lesser birds, terns and seagulls.
So, a drastic reduction is necessary and especially during the nesting season. Which starts in May in case you are unfamiliar with avian behavior.

Thank you
JUNE BOURDAT

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 9:48 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Theresa Furnari

Email

tafurnari10@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

As a person who has grown up around the bay and appreciates the value it brings to both wildlife and residents, I support the stricter regulations for protection of the manhaden fish. As I am sure you are aware, menhaden fish, are important for the survival of every fish-eating bird that shares their habitat, especially ospreys, and marine life including striped bass, bluefish, redfish, bluefin tuna, humpback whales, dolphins. The benefits Virginia seeks by the continues use of industrial reduction fishing, is far outweighed by the harms this type of fishing causes to the health of the bay and the wildlife that depends on it for their survival. For these reasons, I strongly support stricter regulations as soon as possible.
Thank you.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 9:06 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kayla Luis

Email

kayla.amado.luis@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I support the draft addendum. We should protect our coastal wildlife's access to the menhaden.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 8:47 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Daniel Porter

Email

dporter9967@verizon.net

State

Maryland

Comment

Any reduction would be welcome , Omega won't stop until there is nothing left .

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 6:47 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Denise Summer

Email

aconybell108@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Every effort to protect Atlantic Menhaden must be engaged immediately. Dwindling populations of this vital fish is causing tremendous damage to our local ecology including starvation and nest fail of Ospreys. Protect them now!!
Denise Summer

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 4:20 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Anna Rowland

Email

annamarie661@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

When we allow one species to be farmed to extinction, more and more will be risked. Where is the line drawn? Don't let one company's profit cause years of damage and public outrage for the next decade.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 4:01 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Brady Lybarger

Email

scallopshackfarms@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I am both a commercial and recreational fishermen. I realize the importance of having a sustainable fishery that over harvesting dosent occur so we don't put ourselves out of buisness. But sometimes it's a hard choice if you have to protect what also affects the financial decisions for every day living.
But I'm a firm believer that taking the necessary harder cuts now will pay off sooner than later and kicking the can down the road. Rebuilding at a higher stock than the bare minimum level will ultimately come back sooner. I don't have enough info to say what percentage has to get cut back but I think taking the firmer approach will hurt now but the benefit will out perform in the long run.
Hoping for a healthy fishery soon.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 11:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Mark Ernst

Email

cupdup1@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

From a person who grew up crabbing on LBI and used Bunker as a kid to bait crab traps… it's sad to see that our legislatures have all failed us and big money in Ag, cattle, Pigs and Omega went the way of large corporate greed and affected the way of the farmer, Rancher, waterman etc. Stop the corporate greed and let the Menhaden prosper as everything else will to the benefit of that one fish. Stop the greed of corporate mega farms and mega companies leaching off our natural resources.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 9:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Abby Bowles

Email

abbybowles22@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Hello,

I am a native Virginian who loves the Chesapeake Bay. Because I love the Bay, I am writing to advocate for the passage of the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II reducing the menhaden cap and dividing the harvest into seasonal periods. The public outcry is strong for a reason and I ask that you listen to Americans up and down the coast! I urge you, as officials tasked to foster the Atlantic, please protect our resource now and pass this addendum in full.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 9:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Geli Workman

Email

angelikajziegler@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Hi!

I am a native Virginian who loves the Chesapeake Bay. Because I love the Bay, I am writing to advocate for the passage of the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II reducing the menhaden cap and dividing the harvest into seasonal periods. The public outcry is strong for a reason and I ask that you listen to Americans up and down the coast! I urge you, as officials tasked to foster the Atlantic, please protect our resource now and pass this addendum in full.

Thank you from all of us!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 9:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jimmy Bowles

Email

jwbowles9@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Hello,

I am a native Virginian who loves the Chesapeake Bay. Because I love the Bay, I am writing to advocate for the passage of the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II reducing the menhaden cap and dividing the harvest into seasonal periods. The public outcry is strong for a reason and I ask that you listen to Americans up and down the coast! I urge you, as officials tasked to foster the Atlantic, please protect our resource now and pass this addendum in full.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 9:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Joshua Storm

Email

joshuastorm@go.rmc.edu

State

Virginia

Comment

“Hello,

My name is Joshua Storm and I am a native Virginian who loves the Chesapeake Bay. Because I love the Bay, I am writing to advocate for the passage of the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II reducing the menhaden cap and dividing the harvest into seasonal periods. The public outcry is strong for a reason and I ask that you listen to Americans up and down the coast! I urge you, as officials tasked to foster the Atlantic, please protect our resource now and pass this addendum in full.

Thank you

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 8:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Patrick Cusumano

Email

patrick.cusumano@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I am a Virginian who loves the Chesapeake Bay. Because I love the Bay, I am writing to advocate for the passage of the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II reducing the menhaden cap and dividing the harvest into seasonal periods. The public outcry is strong for a reason and I ask that you listen to Americans up and down the coast! I urge you, as officials tasked to foster the Atlantic, please protect our resource now and pass this addendum in full.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 8:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Christopher Reigel

Email

christopher.c.reigel@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Menhaden serve as a critical forage species along the U.S. Atlantic coast, transferring primary production to higher trophic levels. Commercially and recreationally important fishes, including striped bass, bluefish, spiny dogfish, and bluefin tuna, are all known predators of Atlantic menhaden (Anstead et al. 2021). Avian predators, including osprey and bald eagles, also feed on seasonal menhaden aggregations, as do sharks, weakfish, and marine mammals including bottlenose dolphins and humpback whales (Ahrenholz 1991; Anstead et al. 2021). For each of these species, menhaden schools represent a predictable, energy-rich prey source that is particularly exploitable in nearshore habitats during their seasonal migrations. Predator health and recruitment have been tied to menhaden abundance in estuarine environments (Uphoff 2003). Decreased menhaden populations were implicated in the depressed nutritional state, fluctuations in weight-at-length and weight-at-age averages, and spread of disease observed in Chesapeake Bay striped bass during the late 1990s (Uphoff 2003). The presence of stable menhaden populations has also been identified as a potential predictor of nesting success and productivity in osprey in the lower Chesapeake Bay (Academia and Watts 2023; Watts et al. 2024). These cascading trophic interactions highlight the importance of maintaining adequate menhaden abundance throughout coastal and estuarine ecosystems. Their abundance supports the feeding demands of a large and diverse predator base, and documented shifts in menhaden abundance have been associated with impacts on the health and productivity of upper-trophic-level populations within their communities.
Estuaries including the Chesapeake Bay serve as important nursery habitat for menhaden, but environmental conditions within the Bay are also changing. Summertime temperatures in the Chesapeake Bay have risen steadily since the 1980s,

while the volume and duration of summertime hypoxia have also increased (Nelson et al. 2025). These environmental changes may impose additional physiological and ecological pressures on menhaden populations within the Bay.
Draft Addendum II is a response to growing concerns over declining pound-net harvest and reduced catch per unit effort in the Chesapeake Bay. These declines, considered in the context of environmental degradation and continued fishing pressure, warrant a precautionary management response. Where environmental conditions are becoming increasingly challenging, maintaining sufficient menhaden abundance may be particularly important for supporting both menhaden populations and the ecosystems that depend upon them.
Given the ecological importance of menhaden throughout their range, additional management action is warranted to improve menhaden survivorship and maintain adequate forage availability for dependent predators. I support selecting the 50% reduction option for the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap and encourage the ASMFC to adopt the maximum reduction currently under consideration in Draft Addendum II. Reducing harvest would provide refuge for menhaden in an important estuarine habitat at a time when increasing temperature and hypoxia may impose additional environmental stress. I also support measures to distribute reduction harvest more evenly throughout the fishing season, reducing the potential for concentrated removals to affect menhaden availability to other fisheries and predators. This reduction should be viewed as an important first step in the continued management of the fishery, coupled with future integration of ecosystem-based fisheries management and robust environmental action that can work together to restore degraded ecosystems and consider not just menhaden abundance, but also the ecological requirements of the predators, fisheries, and ecosystems that depend upon them.

Academia, M. H., & Watts, B. D. (2023). Food supplementation increases reproductive performance of ospreys in the lower Chesapeake Bay. Frontiers in Marine Science, 10, 1172787.
Ahrenholz, D. W. (1991). Population biology and life history of the North American menhadens, Brevoortia spp. Marine Fisheries Review, 53(4), 3–19.
Anstead, K. A., Drew, K., Chagaris, D., Schueller, A. M., McNamee, J. E., Buchheister, A., … Townsend, H. (2021). The path to an ecosystem approach for forage fish management: A case study of Atlantic menhaden. Frontiers in Marine Science, 8, 607657.
Nelson TR, Smith JM, Quinn TP. 2025. Comparison of striped bass growth between the native and nonnative range through time. Marine and Coastal Fisheries 17:vtaf044.
Uphoff JH Jr. 2003. Predator–prey analysis of striped bass and Atlantic menhaden in upper Chesapeake Bay. Fisheries Management and Ecology 10:313–322.
Watts, B. D., Stinson, C. H., McLean, P. K., Glass, K. A., Academia, M. H., & Byrd, M. A. (2024). Demographic response of osprey within the lower Chesapeake Bay to fluctuations in menhaden stock. Frontiers in Marine Science, 10, 1284462.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 8:34 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Megan Caravas

Email

megancaravas@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Hello,

My name is Megan and I am a native Virginian who loves the Chesapeake Bay. Because I love the Bay, I am writing to advocate for the passage of the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II reducing the menhaden cap and dividing the harvest into seasonal periods. The public outcry is strong for a reason and I ask that you listen to Americans up and down the coast! I urge you, as officials tasked to foster the Atlantic, please protect our resource now and pass this addendum in full.

Thank you from all of us!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 8:22 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Scott Caravas

Email

scottandmegancaravas@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Hello,

My name is Scott and I am a lifelong Virginian native to Virginia Beach, an avid outdoorsman, and lover of the Chesapeake Bay. I've fished the Bay extensively for a couple of decades and have spent countless hours on the water. Because I love the Bay and the Atlantic as a whole, I am writing to advocate for the passage of the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II reducing the menhaden cap and dividing the harvest into seasonal periods. What Omega, Cooke, and Ocean Harvesters (I'll collectively refer to them as Omega as they are all the same) are doing calls for common sense regulation as more data is being collected. It is telling that Omega has lobbied extensively against that independent data collection in the first place. This addendum would serve to support local commercial watermen, recreational fishermen, bird watchers, whale watchers, and the American people who rely on the Bay for connection with nature, God, and each other. This over-consumption is unsustainable. While I recognize Omega has been fishing the Bay for decades, it is notable that it is taking them longer to fill their cap while they have greater access to advanced technology creating a more efficient harvest. The notion that a species cannot be over-harvested to decline or failure, which Omega continually asserts is the case for menhaden, is kindly untrue, but frankly ridiculous. Just ask Virginia elk, the passenger pigeon, or American bison. If you're reading this and have never seen one of the net sets in person, I'd be happy to take you out on my boat any time to watch it. While the bycatch of drum, rockfish, cobia, croakers, spot, etc. is heartbreaking, it is important to remember that the most important fish being killed in the nets are the menhaden. My wife and I are returning to the Tidewater area in the coming year and a massive piece of that

decision is to show our son the Bay that we know and love. Omega's consumption has already changed the Bay enough (ask anyone who actually spends time on the water). A large number of us, with actual fisheries and environmental experts in this group, have legitimate fears that if left unchecked Omega will kill the Bay. This addendum would be a phenomenal step in the positive direction. The public outcry is strong for a reason and I ask that you listen to Americans up and down the coast! I urge you, as officials tasked to foster the Atlantic, please protect our resource now and pass this addendum in full.

Thank you from all of us!

Scott

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 8:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Clark Bakewell

Email

bakebox89@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I believe that an ecologically healthy bay and a strong commercial fishery can co-exist, but recovery of fish numbers comes first. I strongly support the cap reduction, along with common sense approaches to the mitigation of the impact to the extent possible (but recovering fish stocks takes priority).

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 7:50 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Julia McAleer

Email

jbmcaleer16@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I am writing to strongly urge ASMFC to reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by the full 50% and implement quota periods. As a Maryland resident who cares deeply for the Chesapeake, it is heartbreaking to see the impact of depleted menhaden abundance on all the species which depend on these fish for survival. Please place the health and survival of our native species and ecosystem over corporate profits. You have the power, opportunity, responsibility and indeed obligation to act. Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 7:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Mary Alice Smith

Email

maryalicesmith4@gmail.com

State

Rhode Island

Comment

I am very concerned about the drastic decline in Ospreys along the Atlantic seaboard, particularly in the Chesapeake Bay, which saw almost no healthy young during this past year's breeding season. We have all come to love the dramatic "fish hawks" as they dive for fish to feed their young. Their comeback from the impacts of the widespread use of DDT during the post WWII years was heartening. We began to think our environment was recovering from misguided practices. It's distressing to know that the overfishing of menhaden, the primary sustenance Osprey need for their young, is causing these majestic creatures to once again decline here in Rhode Island. Once company seems to be responsible because of its overfishing all along the Atlantic Coast. Placing restrictions on the catch is the only rational and feasible way to bring our Ospreys back.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 7:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Patricia VonOhlen

Email

wvonohlen@gmai.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I am worried about the health of the bay and see problems with the excessive catch of menhaden which is allowed by the ASMFC. I know the striped bass population is under stress and there has been an unfortunate loss of osprey. Those who study birds have seen osprey chicks that die in the nest because of lack of food. If ASMFC will reduce the amount of menhaden commercial fishermen are allowed to catch, that will help the bay heal and hopefully rebound with its abundant eco-system.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 7:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Marcus Quenzer

Email

mquenzer690@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

I support a a 40 percent cut to the coast wide tac. I used to see an abundance of bunker in the southern New Jersey area the past few years I haven't seen any school.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 7:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Larry metzger

Email

larry@limitoutfitters.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Get these quotas locked down on Omega before the Striped Bass goes extinct. Fish over Profits

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 7:12 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Rupert Humer

Email

tiderunner@fastmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Stop menhaden fishing out to 12 miles off the Atlantic coast. Save the Ospreys!! Save the striped bass population and all the other animals and fish that need them to survive.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 6:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Susan Polsky

Email

sapolsky@md.metrocast.net

State

Maryland

Comment

It is imperative that the menhaden catch currently allowed by the state of Virginia be sharply curtailed. I have first hand experience with the Osprey die off. That all Americans must suffer this loss because of, at best, short sighted politicians and, at worst, politicians beholden to special commercial interests, is both sad and infuriating. Why should the state of Virginia have the power to unilaterally decide to starve the osprey (and other less visible wildlife) of the Chesapeake Bay? Of course it should not. Please do the sensible and decent thing and drastically curtail the allowed catch. Last summer, I heard the desperate Osprey mother endlessly calling for her mate to return with food for their chicks. They all starved. This year, only one adult bird returned. Another failed season. Not just this particular nest, but virtually all nests in the region of the Chesapeake Bay where I live. An incredible come back story knee capped for dog food and fish farms. And adding insult to injury, perpetrated by a foreign company (yes, technically a US company, but only by a wink and a nod). Please realize that American wildlife is special and drastically reduce the allowed menhaden catch.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 6:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

William Doan

Email

doanbill@aol.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

The menhaden harvest needs to be reduced by at least 50%. It should actually be reduced by greater than 50%. It certainly shouldn't be reduced any less than 50%. A huge reduction in menhaden harvest is needed. Osprey and almost every predatory fish depends on them as a food source. The commercial fishing industry shouldn't be allowed to annihilate the population of menhaden, resulting in the decline of ospreys, striped bass and other fish.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 5:30 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Gail Stanton

Email

gstanton4@comcast.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

I live on the river and am aware of the declining number of osprey. Please take action to limit the number of menhaden that can be caught by fisherman. They don't need them to survive, but the osprey do.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 5:12 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ron Gaul

Email

gaul.ronald99@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I'd like to see more menhaden left in the ocean. They're the backbone of all sea life and I've seen changes in my 26 year life in loss of life due to decreased menhaden numbers. Especially with poor striped bass recruitment, we need all the "pogy" we can get.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 4:59 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Page Williams

Email

johnpagewilliams@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

To the ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Board

My name is John Page Williams. I am a Virginia resident now retired from a 46-year-long career with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation–much of it on the water and in the field. I have held an active USCG Master's license since 1977. In retirement, I remain active as an outdoor writer for several online and print publications, as well as a volunteer fishing/ecology guide on Virginia's tidal rivers.

For thirty years or more, I have been concerned about Chesapeake Bay menhaden as well as the species and communities dependent on a healthy menhaden population, not only in Virginia and Maryland but all the way up the coast through Downeast Maine, where the lack of herring for lobster bait is placing ever more pressure on the total coastal stock of menhaden. With all due regard to the local people and economy of Virginia's treasured Northern Neck, where I have deep roots myself, there are many, many more jobs dependent on the Chesapeake's stock of menhaden than just in Northumberland County alone, to say nothing of satisfying needs of iconic wildlife–from ospreys and rockfish to tuna and whales–that have depended on these forage fish literally for millennia.

The Chesapeake Bay is changing and showing increasing signs of stress. I have seen it with my eyes, felt it in my hands, seen it on my skiff's sonar, read its numbers with YSI water quality equipment. Protecting menhaden is one of the truly

valuable ways we can help this struggling estuary and the Atlantic coastal ecosystem of which it is such a vital element. I would greatly appreciate you adding my signature in support of the following options in Draft Addendum II:

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount: Support option C1e that would reduce the Bay Cap by 50 percent and limits it to 13.6 percent of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC). Also, support option C2a which sets an upper limit of 51,000mt for the Bay Cap, which is the current level.

3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution: Support option B2 which establishes three even length quota periods for the Bay Cap, but distributes harvest 25 percent in period 1, 25 percent in period 2, and 50 percent into period 3. Also, support option B which establishes quota period overage payback and rollover of unused quota within a fishing year.

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision: Support option B Revisit Provision to reassess the efficacy of these new management tools every 3 years.

Sincerely yours,

John Page Williams
1108 Hollins Road
Richmond, VA 23229

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 4:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Martin Salasky

Email

martin@salasky.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I support a reduction of fishing for
Menhaden on the Chesapeake Bay

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 2:30 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Derek Cressman

Email

dcressman82@gmail.com

State

Delaware

Comment

There needs to be quotas and there needs to be monitoring. I have fished the nj/de/md coast for 30 years. The menhaden serve as the base of the food chain and over the last 5 years I have witnessed a reduction in their numbers that I cannot begin to quantify. The amount of draggers 30 miles offshore fishing with airplanes is staggering. These schools of fish don't stand a chance and the predators that depend on them are in a state of decline. Recreational fishing for stripers, tuna, etc has declines significantly since I have started seeing the menhaden draggers out there. In addition we have an osprey nest adjacent to our home. Not one juvenile has survived the last two years. The predators are starving in Delmarva for fish oil pills - it's going to be a problem.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 2:17 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lori Thomas

Email

lori.thomas100@verizon.net

State

Virginia

Comment

To Whom it may concern,

The menhaden population in the Chesapeake Bay area is one that is low on the food chain, and thus vital to the survival of not only ospreys, but also bald eagles, bass, trout, bluefish, bald eagles, pelicans, herons, gannets, and other wildlife.
We can check Osprey nests and see that there are either no eggs, or the infants are starving.
We cannot look into the oceans and see as easily how aquatic life is being affected, but if Ospreys are starving, so are the ocean fish that also depend on menhaden for sustenance. I find it unfortunate that the situation must become dire for a such a foundational species before any action is taken.

I therefore fully support Addendum II Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. This includes implementing a bay cap of the full 50%, linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide total allowable catch, and distribution of the Bay Cap into three quota periods.

This needs to remain in place for several years to allow replenishment not only of the menhaden, but also of the animals that depend on them.
In my opinion, any review during this time should only be done to potentially lower the Cap even further if the menhaden are not recovering as quickly as expected.

Thank you for creating this addendum to allow the menhaden, and thus all beings in the food web dependent on them, the opportunity to recover so that we can help to ensure that a vibrant and diverse ecosystem will be handed down to our children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,
Lori Thomas

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 2:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Joe Meny

Email

joseph.meny@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Cut the cap by 50% and distribute it across the fishing season as suggested. As a longtime resident of Shady Side, MD, who goes out weekly to fish on the water, I have seen firsthand the destruction this fishery has caused. Acres of water once teeming with menhaden at critical times of year is devoid of life, including the sportfish that depend on them. Pound netters cannot get the amount of fish they need to supply commercial crabbers with the bait they need. The West/Rhode river osprey populations, along with the 3 nests in our neighborhood and others on the western shore, have not been able to rear chicks for years. And as states look to improve water quality, does it make sense to remove tens of thousands of tons of a critical filter feeder from the picture? It doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand that removing the base of the food chain negatively impacts everything above it, including the livelihoods of recreational and commercial watermen who depend on them. And this goes far beyond Maryland and Virginia, as this is a forage species for fish and animals up and down the eastern seaboard. If the environmental implications can't be effectively argued, then someone needs to use the financial implications to quantify the damages and generate change. The Omega operation is short-sighted, unsustainable, and is killing multiple industries across multiple states. The fact they argue that jobs would be lost is both laughable and insulting considering how a few hundred people can put such a hurting on an entire ecosystem that supports hardworking men and women up and down the east coast. And arguing that the Atlantic stock is stable has zero to do with our localized bay stock, which is disproportionately affected and overfished. Other than Virginia, every other state has realized that this is a net-negative approach to the fishing industry, so why is this allowed to continue? While other states have found ways to boost stocks while simultaneously taking what they need for commercial fishermen (see Maine's Damariscotta fish ladder and their lobster industry), Ocean Harvesters

will continue to take, take, take until there is nothing left. Other than Omega and the politicians whose pockets they line, everyone will tell you that this fishery should not exist in any capacity within the Chesapeake Bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 1:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Meg Hoyle

Email

megcoastal@gmail.com

State

South Carolina

Comment

I'm writing in favor of reducing the amount of menhaden that can be caught for commercial use. The over-harvest of this significant part of the ocean and estuarine food web will have deleterious effects for generations. Please protect our menhaden!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 1:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Roger Horn

Email

rogerkathy.horn@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Living in Cape May it has become obvious that the Osprey are having problems with fishing. If it is determined to be over fishing of Menhaden then I am totally in favor of restricting time frame for fishing and reducing the catch limits all along the Atlantic Seaboard.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 12:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Tony Kratowicz

Email

tkratowicz@comcast.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

I am writing to ask that you make meaningful, downward changes to the total allowable catch for Menhaden in both the Chesapeake Bay and along the entire East Coast that you manage. I have been on the water for over 50 years, never have I seen Menhaden - bunker so hard to find, that includes Peanut Bunker I could be finding right now in the Jersey waters I fish and keep my boat. Cutting the bay cap in half is the bare minimum we should be talking about - I support more. The total allowable catch needs to meaningfully drop. Absolutely spread out the harvest to give some fish a chance to survive and reproduce and fulfill their part in the ocean/bay food chain. It is unfair one state holds all other states under their thumb; I support a more equitable distribution amongst all states.

I have zero issue with harvesting bunker for bait, crabs, lobster, recreational, etc. This type of harvesting brings dollars to all of our east coast communities and commercial sectors. Industrial or mass harvesting does not belong anywhere near our coastline or in our bays. If you boil this all the way down you are talking about supporting one company, Omega Protein, where the lion's share of the money derived from the fish they grind down benefits them, not the US. Yes, a small part of that income goes to a handful of people in Virginia, but you are looking at direct dollars that stay in the US of 100M vs 1B minimum if those same stay in the US. Most of the US bait harvest stays in the US, benefiting US-based companies up and down the East Coast. The AMFMC knows this, Virgina knows this, only political pressure continues to allow the status quo.

I feel I also have to offer my opinion of the politicization of this entire process. People should come first, not political donations

or potentially outright threats for suggesting we cannot continue down this path. Do what is right for the resource and the entire East Coast, not just one company and a handful of people driven by dollars and political donations. It is already going to take years for the ecosystem to recover above the bunker: whales, stripers, bluefish, osprey, tuna, on and on. We can do better.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 12:42 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Gareth Brandl

Email

brandlgf@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Reduce the menhaden reduction industry take in the bay. More evenly distribute the percentage of the quota to provide the bait within the ecosystem when most needed.
The health of the bay and the many it supports, takes precedence over the few who are negatively exploiting the resource. Common sense, scientific management of the has been stymied for too long. The public is feed up and will no longer accept ineffective action.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 11:58 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kathy Horn

Email

kathyhorncic@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

As an avid bird watcher from Cape May, New Jersey, I have concerns about the decline in both the osprey and menhaden populations. I'd like to express my support for precautionary menhaden management as more data is gathered to inform the science and conservation actions. I believe catch limits should be put in place throughout the Atlantic coast and should take into consideration seasonal changes related to local osprey populations.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 11:29 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Caroline Alodaini

Email

calodaini@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

We need to protect our wildlife. We need to prioritize long term life over short term monetary gains.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 11:28 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Laurence Sawyer

Email

sawyerlp101@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

As a homeowner along the Eastern Branch of Carter's Creek in White Stone, VA, my wife and I have witnessed a steady decline in Ospreys successfully nesting in our area. This year there was only one successful nest near the mouth of the creek as it enters the Rappahannock, whereas in prior years there have been multiple successful nests at the mouth and scattered up the creek. We can only associate this decline with reduced food resources for the Osprey locally and so they are abandoning the area and not procreating. It is our understanding their primary food source is Menhaden and conclude they have become harder and harder for Ospreys to find in our area.

It is our wish that further reductions be made to commercial Menhaden catch limits so this important resource can recover and feed all of the wildlife populations that depend upon it. Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 10:58 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Anne Richardson

Email

arichardson@rappahannocktribe.org

State

Virginia

Comment

Please save the menhaden population which is the major keystone species in the Bay's food chain for many different species depend on for survival. Please place increased restrictions on the over fishing of our menhaden so the wildlife we love can still survive. When they are gone it will collapse the sensitive balance of the Bay's echosystem!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 10:57 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Henry Hutton

Email

henry_hutton@aol.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Please stop or set minimum menhaden harvest levels for entire Atlantic region. I've been boating and fishing in the Chesapeake Bay for for 45+ years and have witnessed the depletion of the menhaden population. In my observations the large schools of surface feeding menhaden normally seen in open bay waters disappeared around 2012. The schools of juvenile (popcorn) menhaden no longer visit my creek (Sue Creek MD).

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 10:56 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Henry Hutton

Email

henry_hutton@aol.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Please stop or set minimum menhaden harvest levels for entire Atlantic region. I've been boating and fishing in the Chesapeake Bay for for 45+ years and have witnessed the depletion of the menhaden population. In my observations the large schools of surface feeding menhaden normally seen in open bay waters disappeared around 2012. The schools of juvenile (popcorn) menhaden no longer visit my creek (Sue Creek MD).

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 10:52 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Joe Curcio

Email

joecurcio222@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

I believe the commercial fishing cap should not be reduced to any degree. These fish are very important for the ecosystem, and depleting them greatly will cause bottom-up trophic effects that severely impact everything else in the Chesapeake food web.

Sincerely,
Joe

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 10:47 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Dawn Bakely

Email

dawn.bakely1@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

It is imperative to protect menhaden as they are a key food source for many species of fish and of course the osprey. We can not sit back and watch as the osprey which has made an amazing recovery from being greatly endangered struggles greatly once again. The waters must be protected from fishing and pollution so populations of osprey and all the species which depend on bunker fish can survive. It is heartbreaking to see a species struggle to raise their young, who are destined to die of starvation. We can and must help. I support the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 10:45 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Geetha Ingram

Email

geedama@gmail.com

State

District of Columbia

Comment

Please do not allow more fishing of menhaden. Osprey populations are declining, they offspring are starving and they need more menhaden.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 10:44 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Catherine Wochele

Email

cathwoch@yahoo.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

Watching osprey chicks starve in their nests is heartbreaking—and it should be a wake-up call. These birds depend on Atlantic menhaden/bunker, a small forage fish that supports the entire coastal food web, from ospreys and seabirds to larger fish and whales. When parents can't find enough food to bring back to their young, the problem is much bigger than one species. NJ needs real monitoring, accountability, and management that protects forage fish where wildlife actually needs them—not just numbers on paper. The shore's ecosystem is telling us something. We need to listen.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 10:40 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

James Curcio

Email

jimcurcio@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

I am in favor of the greatest restriction possible for the reduction of overfishing of menhaden.
It is very apparent how important this fishery is for the health of the entire ecosystem.
Its not ljke these fish are feeding people! It makes no sense to allow over fishing to supply the supplement industry.
Please implement the greatest restriction possible!
The health of the entire Bay -- fish, birds, and the entire ecosystem is based on a healthy population of bottom of the food chain, menhaden.
Sincerely
Jim Curcio

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 10:21 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sheila Magee

Email

sheiladoylemagee@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

Please help conserve Ospreys by adopting this addendum. Thank you

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 9:15 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Andrew Orloff

Email

andyorloff@hotmail.com

State

Florida

Comment

Please make prioritize the preservation of this species and all animals. Biodiversity should be a priority for obvious reasons. Let's be good stewards of our lands and waters while protecting the animals that reside there.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 6:15 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Alexandra Reams

Email

alireams@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Hello,

I am writing in support of Addendum II because it is critical that we preserve the health and sustainability of our local ecosystem. One of the best parts of living in the DMV is the biodiversity. My sons play soccer at a school where Ospreys nest each year. Sitting on the sidelines week after week, fellow parents and I had the privilege of watching the parents build their nest and return with food for their young. Many summers, my family and I have traveled to the eastern shore and spent hours observing the hard-working shorebirds search for food. Our local and migrating wildlife make our world richer. We must do what we can to preserve this beauty and the heath of our Chesapeake community for future generations before it is too late.

Thank you,

Alexandra Reams

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 11:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Cyanne Yates

Email

cyates617@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I am writing as a concerned citizen to urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) to take decisive, precautionary action to protect our coastal ecosystem by enacting the maximum proposed protection measures under Draft Addendum II. Specifically, I strongly advocate for lowering the Chesapeake Bay industrial reduction fishery harvest cap by the full 50%, reducing it from the current 51,000 metric tons down to 25,500 metric tons.
As a cornerstone forage fish, Atlantic menhaden are vital to the health of the entire Atlantic ecosystem and the Chesapeake Bay nursery. They are a critical food source for economically and ecologically important predators, including striped bass, bluefish, osprey, cobia, and marine mammals.
Allowing massive industrial purse seine operations to concentrate their harvest inside the sensitive waters of the Chesapeake Bay creates localized depletion. The consequences of this are already visibly damaging our ecosystem, as evidenced by unprecedented osprey nesting failures due to food stress and struggling recreational and bait fisheries.
To protect the biodiversity of the Bay and support the broader coastal food web, I ask the Board to approve:
1. The full 50% reduction of the Chesapeake Bay Cap to 25,500 metric tons.
2. Seasonal quota periods to prevent intense, concentrated industrial fishing pressure during critical spring and summer months when wildlife and local watermen rely on menhaden the most.
3. A clear separation between the Bay Cap and the coastwide Total Allowable Catch (TAC) to ensure that conservation gains in the Bay are not undermined by quota reallocations.
Menhaden are worth far more left in the water as the foundation of our marine ecosystem than they are ground up for

industrial commodities. Please follow the ecological science and implement these necessary restrictions to safeguard the future of the Chesapeake Bay.
Thank you for your consideration on this critical matter.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 11:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Valerie Bourdot

Email

vbourdot@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Please pass a max reduction in Virginia's allocation of the menhaden take. The osprey decimation is so wrong.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 10:22 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Leola Roberts

Email

tidypony@gmail.com

State

Maine

Comment

Dear ASFMC Board and Officials:
Please implement the strictest caps possible on the menhaden fishery.
As a young lab tech in Maine's long term herring survey, former wife of a lobsterman, and sister to a marine biologist turned Maine Marine Patrol Officer, I have seen the pogie industry from a number of perspectives, most of them ruthless.

As prey, menhaden provide huge rewards for their predators, whether avian or human. They are fatty, oily, calorie rich, floaty, and heaven only knows, stinky. Though they are less profitable for pogie boats and processors, humans have lots of other options for these calories and oils. Fish-eating raptors, on the other hand, don't have the luxury of going to the supermarket for vitamins and protein powders. Data show them to be suffering severe population decline and Occam's Razor was never so sharp. The straight line goes directly to Omega Protein and its partner fishing fleet.

We learned in the 1960s with DDT how devastating removing raptors from our ecology could be. You can help prevent a repeat performance by reducing the menhaden fishing cap.

Thank you for your difficult work. I know firsthand how unhappy an unhappy fisherman can be.
Yours,

Leola Roberts
Alna, Maine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 10:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Scott Dorn

Email

scottlivingwell@gmail.com

State

District of Columbia

Comment

All the options assume we have accurate information as to the size of the population and the harvest numbers suggest we do not have a solid structure based on the number of menhaden being harvested. It isn't easy yet we must find ways to have more accurate counts so that the harvest numbers can be adjusted in real time. Adjusting the harvest numbers by votes and comments makes it so that the management is most likely to fail no matter how well the intention may be. As a key species to the overall health of the areas wildlife overshooting harvest numbers has a much greater impact than undershooting. Thank you for your time and attention in this matter it is a vital component to the overall well being,

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 10:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michael B Ballato Michael B Ballato

Email

mbballato@verizon.net

State

Virginia

Comment

I have been a resident of Deltaville, Virginia, for thirteen years and live on the south bank of the Rappahannock River. Most recently, on August 24th I witnessed five Omega trawlers netting fish just below the Norris Bridge, and the River has been lifeless–no fish anywhere–ever since.
Menhaden net fishing should be banned from the rivers and Chesapeake Bay entirely, and permitted only in the Atlantic Ocean, but given the limited options presented in Section 3.1 of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Plan, I URGE THE ADOPTION OF SUB-OPTION B4, WITH A 50% REDUCTION AND A BAY CAP OF 25,500 mt---and not permitted in the rivers leading into the Bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 9:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michael B Ballato Michael B Ballato

Email

mbballato@verizon.net

State

Virginia

Comment

I have been a resident of Deltaville, Virginia, for thirteen years and live om the south bank of the Rappahannock River. Most recently, on August 24th I witnessed five Omega trawlers netting fish just below the Norris Bridge and the River has been lifeless–no fish anywhere–ever since. Menhaden net fishing should be banned from the rivers and Chesapeake Bay and permitted only in the Atlantic Ocean.
Given the options presented by the Atlantic Menhaden Management Plan, if net fishing is to be allowed at all, I URGE THE ADOPTION OF SUB-OPTION B4, REDUCTION OF

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 9:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Tyson

Email

lastchance2hunt@aol.com

State

Virginia

Comment

The bay is dying at a fast rate! It's time to take drastic measures to save it! The recreational fishermen have had policies in places to cut their catches! It's time to cut commercial netting, including Omega to help bring the bay back from certain death! Cut the taking of menhaden at least 50% or move them off shore to the 3 mile limit like every other states on the east coast!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 9:12 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jordan Margolis

Email

jjmargolis@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

Menhaden are over fished and are the most important fish in the sea please protect them

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 9:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michael A Knez

Email

knez.michael@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I support suboption B4- 50 % bay cap. Waiting for more scientific study in order to reach a definitive conclusion as to best management could delay action to a point of the ecological balance being thrown irrevocably into a downward spiral such that all species will suffer catastrophic depletion.
The initial fisheries management was a precautionary measurement. That philosophy needs to be continued. The longterm livelihood of all who would make their living from the harvesting of fish from the bays, tributaries and ocean on the Atlantic East Coast depend on wise management. Conservation of these natural resources are essential.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 9:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michael A Knez

Email

knez.michael@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I support suboption B4- 50 % bay cap. Waiting for more scientific study in order to reach a definitive conclusion as to best management could delay action to a point of the ecological balance being thrown irrevocably into a downward spiral such that all species will suffer catastrophic depletion.
The initial fisheries management was a precautionary measurement. That philosophy needs to be continued. The longterm livelihood of all who would make their living from the harvesting of fish from the bays, tributaries and ocean on the Atlantic East Coast depend on wise management. Conservation of these natural resources are essential.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 9:08 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kristen Wochele

Email

kristenwochele@gmail.com

State

Florida

Comment

I support the strongest precautionary protections for Atlantic menhaden proposed in Draft Addendum II, including a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap and management measures that prevent concentrated harvest during critical periods for wildlife.

Atlantic menhaden are a foundational forage species that support ospreys and many other predators throughout the coastal ecosystem. The recent reproductive failures and food stress documented in osprey populations are deeply concerning. While there are still important questions about the causes of changes in local menhaden availability, that uncertainty is a reason to take a precautionary approach rather than wait for further ecosystem decline.

Please prioritize maintaining sufficient menhaden abundance and availability for the predators and ecosystems that depend on them. Protecting forage fish is not just about managing a single fishery it is about protecting the health and resilience of the entire coastal food web.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 8:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Carly Costello

Email

carly@costelloconstruction.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I am writing to strongly support the adoption of the following options under Draft Addendum II. These measures will reduce the Chesapeake Bay's menhaden reduction harvest, build a smarter, more precautionary management system, protect menhaden when and where they are most important, keep Bay harvest limits tied to coastwide management, and ensure that management can adapt as new science becomes available.
3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount: - I support option C1e, which would reduce the Bay Cap by 50 percent and limit it to 13.6 percent of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC). I also support option C2a, which sets an upper limit of 51,000mt for the Bay Cap — which is the current level.
3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution: - I support option B2, which establishes three equal-length quota periods for the Bay Cap, but distributes harvest as follows: 25 percent in period 1, 25 percent in period 2, and 50 percent into period 3. I also support option B, which establishes quota-period overage payback and rollover of unused quota within a fishing year.
3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision: - I support option B Revisit Provision, which would reassess the efficacy of these new management tools every 3 years.
I appreciate the opportunity to comment on Draft Addendum II and strongly urge the adoption of the sections outlined above. Ospreys and hundreds of other bird species depend on healthy menhaden populations that are sustainably managed. This is best accomplished by adopting options 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 in Draft Addendum II.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 8:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Joyce Major

Email

jemajor@comcast.net

State

Virginia

Comment

As I resident of Middlesex Va whose property is on the Rappahannock in Deltaville, I support suboption B4- full 50 percent bay cap

I've seen first hand from our dock the menhaden one day and ability to fish and literally the next several days the Omega boats sucking up everything and no more fish to be had.

They should not be in my backyard or the Bay where the menhaden spawn and given a chance to grow. All the osprey are gone and I've seen only a few dolphin one time. This is not what was here when we moved here 14 year's ago.

Please heed this. We are angry and sad watching what is happening.

Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 8:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lawrence K Ely

Email

lely@pgpco.com

State

Maryland

Comment

The overfishing is caused a dramatic change and where I live off the south river. The Osprey actually left a month early because there's no food. In addition, I have not seen many young chicks at the nest. The overfishing of menhaden needs to stop. This is the main cog in the wheel of the ecosystem of the Chesapeake Bay.

Sincerely,
Larry Ely
Riva md.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 8:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Mark Kaplan

Email

kaplankm87@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I have seen firsthand the decline in menhaden and resultant starvation and failure of osprey broods in nests around the Barnegat Bay. I urge approval of the draft amendment II and a 50% reduction of the fishery cap, In the interest of sustaining both the fishery and dependent wildlife

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 8:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Mark Kaplan

Email

kaplankm87@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I have seen firsthand the decline in menhaden and resultant starvation and failure of osprey broods in nests around the Barnegat Bay. I urge approval of the draft amendment II and a 50% reduction of the fishery cap, In the interest of sustaining both the fishery and dependent wildlife

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 6:59 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Casey McCullough

Email

camccullough@comcast.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

Stop the overfishing of Atlantic Menhaden. It is causing a decline in the Osprey population.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 5:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Allie Stevens

Email

astevens913@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Please adopt the strongest protective options in Draft Addendum II for the Atlantic menhaden fishery in the Chesapeake Bay. Menhaden are a foundational forage species of the Bay. The intense, concentrated industrial reduction harvests leave too few fish for ospreys, striped bass, whales, dolphins, and other predatory fish. They are important for the overall health of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 4:56 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Caitlin Campbell

Email

caitlin.n.campbell@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I support action that limits menhaden take for commercial use. I support action that saves the menhaden for osprey and other animals in the ecosystem that rely on them for food.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 4:17 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Vincent Verweij

Email

v.w.verweij@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I'd like to support the reduction of fishing for Atlantic Menhaden to help stabilize the population, and reduce the negative impact on our critical wildlife, like the Osprey.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 4:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lisa Davis

Email

momnmore.davis@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

We need to make sure a balance is reached for sustainability for the menhaden !

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 4:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Erinn Byers

Email

erinnbabe@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

My comment is to restrict fishing practices that take Atlantic Menhaden from the natural supply. Ospreys are too important to starve and die out due to irresponsible fishing in NJ waters and beyond. Therefore I support modifying the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 4:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Rebecca Lister

Email

rebeccalister150@gmail.com

State

Rhode Island

Comment

Please support legislation to protect our oceans and our ospreys and other coastal wildlife by bringing back their natural prey.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 3:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Teig Shaw

Email

TSPDDIVER@Aol.com

State

Virginia

Comment

In 2007 H Bruce Franklin wrote a book titled "THE MOST INPORTANT FISH IN THE SEA: MENHADEN AND AMERICA. Twenty years ago he could see the dangers of commercial overharvesting of this oily fish that has been targeted commercially for over one hundred years. Now multiple spotter planes work in conjunction with steel ships to encircle entire schools in one set. For too long our fishery managers have kicked the can down the road and failed to properly regulate these vital fish. They say we need more study. Then they will take years to agree on how the study should be conducted. The Menhaden are far fewer and smaller in size. I support an 50% reduction on the Total Allowable Catch by the reduction fishery in the Chesapeake Bay and not one phased in over multiple years. I fear if swift action is not taken now a total ban may become necessary in Virginia waters as many other states have done. Protect the resource before its too! late.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 3:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Nancy Archer

Email

nancyrchr@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I fully support this Draft Addendum II! We need to put the brakes os the take from purse-seine fishing and follow the science to restore the Ospreys, striped bass and other impacted species! Thank you!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 3:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Karina Edwards

Email

karinamakaren@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I am writing to express my strong support for Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 of the Atlantic Menhaden Interstate Fishery Management Plan. It is critical that we take steps to protect the ecological health of the Chesapeake Bay and the many species that depend on menhaden as a primary food source.

I urge the commission to adopt a precautionary approach by reducing the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap by 50%. Additionally, implementing seasonal quota periods will help prevent large, concentrated harvests during the spring and summer months when predators like osprey and striped bass are most actively feeding.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued efforts to manage this vital resource sustainably.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 2:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Gene Ubriaco

Email

ubie16@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Menehaden

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 2:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

William Harnisch

Email

willhar30@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Hello, I am a resident of New Jersey and have spent a large portion of my life on/around the water of the northeast in both a recreational and professional setting. It doesn't take long to notice the impact resulting from poor management of natural areas, and when you bring data to back it up, we should immediately begin asking "how can we fix this?" One way is to further limit fishing and harvesting allowances, and another is to establish and broaden marine protected areas. It is imperative we spend more effort protecting the natural world.

Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 2:34 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/?gf_protect_submission

Name

Linda Paxton

Email

lindaletoile@verizon.net

State

Maryland

Comment

Please vote to lower the cap on catching menhaden by 50%
Thank you

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 2:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Cynthia Benson

Email

cjbnsn@aol.com

State

Rhode Island

Comment

Please do something about the massive fishing of Menhaden. What gives a company the right to fish in massive quantities to where it can deplete a food source necessary for the survival of The Osprey?
Rhode Island offers a registration plate with an Osprey on it and the words, " Conservation through Education! I would suggest more educational programs for fishing communities and companies who fish to deplete a food source that is needed for survival!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 2:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Margery Ashmun

Email

margery.ashmun@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I strongly support stricter catch limits and protective measures for Atlantic menhaden. Often called the most important fish in the sea, menhaden are being over-concentrated and overharvested by industrial operations, starving local predators like striped bass and ospreys. New Jersey's vibrant recreational fishing and coastal economies rely on a balanced marine ecosystem. I urge management agencies to cut harvest caps significantly and prioritize ecological health over industrial reduction fishing. Thank you in advance for protecting this important natural resource.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 12:49 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kathleen Yurkevicz

Email

yurkeviczk@gmail.co

State

New Jersey

Comment

I am against the commercialized overfishing of the Chesapeake Bay Area and surrounding estuaries. The Menhaden bunker fish population decline has severely affected the Osprey population on the Barnegat Bay here in NJ. The Osprey and eagles and other top predators need the bunker as a primary food source.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 12:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Gary Tingley

Email

gtingley01@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I have fished the middle and lower bay for 22 years. When cleaning Rockfish, they usually had 4,6,8” menhaden in various stages of digestion. Now they either have nothing in their digestive system or maybe a few shrimp. When boating in Maryland, the screen is full of bait fish, cross into Virginia and the screen goes bare. That’s enough science for me! Stop the gross over harvest in the bay. Let them fish offshore like every other state.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 12:20 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Baris Uz

Email

bmeteuz@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I am concerned about the impacts of overfishing of menhaden on wildlife and support efforts to reduce such impacts by regulating catch volume and timing.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 12:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Fiore Bran Aragon

Email

fb6206a@american.edu

State

District of Columbia

Comment

Dear Mr. Boyle and members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am a birder and conservationist from the Washington, DC area, and I am writing in support of strong, precautionary action in Draft Addendum II to protect Atlantic menhaden in Chesapeake Bay and the wildlife that depends on them, especially ospreys.

The Bay supports one of the largest concentrations of nesting ospreys in the world, and research has found that menhaden make up a large share of their diet. Studies by Dr. Bryan Watts / the Center for Conservation Biology, William & Mary University, menhaden availability to osprey nesting success. Ospreys are not included among the predator species in the ERP assessment, so the draft's discussion of forage needs does not capture them. I urge the Board to consider piscivorous birds like ospreys as it weighs the risk of reduced menhaden availability in the Bay.

The draft documents declining menhaden availability: a 60% drop in Maryland pound net harvest in 2024, declining pound net CPUE in Maryland, Virginia, and the Potomac, and a sharp decline in the Choptank River adult index that persisted into 2025. I recognize the uncertainty about true Bay abundance. But the Bay is a critical nursery area, and ospreys have only a short season to feed their chicks. That argues for caution.
3.1 Bay Cap Amount: Option C (Sub-Options C1d and C2b).

Linking the cap to the TAC is essential. The 2026 TAC cut left the cap unchanged, raising the share of reduction quota that can be taken in the Bay from 32% to 40%, the highest since 2017. I support C1d (a 30% reduction relative to the 2026 TAC) with C2b (upper limit of 51,000 mt, lower limit of 25,500 mt). This is precautionary but within the range the Board put out for comment.

3.2.1 Quota Periods: Option B2
Osprey chicks hatch and are fed through the summer. In 2023 and 2024, over 50% of Bay reduction landings came in a six-week mid-summer window, and historically 54% of landings fall between early July and mid-September. Option B2 best limits harvest during that critical period by holding it to 50% of the cap through mid-September.

3.2.2 Overages and Underages: Option B, with Underage Sub-Option 1
Payback provisions are needed for the quota periods to mean anything. Sub-Option 1 spreads Period 1 underages across the rest of the season.

3.3 Revisit Provision: Option B

A three-year revisit lets the Board act on new science, including research toward a science-based Bay Cap.

Thank you for considering my comments.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 12:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Geoffrey Collins

Email

peppycollins@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Every other state on the eastern seaboard has pushed the reduction fishery out of state waters just because it's been done for "100 years" doesn't mean it doesn't and is not having a negative impact on our ecosystem, I've grown up my 45 years on the lower Chesapeake bay and have never seen such a lack of menhaden, if the bay population was healthy the reduction fleet wouldn't be traveling up to NY/NJ as well the lack in menhaden could probably be tied to the low crab counts as predators are going to eat or they won't stay when there no food so before our recreational and charter fisheries collapse please do your part in protecting our fisheries that feed our communities not just one foreign company

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 11:38 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Peter delaney

Email

pdelaney2day@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Mark Robichaux in his well read article that "Virginia is the only state left on the East Coast that allows this “reduction” seining of menhaden." Omega Protein, a subsidiary of Canada-based Cooke Inc., operates the Atlantic coast’s largest commercial fishery. This company has used the Osprey decline documentation to disprove the science as inadequate. Due to Virginia's house & senate inaction, the status que remains.
I understand and hope to be wrong, that Virginia's legislature does not meet till 2027.
Either way, the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board cannot implement the Menhaden Draft unless Virginia law can change.
Since Virginia has done nothing all these years, why expect anything else ?

Peter Delaney

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 11:30 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Chuck Dishian

Email

CDISHIAN@YAHOO.COM

State

New Jersey

Comment

My name is Chuck Dishian and I represent the Village Harbour Fishing Club. The club includes over 150 members and is an arm of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association. With regard to the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II, teh VHFC supports the following:

• Bay Cap Amount: Sub Option B4 — a 50% reduction, resulting in a 25,500 mt cap.
• Quota Periods: Option B1 — even length periods with evenly distributed harvest.
• Underage Provision: Underage Sub Option 1 — roll Period 1 underages evenly into Periods 2 and 3.
• Revisit Provision: Option B — revisit the Bay Cap every three years.

Thank you for your kind attention.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 10:12 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Don Herr

Email

dherr791@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Writing to support the Chesapeake Bay Cap Draft Addendum II related to reduction of menhaden removal, as well as the time restriction to be applied to the quota. The reduction fishing industry is simply not sustainable in the modern era, and in the end ASMFC and the industry itself must control the removal of forage or the entire fishing AND reduction industry will eventually collapse. To delay more significant regulation further is a short sighted approach that does not benefit ANY of the parties involved long term.

Don Herr., Ph.D.
dherr791@gmail.com
recreational fisherman

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 10:06 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Peter Lutz

Email

palutz@comcast.net

State

Massachusetts

Comment

Reduce the Chesapeake Bay cap by 50% to help the menhaden, oprey, and other fish populations to recover. Industrialized fishing at that level should not be allowed.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 9:27 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Grady

Email

johngrady88@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Good morning, I fish recreationally in Connecticut and Rhode Island and over the past ten years the average weight of the striped bass I have caught has gone down. They appear slimmer than in the past and while this is only anecdotal I would support the reduction of the menhaden commercial fishery to support a larger biomass target. ASMFC seems to use the striped bass as a bell weather for the fishery balance but many other populations also use menhaden as a food source. There have been recent published articles about ospreys having difficulty providing enough food for their offspring. In Eastern Long Island Sound and in Block Island Sound we rarely see menhaden. I support a reduction in the Atlantic Menhaden fishery. Thank you. John Grady

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 9:26 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sarah Imhoff

Email

sarahmstout@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

We must save the osprey. If we lose them, these beautiful birds will be lost forever. We must not allow that to happen. Action must be taken swiftly to restore their food source, the menhaden.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 9:23 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Terrence Moran

Email

friendlycoyote@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Subject: Public Comment: Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

To: comments@asmfc.org

Dear Mr. Boyle and Members of the Commission,

I am writing to urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to take immediate, strong action to protect the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem by implementing strict catch limits under Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II. Specifically, I support options that substantially lower the reduction fishing allowance in the Bay.

As a resident/supporter of the Chesapeake Bay region, I am deeply alarmed by the unprecedented breeding failures and starvation currently devastating our local osprey populations. Decades of scientific monitoring show a direct link between the lack of mature Atlantic menhaden and the inability of ospreys to successfully raise their chicks.

Menhaden are the ecological backbone of the Chesapeake Bay. Allowing industrial-scale reduction fishing to deplete this critical forage fish at the expense of ospreys, striped bass, and other native wildlife is unsustainable and unacceptable.

Please prioritize the long-term health of the Bay's ecosystem over short-term commercial harvest by implementing the maximum possible protections in Draft Addendum II. Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Terrence Moran
Stevensville, Maryland

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 9:18 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Nancy Jones

Email

me.and.mrsjones@verizon.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

I am a lifelong summer resident of Long Beach island NJ, writing out of my grave concern for our Osprey population. We have watched the decades long effort to restore this beautiful bird to our Atlantic coastline; and sadly now we see most of the fledgling osprey starving to death without enough of their primary food, the menhaden. Please act to dramatically reduce and control the timing of the menhaden fishing!
Nancy Jones
Haven Beach, NJ

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 9:15 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Patricia Salmon

Email

pv.salmon@verizon.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

Ospreys, other birds, and marine life, who depend on menhaden to survive, must be protected from starvation. Humans are stewards of the Earth. It is our duty to do what is necessary to protect all wild life. Please reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by up to 50% and create quota periods to distribute harvest under the cap.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 8:39 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Dawn Quirk

Email

quirk.da@northeastern.edu

State

New Hampshire

Comment

Please create and enforce the strictest protections for the food source of migrating ospreys to keep them from going extinct. Thank you!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 8:29 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Darlene Hrbek

Email

dhrbek@verizon.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

I support this and hope something is done before it's too late.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 7:58 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Nancy Alexander

Email

c0stumer846@gmail.com

State

Delaware

Comment

I love neat wetlands and we must do everything we can to protect Osprey. Please make sure there is adequate access to Menhaden so that the Osprey population can thrive.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 7:18 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Marta Longo

Email

martalongo42@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Watching the recovery of our raptors over these last few decades has given me some faith in our ability to coexist with the other species that live on this earth with us. It's devastating to see the reports of starving osprey chicks when in recent years they were thriving. Although there could be many factors contributing to this loss, the menhaden depletions seems to be a major issue, signaling a serious imbalance in the local ecosystem. When such a large food source changes it's population, many ecological systems fail, and the osprey is one of the bellwethers. This must be addressed immediately to restore the natural system, not only for the wildlife that depends on them, but for us as well. Please do everything you can to support the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 6:47 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Debbie Spinnler

Email

billspinn@aol.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I support the draft addendum and the most precautionary measures. The health of our coastline, ospreys and all wildlife should be a top priority for all of us. We must do all we can to preserve it. Thank you

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 6:43 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

David Schwab

Email

davidmschwab@yahoo.com

State

Maryland

Comment

For the love of God take action and restrict this fishery. How can we let a foreign fleet rape our waters?

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 6:25 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Tara Berard

Email

tberara2018@gmail.con

State

Rhode Island

Comment

I support measures to control overfishing of menhaden and other fish. Trawlers are taking away a crucial part of the food supply for many species. We need to protect natural food chains.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 12:51 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Alison DiBrizzi

Email

abennett6317@hotmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

For the osprey

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 12:49 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michelle Agin

Email

michelle_agin@hotmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

When the ecosystem is showing signs of impact, you must act now as it will already take time to reverse the damage. Just as the damage has been mounting and we didn't see it immediately; if we wait, we cannot foresee its long term damage which will no doubt have a ripple effect throughout the ecosystem and more species will become under threat or worse extinction. STOP OVER FISHING NOW, THERE IS TOO MUCH AT STAKE!! I have family that live near the Chesapeake and this is extremely upsetting news.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 12:19 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Brittany walker

Email

bwalkerslp@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

We must protect wildlife at all cost- this is their home too

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 11:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Gracelyn Donahue

Email

gdonahue05@hotmail.com

State

North Carolina

Comment

Atlantic Menhaden serve as a vital source of food for many keystone species such as ospreys, dolphins, and whales. When I visit the Chesapeake Bay with family, I always look forward to seeing the osprey nesting and hunting for their chicks. They are one of my favorite birds to photograph. Currently, ospreys are struggling to feed themselves and their chicks due to lack of food. By reducing the harvest of Atlantic Menhaden, we can protect ospreys and other vital species from starvation.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 11:14 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kevin Kelly

Email

kellymac9@me.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I am writing to ask you to initiate rulemaking establishing a twelve nautical mile buffer along the entire Atlantic coast in which industrial menhaden reduction vessels may not fish, year-round.

Atlantic menhaden has no federal fishery management plan. That absence is the express trigger in the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act. Section 804(b), 16 U.S.C. 5103(b), authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to implement regulations in the exclusive economic zone where no Magnuson-Stevens plan exists. NOAA has used that authority before; the resulting rules sit at 50 CFR Part 697 and cover weakfish, red drum, American lobster, and horseshoe crab.

In October 2025 the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission cut the 2026 coastwide catch limit by 20 percent, to 186,840 metric tons. Landings in 2024 were 186,155 metric tons. The new limit sits roughly four tenths of one percent below what the fishery had already caught.

By the Commission's own 2025 assessment, fishing mortality in 2023 ran at 1.69 times the ecological target and egg production stood at 71 percent of its target.

A 2026 study of 571 osprey nests in the Chesapeake Bay found that in menhaden-dependent waters, pairs raised 0.51 young

against a replacement rate of 1.15. Thirty miles away in the same bay, where other prey remains available, the same birds produced 1.36. The chicks hatch, and then they starve in the nest.

Ten Atlantic states, from New Hampshire to Florida, already prohibit purse-seining for menhaden, or prohibit it specifically for reduction, within their own waters. Those states acted to the full extent of their jurisdiction, which reaches three nautical miles. Only federal action can carry that principle further offshore.

I am not asking you to end this fishery. I am asking you to move it away from the shoreline, where the birds, the whales, and the gamefish that support coastal economies actually feed, and to do so before the Commission meets in November.

Please initiate rulemaking under section 804(b).

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 9:40 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

William Harclerode

Email

billharclerode@gmail.com

State

South Carolina

Comment

Please reduce the amount of menhaden allowed to be harvested. This year due to severe shortage on jfmgaddn in southern nj, Osprey nests (such as those in Forsythe National Wildlife Preserve as documented by Conserve Wildlife NJ and personally witnessed by me) did not produce hardly any offspring because there wasn't enough food.

I'd prefer if you shut down the commercial harvest completely. Because as everyone knows, menhaden are the most important fish in the sea, they are the primary food source for many other fish and cetaceans.

Sincerely and respectfully,

William Harclerode

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 9:21 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Barbara Ruocchio

Email

bruocchio@comcast.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

While visiting Avalon, NJ, I noticed we did not see as many osprey as we did in previous years. I understand the nests have not been successful this year, and the osprey are not able to produce offspring or even survive due to the declining numbers of Atlantic menhaden. Please stop the overfishing of the menhaden by reducing the fishery cap by 50%. I feel this is imperitive to ensure the survival of the osprey.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 9:08 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Chris Davidson

Email

cdavidsonvq121@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

This overfishing problem needs immediate attention and I strongly suggest that you tighten fishing limits as much as possible. If further studies suggest that overfishing is not the problem with the Menhaden decline the limits can be elevated back to safe levels after the studies are completed.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 9:04 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Laura Joseph

Email

lcinnamonj@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Please reduce the fishery cap up to 50%. There is too much over fishing.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 8:21 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ivan Mendez

Email

mendezia@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

As a surf fisherman of over 30 years I have seen menhaden all but disappear from the coast in the past few years in Monmouth County, NJ. Tackle shops can't get them, charter boat fishermen can't find them. And worst of all, sea birds like osprey are dying and starving. Please pause commercial and reduction fishing if this important forage fish.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 7:56 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Shaun Strain

Email

shaun.strain@comcast.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

To the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission:

I am submitting this comment in support of the strongest available protections for Atlantic menhaden under Draft Addendum II, including the maximum 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap and measures that prevent industrial harvest from being concentrated during critical periods of the year.

Menhaden are not simply another commercial fish stock. They are the foundation of the coastal food web from Virginia through Delaware, New Jersey, New York and beyond. Striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, tuna, marine mammals, ospreys, eagles and countless other predators depend on them. Managing menhaden only by asking whether the coastwide stock is technically “overfished” misses the larger ecological issue: whether enough menhaden are available, in the right places and at the right times, to support the ecosystem that depends on them.

The situation in the Chesapeake Bay should be a warning that the current approach is not sufficiently precautionary. ASMFC itself has acknowledged concerns about declining pound-net harvest and catch per unit effort in the Bay, the increasing concentration of reduction harvest during the summer, and possible downstream effects on menhaden predators.

At the same time, researchers are documenting alarming reproductive failure among Chesapeake Bay ospreys associated

with food limitation and inadequate availability of menhaden. Ospreys recovered from the devastating effects of DDT only to now face another completely avoidable threat: an insufficient supply of their primary prey in portions of one of the most important estuaries on the Atlantic Coast.

It is difficult to justify allowing an industrial reduction fishery to remove enormous quantities of one of the ecosystem's most important forage species from the Chesapeake Bay while predators are struggling to find enough food to successfully reproduce.

Omega Protein's reduction fishery does not exist in isolation. What happens in the Chesapeake affects a connected Mid-Atlantic ecosystem. Menhaden migrate along the coast and support recreational fisheries throughout Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey and New York. Recreational anglers throughout this region understand something that management models can sometimes obscure: abundant forage is what creates healthy fisheries.

Menhaden have far greater value in the water supporting striped bass, bluefish, tuna, weakfish, marine mammals and birds than they do after being reduced into fish meal and fish oil.

I recognize that ASMFC's current stock assessment classifies Atlantic menhaden as not overfished and states that overfishing is not occurring. But a coastwide stock assessment cannot by itself answer the question of localized depletion. A species can be healthy on a coastwide statistical basis while predators and fishermen in particular areas experience severe shortages of forage.

That is exactly why the Chesapeake Bay cap was created in the first place.

The Commission should apply the precautionary principle rather than waiting for absolute scientific certainty after ecological damage has already occurred. When osprey chicks are starving, fishermen are reporting changes in forage availability, Bay catch rates are declining, and industrial harvest is increasingly concentrated in particular seasons and locations, the responsible management response is to leave more menhaden in the water.

I therefore strongly support:

• The maximum 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap.

• Seasonal quota periods that prevent the reduction fleet from concentrating a large portion of its harvest during periods when menhaden are critically important to predators.

• Continued development of management measures that account for localized depletion rather than relying exclusively on coastwide abundance.

• Greater consideration of the needs of ospreys, striped bass and other predators when determining how many menhaden can safely be removed.

• Long-term movement toward managing menhaden first and foremost as an essential forage species supporting the entire Atlantic coastal ecosystem.

ASMFC has an opportunity with Draft Addendum II to demonstrate that ecosystem-based fisheries management means more than simply keeping a forage species above an overfished threshold.

There must also be enough menhaden left in the water to perform the ecological role that makes this species so important.

Please choose the strongest conservation measures available under Draft Addendum II and significantly reduce industrial reduction harvest in Chesapeake Bay.

The health of the Chesapeake Bay and the recreational fisheries of Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey, New York and the rest of the Atlantic Coast depend on abundant forage.

Menhaden belong in the food web.

A concerned lifelong NJ Waterman,
Shaun N. Strain

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 7:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jeannie Hucko

Email

jeannie_hucko@icloud.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I support reducing the Chesapeake Bay menhaden reduction-fishery cap by 50% to help ensure adequate forage is available for osprey and other fish and wildlife that depend on menhaden

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 7:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jessica Nieradka

Email

nieradka.jessica@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I support draft addendum II.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 7:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kinga Erdelyi

Email

kingaerdelyi@icloud.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

On the ground in coastal New Jersey, we have observed a marked increase in food stress over recent years, when adult ospreys cannot find enough prey to sustain their brood.

This isn't new. In the mid-1950s, Herbert Mills, founder of The Wetlands Institute, noted that menhaden were commonplace. By the mid-1960s, offshore trawling coincided with the disappearance of menhaden and osprey declines. Population crashes led to them being listed as endangered in 1974.

In 1997, a New York Times headline warned “Ospreys May Be Starving” as coastal colonies failed. In response, New Jersey passed a landmark 2002 bill banning the industrial harvest of menhaden from state waters to prevent localized overfishing and protect coastal ecosystems.

This year at Sedge Island, home to New Jersey’s most densely populated colony, only two young fledged (down from a normal average of 40). Food stress was widespread across all coastal colonies. In spring, many females did not lay eggs due to lack of prey. Males spent more time away foraging, leaving females starving and forced to forage themselves, leaving young vulnerable to predators and exposure. Chicks grew emaciated and starved.

In 2025 and 2026, an average of 51% of active osprey nests failed, more than double the previous decade's average rate.

Brood sizes are dropping: only 5% of pairs produced three young in 2025–26, compared to a ten-year average of 22%.

This humble forage fish fuels predatory fish and sustains top predators like eagles, ospreys, tuna, striped bass, dolphins, and whales.

these are the words of Ben Wurst who devoted his career to observing and protecting these special birds. I believe we can do much better to give them a chance and to bring back so many species and protect rebuilt the Atlantic coast

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 7:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lili Traband

Email

lilibel89@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

I support the draft addendum, which is necessary to deal with local menhaden depletion
which is affecting our nesting ospreys along with likely other species not as easily studied. It is critical to approve this measure of precautionary management for avian species along the east coast.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 6:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

LUCY CRESCENZI

Email

dcrescenz@snet.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

i steward 4 osprey nests in Clinton CT. Last year 5 ospreys fledged. This year only 1. I kayak down the Indian river into LI Sound and this year did not see any schools of fish in June, July and August, just when the need is high for osprey food. In speaking to local fishermen, they stated that they were unable to get bunker from their local bait shops. Please hear my plea! These birds are magnificant. We let mthem survive from DDT; let them survive again....STOP THE OVERFISHING OF MENHADEN!!!!!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 6:33 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Linda Heine

Email

heinesite@msn.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

What are we allowing to happen? The osprey are starving, and who knows how this is affecting other marine species that depend on the menhaden for food. STOP this now.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 6:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lisa Ferraro

Email

lcferraro@gmail.com

State

Delaware

Comment

I am writing because I am deeply concerned about the continued large-scale harvesting of menhaden from the Chesapeake Bay. As someone who cares deeply about birds, wildlife, and the health of our natural places, I find it incredibly troubling that we continue to remove enormous numbers of such an important forage fish without fully understanding what we may be doing to the larger ecosystem.

My concern goes far beyond menhaden themselves. These fish are part of an interconnected food web that supports ospreys and many other species. Watching an osprey hunt, carry a fish back to its nest, and raise its young is one of the experiences that makes the Chesapeake Bay such a special place. The possibility that we could be contributing to the decline of these birds by removing too much of their food source is heartbreaking—and should be taken very seriously.

What concerns me just as much is what we don't yet know. We have a long history of learning too late that removing one species or altering one part of an ecosystem can have consequences that ripple outward in ways we never anticipated. We should not have to watch osprey populations or other wildlife decline dramatically before deciding that perhaps we have taken too much.

The Chesapeake Bay already faces enormous pressures from pollution, habitat loss, warming waters, and climate change. Why would we knowingly place additional pressure on its food web by allowing intensive commercial harvest of a species that

so many other animals depend upon?

I believe we have an obligation to err on the side of protecting this extraordinary ecosystem. Menhaden should be managed not simply as a commodity to be harvested, but as a critical part of a living Chesapeake Bay.

Please significantly reduce industrial menhaden harvest within the Bay and put the health of the Chesapeake ecosystem first. Once an ecosystem is damaged, restoring it can take generations—if restoration is even possible. We should not look back years from now and wish we had acted when we still had the opportunity.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 6:27 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Matthew Roach

Email

matt.roach.586@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Dear Fisheries Managers:

As a lifelong fisherman on the Chesapeake Bay and along the Atlantic Coast, I feel strongly that Addendum II needs to give Menhaden a fighting chance to avoid overfishing and best support the coastal economies of this country, its wildlife, and all user groups (not only commercial fishermen).

In the Chesapeake Bay, I have, in my lifetime, seen a diminishment of the total number of adult menhaden schools encountered when fishing the middle and lower bay (primarily over the last decade), and simultaneously seen a sudden decrease in nesting Osprey pairs in my home Virginia creek (Hungars). It is extremely alarming, and the best available science supports the decrease in menhaden abundance as a key driver in the success of osprey reduction. I am praying our fisheries managers (you/your colleagues) use the best available science to make decisions in the best interest of the resource.

As for the Chesapeake Bay Cap, I strongly support the following:

Section 3.1: Sub-Option B4 (50% reduction in the current bay cap).
Section 3.2.1: Underage Sub Option 1 (An underage in Quota Period 1 would be split evenly and rolled over to Quota Period 2 and 3)

Section 3.3: Option B (A review of the Chesapeake Bay Cap will occur at minimum once every 3 years)

Thank you for your time and your service. You and your team are stewards of an incredible resource, and with that comes a heavy responsibility to the resource. I wish you success in your analysis and ultimately the decisions that will affect these fish, people, and wildlife of the Chesapeake Bay for years to come.

Regards,
Matthew Roach
Hungars Creek, Virginia

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 6:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Evan Lang

Email

21elang8888@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

For the past 5 years I've seen less and less menhaden in the waters I fish and this year could be the worst yet almost no schools of adult menhaden to be found in places they show up year after year consistently. The juvenile menhaden population also appears to be lacking with multiple estuaries that in years past were loaded with them now have absolutely zero. I believe the quota for commercial fleets up and down the east coast should be reduced or maybe even make them stop all operations for 1 to 2 years to allow the population to rebuild. The menhaden are extremely important for all species including birds, fish and mammals and I believe continuing down the path we are now could lead to a complete collapse of menhaden populations which will directly affect species like striped bass, humpback whales and osprey.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 4:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Peter Chyun

Email

peterchyun@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Dear members, please consider the interest of the greater good when making decisions that will impact our generation and future generations. Please end or significantly scale back the menhaden reduction fishery. It makes no sense to allow a foreign owned entity to pillage the forage fish in our American waters for profit. This has been shown by the science to harm not just the fishery of striped bass, bluefish, red drum but also ospreys, birds and sea mammals. Please protect our environment for us current stakeholders and our children.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 4:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Adrian Hall

Email

adrianhall1974@gmail.com

State

North Carolina

Comment

Please do what you can to protect our fisheries resources for our Children's future and the wildlife that depends on it.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 4:22 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Allyson Kennedy

Email

wylieak@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I support the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 4:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Meredith Watters

Email

meredithwatters@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

We have watched the osprey nest 60' from our shoreline for 30 years. At the beginning we had 2-3 babies fly away successfully. Then it became less and less. For the past 4 years, the same osprey couple have conceived, laid eggs, but nothing hatched. We used to see them dive for meals in our little bay. We think the increasing turbidity has made it very difficult to see the perch food and, therefore, no longer fished in our little bay. Having to fly about 2-3 miles to the mouth of Island Ck, the osprey returned with their food. The past 2 years, our nest was one of two nest platforms on our Ck that had osprey residents. We counted at least 10 empty platforms for the past 2-3 years. Our conclusion is the water transparency has diminished AND there is no food close by. Fewer and fewer osprey arrive here in the spring. I imagine none will come next year.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 4:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Brandi Yoko

Email

zeppelin628@carpkingdom.com

State

Virginia

Comment

The waning abilities of the Chesapeake ospreys to be able to produce full broods that make it to adulthood appears to be dropping year over year. We know that ocean temperatures have been a problem for several years and have been the worst on record this year. We also know, through decades proving as such, that the disappearance of predators from different food webs can cause large scale problems, though those issues arise slowly until it's too late to walk back the original issues. Let's stay ahead of this one and leave more fish for the other animals in the ecosystem who need it before other issues arise because we got too greedy.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 3:56 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sasha Tyburski

Email

sashatyburski@gmail.com

State

Maine

Comment

We need to protect our eco systems and the Osprey are critical right now. Protect their food sources at all cost

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 3:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Eileen Bennett

Email

bennette4796@comcast.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

Please support lowering the cap for menhaden to allow our osprey population to recover.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 3:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Patricia Procopi

Email

patti.pro@cox.net

State

Virginia

Comment

The Osprey are now the canaries in the mines. The population is in collapse. Eggs not hatching. Babies starving. Something needs to be done NOW!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 2:59 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lisa Glavan

Email

lglavan24@comcast.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

It's important to me that we have legislation limiting the killing of menhaden so that there is a large supply to support the needs of osprey. Too many osprey are dying because of lack of food. They are an integral part of our ecosystem. Please pass legislation that allows menhaden to thrive.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 2:43 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Stephanie Hazelton

Email

parispolk13@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
DRAFT ADDENDUM II TO AMENDMENT 3 OF THE
ATLANTIC MENHADEN INTERSTATE FISHERY
MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery
Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries
August 2026
Draft Document for Public Comment
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Seeks Your Input on
Atlantic Menhaden Management
The public is encouraged to submit comments regarding this document during the public comment period. Comments will be accepted until 11:59 p.m. EST on October 9, 2026. Regardless of when they were sent, comments received after that time will not be included in the official record.
We accept public comment in several forms (at public hearings, an online public comment form, an online public comment survey, and via mail or email) and all forms are equally valued. However, we strongly encourage the use of the public comment survey as it allows users to

select specific preferred options in the Draft Addendum and provides space for open-ended comments at the end.

1. Attend public hearings pertinent to your state or jurisdiction (see Action Tracker page for hearing schedule).
2. Online via the public comment survey
3. Online via comment box
4. 5. Email: comments@asmfc.org (subject line: Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II)

Mail: James Boyle, ASMFC, 1050 N, Highland Street, Suite 200-N, Arlington, VA 22201

If you have any questions please contact James Boyle at jboyle@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Commission's Process and Timeline

Date Action

October 2025 Atlantic Menhaden Board Initiates Draft Addendum II

November 2025 – July 2026 Plan Development Team Develops Draft Addendum II for Board Review

August 2026 Atlantic Menhaden Board Reviews Draft Addendum II and Considers Its Approval for Public Comment

August– October 2026 Public Comment Period, including Public Hearings

November 2026 Board Reviews Public Comment, Selects Management Options and Considers Final Approval of Addendum II

TBD Provisions of Addendum II are Implemented

1. INTRODUCTION

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) coordinates Atlantic menhaden (Brevoortia tyrannus) management in state waters (0–3 miles from shore) under the authority of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act and has done so through an Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) since 1981. The states of Maine through Florida have a declared interest in the fishery and are responsible for implementing management measures consistent with the FMP. For the purposes of this draft addendum, the term "state" or "states" also includes the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC). Management authority in the Exclusive Economic Zone (3-200 miles from shore) lies with NOAA Fisheries.

At its October 2025 meeting, the ASMFC's Atlantic Menhaden Management Board (Board) approved the following motion:

Move to initiate Addendum II to the Atlantic Menhaden FMP to address Chesapeake Bay management concerns. The addendum shall develop periods for the Chesapeake Bay Cap that distributes fishing effort more evenly throughout the season and a range of options to reduce the Bay Cap from status quo up to 50%.

Since then, the Board has provided additional guidance on the purpose and range of options for inclusion in this draft addendum.

2. OVERVIEW

2.1 Statement of the Problem

The availability of menhaden in Chesapeake Bay may be affected by changes in total abundance, size distribution of the population, and timing of spatial distribution in the Bay, which can be caused by fishing pressure, environmental conditions, habitat suitability, and/or changing predation pressures on a limited spatial and temporal scale. Such changes in menhaden availability may affect the species' ability to fulfill its ecological and/or economic functions. Recent observations of below average commercial fisheries landings and concerning population trends in several species that use menhaden as prey within Chesapeake Bay suggest that availability of menhaden in Chesapeake Bay may be changing due to one or more of the above drivers. Of the predator species included in the ecological reference point (ERP) assessment, which accounts for menhaden's role as a forage fish, the latest coastwide assessments indicate striped bass is overfished, bluefish are presently rebuilding, weakfish are depleted due to high levels of natural mortality, and spiny dogfish reproductive output is declining but stabilizing (ASMFC, 2024).

Although there are currently not sufficient scientific data available to comprehensively characterize the abundance and distribution of menhaden throughout Chesapeake Bay and the influence of fishing pressure on menhaden, the Commission has been using proactive measures to manage this species in the face of uncertainty and to support both ecological and fishery objectives. Specifically, since 2006, the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap (Bay Cap) has limited harvest of menhaden by the reduction fishery (henceforth, "reduction harvest") within

Chesapeake Bay. This draft addendum responds to concerns that the Bay Cap does not control how harvest is distributed throughout the fishing season and that the amount of the Bay Cap

does not reflect changes to the coastwide total allowable catch (TAC).

Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap

The first issue addressed in the draft addendum is that the Bay Cap is not linked to the overall TAC. Large changes to the TAC without a corresponding change to the Bay Cap significantly alter the percent of the reduction landings (and total landings) that can be taken from Chesapeake Bay, a critical nursery area for menhaden. For example, because Virginia is currently allocated 75.21% of the coastwide TAC, and Virginia allocates 90.04% of their quota to the reduction sector, the current Bay Cap (51,000 mt) paired with a 100,000 mt TAC would allow 75% of the reduction fishery quota to be taken in Chesapeake Bay, but with a 300,000 mt TAC would allow 25% of the reduction fishery quota to be taken in Chesapeake Bay. Such variable outcomes may be inconsistent with the intent of the Bay Cap. The 20% reduction applied to the TAC in 2026, without a corresponding change to the Bay Cap, increased the percentage of possible reduction fishery quota taken in the Chesapeake Bay from 32% to 40%, a larger percentage than has been possible since 2017. The Board is concerned that without a change to the Bay Cap, future changes to the TAC could further shift that percentage. Additionally, changes to the Bay Cap can only be made through an amendment or addendum, meaning the Management Board is often unable to align the timeline for changes to the Bay Cap, if desired, with changes to the TAC. Therefore, this draft addendum considers a one-time reduction in the Bay Cap in consideration of recent or upcoming changes to the TAC and setting the Bay Cap as a proportion of the TAC so that it changes automatically with future changes to the TAC.

Timing of Menhaden Harvest

The second issue this draft addendum aims to address is that the Bay Cap is an annual measure without any associated controls on how reduction harvest is distributed throughout the fishing season. This leaves the potential for a concentration of reduction fishery landings in a short time period, as seen in 2023 and 2024, when over 50% of the Bay reduction fishery landings were taken in a 6-week period in mid-summer. When this occurs, it is possible that these higher-than-normal catch rates could affect availability of menhaden to other fisheries or predators, which is what the Bay Cap was intended to prevent. Consequently, this draft addendum considers establishing quota periods for the Bay Cap to redistribute reduction fishery landings across the reduction fishery season, rather than concentrating them in the beginning and middle of the season.

Revisiting the Bay Cap

Lastly, given the breadth of changes proposed to the Bay Cap in this draft addendum, the uncertainties about whether recent trends in Chesapeake Bay menhaden landings and availability will continue, plus planned research intended to help design a scientifically-based Bay Cap setting process, this draft addendum includes an option that would require a revisit of the Bay Cap provisions every three years at a minimum. Currently, there is no set timeframe for revisiting the Bay Cap.

3

4

but are approximately an order of magnitude greater than bait landings).

(1985-2024) for Atlantic menhaden (Note reduction landings values removed for confidentiality

Figure 1. Coastwide reduction fishery landings (1940-2024) and coastwide bait fishery landings

1940

1942

1944

1946

1948

1950

1952

1954

1956

1958

1960

1962

1964

1966

1968

1970

1972

1974

1976

1978

1980

1982

1984
1986
1988
1990
1992
1994
1996
1998
2000
2002
2004
2006
2008
2010
2012
2014
2016
2018
2020
2022
2024
Reduction Landings
0
10
Bait Landings (1,000 mt)
50
40
30
20
60
70
from Maine to Florida historically.
1985
1987
1989
1991
1993
1995
1997
1999
2001
2003
2005
2007
2009
2011
2013
2015
2017
2019
2021
2023
Virginia; as many as 147 vessels and 25 processing plants operated along the Atlantic coast
reduction fishery has declined to include roughly 10 vessels and one processing plant located in
approximately 129,000 mt from 2020-2024 (Figure 1). Participation in the Atlantic coast
Reduction landings peaked in the mid-20th century (712,100 mt in 1956) and averaged
reduction fishery uses purse seine gear exclusively (also the dominant gear in the bait fishery).
reduction purposes dates back to the early 1800s (fish oil) and the early 1900s (fish meal). The
bait source for other commercial and recreational fisheries. Harvesting of menhaden for
reduced into fish meal and fish oil, and the bait fishery, in which menhaden are harvested as a
The commercial menhaden fishery is divided into the reduction fishery, in which menhaden are
2.2.1 The Reduction Fishery
2.2 Background

Draft Document for Public Comment

Since 2013, total reduction fishery landings have been determined by the annual coastwide Total Allowable Catch (TAC) specified by the Management Board, the percent of the TAC allocated to Virginia by the Interstate FMP, Virginia's internal allocation of its quota among its fishery sectors, and the Virginia reduction fishery's performance with regards to its quota. Currently, Virginia's allocation of the TAC is 75.21%1 based on landings from 2018, 2019, and 2021, and the purse seine reduction fishery's allocation of the Virginia quota is 90.04% based on 2002-2011 average landings. Accordingly, the Virginia reduction fishery has the potential to harvest 67.04% of the TAC.

Reduction fishery vessel effort occurs both inside Chesapeake Bay and outside in the Atlantic Ocean. In the last five years (2021-2025), about 50% of all reduction fishery effort (i.e., purse seine net sets) has occurred within Chesapeake Bay, down from about 70% in 2009. The Bay Cap prohibits additional reduction harvest within the Chesapeake Bay when 100% of the Bay Cap is harvested from Chesapeake Bay, which is defined as areas shoreward of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel.

Figure 2. Proportion of Virginia purse seine reduction effort in Chesapeake Bay.

2.2.2 Bay Cap History

The Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap was first established in 2006 as a precautionary measure in response to an increasing proportion of the total reduction fishery landings being harvested from Chesapeake Bay and concerns about the possibility of localized depletion. Through Addendum III to Amendment 1, the Bay Cap was set at the average landings from 2001-2005 (109,020 mt) to prevent the expansion of the reduction fishery in Chesapeake Bay while the necessary scientific studies were conducted to explore the potential for localized depletion and set a more scientifically quantified harvest threshold if needed. Additional Bay Cap management measures included mandatory payback of any overage in the subsequent year and an allowance to rollover unused quota to the following year up to a specified

1 The state-by-state allocations exclude 1% of the TAC that is reserved for the Episodic Event Set-aside.

maximum. Notably, the adoption of the Bay Cap preceded the adoption of a coastwide TAC for menhaden, which did not occur until 2013 through Amendment 2.

Amendment 2 reduced the Bay Cap by 20% to 87,216 mt beginning in 2013. This 20% reduction mirrored the 20% reduction applied to the average coastwide catch from 2009-2011 that was used to set the first-ever TAC. (This was an ad hoc approach to set the TAC based on recent landings due to uncertainty in the 2012 stock assessment's projections; all subsequent TACs have been set using a stock assessment-based projection methodology). Amendment 2 also reduced the Bay Cap underage rollover maximum by 20%.

The next change to the Bay Cap occurred in 2018, when it was reduced to 51,000 mt in Amendment 3. Similar to how the Bay Cap was initially set, this amount represented an approximation of the average Bay reduction fishery landings from 2012-2016. This action again capped landings at recent levels as a precautionary management approach. Unlike the change to the Bay Cap in Amendment 2, this ~41.5% reduction in the Bay Cap did not correspond to the change made to the TAC in the same year (8% increase). Amendment 3 also removed the allowance for any rollover of unused Bay Cap (as well as any unused TAC) and established that unused quota from a region or state cannot be transferred to the Bay Cap to reduce an overage.

The Bay Cap has remained at 51,000 mt since 2018 (except in 2020 when it was reduced to account for an overage in 2019; reduction fishery landings from the Chesapeake Bay have always otherwise been below the Bay Cap). Since that time, the TAC has been adjusted three times, including a 10% reduction in 2021, a 20.1% increase in 2023, and a 20% reduction in 2026, all without any change to the Bay Cap (Table 1).

The history, intent, and setting process for the Bay Cap and TAC differ in notable ways. First, the Management Board sets the TAC through Board action based on coastwide stock assessment projections in comparison to target and threshold reference points. Since 2021, ecosystem-based stock assessments and reference points have been used, meaning the TAC is set to account for menhaden's role as a critical forage species on a coastwide basis. No similar approach exists to set the Bay Cap at a level scientifically determined to support forage needs in Chesapeake Bay; rather, recent landing levels have typically been used to set the Bay Cap, thereby preventing further expansion. Second, the TAC limits the total removals of menhaden coastwide by all fishery participants, in contrast to the Bap Cap, which limits only reduction fishery landings in Chesapeake Bay. Additional reduction harvest can take place outside of Chesapeake Bay, and additional bait harvest can take place inside of Chesapeake Bay. Third, the Bay Cap management measures can only be revised through an addendum or amendment to the FMP, whereas the TAC can be set by the Board through specifications (i.e., a Board vote) on an annual or multi-year basis. The result is that the TAC has changed with greater frequency, and changes to TAC and Bay Cap that do co-occur have not always been in the same direction.

Consequently, the amount of the Bay Cap as a proportion of the total TAC is variable over time (Table 1).

Table 1. History of coastwide TACs and Bay Caps.

Year	TAC (mt)	Bay Cap (mt)	Bay Cap as Percent of TAC
2006	-	109,020	-
2007	-	109,020	-
2008	-	109,020	-
2009	170,800	87,216	51.06%
2010	87,216	87,216	51.06%
2011	-	109,020	-
2012	-	109,020	-
2013	-	109,020	-
2014	170,800	87,216	51.06%
2015	187,880	87,216	46.42%
2016	187,880	87,216	46.42%
2017	200,000	87,216	43.61%
2018	216,000	51,000	23.61%
2019	216,000	51,000	23.61%
2020	216,000	51,000*	23.61%
2021	194,400	51,000	26.23%
2022	194,400	51,000	26.23%
2023	233,550	51,000	21.84%
2024	233,550	51,000	21.84%
2025	233,550	51,000	21.84%
2026	186,840	51,000	27.30%

*2020 Bay Cap was reduced from 51,000 mt due to 2019 overage.

2.2.3 Seasonality of Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery

By Virginia law, the Chesapeake Bay purse seine reduction fishery is permitted to begin on the first Monday in May and ends on the third Friday in November. However, realized effort is based on resource availability as informed by the use of spotter aircraft to locate schools of menhaden. Consequently, the onset and magnitude of effort by week of the year is variable across years (Figure 3) as is the trend in cumulative percent of annual landings (Figure 4). For example, 2018 saw heavier effort and a steeper rate of landings earlier in the season than the years following; whereas 2023 and 2024 experienced delayed season starts but higher mid-season rates of landing compared to the years prior.

Figure 3. Percent of annual effort (number of net sets) by week for the menhaden purse seine reduction fishery in the Chesapeake Bay 2018-2024.

Figure 4. Cumulative percent of annual landings in the Chesapeake Bay menhaden reduction fishery 2028-2024.

2.2.4 Chesapeake Bay Pound Net Catch

The shift in Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery harvest later in the season in 2023 and 2024 corresponded with declines in Chesapeake Bay pound net fishery harvest (Figure 5), which typically peak during the summer months. For example, the Maryland Chesapeake Bay pound net harvest declined by 60% in 2024 from the 2018-2022 average. This co-occurrence raised concerns among Chesapeake Bay pound net harvesters, about a potential user group conflict with the reduction fishery and about an overall trend towards reduced menhaden presence, spatial distribution, and abundance within the Bay.

Figure 5. Total menhaden harvest in Maryland, PRFC, and Virginia pound net fisheries, 2018-2024.

The Plan Development Team (PDT) and Technical Committee (TC) investigated variability in fishery effort and/or menhaden availability as potential causes for the decline in pound net harvest. While true abundance (or availability) is not known, catch per unit effort (CPUE) can be used as a proxy if it is assumed there are no major changes to how the fishery operated between years.

Overall, the TC found notable declines in CPUE in the pound net fisheries of Maryland, Virginia, and PRFC in 2024 (Figure 6). As harvest declined, PRFC found a slight increasing trend in the time it takes to reach 50% of the annual cumulative harvest where 2024 was approximately 7

weeks later than the 2018-2023 average. PRFC and Maryland also discovered that the number of trips that caught 5,000 pounds or more of menhaden have declined to their lowest levels since 2018.

Figure 6. Annual menhaden Pound Net CPUE from Maryland, Potomac River, and Virginia. CPUE is in pounds per net day. Sources: Maryland DNR, PRFC, and VMRC.
Looking more closely at Maryland, during the second half of the year (weeks 27+), weekly CPUE in 2023 is generally equal to or greater than the 2018-2022 average (Figure 7), suggesting little influence of the reduction fishery on pound net catches. However, weekly pound net CPUE in 2024 shows a different pattern. Beginning in week 31 and continuing through the end of the year, CPUE in 2024 is generally below the 2018-2022 average (Figure 7). Just prior to this time period, the reduction fishery was experiencing higher than normal catch rates (Figure 8). The reduction fishery began in week 23, approximately five weeks later than 2018-2022, but by

week 33 had caught approximately 60% of the annual catch, which is in line with earlier years. It is possible that these higher than normal catch rates may have affected availability of fish in the upper bay, thereby affecting pound net catches. Although catch rates were higher than normal, total catch was equivalent among years. Any link between reduction harvest and availability in the upper bay would be a joint function of fishery dynamics and migratory patterns (e.g. timing and location) at a finer scale than could be considered in the PDT analysis.
Figure 7. Weekly CPUE in MD pound net fishery for weeks 27-52.
Figure 8. Timing of the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery showing a delayed start with higher than average catch rates in weeks 23-33 in 2023-2024.
The PDT notes that the effort values used to calculate CPUE for all three pound net jurisdictions only includes nets catching menhaden. Menhaden account for a high proportion of some pound net harvesters' catch, which could lead to reduced effort if menhaden availability dropped to a

point where fishing was no longer profitable. Nets that remain profitable catching other species, but that no longer are catching menhaden would also not be included in the effort used in these calculations. These two factors could lead to more stability in the pound net CPUE as menhaden abundance declines, since only nets set in the best location to catch menhaden would be included in the effort used to calculate CPUE during a reduction in menhaden availability.

2.2.5 Chesapeake Bay Adult Fishery Independent Indices

The TC also looked at recent fishery independent indices included in the 2025 stock assessment for a trend in relative abundance, although noted that 2023 was the most recent year available in the assessment and that temporal and spatial differences between the surveys and fisheries make it difficult to compare the different trends.
For more recent data, the PDT reviewed the adult index from the fishery independent survey conducted in the Choptank River in Maryland (Figure 9). The survey has been conducted by Maryland DNR using gillnet gear during June-August since 2013. Between 2018 and 2023, the abundance appears to have been relatively stable with moderate interannual variability. In 2024, abundance dropped dramatically and remained low in 2025. While limited to a single tidal river system, the index does indicate lower relative abundance of adult Atlantic menhaden in 2024, as also indicated by the fishery dependent Pound Net CPUEs.
Figure 9. Maryland DNR Choptank River Gillnet Survey geometric mean catch per gill net hour and 95% confidence limits, 2013-2025.

2.3 Social and Economic Impacts

This Addendum includes measures that could influence the size of the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap and introduce quota periods to distribute removals more evenly over the course of the year. These measures may produce socioeconomic impacts to the commercial reduction fishery and dependent communities as they could limit harvest within the Chesapeake Bay and affect seasonal operations. Additionally, the measures are intended to provide increased ecosystem benefits through enhanced forage opportunities, which could impact individuals who derive value from species that prey upon menhaden.
Two prior socioeconomic studies on the commercial menhaden fisheries provide important context: Kirkely et al. (2011), who assess the economic importance of the reduction sector under alternative harvest scenarios in the Chesapeake Bay, and Whitehead and Harrison (2017), who conducted a socioeconomic study of the commercial bait and reduction fisheries to inform development of Amendment 3. Kirkley et al. (2011) estimated that the reduction sector

supported approximately 519 full- and part-time jobs in Maryland and Virginia, including 347 in Northumberland County, Virginia, associated with total landings of about 141,000 metric tons, of which roughly 85,000 metric tons were harvested from the Chesapeake Bay. Under an extreme scenario in which no harvest was allowed in the Bay and effort could not be shifted to coastal waters, employment losses in Northumberland County were estimated at up to 176 jobs, including 98 direct losses in the reduction sector. The analysis also indicated that a reduction of 1,000 metric tons in Chesapeake Bay quota corresponded to an estimated loss of approximately $630,000 in regional economic output (~$940,000 in 2025) and 3.7 total jobs, including 2.1 direct jobs in the reduction sector. Whitehead and Harrison (2017) applied a similar modeling framework to evaluate economic impacts associated with coastwide quota changes and found a 6.45% increase in total quota (≈12,100 metric tons) would result in combined impacts from the bait and reduction sectors of approximately $6.3 million in economic output and 99 jobs, corresponding to about $520,000 in regional economic output (~$680,000 in 2025) and 8.2 jobs per 1,000 metric tons. Both studies use Leontief input-output models, which do not account for market adjustments or adaptive industry behavior and may overstate long-term employment effects of quota changes.

While neither Kirkley et al. (2011) nor Whitehead and Harrison (2017) explicitly evaluate seasonal harvest restrictions within Chesapeake Bay, both studies suggest that economic impacts are driven primarily by total landings rather than the timing of harvest. Evidence that effort and harvest respond flexibly to economic and regulatory conditions implies that seasonal limits may reallocate fishing activity across the season with limited overall economic impact, provided that total allowable harvest is not substantially reduced. However, impacts may arise if seasonal restrictions constrain periods of high catch efficiency or limit the ability of the reduction sector to maintain consistent processing throughput. It is likely that economic impacts and employment effects associated with output reductions in the reduction sector would respond non-linearly and be characterized by threshold triggers due to high fixed costs in the industry. This would suggest that there are critical output levels, past which employment could change dramatically.

3. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

This draft addendum considers modifying the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap component of the management program. The intent of the Bay Cap is to limit the amount of reduction fishery harvest that occurs in Chesapeake Bay, a critical nursery area for Atlantic menhaden. Harvest for reduction purposes shall be prohibited within Chesapeake Bay when 100% of the Bay Cap is harvested from Chesapeake Bay, which is defined as areas shoreward of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. Harvest above the Bay Cap in any given year will be deducted from the next year's Bay Cap. Furthermore, unused quota from a region or state cannot be transferred to the Bay Cap to reduce an overage. If the Bay Cap is underharvested, the un-landed fish under the Bay Cap cannot be rolled over into the subsequent year.

An objective is listed for each component to guide evaluation of proposed options in addressing the issues identified for each component in the statement of the problem. When the Board takes final action on the addendum, there will be the opportunity to select any measure within the range of options that went out for public comment, including combining options across issues, unless otherwise specified.

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount

These options consider reducing the amount of the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap as a precautionary measure in response to concerns about reduced menhaden availability in Chesapeake Bay and consider changes to the manner in which the Bay Cap is set to be more responsive to changes in the TAC. Only one option among Option A, B, and C can be selected. In Options B and C, the Board may select any measure within the range of options. In Option C, a sub-option must be selected from both C1 and C2. Additionally, changes to the Bay Cap do not affect state allocations. Landings that apply to the Bay Cap also apply to Virginia's state allocation.

Option A. Status Quo. The Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap is maintained at 51,000 mt. This value represents an approximation of the five-year average of reduction harvest from Chesapeake Bay between 2012 and 2016. An approximate value is used because reduction landings in Chesapeake Bay are confidential. Future changes to the Bay Cap may only be made through adaptive management (i.e., an amendment or addendum).

Option B. One-time Reduction in the Bay Cap. The Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap is reduced by a percentage. The Board may select to phase-in the reduction over multiple years. Future changes to the Bay Cap may only be made through adaptive management (i.e., an amendment or addendum).

Sub Option B1: 10% reduction, resulting in a Bay Cap of 45,900 mt

Sub Option B2: 20% reduction, resulting in a Bay Cap of 40,800 mt

Sub Option B3: 30% reduction, resulting in a Bay Cap of 35,700 mt
Sub Option B4: 50% reduction, resulting in a Bay Cap of 25,500 mt
Option B2 applies the same percent reduction to the Bay Cap as was adopted by the Atlantic Menhaden Board for the 2026 TAC. Option B1 applies a smaller percent reduction to the Bay Cap than adopted for the 2026 TAC while Options B3 and B4 apply greater percent reductions; this range accounts for uncertainty in how the abundance in the Chesapeake Bay correlates to abundance of the coastwide stock. The range of options also provides flexibility for the Board to adjust the Bay Cap in response to how it sets the TAC for the next two to three years, as is scheduled to occur at the November 2026 ASMFC Meeting before taking final action on this addendum.

Option C. Linking the Bay Cap to Coastwide TAC

The Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap would be set as a proportion of the TAC. In addition, an upper and lower limit would control how low and high the Bay Cap could shift with changing TACs. Setting the Bay Cap as a proportion of the TAC means that any future change to the TAC is also applied to the Bay Cap as the same percent reduction or increase (unless restricted by an upper or lower limit), thus establishing a direct link between the Bay Cap and the TAC. Adaptive management would be required to modify or depart from the automatic Bay Cap setting process selected under this option.

The option considers a range of Bay Cap:TAC proportions, from the current (2026) proportion to the proportions that would result if the Bay Cap were reduced by 10 to 50% relative to the 2026 TAC (Table 2). This range effectively allows the Board to apply a reduction to the Bay Cap similar to that in Option B before locking in the proportion that would maintain the relationship between the Bay Cap and TAC moving forward. Table 2 provides the Bay Cap that would result in 2027 under a status quo TAC scenario; if the TAC were adjusted for 2027, the Bay Cap would change by the same percent (as the TAC from 2026) from the amount shown. For example, the proportion in Option C1c is the same as if the Bay Cap had been reduced by 20% with the 2026 TAC. For a full history of Bay Caps and TACs see Table 1 in Section 2.2.2. Option C also considers upper and lower limits for the Bay Cap (Table 3). The upper limit options range from the highest to the lowest Bay Cap implemented by management. The lower limits range from none to the lower 95% confidence interval of the mean harvest from 2012-2016. This time period is the one used to calculate the current Bay Cap and incorporates the variability around the harvest when the Bay Cap was set at a higher level than the current Bay Cap.

Table 2. Sub-Options C1a-e for setting the Bay Cap as a Proportion of the TAC. Note: Proportions shown here are rounded for clarity; the Bay Cap would be based on unrounded values.

Option	Proportion Basis	Cap in 2027 under status quo TAC (186,840 mt)
C1a	27.3%	2026 Bay Cap : 2026 TAC 51,000 mt
C1b	24.6%	10% reduction to 2026 Bay Cap : 2026 TAC 45,900 mt
C1c	21.8%	20% reduction to 2026 Bay Cap : 2026 TAC 40,800 mt
C1d	19.1%	30% reduction to 2026 Bay Cap : 2026 TAC 35,700 mt
C1e	13.6%	50% reduction to 2026 Bay Cap : 2026 TAC 25,500 mt

Table 3. Sub-Options C2a-e for setting an Upper and Lower limit for the Bay Cap.

Option	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	Basis
C2a.	51,000 mt	None	Upper: Current Bay Cap Lower: n/a
C2b	51,000 mt	25,500 mt	Upper: Current Bay Cap Lower: Maximum Reduction Under Consideration
C2c.	87,216 mt	None	Upper: Highest Cap since management with TAC Lower: n/a
C2d.	87,216 mt	25,500 mt	Upper: Highest Cap since management with TAC Lower: Maximum Reduction Under Consideration
C2e.	75,000 mt	29,000 mt	Upper/Lower: Approximate 95% confidence intervals around the approximate 2012-2016 mean Chesapeake Bay reduction harvest. Note: if Sub-Option C1e is selected, the lower limit for this option will be 25,500 mt.

3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution

3.2.1. Quota Periods

These options consider dividing the Bay Cap into quota periods to moderate reduction fishery landings in the beginning and middle of the reduction fishery season as a precautionary measure to support the availability of menhaden to other fisheries and predators.

Option A. Status Quo

The Bay Cap remains an annual measure only with no division into quota periods.

Option B. Three Quota Periods

The Bay Cap would be divided into three quota periods defined by one of the sub-options in Table 4.

Table 4. Options to divide the Bay Cap into three quota periods. Note: Because the reduction fishery begins the first Monday in May and ends on the third Friday in November, depending on the year, the length of the fishing season is either 28 weeks and 5 days or 27 weeks and 5 days. The table outlines the length of each quota period for a season of 28 weeks and 5 days. For years with 27 weeks and 5 days, one week is removed from the final quota period. Example dates are given for 2027.

Option	Description	Length of Quota Periods	2027 Time of Year Example*	Percent of total Bay Cap
B1	Even Length & Even Harvest	9 weeks	May 3–Jul 4	33%
		10 weeks	Jul 5–Sep 12	33%
		9 weeks and 5 days	Sep 13–Nov 19	34%
B2	Even Length & Uneven Harvest	9 weeks	May 3–Jul 4	25%
		10 weeks	Jul 5–Sep 12	25%
		9 weeks and 5 days	Sep 13–Nov 19	50%
B3	Uneven Length & Even Harvest	11 weeks	May 3–Jul 18	33%
		6 weeks	Jul 19–Aug 29	33%
		11 weeks and 5 days	Aug 30–Nov 19	34%

Options B1 and B2 contain three quota periods of roughly equal length, with Option B1 intended to provide an equal distribution of harvest whereas Option B2 gives greater emphasis on delaying harvest until later in the season. Option B3 presents three periods of unequal length, with the extended first period intended to delay some reduction harvest until later in the year compared to recent performance and the short middle period intended to allow the fishery to continue to operate as it has been during what has been the peak period in recent years.

To help understand how Options B1-B3 may alter the reduction fishery's operation, Table 5 provides the 2018–2024 average percent of reduction fishery effort and landings that occurred

in the proposed quota periods. Furthermore, Figure 10 contrasts the options' projected reduction fishery cumulative harvest by week with the 2018–2024 average cumulative harvest by week for the reduction fishery and the Maryland, Virginia, and PRFC pound net fisheries.

Table 5. Approximate average percent purse seine reduction landings and effort in the Chesapeake Bay 2018-2024 corresponding to the quota periods as presented in Options B1-B3.

Option	Length of Quota Period	2027 Dates	Average % Landings (2018-2024)	Average % Effort (2018-2024)
B1/B2	9 weeks	May 3 - July 4	30%	39%
	10 weeks	July 5 - Sept 12	54%	48%
	9 weeks + 5 days	Sept 13 - Nov 19	16%	13%
B3	11 weeks	May 3 - July 18	38%	44%
	6 weeks	July 19 - Aug 29	36%	34%

11 weeks + 5 days Aug 30 - Nov 19 26% 22%
Quota Period Option Projections
Cumulative Harvest Percent
1
0.9
0.8
0.7
0.6
0.5
0.4
0.3
0.2
0.1
0
19-Feb 19-Mar 19-Apr 19-May 19-Jun 19-Jul 19-Aug 19-Sep 19-Oct 19-Nov 19-Dec
Reduction Cumulative VA PN AVE Cumulative MD PN AVE Cumulative Projected Reduction Option B1 Projected Reduction Option B3
PRFC PN AVE Cumulative
Projected Reduction Option B2
Figure 10. Historical average cumulative harvest by week (2018 - 2024) for the reduction fishery and the Maryland, Virginia, and PRFC pounds net, and a projection of the reduction fishery cumulative harvest under Options B1-B3. The hypothetical projections of Options B1-B3 assume that weekly harvest is consistent within each quota period.

3.2.2 Quota Period Overages and Underages

Note: This section is only required if Option B is selected above in section 3.2.1 to implement quota periods.

The following options outline how overages and underages within quota periods would be addressed. Without any overage payback provision, there would be little incentive for industry to abide by the in-year quota periods. Without any underage rollover provision, the quota periods may inhibit industry's ability to harvest the Bay Cap.

Option A. No payback for quota period overages with rollover of unused quota within a fishing year.

There would be no payback for exceeding the allocation of a quota period unless it causes the Bay Cap to be exceeded. An overage of the total Bay Cap would be deducted from the following year's total Bay Cap before it is allocated into the quota periods. Any underage of Quota Period 1 or 2 can be used in any subsequent quota period within the year.

Example: A three-quota period split was selected with allocations of 25%/25%/50%. The total Bay Cap is set at a fixed 20,000 pounds, resulting in period allocations of 5,000/5,000/10,000 pounds.

• If the fishery catches 7,000/3,000/10,000 pounds (i.e., a Period 1 overage with no Bay Cap overage), then the following year allocations will remain 5,000/5,000/10,000 pounds.

• If the fishery catches 7,000/5,000/10,000 pounds (i.e., a Period 1 overage and Bay Cap overage of 2,000 pounds), then the following year the Bay Cap would be reduced by 2,000 pounds and then allocated to the periods as 4,500/4,500/9,000 pounds.

• If the fishery catches 5,000/3,000/12,000 pounds (i.e., a Period 2 underage rolled into and harvested in Period 3 without exceeding the total Bay Cap), then the following year allocations will remain the same. A Period 2 underage could only be harvested in Period 3 whereas a Period 1 underage could be harvested in Period 2 and/or 3.

Option B. Quota period overage payback with rollover of unused quota within a fishing year.

Any underage of Quota Periods 1 or 2 would be rolled into Period 3 of the same fishing year. Any underage in Quota Period 3 would not be reallocated.

Quota Period 1 or 2 overages would be deducted from the same quota period in the following year and that poundage would be redistributed to Quota Period 3. If a Quota Period 1 or 2 overage also results in a Bay Cap overage, the Bay Cap overage would be accounted for prior to the Quota Period overage. A Quota Period 3 overage would always also result in a Bay Cap overage (due to the underage rollover provision); when this occurs, the Bay Cap overage would be deducted from the Bay Cap in the following year.

If an overage in Quota Period 1 or 2 cannot be paid back in full by the subsequent year's Quota Period allocation, the remainder of the overage will be subtracted from the next earliest quota period (if available). If that quota period allocation is insufficient, the remaining balance would be deducted from the subsequent quota period. Quota period overages that cannot be paid back in full by one quota period will be accounted for last should there be overages of multiple quota periods.

Underage Sub Option 1. Rather than an underage in Quota Period 1 being rolled over entirely to Quota Period 3, an underage in Quota Period 1 would be rolled over in equal halves to Quota Periods 2 and 3. (An underage in Quota Period 2 would still be rolled over entirely to Quota Period 3.)

Example: A three-quota period split was selected with allocations of 25%/25%/50%. The total Bay Cap is set at a fixed 20,000 pounds, resulting in period allocations of 5,000/5,000/10,000 pounds.

• If the fishery catches 7,000/3,000/10,000 pounds (i.e., a Period 1 overage with no Bay Cap overage), then the following year, Period 1 would be reduced by 2,000 pounds and Period 3 would be increased by 2,000 pounds, resulting in allocations of 3,000/5,000/12,000 pounds.

• If the fishery catches 5,000/3,000/12,000 pounds (i.e., a Period 3 overage with no Bay Cap overage), then the allocations remain unchanged the following year at 5,000/5,000/10,000 pounds.

• If the fishery catches 7,000/5,000/10,000 pounds (i.e., a Period 1 overage and Bay Cap overage of 2,000 pounds), then the following year the Bay Cap would be reduced by 2,000 pounds resulting in baseline period allocations of 4,500/4,500/9,000 pounds. Then, the Period 1 overage would be deducted from Period 1 and redistributed to Period 3, resulting in final period allocations of 2,500/4,500/11,000 pounds.

• If the fishery catches 5,000/5,000/12,000 pounds (i.e., a Period 3 overage and Bay Cap overage), then the following year the Bay Cap would be reduced by 2,000 pounds resulting in baseline and final period allocations of 4,500/4,500/9,000 pounds.

• If the fishery catches 1,000/12,000/7,000 pounds (i.e., a Period 2 overage of 7,000 pounds that cannot be paid back in full by Period 2 the following year and no Bay Cap overage), then the following year Period 2 would be set at zero, 2,000 pounds would be deducted from Period 1, and 7,000 pounds would be redistributed to Period 3, resulting in period allocations of 3,000/0/17,000 pounds.

• If the fishery catches 3,000 pounds in Period 1, the 2,000-pound underage is applied entirely to Period 3 that year resulting in Period 2 and 3 allocations of 5,000 and 12,000 pounds, unless Underage Sub-option 1 is selected in which case the 2,000-pound Period 1 underage is applied in equal amounts to Periods 2 and 3 that year resulting in Period 2 and 3 allocations of 6,000 and 11,000 pounds.

• If the fishery catches 6,000/12,000/2,000 pounds (i.e. a Period 1 overage of 1,000 pounds and a Period 2 overage of 7,000 pounds that cannot be paid back in full by Period 2 the following year and no Bay Cap overage), then the following year Period 1

would first be reduced to 4,000 pounds, then the Period 2 overage would be applied to set Period 2 to zero, the remaining 2,000 pounds would be deducted from Period 1, and 8,000 pounds would be redistributed to Period 3, resulting in allocations of 2,000/0/18,000 pounds.

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision

These options consider setting a timeframe for the Board to revisit the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap periodically due to the uncertainty of menhaden's status in the Bay and ongoing work to develop a scientifically-based Bay Cap. Revisiting the Bay Cap does not require the Board to initiate an action to consider changes to the Bay Cap. In either option, the Bay Cap can be reconsidered at any time through the adaptive management process (i.e., an addendum or amendment). A similar revisit provision exists for the quota allocations (every three years).

Option A. Status Quo. There is no set timeframe for the Board to revisit the Bay Cap.

Option B. Revisit Provision. The Chesapeake Bay Cap will be revisited every three years following implementation of this draft addendum.

4. COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE

The Atlantic Menhaden Management Board would need to determine a compliance schedule when considering approval of the draft Addendum.

5. LITERATURE CITED

ASMFC. 2006. Addendum II to Amendment 1 to the Atlantic Menhaden Fishery Management Plan. ASMFC, Arlington, Virginia 31 p.

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ASMFC. 2025. Work Group Report on Precautionary Management in Chesapeake Bay. ASMFC, Arlington, Virginia. 59 p.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 2:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Vicky McErlean

Email

Vicmac526@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Aggressively address the issues with localized depletion of menhaden on the Chesapeake Bay and other parts of the East Coast!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 1:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Chris L

Email

chris0776@hotmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Having seen firsthand the devastation that over fishing, the Menhaden species has wrought I urge you to immediately reduce the catch limit!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 1:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Debbie Schwartz

Email

dbls4713@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Please do what is neccessary to protect the food sources for the Ospreys. Allowing them to die when we can protect their food source is unacceptable !!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 1:23 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Bowen Weisheit

Email

bpweisheit@bpwjrlaw.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I have been fishing, crabbing and hunting on the Bay since 1954. My (anecdotal - though extensive) observation is that a 50% cap on menhaden harvest is too little, too late.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 1:17 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Betsy Leppo

Email

betsyleppo@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

I am writing in support of Draft Addendum II. The Chesapeake This is a crucial measure that will help address the localized depletion of menhaden on the Chesapeake Bay and other parts of the East Coast. Atlantic menhaden are a keystone species and declines in their populations have far reaching effects that will be difficult to reverse if left unchecked. More drastic action in the form of a moratorium is needed for the next few years, and other environmental issues need addressed as well. But this measure is an important step.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 1:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Josh Rayner

Email

joshrayner@yahoo.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I support the largest decrease in harvest of menhaden possible. The effects of overfishing are showing up and down the coast in some of the worst ways possible. Please fix this.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 1:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Elizabeth Rieser-Murphy

Email

riesermurphy@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

Atlantic menhaden are the most important fish in the sea. They are an essential component of the ecosystem and without the menhaden many other species face a collapse including humpback whales, striped bass and even birds. For example, Stockton University reveals an 85% Osprey chick mortality rate in southern New Jersey ospreys due to a severe shortage of Atlantic menhaden. https://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local/skin-and-bones-osprey-chicks-struggle-to-survive-along-jersey-shore/4463737/. There should be an absolute moratorium on large-scale commercial, industrial fishing (or large-scale reduction fishing) of the menhaden until the population is restored. Omega Protein, a foreign-owned company, is responsible for taking 70% of the menhaden catch and this is having catastrophic effects on our ecosystem here which is affecting wildlife and local fishermen. This prioritization of Omega Protein's interests needs to stop. Please protect the menhaden. If a moratorium is not considered, then there should immediately be a cut to the coastwide harvest by at least 55 percent while also beginning the process to give menhaden additional protections urgently needed in the Chesapeake Bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 12:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Richard Draper

Email

dickdraper@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I support draft addendum I in the following manner:
Support 3.1 option B4 50% reduction, resulting in a Bay cap of 25,509 mt
Oppose option C linking the Bay cap to coastwide TAC
Support 3.2.1 B1 even length & uneven harvest 5/3-7/4 33%; 7/5-9/12 33%; 9/13-11/19 34%.
Support Option B any underage quota periods 1 or 2 would be rolled into Period 3 of the same fishing year. Any underage in quota3 would not be reallocated.
Support 3.3 Option B the bay cap will be revisited every 3 years

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 12:52 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Donna Colletti

Email

dc_concern@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Put in place a band on catching mehaden fish for a year or two to give the population a chance to come back then have controlled fishing.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 12:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Robert Gay

Email

skipperbob@comcast.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

The destruction of Menhaden stocks by the Reduction Fishery is negatively impacting predatory fish such as striped bass and also shorebirds such as the Osprey.
Please take significant action to rebuild the stock of this important forage fish as soon as possible. The fish and wildlife depend on your actions!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 12:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jenna Garvey

Email

jennag11@yahoo.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

I support the research and conservation to preserve this keystone species of this ecosystem. Please consider drastic limitations on the commercial fishing of this species so that the ecosystem can function the way it was designed to, which will will benefit the health and well-being for us all.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 12:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Tori Agens

Email

toriagens@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

I am in support of Draft Addendum II and do not believe there is any other answer than greatly slowing down the commercial fishing of menhaden. Osprey populations were finally on the rise and now we are seeing a decline all over again. When will we learn and start fighting for biodiversity and the health of ecosystems that we love so dearly? We should start at 50% reductions, the highest rate allowed under this addendum, as soon as we can so these creatures have a fighting chance on our lands.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 11:23 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Will Flynn

Email

wheelflynn@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Please stop or limit the industrial fishing of menhaden in our Chesapeake Bay. Thank you!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 11:21 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Matti Caffiero

Email

macaffiero@ctemc.org

State

New Jersey

Comment

My name is Matti Caffiero, and I am currently a senior at the Marine Academy of Science and Technology on Sandy Hook in New Jersey. This past summer, as part of my research capstone project, I observed and collected data on five osprey nests along the New Jersey coast. I took data on the amount and type of fish that ospreys brought back to the nest, and the number of young in the nest. I then correlated this data with the reproduction and fledging rates of the young. After observing all summer, ospreys' young have faced an incredible, devastating breeding season with an 85% loss of chicks across nests on the NJ coast. Doing additional research, I've discovered that this isn't just a NJ coast trend. We are seeing declining osprey breeding rates all across the East Coast. Before starting my data this summer, I read a few short articles on the initial effects of reduced Atlantic Menhaden and the effects this has on ospreys. After this summer, Atlantic Menhaden have been proven to have an incredible effect on ospreys, causing food stress and reduced reproduction rates. The osprey population will continue to decline if nothing is done about Menhaden harvesting. Limiting the Bay Cap to allow the Menhaden population to recover is necessary to support other forms of life. After witnessing the disastrous summer for Ospreys, the only possible way to help reduce the food stress they are experiencing is by saving the Atlantic Menhaden first.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 10:42 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Slade Ellis

Email

slade75@comcast.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

Atlantic menhaden are a small forage fish, but their importance to the Atlantic coastal ecosystem is enormous. They serve as a critical food source for striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, tuna, sharks, whales, dolphins, osprey, eagles, and numerous other species. They are also an important component of the broader marine food web.

When menhaden populations are heavily harvested, the consequences can extend far beyond the fishery itself. Removing large quantities of this forage fish can reduce the availability of food for predators and place additional pressure on already-stressed fish and wildlife populations. It can also affect recreational fishing, commercial fisheries, whale and bird populations, and the coastal communities whose economies depend on a healthy marine ecosystem.

There is also an important distinction between managing menhaden as an individual commercial resource and managing them as a foundational part of the ecosystem. The value of menhaden should not be measured solely by the market value of the fish that are harvested. Their ecological value as food for other species is considerably broader.

I am asking for the implementation of a precautionary, ecosystem-based approach to menhaden management. That should include:

Maintaining sufficient menhaden abundance to support the predators and ecosystems that depend upon them.

Using the best available scientific data when establishing harvest limits.
Considering the needs of recreational and commercial fisheries, not simply the interests of the menhaden reduction fishery.
Strengthening monitoring and enforcement to ensure that established harvest limits are actually followed.
Evaluating the cumulative ecological effects of large-scale menhaden removals.
Giving serious consideration to regional depletion, rather than relying exclusively on coastwide population estimates.
Continuing to improve management measures as new scientific information becomes available.

This is not an argument against responsible commercial fishing. It is an argument for recognizing that menhaden are much more than a commodity. They are a critical link between the productivity of the ocean and the species—and people—that depend upon it.

Once a forage-fish population is depleted, rebuilding the broader ecosystem can take considerably longer than reducing the harvest in the first place. Preventing that situation is both scientifically prudent and economically responsible.

I respectfully ask the Committee to ensure that Atlantic menhaden management places the long-term health of the marine ecosystem, recreational fisheries, commercial fisheries, and coastal communities at the center of its decisions.

Thank you for your consideration.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 10:40 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Brendan Kenny

Email

bmkenny@comcast.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

Ospreys nests are failing at an alarming rate. Missing pods of Bunker more and more each year. It's not cyclical, it's an issue. Do what's right, preserve the coast and all ecosystems that rely on them. I've watched ospreys nest for the last decade, and the diet has completely switched. 10+ nests that I monitor are within 1 mile of the ocean. They have always returned with bunker. Day in day out. They are now returning with catfish and short fluke and it is far less often. Chicks are starving and something is off.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 10:36 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Vincent Haynie

Email

vincenthaynie@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

The menhaden industry is one of the most regulated fisheries on the East Coast and the Gulf of America. There needs to be NO CHANGE to current caps placed on menhaden fisheries.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 10:30 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Cassidy Jensen

Email

cassidyjensen298@gmail.com

State

Florida

Comment

The health of the Chesapeake Bay and the coastal tributaries is in turmoil. This is evidenced in the declining osprey populations, which is a result of menhaden being overfished. Menhaden are a crucial part of the food web and overall health of our inshore and offshore waters, supporting the populations of numerous species including ospreys, bald eagles, dolphins, whales and so much more. There absolutely 100% needs to be a cap on the amount of menhaden that is allowed to be harvested. The health of the Bay and of our coastal waters is at risk and has been at risk for a long time now, so please make the right decision and approve this addendum!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 10:12 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sara Ball

Email

mcnallyball@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

My understanding is that menhaden are crucial to ospreys and other valuable members of the entire East Coast ecosystem. And that the depletion of this fish is already causing real damage. We need to prevent intentional and accidental destruction of menhaden because they play such a vital part of the whole fabric of wildlife.

The osprey is a glorious American bird. And it's not the only creature starving for lack of menhaden or disrupted by their depletion.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 9:56 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sandra Murdoch

Email

sandymurdoch8@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

We need to do a better job with our wildlife. We are the stewards and need to take charge to reduce the commercial over fishing of menhaden. I want a future where Osprey thrive in our region. It is shameful what is going on right now. We need Atlantic Menhadden Addendum II to pass

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 9:44 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Giana Gaughan

Email

gmgregga@gmail.dom

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

Please step up to help the osprey population which is critical to the balance of our ecosystem! They are starving to death and we have an obligation to step in and help, especially since we created the problem. I am utterly disgusted by the lack of empathy and action.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 9:40 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

MaryLou Petrak

Email

stormy6k@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Please ban the harvesting of menhaden in the Delaware and Chesapeake bays. We live on the Great Bay and there were far fewer ospreys than usual. The nest across from our house remained empty for the first time ever in all the years we've been here.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 9:39 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sharon Ragonese

Email

naturesrescue@comcast.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

We must stop the overfishing of menhaden to ensure the longevity of many animal species that depend on them for food and survival.
It is appalling that this has been allowed to continue to the point that many species are starving to death. Please put strict limits on the fishing or stop it completely to allow other species to survive.
Thank you for your consideration.
Sharon Ragonese

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 9:36 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Bridget Klosinski

Email

bklosinski55@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Protections need to be put in place to preserve Osprey and other wildlife. We cannot continue to overfish and destroy the ecosystem on which we all depend. Enough is enough.

Limit it.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 9:13 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Anne Harvey

Email

cstarah@gmail.com

State

North Carolina

Comment

Please protect the Atlantic Menhaden. So much in the ecosystem depends on a healthy menhaden population. We must stop putting short term profits above a long term healthy place to live. I'm not that old and already I have seen ecological systems collapse around me. The world isn't getting smaller - there's just less in it. Please do your part to protect what is left. Ospreys in particular are a national icon and everyone deserves a future with ospreys, clean ocean water, and menhaden.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 9:13 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Janet Shaheen

Email

jwood102566@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Please put a cap on menhaden fishing in our waters. The osprey population is being decimated in our area and the overfishing is no doubt the culprit. The osprey have been a cherished part of our environment since I was a young child and they need to be protected.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 9:09 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Susanne Lockhart

Email

susannemlockhart11@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

As a rower in the back bays of Atlantic County, Nj for most of my life (over 50 years), in recent years there has been an obvious decline in ospreys on the nesting perches here. We used to marvel at the baby ospreys peering out of the nests. Please limit the menhaden catches or better yet, place a moratorium on menhaden fishing so the ospreys don't continue down this already horrific spiral.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 9:04 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Grace Brescia

Email

gvb2094@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the future management of Atlantic menhaden. I am writing in support of protecting ospreys and the broader coastal ecosystem by taking meaningful action to prevent localized depletion of menhaden. As someone who has spent years bird watching and observing ospreys along the New Jersey coast, it appears there has been a disturbing increase in food stress in recent years. This is not simply a matter of fewer chicks surviving. We are seeing adults struggle to find enough prey to support their broods, females returning from migration and failing to lay eggs, adults spending longer periods away from nests searching for food, and chicks becoming emaciated and, in some cases, starving to death. The numbers are deeply concerning. From the research I have come across, in 2025 and 2026, approximately 51% of active osprey nests failed—more than twice the average failure rate of the preceding decade. Only 5% of pairs produced three young, compared with a ten-year average of 22%.

This deserves our attention. Menhaden are not merely a commercial commodity. They are foundational forage fish that transfer energy throughout the coastal food web. Ospreys are particularly valuable indicators because they make changes in prey availability visible. Menhaden support an extraordinary range of marine and coastal wildlife, including ospreys, eagles, gannets, loons, tuna, bluefish, striped bass, dolphins, and whales. They also filter coastal waters and provide food for predators at multiple stages of their lives. This is why I believe localized depletion deserves particular attention.

I am not suggesting that every osprey nest failure has a single cause. Predation, weather, habitat conditions, disease,

contamination, climate-related changes, and other factors can all affect reproductive success. But that uncertainty is precisely why a precautionary approach is warranted. A responsible course of action is to protect the forage base while we continue gathering better data.

I therefore urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to adopt strong precautionary measures in Draft Addendum II to address localized depletion of Atlantic menhaden, particularly in areas where ecological indicators demonstrate that forage availability may be inadequate. Ospreys cannot tell us exactly what is happening beneath the surface. But they can show us when something is wrong.
When young ospreys are starving, we should listen.

Thank you for considering this comment.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 8:56 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Brittany Powell

Email

jabrittany@msn.com

State

Florida

Comment

You must do something to stop overfishing these waters. The current policies are starving out the osprey. Please ban overfishing in these waters and give the birds a chance to recover. At this rate, these birds are going to become nonexistent in the area. This should be an AGGRESSIVE plan for their recovery.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 8:42 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

David Walton

Email

drw5080@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

Please eliminate commercial menhaden in order to restore the food source of everything in the bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 8:27 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Judith de Blois

Email

judydeblois@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

My work has always been in healthcare but my passions have always been the ocean and back bays of LBI . It is intense sadness that has me writing to encourage the powers that be to do something to stop the destruction of our wildlife. What's happening in the tidal community is heartbreaking please work to reverse this,thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 8:14 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Blair Berger

Email

blair.berger1@gmail.com

State

South Carolina

Comment

I'm in strong support of Atlantic menhaden Draft Addendum II as someone who cares about the survival of native species and the natural balance of our ecosystems. If Osprey are starving and failing to thrive, that is a sign that many other species are negatively impacted as well.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 8:12 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Loretta Frayman

Email

lfrayman1549@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Nothing in our capitalist society can be more important than making sure the natural order of nature is not destroyed. Greed equals stupidity. When will we learn that this greed is killing us and everything around us. Stop the destruction of our most precious food source now.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 8:04 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Vito Simone

Email

vitoproplumber@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

The destruction of Menhaden stocks by the Reduction Fishery is negatively impacting predatory fish such as striped bass and also shorebirds such as the Osprey. Please take significant action to rebuild the stock of this important forage fish as soon as possible before its to late.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 8:04 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Vito Simone

Email

vitoproplumber@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

The destruction of Menhaden stocks by the Reduction Fishery is negatively impacting predatory fish such as striped bass and also shorebirds such as the Osprey. Please take significant action to rebuild the stock of this important forage fish as soon as possible before its to late.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 8:03 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Greg Madjeski

Email

greg.madjeski@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Stop the unregulated harvesting of food fish that our wildlife, particularly Osprey,, depend on, not only for just their health but especially for their young. More young Osprey's were hatched, only to starve due to a lack of food fish. This is 100% due to over harvesting the fish they depend on. This needs to stop now, before it goes any further.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 7:45 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Askildsen

Email

askildsen@verizon.net

State

New York

Comment

It is clear that our resident osprey population is suffering greatly from the over harvesting of Atlantic Menhaden. The ASMFC has a responsibility to manage fish populations responsibly, and in its own admission, has indicated that they made a mistake by opening up the Atlantic Menhaden harvest to the level they previously did. It is now time, even beyond the time , to pull back the reigns on the gross overfishing of this species before not only the osprey population crashes, but the complete failure of a number of species in the littoral zone crashes as well. It is now time to restrict the harvest by a full 50%, if not closing the harvest altogether.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 7:39 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Derek Kettig

Email

dairyfreefishing@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Dear Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

As a recreational angler, I support reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by the full 50% considered under Draft Addendum II and establishing quota periods to spread harvest throughout the season.

Protecting menhaden is an investment in the health of our fisheries and the economic future of small shore communities. Menhaden provide food for striped bass and other fish that attract recreational anglers. Reliable fishing opportunities help bring visitors to coastal towns, where their spending supports local jobs and small businesses.

The economic benefits of recreational fishing extend far beyond the boat. Charter captains depend on customers booking trips. Tackle shops, marinas, bait dealers, and boat repair businesses depend on active fisheries. Visiting anglers also spend money at restaurants, hotels, rental properties, gas stations, and other local businesses. In small shore towns, this tourism income helps sustain families and creates opportunities for economic growth.

When fishing opportunities decline, the effects can reach the entire community. Fewer charter bookings and fishing trips can mean less business for shops, restaurants, and lodging providers. Maintaining a dependable forage base should therefore be considered part of protecting the local economies that rely on recreational fishing.

I recognize that the commercial reduction fishery also supports livelihoods. However, management decisions should fully account for the economic value menhaden provide while remaining in the water, including their role in supporting recreational fisheries and coastal tourism.

I urge the Board to adopt the full 50% reduction, establish seasonal quota periods, and monitor forage availability within the Bay. Taking a precautionary approach now can help protect fishing opportunities, small businesses, and the long-term prosperity of our shore communities.

Thank you for considering my comment.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 7:38 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Brady Keelen

Email

brady.keelen@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

In a time when this country is reeling back regulations, conservation efforts, and laws in place to protect this beautiful country's environment and fragile species, New Jersey and Delaware should be setting an example for the opposite. By protecting our coastal waters from species depletion through overfishing we are protecting the vital coastal species of our states. Reducing the menhaden cap would do just that. There are plenty of alternatives to menhaden with far less detrimental environmental impacts. We know the problem, we know the solution - reduce the cap and let this beautiful and diverse ecosystem thrive as it should.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 7:35 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Amanda Engelien

Email

calmme33@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I support reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap as proposed in Draft Addendum II. A lower cap, coupled with measures to distribute harvest more evenly, would help address the concentration of reduciton fishing effort for other Bay fisheries and the ecosystem, including Bunker and Osprey numbers. ASMFC has identified declining concentrations of Bunker affecting other fisheries such as Stripers and even flounders. Save the wildlife!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 7:29 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Joan Deckman

Email

joandeckman@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Save the osprey/address issues with localized depletion of menhaden on the Chesapeake Bay and other parts of the East Coast

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 7:24 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Eric Signorin

Email

esignorin@hotmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

The menhaden fishery needs to be managed and controlled to a higher degree.

New Jersey passed a landmark bill in 2002 banning the industrial harvest of menhaden from state waters. We want to protect the health of the resource and all of the ecosystems that benefit from this food source. The waters also need to be protected from foreign fisheries as well.!!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 7:24 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Peter Deckman

Email

deckmanp@aol.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

This addendum represents a well-researched way to support the menhaden, and therefore, osprey populations that are in serious decline. We need to act now!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 7:16 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Bror Ashe

Email

brorashe@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

The schools of Manhaden in Long Island sound have dropped to a point where we rarely run into them during the fishing season, making the recreational fishing for stripers very lack luster. I believe we need to protect This fish so the whole ecosystem can get a boost in our area, and improve the fishing experience for all.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 6:50 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Joanne Bevan

Email

paex2010@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Back in the 1960s, I remember it was rare to an Osprey, this was due to the use of DDT, after that was banned, the Osprey made a full comeback. They are magnificent birds! I find it inconceivable that now…their population is being exterminated rapidly because of the overfishing of the maidenhead fish and that it is being allowed to continue. It is animal cruelty to systematically deprive the Osprey of their prime food source and starving their chicks. I feel absolutely helpless watching this atrocity unfold . Please please stop the fishing fleets from emptying the waters of the maidenhead before it's too late!!!!!!!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 6:20 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jess Smith

Email

tarot-saucy-paddle@duck.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Protecting our wildlife must be the top priority. Wr are destroying habitat and driving species toward extinction at a terrifying rate for nothing more than greed.

Osprey are a key ecological indicator species and they are clearly starving for lack of prey like menhaden. Nest failures have doubled in recent years with nestlings becoming emaciated and dying.

Reduce fishing by 50% or better yet more -- a complete moratorium would be best. The ongoing collapse of populations will doom the livelihood of fishermen right along with wildlife, if drastic action isn't immediately taken.

PROTECT OUR WATERS AND WILDLIFE.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 6:19 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michael Borgatti

Email

michael.borgatti@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

I support the most restrictive limits on menhaden commercial harvest. These fish are critical forage for all manner of marine life and are a keystone species to the ecosystem across the East Coast. The need to conserve menhaden is particularly critical at this time due to declining stocks of other forge species.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 6:06 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Teri Mezzo

Email

terimezzo@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I support Draft Addendum II

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 5:57 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jessica Carey

Email

mibnnz@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

As a coastal New Jersey resident, it is heartbreaking to see young ospreys starving and nests failing. Menhaden are a critical part of our coastal ecosystem and a vital food source for ospreys and so many other species.

Please protect this essential resource. I strongly support Draft Addendum II and action to prevent localized depletion of menhaden.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 5:51 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Melissa R Paeglow

Email

shellseeker1921@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Living on the Chesapeake Bay, my husband and I see firsthand what Omega (out of Canada!) is doing to the Osprey and many other predatory birds that need Menhaden to survive. We see firsthand when Omega has “a spill” and our beach is covered with countless species of dead, rotting fish and other sea life that get caught up in their nets. We hear and see the helicopters (spotters) overhead and everyone here on the Bay cringes, because we know that we are helpless to stop such destruction; such shameless pillaging of our beautiful Bay’s necessary resources because money is the driving factor. Money for the Omega coffers and money going into politicians’ greedy hands. We beg you; we plead to you, please stop this. Please stop this destruction of the God given resources needed to sustain the creatures that will not survive this attack.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 5:46 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Doris Key

Email

urnever2late@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Sample comment to ASMFC—must be received by midnight October 9, 2026

Subject: Public Comment: Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

To: comments@asmfc.org

Dear Mr. Boyle and Members of the Commission,

I am writing to urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to take immediate, strong action to protect the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem by implementing strict catch limits under Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II. Specifically, I support options that substantially lower the reduction fishing allowance in the Bay.

As a resident/supporter of the Chesapeake Bay region, I am deeply alarmed by the unprecedented breeding failures and starvation currently devastating our local osprey populations. Decades of scientific monitoring show a direct link between the lack of mature Atlantic menhaden and the inability of ospreys to successfully raise their chicks. We own an osprey platform on our property and have watched year after year the sad demise of osprey chicks. Almost 15 years ago we moved to our location on the water and have watched our mating pair fledge two or three chicks, and now in recent years, it's been

devastating to see the lack of menhaden brought the nest and chicks dying at more than five weeks old, when typically is a chick is going to die, it's the first three weeks of birth. This year was particularly devastating again for all three chicks to die, and the last chick trying to fledge was too weak to fly and repeatedly kept falling into the water. The chick was so weak at one point and couldn't get back to shore so I kayaked out to lift the chick onto my kayak and brought it back to shore and watched it take its last breath. Each year less and less menhaden are coming to the nest and it's been years since we've had successful fledging. We also monitor osprey at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center and sadly, the situation is the same.

Menhaden are the ecological backbone of the Chesapeake Bay. Allowing industrial-scale reduction fishing to deplete this critical forage fish at the expense of ospreys, striped bass, and other native wildlife is unsustainable and unacceptable.

Please prioritize the long-term health of the Bay's ecosystem over short-term commercial harvest by implementing the maximum possible protections in Draft Addendum II. Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,
Doris Key, Chester, Maryland

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 4:50 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jessica Brooks

Email

jbcrw25@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I live in Annapolis, and the Chesapeake Bay is part of my everyday life. The Bay is not just a beautiful backdrop to where I live; it is an ecosystem that I care deeply about and want to see protected for generations to come. Watching ospreys hunt over the water and raise their young is one of the things that makes living on the Chesapeake so special.

Menhaden are not just another fishery resource. They are a critical part of the Chesapeake food web, providing food for ospreys and many other predators. When we remove large numbers of menhaden from the Bay, we need to consider what remains for the wildlife that depends on them.

The ASMFC has recognized concerns about the concentration of menhaden fishing in the Bay and is considering reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by up to 50%, along with measures to spread harvest more evenly throughout the fishing season.

I urge the Commission to take a precautionary approach.

Protect menhaden during the months when they are most important to Chesapeake wildlife. Avoid concentrating fishing pressure during the spring and summer, when ospreys are nesting and raising their young. Give the ecosystem enough forage to support the predators that depend on it.

We should not wait until there is undeniable evidence of harm before taking action. As someone who lives on the Chesapeake, I believe responsible management means looking at the health of the entire ecosystem, not simply how many fish can be harvested.

Please reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap and implement meaningful seasonal protections to ensure enough menhaden remain in the Bay to support ospreys and the broader Chesapeake ecosystem.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 3:25 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Scott Wardenski

Email

sawx93@aol.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I strongly encourage the ASMF Commission to listen to the American citizens who reside along the Atlantic coast. We are pleading for someone to stop our marine ecosystem from being destroyed by reduction fishing. Anyone who spends their lives on the water have seen the decimation of menhaden stock in the bay firsthand. I am an avid recreational fisherman. There are no bunker in the bay! Years ago you could go snag bunker for crabbing or net peanut bunker for fluking. Those days are long gone. Now if you want to go crabbing with native bait, you have to spend a mint on tiny bunker. The massive schools of menhaden are just a memory! It is a complete disaster and a direct result of out-of-state vessels using aircraft to target the schools and send in a fleet of watercraft to vacuum up all the fish. It should be illegal to harvest fish in this manner and it needs to end before our fishery completely collapses. Our beautiful coastline in New Jersey is a priceless resource for all the life that depend on it. Not to mention recreation & tourism. We need the ASMF & NJDEP to support the strongest Addendum II protections. Not only do the stripped bass and countless other fish depend on menhaden, so to does the Osprey. It is a crying shame what the lack of menhaden is doing to them. I was on Great Bay a couple of weeks ago and watched a pair of Osprey on an empty nest. You could tell they were malnourished and sick. The one flew off for a while and came back with no food. It was exhausted and just layed out on the wood with its wings hanging down. It is disgusting what greed is doing to our marine ecosystem.

I do not believe this goes nearly far enough, but I support...

• Bay Cap Amount: Sub-Option B4 — a 50% reduction, resulting in a 25,500 mt cap.

• Quota Periods: Option B1 — even-length periods with evenly distributed harvest.

• Underage Provision: Underage Sub-Option 1 — roll Period 1 underages evenly into Periods 2 and 3.

• Revisit Provision: Option B — revisit the Bay Cap every three years.

• ASMFC commissioners and NJDEP to support a 2027–2029 coastwide TAC projected to achieve the ERP F target.

I support an end to reduction fishing all up and down the Atlantic coast! Please do what is right for the bay by standing with the American people against these greedy corporations destroying lives! Thank you for your attention to this most important matter. This must be addressed before it is too late

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 3:23 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Scott Wardenski

Email

sawx93@aol.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I strongly encourage the ASMF Commission to listen to the American citizens who reside along the Atlantic coast. We are pleading for someone to stop our marine ecosystem from being destroyed by reduction fishing. Anyone who spends their lives on the water have seen the decimation of menhaden stock in the bay firsthand. I am an avid recreational fisherman. There are no bunker in the bay! Years ago you could go snag bunker for crabbing or net peanut bunker for fluking. Those days are long gone. Now if you want to go crabbing with native bait, you have to spend a mint on tiny bunker. The massive schools of menhaden are just a memory! It is a complete disaster and a direct result of out-of-state vessels using aircraft to target the schools and send in a fleet of watercraft to vacuum up all the fish. It should be illegal to harvest fish in this manner and it needs to end before our fishery completely collapses. Our beautiful coastline in New Jersey is a priceless resource for all the life that depend on it. Not to mention recreation & tourism. We need the ASMF & NJDEP to support the strongest Addendum II protections. Not only do the stripped bass and countless other fish depend on menhaden, so to does the Osprey. It is a crying shame what the lack of menhaden is doing to them. I was on Great Bay a couple of weeks ago and watched a pair of Osprey on an empty nest. You could tell they were malnourished and sick. The one flew off for a while and came back with no food. It was exhausted and just layed out on the wood with its wings hanging down. It is disgusting what greed is doing to our marine ecosystem.

I do not believe this goes nearly far enough, but I support...

• Bay Cap Amount: Sub-Option B4 — a 50% reduction, resulting in a 25,500 mt cap.

• Quota Periods: Option B1 — even-length periods with evenly distributed harvest.

• Underage Provision: Underage Sub-Option 1 — roll Period 1 underages evenly into Periods 2 and 3.

• Revisit Provision: Option B — revisit the Bay Cap every three years.

• ASMFC commissioners and NJDEP to support a 2027–2029 coastwide TAC projected to achieve the ERP F target.

I support an end to reduction fishing all up and down the Atlantic coast! Please do what is right for the bay by standing with the American people against these greedy corporations destroying lives! Thank you for your attention to this most important matter. This must be addressed before it is too late

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 12:46 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Deirdre Lyons Pape

Email

dmlpape@hotmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Ospreys are suffering devastating losses due to the lack of food, namely menhaden. I support a 50% reduction menhaden harvest. Thank you

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 12:09 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jessie Bergeron

Email

jessieannbergeron24@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

As a wildlife photographer these issues deeply disturb me and should disturb everyone. Many would agree that Menhaden is a keystone species for many aquatic animals and predators. To not consider these animals in our commercial fishing is a disservice to not only the animals that depend on them but the communities that depend on a healthy and biodiverse ocean. I implore you think about your children starving and what you would do to put food back into their mouths and the life changing affects it would have on you. Think of these animals beyond the osprey who can't work, who can't use technology to compete. Protect them like you would protect your voiceless children please and thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 11:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Thomas Tokar

Email

tokart@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Please adopt the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II Action Tracker. Make this happen so that ospreys can rebound and continue to increase their populations so they can survive in the future.
This will also benefit vital ecosystems by promoting balance and stability of aquatic food chains.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 10:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Judy J Merritt

Email

merrittjudyj56@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

As a 40 year resident of the Barnegat Bay Area, I have seen the population of ospreys slowly build due to the heroic efforts of many committed individuals. But it has been heartbreaking to see the collapse of the osprey population over these last two years. We must consider a moratorium on the commercial menhaden fishery immediately. Surely there are other sources of protein available for dog food until the menhaden population and thus the osprey population are allowed to rebound. If the fishery is managed sensibly, it will be good for the fishermen as well as the ospreys.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 10:20 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

David Koethe

Email

dkoethe@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I have been fishing in the Barnegat bay and offshore of Ibi for about 24 years. I have never seen so many osprey abandon their nests early in the season. The big schools of bunker offshore have disappeared. It will crush local communities if the fishery collapses. Omega protein is wasting a resource that feeds so many. We need an immediate moratorium on industrial bunker fishing.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 10:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lorraine Kemp

Email

lkemp775@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Our family lives on the headwaters of Mill Creek on the Magothy River, one of the tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay. We have not seen a single osprey this season! This is a frightening, dramatic decrease from years past, when we saw ospreys on a daily basis. I understand that their food source menhaden, has been severely depleted by companies overfishing menhaden to provide Omega 3 for human vitamins. This is writing a death notice for the osprey species. If we do not wish for osprey to become extinct, severe penalties must be levied for overfishing menhaden. Please do not allow the osprey population to become extinct, not on our watch. Take action now. Please, we are counting on you to replenish the osprey population by outlawing overfishing. Sincerely, Lorraine T. Kemp

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 3:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Patricia Longo

Email

diggers1991.pl@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

please support the Draft Adddndum II n stop overfishing the Atlantic Menhaden fish supply to the point of extinction to other wildlife species. this fish is a major food chain for main wildlife species on land n sea n air please save the Osprey population now!!!

i am a 73 yr old female who has lived through our states environmental horrible destruction with everlasting longterm damage n was there 50+ years ago for our first environmental fightback Earth Day in April so i know what im begging for now from you. please put strict controls on overfishing our coastal ecosystems.

thank you
patricia longo
239-357-6613
168 huron ave 1b
clufton nj 07013

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 9:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ginger Hendee

Email

puzzlepiece@comcast.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

Please consider changing the approach for fishing so that wildlife can survive and multiply.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 9:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Julie Smith

Email

juliempettit@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I strongly urge the Board to reduce the Menhaden harvest cap by the full considered amount of 50%.

As a member of a multi-generation coastal family, we have seen the loss of Menhaden and the broad reaching impacts of their loss that are devastating many levels of the local ecosystem. The bays, once teaming with life, are growing quiet. This level of harvest pressure will take generations of recovery

Balance must be restored and that will require drastic harvest reductions that are vigorously enforced.

Please protect our coasts and our future.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 9:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

victoria schwachter

Email

vschwachter@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I believe this overfishing of menhaden has been known for some time, and that nj residents have been requesting action for some time. This vast drop in population is the result of doing nothing. Please do something.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 9:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Benjamin Fasano

Email

benfasano@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I support any efforts to reduce menhaden fish decimation. 50% reduction in harvest seems like a reasonable starting point. Reminds me of jobs vs clear cut forest operations. A quick buck with no long term planning. Get real, pause and then assess recovery reactions.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 9:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Mallory DeGennaro

Email

mallory.degennaro@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Hello, I am writing to ask you revisit the depletion of menhaden. The localized over fishing of the Chesapeake Bay and parts of the East Coast are having an adverse effect on our ecosystem.

Best Regards,
Mallory DeGennaro

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 9:21 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kacey Thomas

Email

kc22022@hotmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

Ospreys act as biological indicators (or "sentinel species") for the health of oceans, bays, and estuaries. Because they are apex predators with a diet consisting of [99% fish](url: cbf.org), their survival, reproductive rates, and biological data directly reflect the ecological conditions of the waters beneath them.
Ospreys act as the ocean's early warning system in three critical ways:
1. Tracking Biomagnification and Pollution
Because ospreys sit at the top of the aquatic food web, they accumulate toxins through a process called biomagnification. Small fish absorb low levels of pollutants, larger fish eat those small fish, and ospreys absorb the concentrated doses from all the fish they consume.
Scientists routinely analyze osprey eggshells, blood, and feathers to monitor chemical trends. Historically, this sent an alarm about the pesticide DDT, which caused osprey eggshells to thin and populations to collapse. Today, researchers track contemporary threats—such as PCBs, heavy metals (like mercury), microplastics, and pharmaceuticals—by studying osprey health.
2. Signaling Commercial Overfishing and Fish Depletion
Ospreys are highly specialized hunters that rely on an abundance of surface-dwelling forage fish, such as Atlantic menhaden. When local fish populations decline due to overfishing or environmental stress, ospreys feel the impact immediately.

Recent studies highlight severe reproductive deficits in coastal areas. For instance, research from the [U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)](url: usgs.gov) underscores how a shortage of menhaden correlates with catastrophic chick starvation and nest failures. An osprey community unable to fledge young is a strong indicator that the underlying marine food web is being depleted.

3. Measuring Habitat Quality and Visibility

Ospreys are visual, shallow-water hunters that cannot dive deeper than about three feet. To successfully catch prey, they require:

• High water clarity: Poor visibility caused by industrial runoff, sediment pollution, or massive algae blooms makes it nearly impossible for them to spot fish.

• Stable weather patterns: An increase in severe climate events can disrupt their hunting ability and compromise nesting structures.

When ospreys abandon historically successful coastal nesting sites, it alerts marine biologists to degrading local water quality long before standard manual testing might catch it.

Saving the ospreys from the current food shortage crisis requires immediate, localized changes to marine policy and fisheries management. The historic lows in breeding success along the Atlantic Coast and Chesapeake Bay are overwhelmingly linked to the scarcity of Atlantic menhaden, their primary, nutrient-rich food source.

Because wild ospreys cannot be easily fed by humans, the only viable solution is to restore their natural food supply. Wildlife advocates, researchers, and policymakers are focusing on the following urgent actions to reverse the crisis:

1. Drastically Lower the Commercial Menhaden Harvest Cap

The most critical battleground is policy management. Industrial "reduction fishing" operations scoop hundreds of millions of pounds of menhaden out of coastal waters annually to process them into fishmeal, pet food, and dietary supplements.

2. Ban or Restrict Purse Seine Fishing in Critical Regions

Even when coastwide menhaden numbers seem stable on paper, intense localized fishing creates "food deserts" in the specific bays and estuaries where ospreys nest.

• Virginia Commitments: Virginia is the only state on the East Coast that still allows industrial reduction purse-seine fishing within its internal waters. A major coalition of conservation groups is pushing state leaders to ban this practice within the Chesapeake Bay entirely.

• Time-Based Restrictions: Forcing commercial fleets to spread their harvest more evenly throughout the year—or halting industrial fishing entirely during the peak osprey breeding months of April, May, and June—would ensure parents can find food when chicks are most vulnerable to starvation.

3. Implementing Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management

Traditionally, fishing quotas are set based strictly on how many fish a population can lose before the species itself collapses. Conservationists are demanding a shift toward Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM). This system requires managers to calculate exactly how many menhaden are needed to sustain apex predators like ospreys, bald eagles, and whales before allocating quotas to commercial fleets.

4. Enhancing Local Nest Monitoring & Public Advocacy

Public pressure is driving the push for legislative change. Organizations like the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the American Bird Conservancy, and local initiatives like the New Jersey Osprey Project rely on citizen science to document nest failures. Tracking these failures provides the hard data needed to challenge commercial fishing lobbies in court and regulatory hearings.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 9:16 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

June Summers

Email

Summers@frontiernet.net

State

New York

Comment

The Atlantic Menhaden population should be managed to keep the ecosystem healthy, not the fishing industy economicly rich.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 9:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Rufus Powell

Email

dfpowell2@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I live part time on the Rappahannock and fish twice a year at Cape Hatteras (spring & fall) and occasionally in the lower Chesapeake Bay, but for the past 3-4 years my group of twelve licensed sport fishermen have caught almost no fish.
I'm very concerned as to what has happened to the fish and when in before years they have been plentiful.
Have the menhaden been reduced as feed for the other game fish. As an 81 year old lifelong fisherman, it is disappointing that the spot, flounder, blues etc have gone elsewhere and sport fishing is no longer productive. I have given my boat away and am disappointed that the fish are gone in both the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic coastal (Hatteras) area.
Greater limits should be placed on Menhaden fishing and the actual cost benefits for the USA should be scrutinized. It appears that the menhaden depletion is grossly impacting both the sport fishing industry and wild such as the Osprey. We want and need both in America.

Thank you

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 9:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kayleigh Streit

Email

kstreit34@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

I am in support of reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by 50% to preserve the predatory bird species that live along the bay. Meaningful intervention and regulation is needed to save predatory bird species, like the Osprey, and preserve the ecosystem of the Chesapeake Bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 9:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Bill Burkel

Email

Weburkel@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

There is a coastwise need in protecting menhaden all along the coast. As a fisherman I know of the need to protect and build the stock of stripped bass. Obviously their most important forage fish is the menhaden. Also the ospreys are taking a beating up and down the coast. Please protect the coastal environment and reduce the reduction fishery in the Chesapeake

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 9:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Gregory OBrien

Email

lumbertonob@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I strongly urge the Board to reduce the Menhaden harvest cap by the full considered amount of 50%.

As a member of a multi-generation coastal family, we have seen the loss of Menhaden and the broad reaching impacts of their loss that are devastating many levels of the local ecosystem. The bays, once teaming with life, are growing quiet. This level of harvest pressure will take generations of recovery

As I understand it, the primary commercial operation unrelentingly harvesting these fish is foreign owned and the bulk of it's production is exported. This seems contrary to the best interests of the Atlantic states this board is supposed to represent.

Balance must be restored and that will require drastic harvest reductions that are vigorously enforced.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 9:04 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michael Shank

Email

michael.john.shank@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

PLEASE STOP OVERFISHING MENHADEN.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 8:40 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Eric Signorin

Email

esignorin@hotmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

The menhaden fishery needs to be managed and controlled to a higher degree.

New Jersey passed a landmark bill in 2002 banning the industrial harvest of menhaden from state waters. We want to protect the health of the resource and all of the ecosystems that benefit from this food source. The waters also need to be protected from foreign fisheries as well.!!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 8:34 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lynne Lasko

Email

lynnelasko@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Ospreys are starving due to lack of menhaden. How many other species are being affected? Please stop overfishing the menhaden, especially in VA where commercial boats are still allowed. This has to stop.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 7:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Noelle Quanci

Email

noeyorkcity@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

When I was a child, I went to aquarium camp and learned about the fight to help Osprey's by banning DDT... It galvanized and reinforced a love for animals and that is something that is a throughline in my life.
Now, as the mother of a 14 month old, I hope my daughter will grow up in a world that protects biodiversity and cherishes the natural splendor we have been gifted enough to share our lives and time with... I hope she will get to go to aquarium camp and learn about how we, once again, made the right decision to save the Osprey.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 7:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Nicole Albert

Email

thealberts1107@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

For the sake of the ospreys, as well as other wildlife depending on this food source, I support Draft Addendum II to address the depletion of menhaden.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 7:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Andrew Dunn

Email

andrewdunn0727@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Please reduce Virginia's 75% share of the quota.

There is limited research done on how much bunker needs to be left in the Chesapeake to sustain the predators that rely on them. Clearly, the current amount they are allowed to harvest is damaging the ecosystem as striped bass, osprey and other predators that rely on them are struggling . So why allow them to keep harvesting massive amounts while it's unclear what the actual sustainable harvest would be? It makes no sense. So many people have fought so hard and spent countless amounts of money trying to save the striped bass and the osprey. We can't let them ruin that. Even just spreading their quota out throughout the year so that there is enough forage during the spawn would help. Something needs to change. I would like my kids to enjoy the same fisheries that I had growing up. Recreational anglers are already working so hard to try and be more sustainable by using single and circle hooks and by practicing catch and release more and more, so why can't the reduction fishery do their part?

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 6:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Amanda Bemis-Alves

Email

agbemis@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I fully support reducing the current menhaden quota by the proposed 50%. This is a good start but Cooke Inc aka Omega Protein should be pushed out of the Chesapeake Bay completely atleast 3 NM off the coast similar to every other state on the east coast. They also should not be able to impede menhaden from entering the Chesapeake Bay. It also should be illegal to use spotter planes, drones, etc for the purpose of spotting menhaden. I hope you make the right decision to save this great natural resource before it's too late and has a lasting negative effect on the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 6:36 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Margaret Marciniak

Email

me.marciniak@verizon.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

I ask that there be a 50% decrease in the menhaden being fished by the omega fish oil supplement companies. Something needs to be done before it's too late for the osprey and many other environmental issues over fishing creates.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 6:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Capt. Paul Eidman

Email

paulyfish@reeltherapy.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Comments made for the Chesapeake Bay Atlantic Menhaden Comment on Draft Addendum II

“Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Capt. Paul Eidman, commenting from New Jersey — the second-largest harvester of menhaden on the East Coast, and with that comes responsibility.

I am a Jersey-based saltwater fishing guide and the founder of the non-profit group Menhaden Defenders, and I sit on the Jersey Coast Anglers Assoc. board of directors as Forage Fish Chairperson.

For my 3 minutes tonight, I will keep my remarks focused specifically on Draft Addendum II.

The addendum identifies three core issues: (1) the Bay Cap is not linked to the TAC, (2) the Bay Cap does not control when harvest occurs, and (3) the Bay Cap has not been revisited regularly despite major changes in the fishery.

The document makes clear that Chesapeake Bay is a critical nursery area for Atlantic menhaden. It also notes troubling trends in predator species that rely on menhaden — including striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, and spiny dogfish — all showing signs

of stress or decline (Draft Addendum II, p. 2).

I want to emphasize something that is directly supported by this addendum: what happens in Chesapeake Bay affects the entire East Coast. The Bay is the largest nursery system on the Atlantic coast, and fish that begin their lives there — especially striped bass — migrate throughout New Jersey waters and far beyond. Ospreys, whose reproductive success is tied to menhaden availability, also depend on this system. When menhaden availability declines in Chesapeake Bay, the effects ripple outward. Here in New Jersey, we feel those impacts in our fisheries, our wildlife, and our coastal economy. Protecting the Bay's forage base is not just a Chesapeake Bay issue — it is a coastwide issue, and New Jersey has a direct stake in getting this right.

The addendum shows how the Bay Cap has become increasingly misaligned with the TAC. The 20% TAC reduction in 2026 increased the percentage of possible reduction harvest taken inside the Bay from 32% to 40% (Draft Addendum II, p. 2). That is exactly the kind of shift the Bay Cap was designed to prevent.

The addendum also documents that over 50% of Bay reduction landings occurred in a six-week window in 2023 and 2024 (Draft Addendum II, p. 2). Concentrated removals in mid-summer can affect availability to predators and other fisheries — again, directly within the scope of this amendment.

The fishery-dependent and independent data included in the addendum justify precautionary action. Pound-net CPUE declined sharply in 2024 across Maryland, PRFC, and Virginia (Draft Addendum II, p. 9). The Choptank River gillnet survey shows a dramatic drop in adult menhaden abundance in 2024 and 2025 (Draft Addendum II, p. 12). These indicators point to reduced availability in the Bay's nursery system.

For these reasons, I support a meaningful reduction in the Bay Cap, consistent with the options provided. Among the available choices, Option B4 (a 50% reduction to 25,500 mt) or Option C1e (setting the Bay Cap at 13.6% of the TAC) best reflect the precautionary intent described throughout the document.

I also support establishing quota periods under Section 3.2. The addendum clearly shows that recent mid-summer concentration of reduction harvest may affect availability to other fisheries and predators. Quota periods are a practical tool to prevent this.

Finally, I strongly support Option B in Section 3.3, requiring the Bay Cap to be revisited every three years. The Bay Cap has not been adjusted since 2018 despite multiple TAC changes and new ecological information. A revisit provision is essential for adaptive management.

In summary, Draft Addendum II correctly identifies real, documented problems with the Bay Cap's size, timing, and alignment with the TAC. The most precautionary options — B4 or C1e, quota periods, and a three-year revisit requirement — best address the issues raised in the document and support the ecological and fishery objectives described in Section 2.1.

Thank you for considering my comments."

My Additional comments related to but not allowed during the 3 minutes:

According to the ASMFC's own Atlantic menhaden assessment brief from September 2026, the previous assessment contained a major error. When natural mortality was corrected, the stock was shown to be about 37% smaller than previously estimated. Under the corrected science, the old TAC of 233,550 metric tons has a 100% probability of overfishing. That is not a debate — that is a management failure.

And we are seeing the consequences right now in New Jersey waters. There are no adult menhaden in our schools. Almost everything is peanut-bunker-sized — pre-spawn juveniles. This distorted age structure is a direct result of years of inflated quotas built on incorrect science.

Between 2023 and 2025, the fishery harvested hundreds of millions of extra pounds because the TAC was wrong. Even with those inflated quotas, the fishery only landed about 80% of the TAC in 2024, and similar underperformance is expected in 2025.

The 20% ocean TAC cut for 2026 was a paper cut, not a real reduction. And the Bay Cap hasn't moved. One point keeps getting confused: the Bay Cap is not extra quota — it is a sub-limit inside the coastwide TAC. At 51,000 mt against a 186,840 mt TAC, it represents 27% of the entire allowable catch. Adjusting it matters for Chesapeake Bay, but it does not fix the coastwide overfishing created by the assessment error.

Tonight's hearing may focus on Chesapeake Bay, but it is directly connected to the ASMFC's November 10 meeting, where the Commission will set 2027–2029 specifications, consider Addendum II for final approval, evaluate quota reallocation, and review state compliance.

What happens tonight feeds directly into those decisions. If we ignore the coastwide implications of the assessment error, we will lock in three more years of mismanagement.

And we need to be honest: we are witnessing the failure to preserve the forage-fish base of the entire East Coast ecosystem. Atlantic herring collapsed. Alewife and blueback herring are severely depleted and continue to be discarded at sea as bycatch without being recorded. For decades, nature relied on abundant menhaden to fill those gaps.

If menhaden collapse, there is no turning back. Ospreys have already shown us what happens when the forage base disappears — everything is connected. To prevent further collapse, the TAC needs to be well under 100,000 metric tons, to be consistent with the ERPs, and to ensure that all living creatures that depend on menhaden for survival can do so.

Reallocation is an additional danger. Maine's landings have surged as Atlantic herring collapsed, and the lobster industry wants more bait. That is real economic pressure — and a real conservation risk. The last three seasons show that the remaining adult, age-3-plus spawning stock is migrating north faster than the rest. If quota is shifted to New England, those older fish — the brood stock — will be the first to be eliminated. If that happens, recruitment collapses, and there is no path back.

Reallocation without a meaningful TAC reduction is the wrong direction, and changing state allocations requires a full addendum under Amendment 3 — not a quick decision in November.

New Jersey's coastal economy depends on forage. Our anglers, charter fleet, bait shops, and wildlife observers are already seeing the impacts.

ASMFC made the error. ASMFC must fix it.

I urge the Board to: – Reduce the coastwide TAC by at least 50%, consistent with corrected ERP science; – Maintain an independent Bay Cap; – And ensure reductions are real, not paper cuts.

The science is clear. Now the Commission needs to act."

We respectfully request that you immediately task the Atlantic Menhaden Technical Committee with incorporating the newly published natural mortality estimate from Ault and Luo into the analyses supporting the 2027-2029 harvest specifications that will be presented to the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board in November.
The Ault and Luo paper, "Investigation of Atlantic menhaden mortality rates," estimates natural mortality, or M, at approximately 0.50 per year - substantially below the mortality assumption used in the 2025 assessment. Natural mortality is a foundational input that can materially affect estimated abundance, fishing mortality, fecundity, stock status, ecological reference points, and sustainable harvest levels.
The 2025 assessment demonstrated that the results are sensitive to this assumption: incorporating a lower mortality rate following correction of the earlier tagging analysis substantially reduced estimated biomass relative to the prior assessment. The Ault and Luo estimate is lower still. The Board should not be asked to select 2027-2029 harvest levels based only on the existing assumption without also seeing the results produced by the new peer-reviewed estimate.

These comments are to be submitted in writing to the ASMFC by Oct 8 2026

Capt. Paul Eidman,
Menhaden Defenders, a non-profit grassroots organization fighting to keep Menhaden Abundant for all

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 6:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

William martin

Email

wbill0561@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Please vote and please stop the decimation of the Atlantic menhaden what time would in the Chesapeake Bay and surrounding waters and in New Jersey?

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 6:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Amy Howell

Email

langley666@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I monitor two osprey nests on my road in southern NJ. We lost half the osprey fledglings in Lower Bank, NJ this year. They starved to death because the parents abandoned them to go find food. They feed in the Mullica River and the menhaden population was too low to provide sufficient food for them. The offshore net fishing companies actively depleted the fish and there were very few in the river this year. Something urgently has to be done NOW or we will lose more of the osprey, as well as eagles and fish that feed on the menhaden. PASS Addendum II to help save these beautiful birds!!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 6:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sam Griffith

Email

samggriffith@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Urgent action is needed to facilitate a comeback of menhaden in the Chesapeake bay. The 50% cut needs to be implemented before further damage is done. I guide on the Chesapeake bay and I am in tune with what is normal out in the bay. I've spent every safe weather day from April to November out on the water. Over the last 3 years I've seen a drastic decrease in menhaden populations in the tangier sound. This year being especially abysmal. Ospreys which rely heavily on menhaden have been virtually non existent to the waters of Tangier sound and this is an area where they should be widespread. Another indicator of population loss is the lack of blue fish in our waters. 3 years ago you couldn't throw a lure at a school of menhaden without hooking into one. This year I have caught 0 in the inshore areas of the Sound. 3 years ago you could see multiple large schools running the shore lines at one time on a daily basis. last year multiple smaller schools, this year virtually nothing. Something needs to be done, our resources are dying because of a dietary supplement. The economic impacts of recreational fishing has astronomically more of a positive impact than the menhaden business. This reduction should be a no brainer

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 6:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sylvia Richey

Email

srichey838@gmail.com

State

Florida

Comment

Changing the fishing quotas as proposed in the Atlantic Menhaden Action Tracker seems good.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 5:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Karen Igou

Email

karenligou@gmail.com

State

Delaware

Comment

Please protect the menhaden from over fishing in localized areas. We have plenty of data to support that this over fishing is not sustaining other life forms and they are starving to death. We need to transform to other means that do not throw ecosystems out of balance. We must support workers through a just transition to some other form of employment, but we cannot exhaust our fishes. There is too much depending on them for life.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 5:41 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Paula Lempart

Email

plempart67@gmail.com

State

North Carolina

Comment

Scientific data is showing that over fishing menhaden in US coastal waterways is decimating the osprey population as well as other wildlife. I am very concerned about the irreversible damage being done to our world.
Please enact laws that will protect our wildlife by restricting commercial fishing in our waterways.

Thank you,
Paula Lempart

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 5:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michelle Mitchell

Email

mmitchellcnm@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I think we need to ensure the survival of the Osprey as a species and possibly consider putting them back on the endangered list. The lack of bunker has clearly caused a failure in this years breeding season. I have observed fewer nests in Oceanport over the past few years and especially this season. Additionally, it did appear that nesting pairs did not successfully raise young with many leaving nests in August instead of September. I support capping commercial fishing and protecting these very special birds.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 5:36 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Mary Rieser

Email

mary.rieser@gmail.com

State

District of Columbia

Comment

I am a concerned citizen and a birder. It is tragic to see what is happening to the Osprey in our area. It doesn't have to be this way. Omega Protein should be prohibited from vacuuming up the Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay. I would support the reduction of fishing by at least (not "up to") 50%. We have to speak up and protect those who cannot speak for themselves.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 5:27 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Deborah Hamilton

Email

bcdhamilton@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

With so many environmental protections being removed by our national government, it is imperative that at a state level we do everything we can to maintain the ecological balance to protect endangered and really every animal species within our states natural boundaries! The fact that Osprey need menhaden or bunker fish—as I believe they are called both—and our lagoons on Osborn Island continue to endure what is being called “FISH KILL” seems ridiculous that state government hasn’t realized that they should fix the FISH KILL to allow more live bunker fish to feed the Osprey and other birds. We had thousands of bunker fish die and rot on the surface of our lagoons this July, August and early September due to dredging not being done by local and state agencies, to allow for schools of fish to enter and especially to exit the lagoons off the bay. The bunker cannot get back out to the bay at low tide and end up dying. Birds will not eat dead floating fish! Why haven’t the protective agencies for these birds thought to come net and catch these fish in July and August to prevent their wasteful death, when they can be used to feed the starving birds. Seems like fixing one problem then in turn helps to fix another. It’s common sense but government bureaucrats will have have lots of excuses why they “can’t do that”!
The organization, Save Barnegat Bay, is trying to get state agencies to all agree to address this problem of FISH KILL in Little Egg Harbor and Mystic Island, Osborn Island, however the wheels of government turn very slowly and unfortunately the bird populations suffer because no one will fix what’s killing thousands of bunker in Great Bay each summer for the last 10 years! Humans and animals all need each other in the delicate balance of life on planet earth and humans keep dropping the ball on

doing the right things to protect all of it! Please contact me if you wish further information or discussion. I do not even know if you have been made aware of the FISH KILL issue but it seems like it's intertwined with the birds not finding adequate food!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 5:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Joe Miller

Email

jmille8766@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I fully support the 50 percent reduction proposal.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 4:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Denise Monesteri

Email

denisemonesteri@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,
I am writing as a New Jersey resident after learning about the concerns surrounding menhaden and the unusually poor osprey reproduction reported in the Chesapeake Bay this year.
While I am not an expert in fisheries management, I have taken the time to learn more about this issue and have come to understand how important menhaden are as a food source for ospreys and many other fish and wildlife.
The 2026 Chesapeake osprey results have raised a very serious red flag. There are several factors that may be involved, including water temperature, salinity, weather, changes in where and when menhaden are available, fishing pressure, and other environmental factors. We don't yet know exactly how these factors are interacting, and that uncertainty warrants a precautionary approach.
That uncertainty is exactly why I am asking the Commission to take action now rather than waiting until the problem becomes difficult or impossible to reverse.
New Jersey has worked so hard to bring its osprey population back. I would like to see that success protected while we have the opportunity to do so.
I respectfully ask that the Commission support a meaningful reduction in the Chesapeake Bay menhaden harvest and a harvest schedule that leaves more fish in the water earlier in the season, while continuing to monitor the science and revisit

the decision as more information becomes available.
To me, this is simply a matter of being careful with an important part of the food chain.
Thank you for considering my comments.
Sincerely,
Denise Monesteri
25 Danna Way
Saddle Brook, New Jersey 07663
973-489-4102

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 4:40 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Catherine Garneski

Email

catherinekia@comcast.net

State

Delaware

Comment

Help all the animals Ospray.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 4:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Donna Ransome

Email

djransome13@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Reduce fishing Menhaden.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 4:08 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Wendy Armacost

Email

wa.armacost@verizon.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

I'm writing as a concerned citizen. It is extremely dismaying to read of the recent dive in osprey fledgling populations due to starvation. Everything points to lack of availability of their main food source, menhaden. I ask that the ASMFC reduce the allowable catch to let rhe population increase. Ospreys have been thriving and this rapid decline is something that can hopefully be addressed with your help.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 3:25 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Karen Brooks

Email

belmar311@aol.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

As an AVID BIRDWATCHER im saddened to know there's not enough food for our EAGLES AND OSPREY. Since the commercial fishermen harvest more than theyll ever need they must be stopped from hauling i. Every available fish for themselves. We need to either restrict when and where they can fish. Its scary seeing our beautiful birds have to fight to survive. Its very unsettling to see them starve and fail in their health because there's not enough food for all . Please take this as a dire emergency for our birds who depend on these fish. Thank you
Karen Brooks

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 3:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jacki Dickert

Email

jackidickert@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

It's horrible what is happening with the osprey population! These birds are a treasure to all of us Americans. They keep us connected to the natural cycles of our world. Every year, I look forward to their return and celebrate the raising of their families. The last two years have been devastating here in New Jersey after chick after chick dies of starvation. Please do everything you can to ensure their food source is protected!!!! I know this is larger than just the Osprey issue. The food source is the food source for many other species and I'm worried about the collapse of our natural order that evolved overtime. We need to leave the menhaden for the wildlife that depends on it! Please make laws that ensures this happens!!!
Thank you.
Jacki Dickert

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 2:59 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Juliet Kaszas-Hoch

Email

jskaszas@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Please protect our menhaden, our ospreys, and our entire ecosystem.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 2:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Abbey Scoles

Email

xabbeyroad@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I have serious concerns about the damage being done to our ecosystem. We need wildlife to survive. We did not work this hard to destroy it all over again. Profit should not come before life

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 2:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lynne Falterbauer

Email

lynnef77@aol.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

I have a place in PA and NJ. I am a photographer and I have photographed the ospreys for the past eleven years at Peace Valley Park in Doylestown, PA and in Stone Harbor and Avalon, NJ.

I have witnessed that there have not been any chicks the past two years in Stone Harbor and Avalon, NJ. Prior to that there were so many and some even had three young ones in a nest. I see them hunting and hunting and barely finding a fish. I use to enjoy seeing the fledglings hunt in numbers while I sat on the beach. This year I didn't see any. I have seen them get flounder, bluegill and sharks this past summer but no menhaden fish. One time in the beginning of the summer they did get some on the beach in Avalon but they were tiny. Before the past two years, I would see them get large menhaden fish one after another and eat them on the top of my building.

At Peace Valley Park in Doylestown, I am seeing a couple of young and healthy ospreys. One day there were six ospreys there that most likely were migrating through. There are two there right now on a daily basis.

Lynne Falterbauer

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 2:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Karina Manicka

Email

corinaboga@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Please, protect fish menhaden from being overfished. It affects ospeays population- birds are dying from hunger. You must protect wildlife from starvation buy prohibiting uncontrolled fishing. Karina Manicka.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 2:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ashe Wagner

Email

ar.wagner.phila@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

As a native New Jerseyan, I fully support measures to stabilize the food supply for coastal raptors. There must be protections in place to prevent the overfishing of menhaden and other food sources of the osprey. Osprey populations are crucial to NJ ecosystems and bring cultural value to our heavily commercialized beach areas.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 1:37 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Marsha Elston

Email

mar2cats@me.com

State

Florida

Comment

5. B4
6. C1E
7. C2E
8. B2
9.
10.
11. Opt B
12.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 1:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jillian Scocca

Email

jillians0821@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

Protect ospreys and their food sources! Please require up to a 50% quota cut on Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 1:21 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Judi Newman

Email

judibnewman@aol.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Based upon the known decline of Osprey, specifically a dismal '26 breeding season, from New Jersey, through the entire mid-Atlantic region including the Chesapeake Bay area, due to decline and shortage of Atlantic Menhaden in coastal ecosystems. The lack of this staple food will place the Osprey back on the endangered species list with certainty.

The study & commentary can be seen under the study & data collections from Ben Wurst, Sr. Wildlife Biologist with Conservative Wildlife Foundation of NJ & lead of NJ Osprey Project. Please see published findings that support same, in the South Bergenite/ North Jersey.com 10/01/26 edition, and USA Today Network - New Jersey. Please support the reduction of a minimum of 50% of the Menhaden harvest/catch to support the existence of the Mid-Atlantic Osprey.
Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 12:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jane Osburn

Email

jgosb@proton.me

State

Maryland

Comment

Dear Atlantic States Marine fisheries commission Menhaden management Board,

I support cutting the current 51,000 metric ton cap on Menhaden harvest to 25,500 metric tons.

Science has shown that recent steep declines in the Osprey population along the Chesapeake Bay is due to the increasing scarcity of Menhaden. This year and last, the osprey that normally build their nests along our creek off the Patuxent River are completely absent. Menhaden are the essential food source not only for Osprey, but for countless other avian and marine species. The Chesapeake Bay is a primary nursery for the Menhaden along the Atlantic. I believe that it is therefore essential for the protection of our coastal ecosystem to take action now to bring about a resurgence in the Menhaden population.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 12:52 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Charles Sanders

Email

windrush.cs@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I don't expect the "stewards" of our Chesapeake Bay fishery to act to protect the natural resources based on past performances. However, it is vital to continue to point out the grave consequences of their favoring commercial interests over recreational, forage fish, Osprey and marine mammals that depend on menhaden to survive. This remain obvious to anyone near and on these waters. I urge protection not the continued favor of commercial rape of the bay and nearby waters.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 12:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Laura Gough

Email

l.j.gough1@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I strongly support the proposed reduction in the menhaden fishery by 50% and the shift to a quota throughout the year with hopes of sustainably managing the menhaden fishery. As stated in the Addendum, there are many reasons why these changes need to be made including to protect the osprey population in the Chesapeake Bay. In addition, reducing the catch and spreading it out across the year should allow the fishery to recover which will have an economic benefit to local communities as well.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 12:14 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Estefania Correa

Email

estefaniacorrea11@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I am a New Jersey resident concerned about the health of our coastal ecosystems and the wildlife that depends on them. I urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to adopt a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay menhaden harvest cap and a harvest schedule that shifts more of the allowable catch to the third catch period, giving menhaden more opportunity to grow and remain available as forage for birds, fish, and other wildlife.

I support revisiting these catch limits within (3) three years using the best available scientific information.

Taking a precautionary approach now can help protect the Chesapeake Bay food web and the coastal ecosystems that New Jersey and the neighboring states share.

Thank you for considering my comment.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2026 7:27 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/ny-ct-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Frione

Email

jfrione@restaurantsupplystore.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I am 70 years old and been fishing for 54 years, at my age I seen the best of it, the fishing in Long Island sound has been so bad this year, without the bunkers , the fish migrate thru and they keep going without having the bunkers the season has become a very short season, no bluefish, very few stripers, plenty of sharks, we have to stop the bunker boats, there are no ospreys, I live on the water in Branford harbor, the ospreys are gone, the stripers are plentiful up north, with no bunkers they come thru the western sound and filter to the east, we usually had Great bass, bluefish thru August, now we get to about the Fourth of July, September 13th and we still don't see any fish coming thru to migrate south, without the bunkers they might stay in the ocean and miss the sound.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2026 8:46 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/va-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Troy Pomeroy

Email

tp.plumbing@yahoo.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

Let me start by saying I'm not a commercial fisherman.I have 3 waterfront properties in va. I also am a business owner that supports business.I also support doing what's right. Three weeks ago I watched 3 boats without moving from my position net these fish. If omega says there are plenty of fish why do they use airplanes to find them? My property is just east of watt's Island,why go across the bay if fish are plentiful? Perhaps omega could raise fish for there needs in farms. Nah too expensive. Getting to my point now,va.needs to collect revenue from omega for the bay. Perhaps a percentage of fish caught proceeds go to bay cleanup,or to reseed fish taken. No other business gets product for free. Looks like va. is missing the boat on about millions of revenue yearly from omega that could be going to the bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 3:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ny-ct-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Kelly Siranko
Email
kellsir22@yahoo.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
With growing concern that Osprey populations along the Eastern seaboard are declining due to a lack of food it is imperative that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission change the number of menhaden that can be commercially harvested from the Chesapeake Bay. After making a spectacular comeback from DDT, signs of trouble for this indicator species have spread from the Chesapeake Bay to Connecticut with a troubling number of nests failing. As a keystone species, menhaden once swam in schools of billions, but now with numbers depleted, the entire Chesapeake ecosystem could be in trouble. I am asking the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to reduce the fishery cap by 50% to help ensure enough menhaden remains available for Ospreys and other wildlife. By taking this step, you not only protect the Osprey but the fishery as well. Thank you for your consideration and all that you do to protect our ecosystems.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 7:21 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
B. Hunt Gunter
Email
huntgunter@verizon.net
State
Virginia
Comment
Please make this happen.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 6:14 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Carolyn Doan
Email
carolyndoan68@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
This year, an Osprey nest that has been successful for years in Westport, CT, failed and was abandoned. This nest was so successful that it would sometimes produce 3 fledglings in a season. For a few years the adult pair would return to the nest on the same day each March. They would be expected on the 23rd. Mentioning these details shows how well established and healthy this pair was. This year, after exhibiting behavior consistent with eggs hatching, food deliveries became less frequent. One day, I witnessed the female adult calling out loudly from the nest resulting in silence from her mate. He simply didn't return with food. What I didn't realize was that this would be the last time I would see her this season. The very next day, the nest was abandoned. Sadly, I suspect chicks perished but the nest is too high to confirm this. This event is shocking, especially after years of success. The same out outcome happened all along coastal Connecticut. These nests have had a major comeback after a decline in the population years ago due to chemical pollutants in the water. To see this outcome again after so much restoration is tragic. To fish Menhaden where they are born is destructive and deadly to the Osprey population's main source of nutrition. Something drastic needs to be done to restore a healthy Menhaden population and soon.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 5:59 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Greg Silvestri
Email
onu@verizon.net
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction (at minimum) in the bay cap and the use of quota periods.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 5:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Corinne Green
Email
75cgreen@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Please remove the commercial menhaden reduction industry fishing from fishing in the Chesapeake Bay. Virginia should be like all states on the east coast and fishing for menhaden should be restricted to 3 miles from the coast and only occur in the ocean. There should be no quota for the Chesapeake Bay. The quota should be for ocean waters where their purse seine nets are meant to be used. I have been in the bay regularly since 2007 and the menhaden have consistently declined as well as other fish and wildlife populations that depend on them for food. Eight ships and 6 spotter planes everyday of the week are decimating the menhaden population.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 5:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Tom Melhuish
Email
tmelhuish54@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Today I saw 6 Omega boats come into Reedville. Usually by this time the season has ended because they caught their quota. Now it appears they have no quota and the boats are running continuous threw the fall. Currently Blues and Mackerel are hard to find in the bay where at this time they should be plentiful. I think it is time to SHUTDOWN the whole Omega operation. Keeping it open is not helping Reedville and is more of a boat anchorage holding back Reedville in getting good paying jobs people really want in the hospitality business. Look at Irvington and Weems. We can be just like them. I use to be able to catch decent fish off my dock on the Great Wicomico river but now I'm lucky to catch a small Crocker. Shut Omega down or drastically cut down their quota. 75 percent reduction is more in line.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 5:41 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Randolph Smith
Email
uvarandy@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I have watched the Omega fleet operating off Cape Charles in the bay most of the summer and almost all of the fish they are catching are the juveniles. I support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 5:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
joseph hicks
Email
JOEHICKS59@GMAIL.COM
State
Virginia
Comment
I have for a long time supported a reduction i n the Menhaden cap. I vote for a 50% reduction

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 5:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Jacquelyn McIntosh
Email
jackie0h82@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I believe Omega should be removed from the bay until science can show it isn't causing harm, however I understand it is unlikely to ever happen. As a person whose livelihood depends on a healthy fishery in the bay and along The Atlantic coast I ask that you consider reigning in Omegas ability to wipe out menhaden as they are an essential piece of chain in the ecosystem. Foreign corporations should not be benefiting while harming our waters and the life that depends upon it.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 5:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Robert Ryan
Email
rryan12@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods. Reduction fishery can spend a little extra time to find fish out in the ocean and still hit their numbers. Please take this seriously to preserve the Chesapeake Bay fishery.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 5:12 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Tracy Lowerre
Email
tracyau89@hotmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods. We need this in order to keep the bay ecosystem healthy and not strip it of this vital resource.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 5:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Tim Griffin
Email
pattimgriffim@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50%reduction in bay cap and the use of quota periods

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 5:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Robert Pollard
Email
rbpollard46@comcast.net
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a full 50% reduction and the use of quota periods

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 5:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
David Walden
Email
big1wave1@cox.net
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50 percent reduction in menhaden quotas and controlled and monitored limits in the catch. All efforts in the Chesapeake bay and Virginia coastal waters have been a joke to date and I have no confidence at all in our leadership to take any action ! I also don't think this current effort will make any difference at all ! Follow the money !

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 4:59 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Sam Hribal
Email
samhri@verizon.net
State
Virginia
Comment
"I support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 4:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Joseph Tomasello
Email
joseph.tomasello@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods. Please limit the catch while assessments and experiments are utilized to determine impacts of the catch. Please make data driven decisions. Thanks.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 4:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
James Kukura
Email
jpku34@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods. These steps will increase the menhaden in the bay and therefore help to maintain a robust food chain for a heathy ecosystem.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 4:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
David Harmon
Email
firedkvh@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support NOT fishing for Menhaden in the Cheasapeake BAY Period

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 4:43 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Frsnk Danner
Email
capt.frankdanner@comcast.net
State
Delaware
Comment
I support a 100% reduction in Menhaden catch, in the Chesapeake Bsy.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 4:41 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Dan Patterson
Email
daniel.t.patterson@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Omega Seafood should be banned from exploiting the Chesapeake Bay entirely and in perpetuity, but short of that I fully support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 4:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Robert Jones
Email
rdjgalomine@aol.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I definitely support a 50% reduction and periodic closures during critical times

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 4:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Alan Hoffman
Email
makobird1@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 4:23 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Mary Frances Mays
Email
mfmays07@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 4:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Karen Hendrixson
Email
khendrix@verizon.net
State
Virginia
Comment
I fully support a 50% reduction in the bay cap on Menhaden fishing and the use of quota periods. A reduction is critical to improving the marine and avian ecosystem in the Bay. Maine has banned industrial Menhaden fishing and the osprey, seal, and bald eagle populations have benefited.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 4:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Gene Stevenson
Email
gpsjm@yahoo.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 3:56 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Tom Fenn
Email
tfenn58@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in annual menhaden catch linked to the coastwise Total Allowable Catch. I also support a quota system without rollover of unused quantities.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 3:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Paul Glass
Email
pag@gcrcompany.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Please pass this cap reduction. Changes are needed before it is too late.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 1:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Mark Harrison
Email
Mark.Harrison@VBSchools.com
State
Virginia
Comment
As a transplanted Floridian who has resided in Virginia Beach and fished the Chesapeake Bay for 42 years I distinctly recall the state of the Gulf of Mexico prior to the advent of the net ban back during my teenaged years. The ongoing result there has been the recovery of unlimited fish stocks. Sad to say that for a second time in my 68 year life I have watched the decline happen in the Chesapeake Bay for many of the same reasons I did before. It is my belief that the scientific data with regard to the menhaden struggle speaks for itself, and that common sense with regard to further regulation of harvest is far overdue. Frankly, I miss seeing the whales I used to around Cape Henry, and I pray that my grandchildren may have a chance to catch rockfish like I used to as well. Long foretold is that when you leave fish stocks alone, they can recover expeditiously. Let's get our arms around this matter & move forward. Mark Harrison Virginia Beach

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 11:21 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Capt. Chris Siess
Email
knotthereelworld@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I fully support the 50% reduction in harvest of menhaden for Omega / Cooke. In fact, it should be a permanent ban. While government entities continue to support this atrocious practice, businesses such as mine (fishing guiding) suffer due to depleted stocks of Striped Bass, Redfish, Trout and more that feed on Menhaden. It's gotten so bad, that I've moved my business from the Chesapeake Bay to coastal NC. Stop the madness now. It is long overdue. -Capt. Chris Siess

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 11:09 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Pamela Townsend
Email
jermember@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
No one can deny that there are issues with the fish population in the bay! Scientific research needs to be started now, but results will take time. Reducing the amount of menhaden harvested must be put into effect to save all the species that rely on them. Menhaden are such an important feeder fish if there is a decline it's will effect the whole bay. Reduction fisheries argue that there are enough, how can they possibly know that if there hasn't been any scientific study! Please save the bay and reduce the total amount reduction fisheries harvest from the Bay!!!!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 10:40 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
John Bonanno
Email
jbonanno51@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
As a fishing person and lover of Chesapeake Bay I support the maximum reduction in menhaden removals. Menhaden not only serve as a major food source for many fish in the bay but also for many birds living around the banks of the bay. Omega has the entire ocean to grab their quota. It may cost them a little more but not as much it cost state of md and Va in lost of business. Less menhaden in bay can lead to a down slide on bay activities. Importantly menhaden are filter feeders which can help improve water of the bay

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 9:28 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Phil Heck
Email
phil.heck.jr@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I have lived on the Magothy river since 1960, We would measure Menhaden schools by the acre now the measure by the foot. The east coast is lined with the remains of reduction plants that overfished their area and went out of business. Reedville is the last one.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 8:25 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Patrick Dugan
Email
PAtrick4homes@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Please initiate this reduction. There is no question that it is needed. I live on the Patuxent River, and have for 40 years. I can tell you there are less fish, and there are less birds who feed on these fish. This is an easy decision. Please do this,

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 6:04 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Marilyn Beeson
Email
rmbeeson@comcast.net
State
Delaware
Comment
I have lived in South Bethany, DE for43 years. This summer in South Bethany every osprey nest that in the past was filled with vibrant osprey activity, was empty. If any osprey were seen on the ocean side, they tragically searched for food to no avail. I never saw one bird successfully feed. In addition, there seems to be a lack of bird activity overall. Way fewer pelicans, cormorant and others who also feed on menhaden. Dolphin activity seemed almost non existent as menhaden are also a part of their diet. The ocean seemed silent and void of marine life activity and it is terrifying. Recreational fishing was futile. I also observed an increase in the fish crow activity on song bird feeders… they attacked my purple martins nestlings as surely they are also impacted. Menhaden are critical to our entire marine ecosystem. Please stop this carnage!!!!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 5:07 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Tara Schmitt
Email
tara_schmitt@yahoo.com
State
Delaware
Comment
Please cap the menhaden catch as much as possible. The exploitation of our waters by these fishing operations is decimating our wildlife. Seeing osprey chicks literally starving to death should be incentive for us as stewards of the environment to put a stop to this.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 9:22 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Brook Deshais

Email

brook.deshais@gmail.com

State

New Hampshire

Comment

To the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,
I am an avid recreational saltwater angler who cares deeply about the future of striped bass and the entire Atlantic coastal ecosystem.
I spend hundreds of hours on the water every year fishing the New England coast. Over the years, I have become increasingly concerned by how difficult it has become to find Atlantic menhaden, commonly known as bunker. I rarely see the large, abundant schools of bunker that I remember seeing in the past. When I do find bunker, it is extremely difficult to find one over four inches. That concerns me greatly because larger menhaden are an important source of forage for striped bass and countless other predators.
Bunker are not just another commercial fishery. They are a critical part of the marine food web and provide food for striped bass, bluefish, tuna, sharks, whales, seabirds, and many other species. Removing large quantities of bunker from the ecosystem removes an important food source from the animals that depend on them.
As someone who spends hundreds of hours on the water, I see firsthand what is happening in our coastal waters. I am not asking for stronger management because I want to see commercial fishermen lose their livelihoods. I am asking because I want there to be enough bunker left in the ecosystem to support all of our fisheries and marine life for generations to come.
I strongly support taking a precautionary approach to Atlantic menhaden management. We need abundant bunker in the water not simply enough bunker remaining to support continued commercial harvest. The health of the entire ecosystem should come before maximizing how many menhaden can be removed.
I urge the ASMFC to support the strongest conservation measures available under Draft Addendum II and to seriously consider additional reductions in menhaden harvest if the science indicates that current removals are putting predators and the broader ecosystem at risk.
If stronger restrictions, including a temporary moratorium on menhaden reduction fishing, are necessary to rebuild bunker abundance and protect the ecosystem, I believe those measures should be seriously considered.
I care deeply about striped bass and the future of recreational fishing. Striped bass anglers should not have to wait until forage populations are depleted before action is taken. We have an opportunity to be proactive now rather than waiting for another fishery to decline and then imposing emergency restrictions or closures on recreational and commercial fishermen.
We need to act now. Protecting the bunker population means protecting striped bass, bluefish, tuna, whales, seabirds, and the countless other species that depend on this essential forage fish.
Please put the long-term health of the Atlantic ecosystem and the future of our fisheries ahead of short-term harvest opportunities. I respectfully ask the Commission to take meaningful action to rebuild and protect Atlantic menhaden populations.
Thank you for considering my comments.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 9:21 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

James Conley

Email

jcnorbut@gmail.com

State

New Hampshire

Comment

To the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,
I am an avid recreational saltwater angler who cares deeply about the future of striped bass and the entire Atlantic coastal ecosystem.
I spend hundreds of hours on the water every year fishing the New England coast. Over the years, I have become increasingly concerned by how difficult it has become to find Atlantic menhaden, commonly known as bunker. I rarely see the large, abundant schools of bunker that I remember seeing in the past. When I do find bunker, it is extremely difficult to find one over four inches. That concerns me greatly because larger menhaden are an important source of forage for striped bass and countless other predators.
Bunker are not just another commercial fishery. They are a critical part of the marine food web and provide food for striped bass, bluefish, tuna, sharks, whales, seabirds, and many other species. Removing large quantities of bunker from the ecosystem removes an important food source from the animals that depend on them.
As someone who spends hundreds of hours on the water, I see firsthand what is happening in our coastal waters. I am not asking for stronger management because I want to see commercial fishermen lose their livelihoods. I am asking because I want there to be enough bunker left in the ecosystem to support all of our fisheries and marine life for generations to come.
I strongly support taking a precautionary approach to Atlantic menhaden management. We need abundant bunker in the water not simply enough bunker remaining to support continued commercial harvest. The health of the entire ecosystem should come before maximizing how many menhaden can be removed.
I urge the ASMFC to support the strongest conservation measures available under Draft Addendum II and to seriously consider additional reductions in menhaden harvest if the science indicates that current removals are putting predators and the broader ecosystem at risk.
If stronger restrictions, including a temporary moratorium on menhaden reduction fishing, are necessary to rebuild bunker abundance and protect the ecosystem, I believe those measures should be seriously considered.
I care deeply about striped bass and the future of recreational fishing. Striped bass anglers should not have to wait until forage populations are depleted before action is taken. We have an opportunity to be proactive now rather than waiting for another fishery to decline and then imposing emergency restrictions or closures on recreational and commercial fishermen.
We need to act now. Protecting the bunker population means protecting striped bass, bluefish, tuna, whales, seabirds, and the countless other species that depend on this essential forage fish.
Please put the long-term health of the Atlantic ecosystem and the future of our fisheries ahead of short-term harvest opportunities. I respectfully ask the Commission to take meaningful action to rebuild and protect Atlantic menhaden populations.
Thank you for considering my comments.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 7:50 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Thomas Wells

Email

twells@ycp.edu

State

Maryland

Comment

I am a Maryland resident and a birder who spends most weekends photographing wildlife on the Chesapeake and its tributaries. I am writing in support of the strongest options in Draft Addendum II: a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap, division of the Bay Cap into three seasonal quota periods, and linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC.

My partner and I have birded and photographed the Chesapeake and its tributaries for years, including regular time on the Patuxent River. Over that period we have watched ospreys work visibly harder to feed themselves and their young — longer hunts, more failed dives, adults returning to the nest with little or nothing. It has gotten worse year over year rather than better. And the ospreys are only the most visible part of it. They sit near the top of a food web that appears to be thinning out beneath them, and when the fish at the base of that system are removed at industrial scale, the consequences do not stay confined to one species.

The science is not ambiguous about the outcome, whatever remains unresolved about the mechanism. In the 2024 breeding season, researchers monitoring 571 nests found osprey in high-salinity areas of the Bay producing an average of 0.51 young per pair, against 1.36 in low-salinity areas well below what the population needs to hold steady. In Mobjack Bay in 2023, 81 pairs produced three live chicks. These are not birds failing to breed. They are birds breeding and then watching their chicks starve.

I understand the reduction industry's position that the Board should wait for further research before acting. But the Chesapeake Bay Cap has been a precautionary measure since it was first created, adopted in response to concerns about localized depletion rather than proof of it. The Commission has acknowledged it cannot currently determine menhaden abundance within the Bay or define what level would be sufficient. That uncertainty is an argument for caution, not for delay. If the Board waits for certainty, it will get it — from the birds, several breeding seasons too late, and the recovery will take decades rather than years.

The seasonal quota period option deserves particular support. Concentrating the reduction harvest in the spring and summer months puts maximum fishing pressure on the Bay precisely when osprey chicks are in the nest and most dependent on a dense, high-calorie forage fish. Spreading the same harvest across three periods costs the fishery little in total tonnage and removes a needless overlap with the most vulnerable weeks of the breeding season. It is the cheapest meaningful thing this Board can do.

I would ask the Board to adopt the 50% reduction, the three-period seasonal distribution, and the TAC linkage together. Ospreys recovered once, from DDT, because managers acted on a clear signal. The signal is clear again.

Thomas Wells
Hyattsville, Maryland

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 7:23 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Wendelin Giebel

Email

fiddle346@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

THE EMPEROR BAM HAS NO CLOTHES - BAM IS A FRAUD

The erroneous error for M (natural mortality) that was entered into the Beaufort Assessment Model 2020-2025 instantaneously and miraculously nearly doubled the BAM stock size assessment .The 20% TAC increases soon followed. Nobody at NMFS or ASMFC questioned the absurdity of such an event . Nobody questioned if such an absurdity doubled the stock then another equally absurd error could easily half the stock. Five years and thousands of man hours at hundreds of Board, Committees, meeting , lunches etc, incessant BAM sensitivity runs and such. Nothing and nobody noticed the absurdity of the act. The incessant proclamations coming from ASMFC about how well the menhaden were doing, the endless vapid and equally absurd self “awards” given by ASMFC staff to the staff and the MATH CULT running the hideous mess. To question the veracity of these acts would end any employees career at NMFS or ASMFC and in fisheries management. It took two independent researchers to end this insanity, which wasn’t the first time a huge error went undiscovered for an alarmingly long time. At U. Of Miami Ault et al discovered the error. Aults value for M based on his research was .56 which was roughly half of what ASMFC MATH CULT had entered . This indicated that ASMFC MATH CULT nearly doubled the stock size for five years. This error would have never been picked up by ASMFC or its eighteen commissioners all of which lack the math skills (Masters in Applied Statistics) to even understand how the model allegedly works, not to mention the enormous computer programming skills necessary to design and run and modify the program. THE MUCH foisted BAM model never picked up anything amiss as the endless estimates came spitting out over the five years. World Class grand absurdities.

A new M .92 (remember Ault =.56) was added to the model a 20% change when 50%, .56 was appropriate . A reduction of 50% TAC was in order.
THIS DISGRACE PROVES THAT THE BAM MATHEMATICAL MODEL IS MODELING NOTHING . The Emperor BAM HAS NO CLOTHES.
The TAC for menhaden should be cut in half and left there until an assessment model based on return of species to its range and observation of population densities with fly overs throughout its range can be implemented . Hire the Omega “ Air Force. There were no menhaden in a harbor in the middle of Long Island Sound on Long Island again this year. None I a harbor which would be alive with schools of adults and young of the year for the over fifty years I’ve had a sailboat in the harbor. Even the cormorants have disappeared from our harbor and Port Jefferson Harbor. I remember enormous schools that took a half an hour to pass by along the beaches here . Like our cod fishery , the Math Cult is collapsing the menhaden stock. 7-8 fish in all the frozen bait boxes in the bait and tackle stores here where large adults were always found. . This screams trouble!
Wendelin Giebel 6316055290

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 5:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Fred Murray
Email
murrayf2017@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Menhaden are too valuable to the whole ecology of the Atlantic fisheries to allow one company to impact this balance. We need to greatly restrict the harvest based on science and not the greed of one corporation.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 3:41 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Bill Dunn
Email
dunnsville@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Biomass of menhaden is at the lowest I've seen in the Chesapeake Bay. I have lived on and fished the rivers and Chesapeake Bay for over 60 years and they are down to very small fish and very small schools for quite a few years and it gets worse every year. Please reduce the Bay Cap as much as possible so they can reproduce. Thx Bill Dunn

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 3:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Christopher Mozitis
Email
linwood1970a@hotmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I believe a 50% reduction does not go far enough to repair the tremendous damage already caused to the Menhaden stock. There should be a moratorium and “stop loss” implemented until the stock is further assessed and an accurate view of the damage caused by over-fishing is quantified.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 2:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Craig Freeman
Email
gradingscalesportfishing@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Please apply the full 50% reduction on the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery. Our bay is in deep trouble. There are lots of species that are dependent on menhaden that are struggling and failing to strive due to the lack of menhaden in the bay. The companies that participate in the reduction fishery will try to scare you with we're gonna lose jobs or try to mislead you saying the Atlantic population is fine we do not need a reduction. The truth is, no jobs will be lost because they fish in the ocean all the time now anyway and reducing the bay cap by 50% will still allow them to fish in the bay so I don't understand how jobs will be lost when they're still able to fish. And as far as the Atlantic population, it's a vocabulary game that they're playing. The Atlantic population from Florida to Maine is absolutely abundant and I agree with the population studies that say the Atlantic stock is healthy. There have been no studies done in the Chesapeake Bay. Virginia just approved funding for a study, but it'll be years before it is completed. I have been fishing in the bay over 40 years and I have seen the decline in menhaden as well as many other species of fish and birds. The reduction fishing companies will still be able to employ their people and make their money and operate as normal with a reduced cap. As you are aware, menhaden are a filter feeder and more menhaden in the bay helps clean the water and makes everything else in the bay better. Please apply the full 50% cap on the reduction fishery in the Chesapeake Bay, the livelihood of many charter captains, crabbers, oystermen, and fishermen are dependent upon that. Thank you for your consideration. Craig Freeman

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 2:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Hunter Pickett
Email
hunterpickett98@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I do not support any reduction of quota.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 2:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
John Holdzkom
Email
john.holdzkom@yahoo.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support the propsed reduction of the Chesapeake Bay quota.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 12:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for MD & PRFC Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

MD & PRFC Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
MD & PRFC Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/md-prfc-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Ted Ellett
Email
tazewell.ellett@hoganlovells.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I do not agree with the changes called for in the proposed addendum, and respectfully urge the Commission to reject the proposed addendum. While there is a lot of extreme advocacy by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Chesapeake Legal Alliance, and the charter boat industry making unsupported claims, there is no scientific evidence that the menhaden population in the Chesapeake Bay is diminished, and in fact surveys show that there are more menhaden in the Bay now than there were in the 1970's. While there is a diminishment of the striper population in the Bay, there is not any scientific evidence that that is due to a diminishment of the menhaden population in the Bay. Instead, there is hard evidence that both commercial and recreational overfishing of the stripers in the Bay is the primary cause of the diminishment of the striper population in the Bay. Similarly, while there is anectodotal evidence of a reduction of osprey chicks in the Bay region, there is no scientific evidence that that this phenomenon has anything to do with any diminishment of the population of menhaden in the Bay. The state of Virginia has now funded and commenced a scientific study of the population of menhaden in the Bay. The ASFMC should not make any changes in the current menhaden fishery cap or other menhaden fishing-related restrictions until the results of that scientific study are known, and unless and until hard scientific evidence exists showing a diminishment in the menhaden population of the Bay.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 3:56 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Alan Brock

Email

abrock@ca-aia.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Maximize protections of menhaden for the long term health of the Bay and the other fish species that depend on menhaden for food. Better to be proactive than reactive, even if it means a conservative approach!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 3:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ryan Simons

Email

chaosisd@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

My name is Ryan Simons. I live in south-central Pennsylvania, where our creeks run to the Potomac and then to the Chesapeake Bay. I grew up on the eastern shore and spend my weekends as near or on the water as possible. I worked for DOI for over 16 years now. I am writing as a private citizen. I want a healthy Bay and a working Reedville, and I think you can protect both.

THE PROBLEM IN PLAIN TERMS

Menhaden are small, oily fish that almost everything in the Bay eats. This year, ospreys in the saltier parts of the Bay raised about one chick for every four nests. They need roughly one chick per nest just to hold steady. Four out of five pairs raised no chicks at all. Researchers say the chicks are starving.

Nobody has proven the menhaden fishing fleet caused this. The scientists themselves say it could be warming water, fishing, or

fish arriving later than they used to. But waiting for proof has a cost. A catch limit can be raised again in three years. A crashed osprey population cannot be brought back by a vote.

WHAT I AM ASKING FOR, AND WHY

1. Cut the amount the large fishing fleet can take inside the Bay in half, to about 56 million pounds a year. (Section 3.1, Option C, sub-option C1e)

Why: This limit only covers fishing inside the Bay. The fleet can still catch those fish in the ocean, so its total catch does not have to drop. Also, the fleet has caught less than the current limit almost every year. A small cut may change nothing on the water.

2. Tie the Bay limit to the coastwide limit, so they rise and fall together. (Option C)

Why: Last year you cut the coastwide limit by 20% but left the Bay limit alone. That let a bigger share of the catch come out of the Bay, the nursery, at the worst possible time.

3. Set a floor of about 56 million pounds that the Bay limit cannot drop below. (Sub-option C2b)

Why: The crews and the plant in Reedville need to plan. A floor tells them the worst case up front. Fair rules should be predictable for the people who live under them.

4. Spread the catch across the season: one quarter in spring, one quarter in summer, one half in fall. (Section 3.2.1, Option B2)

Why: Ospreys feed their chicks from April through June and cannot change that schedule. In 2023 and 2024, more than half of the Bay catch came out in just six weeks of midsummer. Maryland pound-net fishermen saw their catch fall 60% in 2024. Your own document says timing changes cost the industry far less than cuts to the total.

5. If the fleet goes over in one part of the season, subtract it from that same part next year. (Section 3.2.2, Option B)

Why: A limit with no consequence is only a suggestion.

6. Review all of this every three years. (Section 3.3, Option B)

Why: Virginia just funded a $2 million study of menhaden in the Bay. In three years you will have real numbers. If they show the fleet is not the problem, raise the limit. I will support that.

TWO MORE REQUESTS

Publish the total Bay catch each year. Right now it is kept confidential, so the public cannot tell what any limit really does.

Take the Virginia report on worker impacts as seriously as the osprey counts. One estimate ties about 54 fishing jobs to a cut this size, and the study behind it says that is likely too high. Those families deserve a plan, not blame.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Fish left in the Bay this spring can still be caught in the ocean this fall. Chicks that starve this spring are gone. When you are

not sure, choose the mistake you can fix.

Thank you for your time.

Ryan Simons
Mercersburg, PA

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 3:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Linda Shaw

Email

Lrs68@verizon.net

State

Maryland

Comment

PLEASE reduce the quota for Omega fisheries for menhaden. This is disrupting the Ches. Bay fish and birds and other wildlife. We go fishing out of Deale and can hardly even find spot and perch anymore much less a larger fish like rock, blue and trout.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 3:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Will Boll

Email

bollwc08@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

It's disgusting to let such a beautiful and important species die out just for the sake of some fishery. The business can work around to find another means to keep profits, the bird however, cannot work around to survive when their needs for basic survival are stolen from them. In 20-30 years people will care far more for these animals than some obscure fish business.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 3:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Corey Merema

Email

cmerema@dupps.com

State

Georgia

Comment

If the menhaden fish catch at the Reedville, VA location is to be reduced, the result for the business, the employees, and the community would be impacted in a negative way. I personally work for a company based in Ohio that has manufactured process equipment for the Omega Proteins facility in Reedville. We have been doing business with Omega Proteins since 2007. We have spent many months throughout the years installing and maintaining said equipment, contributing to the local economy through our patronage at local hotels, restaurants, and various other businesses. If the fish catch is to be reduced, our services will likely become more infrequently required thus impacting the local businesses that we would otherwise be supporting while in the area performing work at this facility.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Corey Merema

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 3:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

J.R. Sweet

Email

jrsweet100@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Please continue with the historical catch volumes. Do not impose more restrictions eliminating industries and jobs. Enough please!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 3:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Robert Etter

Email

etter15@aol.com

State

Maryland

Comment

To whom it may concern, this letter is in reference to the upcoming decisions on reducing the menhaden catch in the Chesapeake and related Waters. As a long-term resident of the state of Maryland and an avid fisherman and user of our great natural resources,I am absolutely appalled at the recent reduction in the Osprey population. As you well know, there's been a decline of at least 14% of the adult population in Maryland in the last year and a massive loss of osprey fledglings in the last two years that can be directly tied to the drastic reduction of the menhaden population. Almost all this is due to the overfishing by the Omega Protein company of Virginia, whose corporate ownership is Cooke Inc. of Canada. It is incomprehensible that we are allowing a foreign owned company to decimate our bay population of fish like the menhaden .You can only imagine if a foreign company came in and started over harvesting our beloved Chesapeake Bay blue crabs, there would be a massive out cry and intense public outrage . I would prefer a full and complete industrial closure of the fishery, but since that does not seem to be on the table I'm in total support for at least a 50% reduction in the total catch. This has to be instituted immediately if we expect to see any improvement in the total osprey fledglings in the next few years and for other important bay inhabitants. Please make the correct and only decision by reducing the catch immediately. Thank you for your consideration, Robert Etter DVM.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 3:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Pamela Dorgan

Email

pad5902@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I support Connecticut Audubon supporters and request a 50 percent reduction in the Bay Cap, with option B2 for how the catch is distributed in amounts across time. The Osprey are starving and their breeding numbers are down. Please adjust the Bay Cap to bring them back!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 3:23 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Thomas Caperna

Email

tctroop995@yahoo.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I have lived in the Chesapeake watershed since 1985 and am a long-time boater. I am also a member of the Magothy River Association and have been actively involved in monitoring water quality and bay grasses which provide habitat for yellow perch, oysters, crabs and other bay species. I am deeply concerned about the reduction in Osprey and other aquatic birds, especially because they are indicators of a potential decline in bay health and productivity. It is clear that menhaden provide the bulk of the food source for many aquatic species in the Bay and along the Atlantic coast. This is due to their unique fatty acid profile and protein content. However, recent data suggest that the size and age class of the fish caught in recent years are decreasing which is a population dynamic that will lead to a crash in Menhaden numbers. This is not a new concept or speculation. If this occurs, then osprey and all the other species that rely on menhaden will endure severe population decline. I am totally in favor of an immediate 50% across the board coast-wide and bay-wide reduction in the commercial harvest. To continue the harvest of this public resource it should be up to the commercial fishery to prove that they are neither harming the future menhaden population, nor health of the aquatic life that depend on menhaden, including ospreys.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 3:17 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/?en_txn1=e.ch_md.eg.x.gpn.1007.n.sas.loc_md&en_txn8=NewSch.WJEMSA2610NPNZNZZE01Z00-ZZZZZ-ST00&lu=c3632ecf-35ca-47c3-9369-c9b6ef317cb3&customer_id=22291248

Name

William Levitan

Email

blevitan15@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I have been sailing the Chesapeake Bay out of the West River for a number of years. Osprey typically nested on 3 of the channel markers in the river and generally 2 would result in fledglings. During the past 4 years, this pattern has changed, first with a nest no longer being built on one of the markers and another not yielding chicks to now only one on which a nest is built but not yield chicks.

I realize that a number of factors can be the cause of this trend. But at the same time, menhaden bait fishermen have notice a decline in their catches and osprey elsewhere in the Chesapeake watershed that do not depend on menhaden as a food source are nesting successfully. Until NOAA completes its menhaden fisheries study as authorized by Congress, out of an abundance of caution, it would seem reasonable to impose a reduction in the limit for the reduction within the Chesapeake Bay. While there would be an impact to the commercial fishery in terms of input costs, there remains sufficient stocks outside the Bay for them to meet their market goals.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 3:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lynn Schroder

Email

lynnnina@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I live on the Mystic River and the DRAMATIC fall off in Osprey activity here and on other local platforms is shocking. Please act!!!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 3:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Steven Mines

Email

smines@me.com

State

New York

Comment

I run a charter out of both Norwalk CT and Hampton Bays NY. Over the last three years, I have seen the presence of adult menhaden diminish to almost nothing. I still see some menhaden off the south shore of Long Island, but nothing like I did five years ago. What is more concerning is that I don't see any adult menhaden at all in the Long Island Sound off the coast of Norwalk. In decades past, there were large schools of adult menhaden all of which were about 9-12 inches long. It was nothing to plan a day of finding a school of menhaden, snagging a dozen for bait and fishing the rest of the day for stripers and blues. In the past three seasons, I have not snagged a single menhaden. Smaller fish have been in the estuaries and have been catchable with cast-net or gill-net, but even that is getting harder and harder to accomplish. I have noticed this season that we catch more stripers and blues on small profile artificials rather than large ones, because matching the hatch no longer means matching an adult menhaden. There are none! Something is very wrong. Whatever science you're using, it is flawed. Our bluefish, striped bass, tuna and countless bird species are all going to suffer. Not to mention charter captains.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 2:56 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Magdalena Szewczykowska

Email

m.szewczykowska38@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

Let's save ospreys and other animals dependent on menhaden as their main food source!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 2:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kendall Keer

Email

kendall@keerandheyer.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Cutting the Chesapeake Bay Cap by the full 50%

Linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide catch limit, so when one drops, the other does too

Spreading Bay harvest across quota periods so the Bay isn't stripped in spring and summer
Reducing the coastwide catch limit by 40% to meet the science for 2027 and beyond

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 2:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Pat Holobaugh

Email

patholobaugh@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Menhaden overfishing has caused osprey populations to collapse. Very few osprey. Hicks survived this year. Please reduce or eliminate eliminate fishing to allow the bird population to rebound

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 2:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Tom Powley

Email

tom@gkdusa.com

State

Maryland

Comment

The decline in the Chesapeake Bay menhaden population is evident. Pound netters are going out of business, young osprey are starving and rockfish are in decline. I'm am on the bay on a weekly basis and the days of admiring acres of breaking menhaden on the surface are gone and the menhaden that I do see are all small peanuts. Allowing one company to decimate an entire ecosystem is criminal and must stop immediately.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 2:03 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kayanna Shanker

Email

kayshank006@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

It is disheartening that Virginia is the only state left allowing a Menhaden Reduction Fishery. This is causing irreparable harm to not only our local ecosystem but our local businesses as well. Menhaden need protection for the sake of the Chesapeake Bay and our local economy.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 1:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kevin Earley

Email

budget@coxbusiness.net

State

Virginia

Comment

We live in Virginia just off the Bay at the mouth of " Chisman Creek ". For past 20 years we've watched our Osprey nest closely every year. Its the highlight of our spring watching the Osprey return and start working on the nest. Past 6 years no chicks made it to fledge. Last year none even hatched, this year the Osprey didn't even show at our nest, 1st time in 20 years living here. I'm hearing and reading the same from many people, the chicks aren't making it to fledglings. Yes, the osprey are still here but they don't seem to be thriving as they once where. We do have some Eagles but always have, yes Osprey and Eagles have always fought. Now all of a sudden did the Osprey move on somewhere else or are slowly dying off. Hearing similar stories from so many people on the Bay, I'm thinking the later. Somethings very off. As a recreational fisherman I see the Omega vessels a few times a year and watch the operation. In my opinion Omega should be stopped for a number of years to see if the Osprey can bounce back. The Menhaden is CRITICAL to our Chesapeake Bay. Please stop Omega for a period of time ! They do it all the time to recreational fisherman on certain species. Thank you ~ Kevin Earley 757 870 2980

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 1:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Edward Piacentino

Email

ep23830@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

As an avid sailer and occasional recreational fisher in the Chesapeake Bay, I am troubled by the overfishing of Menhaden, the feeder fish at the bottom of the food chain that support a healthy marine life ecosystem in the Bay and its rivers. The numbers being taken from the Chesapeak are decimating & all of the fishing is controlled by a single company owned by a Canadian enterprise using planes & large vessels to scrape life from the Bay. A healthy Chesapeake Bay means a healthy region in the ocean and on land. We cannot reverse the damage that has already been done, but we can put much stricter limits based on real science on the over-fishing by a foreign corporation.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 1:25 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ryan Leopold

Email

ryanleopold2@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

As a Virginia Beach local and waterman I would like to see more protection for our greatest resource. Foreign companies should not be able to come in and destroy our fisheries for profit. Money comes and goes but the Chesapeake Bay is forever and provides countless people with food and livelihood that we need to take back control of!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 1:23 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Robert Ottenhoff

Email

rgott48@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I support all efforts to reduce the catch of menhaden for commercial purposes. I live on the West River in Anne Arundel County. As recently as five years ago, we had approximately 10 osprey nests on our portion of the River. Now we are down to one and it has failed to produce offspring for three seasons in a row. We have an osprey crisis that can't be ignored. I am also a fisherman and have experienced dramatic decreases in rockfish.

Omega claims that it is impossible to draw a correlation between their haul of menhaden and the decline of rockfish and ospreys. But there is no doubt that there is a severe crisis. I support all proposals to reduce the harvesting of menhaden until we can develop more scientific studies that directly trace the causality.

This is an emergency.

Sincerely,

Robert Ottenhoff

1452 East West Shady Side Road
Shady Side Maryland 20764

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 1:22 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kyle Shipe

Email

kyleshipe3189@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

The research is clear. Now is the time to change limits on menhaden fishing. Availability for osprey is paramount in assuring the success of young ospreys health and survival. With their numbers dwindling, osprey need our help to reverse this trend to allow for more menhaden to increase their survival rates. Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 1:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lena Pacheco

Email

lena.pacheco1986@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

Osprey populations are in peril likely due to starvation from lack of available food. By capping the amount of Menhaden, a primary food source for Osprey, we will give them an opportunity to rebound. Osprey are crucial to their environment and ecosystems and the loss of them would have cascading effects on other parts of the ecosystem. As someone who is a scientist and avid birder, the loss of Osprey would be devastating. Please cap the amount of Menhaden in order to give them a fighting chance at recovery.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 1:04 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jane Crowther

Email

jcrowther@omegaproteininc.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I do not support Chesapeake Bay Quota Reductions as suggested in Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 1:04 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

MIchael Weisner

Email

michael@weisnerrealestate.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Please cut the commercial menhaden harvest limits by at least 50%. Most marine life in the Chesapeake Bay depend on healthy stocks of menhaden and the fish simply are no longer available due to overharvesting.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 1:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Charles Church

Email

charliechurch1@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Please do something to protect the Chesapeake Bay. Our politicians on both sides of the aisle have accepted money for years from Omega. And even VMRC's managing board is stacked with people with ties to Omega. Prove to us that the Chesapeake bay is NOT for sale to the highest corporate bidder.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 12:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Hal Eleazer

Email

hal.eleazer@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

The huge amount of Menhaden harvest should be paused until the study is completed. It should be paused or at least reduced in half.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 12:30 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/?en_txn1=e.ch_md.eg.x.gpn.1007.n.sas.loc_md&en_txn8=NewSch.WJEMSA2610NPNZNZZE02Z00-ZZZZZ-ST00&lu=944fa117-e4c1-407a-965f-52cc817c4267&customer_id=20982354

Name

Peter Wood

Email

nativeofny1@yahoo.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Atlantic menhaden are a critical food source for striped bass, ospreys, whales, and other wildlife.

Please reduce harvest pressure in the Chesapeake Bay!

Thank you!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 12:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Hester Stinnett

Email

dchantbohn@aol.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

As someone who has visited the Eastern shore of Maryland every year for the past 50 years and enjoyed all that the Chesapeake Bay has to offer, especially watching the osprey, build nests, protect them and raise their chicks, I urge the ASMFC to approve conservation-minded reforms that better protect menhaden and support a healthy Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, including reducing the Bay Cap by 50 percent in 2027 and implementing quota periods to more effectively distribute reduction fishing pressure throughout the season. I remember how polluted the Bay was before conservation efforts began.
Please support the following options in Draft Addendum II:
• 3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount: Support option C1e that would reduce the Bay Cap by 50 percent and limits it to 13.6 percent of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC). Also, support option C2a which sets an upper limit of 51,000mt for the Bay Cap, which is the current level.
• 3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution: Support option B2 which establishes three even length quota periods for the Bay Cap, but distributes harvest 25 percent in period 1, 25 percent in period 2, and 50 percent into period 3. Also, support option B which establishes quota period overage payback and rollover of unused quota within a fishing year.
• 3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision: Support option B Revisit Provision to reassess the efficacy of these new management tools every 3 years.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 12:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Barbara Williams

Email

thisbarb@aol.com

State

District of Columbia

Comment

Dear Commissioners, My family owns a home on St. Patrick's Creek in Colton's Point, Maryland. St. Patrick's Creek feeds into the Potomac about 30 miles north of the Chesapeake Bay. I am very concerned about the overfishing of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay. I understand that a Canadian company that produces supplements for pets is responsible for most of the overfishing. I also understand that the overfishing of menhaden is the reason that my family has seen many fewer osprey on St. Patrick's Creek. The Chesapeake Bay is precious and I am very much opposed to large commercial fishing enterprises interfering with the ecosystem. Please adopt Draft Addendum II. Thank you for your consideration.

Barbara Straub Williams

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 11:57 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Virginia Brace

Email

ginnybrace@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

181 nests and only 3 offspring this year. Bay Osprey are in real trouble. The state of Virginia needs to immediately take action to li.it menhadden harvest. Virginia treasures its wildlife and should take steps to allow these fish and the birds who need them to rebound.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 11:52 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Helen Keegan

Email

hellionk@yahoo.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

please do all you can to protect osprey

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 11:42 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jeffrey McGuinness

Email

jemcguinne@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I strongly encourage that we reduce the overfishing of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay and its impacts on Osprey.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 11:37 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ronald Scheer

Email

rwscheer@yahoo.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

This quota reduction should absolutely be implemented. The over harvest of the primary forage fish in the north east region is noticeable and negatively affecting local fish populations, certainly in Long Island Sound. These fish are the basis of the food supply for all our local fish

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 11:36 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Alice Carbone

Email

carboal@nyc.rr.com

State

New York

Comment

I live at 1 Beach 105th Street, Rockaway Park NY 11694. Five years ago we noticed every night lights from small boats less than a mile off the Atlantic Ocean by our apartment complex. Some nights they're 3 - 4 boats, last week 5 boats could be seen. They show up at dark and leave right before sunrise back to NJ. I advised this to a NYPD Harbor crew having breakfast at a local waterfront restaurant and they told me to contact NY State Dept of Environmental Conservation. I sent them an email 5 years ago as I was concerned that these boats are fishing under cover of dark for Menhaden. I asked that they investigate. I never received a reply from them and no action was taken as this is still continuing 5 years later. These boats anchor in the ocean between 105th and 109th Street.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: Tina Berger
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 11:33 AM
To: anne.r.betz@gmail.com
Cc: James Boyle
Subject: FW: [External] New website contact submission from Contact Us

Ms. Betz – Thank you for submitting public comment on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II. Your comments will be shared with the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board when it meets in November. Best. – Tina

Tina Berger
Director of Communications
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201
703.842.0749
Tberger@asmfc.org | asmfc.org

Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

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From: info@asmfc.org <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 7:18 PM
To: Info (ASMFC) <info@ASMFC.ORG>
Subject: [External] New website contact submission from Contact Us

Name

Anne Betz

Email

anne.r.betz@gmail.com

Get in Touch

I'm concerned with the lack of data on menhaden population and the status showing they are not being "over fished". Evidence of a declining osprey population points to issues with overfishing.

Draft Addendum II addresses actions to be taken now that will allow for the rebuilding of the menhaden numbers and benefiting the Chesapeake community at large. Failure to do so will shorten the future of the menhaden industry along with a dire impact on our bay.

Thank you for your support of The Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

Sincerely,
Anne Betz
703 Mary Ball St
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
Anne.r.betz@gmail

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 11:23 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Francis Baker

Email

febakerjr@aol.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Gentlemen: My name is Dr. Francis E. Baker, Jr. I live in Chesapeake Beach, Maryland on the bay, and I have fished and hunted on the bay for 60+ years. I see, first hand, what is happening to the menhaden and its effect on the detrimental affects fishing and hunting. I am deeply concerned about the difficulty in getting the Menhaden fisheries annual limits lowered to further protect them and over the years to secure long term survival of menhaden populations and survival of the trophy rock fish (& other species dependent on menhaden) and the Osprey populations (including chick survival). Protecting the menhaden is one of the limited ways, we can help with the struggling menhaden population and CB estuary. Please add my signature and state to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's comment letter on Draft Addendum II. We desperately need positive action to be taken at this time. Thank you for your service and all that ASMFC does.
Sincerely,
Francis E. Baker, Jr PhD, PE

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 11:09 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Robert Berg

Email

robertbergesq@aol.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Adult bunker have been absent from Long Island Sound for two years straight. I mean virtually completely absent. I have fished Western LI Sound out of Mamaroneck continuously since 1994. For most of those 30 years, the Sound was chock full of bunker. In August, in the Western Sound, the harbors would be so jammed with bunker that they'd deplete all the oxygen and they'd suffocate, creating massive smelly fish kills. Those days are certainly gone. This year, no bunker showed up on the South Shore of Long Island either. The situation is worth in the Chesapeake. And when I fish in the Mississippi River delta, the schools there are far reduced. Bunker are the prime forage fish for so many of our critical coastal fish, mammals, and birds. The stripers, red fish, sea gulls, osprey, whales, porpoises all depend on the massive schools which no longer exist. Why? Because one single company is allowed to slaughter a gigantic percentage of the biomass - a Canadian-owned company no less. Omega Proteins operates the only bunker reduction fleet on a giant industrial scale and is single-handedly destroying the bunker schools - which in turn, is threatening the striped bass, red fish, and osprey populations in particular. I have personally witnessed both the slaughter and the depleted wildlife situation.

It borders on criminal the irresponsible actions of ASMFC that for decades allows this unmitigated debacle to occur unchecked. It's truly remarkable that you Commissioners fail at virtually everything you touch. You ignore science and reality

and are political pawns. You react like molasses. Now you have a chance to take remedial action - too little and too late - but do the 50 percent reduction now. Maybe you'll sleep better at night.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 10:52 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kevin Wikar

Email

wikark@yahoo.com

State

Rhode Island

Comment

Pioneer Vallery Boat & Surf Fishing Club supports better coastwise management of Atlantic Menhaden:

Also referred to as the "most important fish in the sea", the Atlantic Menhaden are an iconic, keystone species who play a major role in holding up the aquatic ecosystem of the Bay. There are concerns of overfishing of these small, oily fish and a reduction in the allowable catch in the Chesapeake Bay is required. Osprey, which are relying on menhaden, are experiencing unprecedented nesting failures in the areas of the Bay with high salinity. Allowing more menhaden to be available to the Bay ecosystem promotes the productivity of this estuary amid the impacts of climate change, pollution, and development.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 10:45 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Gwen Gubeli

Email

ggubeli@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

As a biologist who grew up on the Poquoson, York and Piankatank Rivers and the Chesapeake Bay, I have seen firsthand, the damage done by overfishing menhaden.
We've had a camera on an osprey nest for a couple of years now. This year, I watched in horror as starving osprey chicks were plucked from their nest by a predator. The chicks were left alone while their mother hunted for fish, because the male osprey had experienced increasing difficulty returning with a catch. Early in the season, he would return with sufficient fish. I was so excited to see the shells pip and the chicks be born, but no meals were forthcoming. By early May, he was spending more time hunting with lesser results and leaving the nest unprotected. It was devastating to watch the two osprey parents diligently attend their duties for months on end, she on the nest incubating through blazing sun and wind-whipped storms, he providing fish and running off predators from his guard post in a nearby tree, only to end in tragedy. Baby chicks have to eat right away and frequently. No meals came. Those birds were skilled and working as hard as they could, but could not provide food for their young.
Additionally, over the years I have watched crabs get smaller and fewer and striped bass populations decline. You can't just remove a huge portion of the food base and expect everything to just work out. The overfishing of this critical resource has occurred partly because the damage is difficult to see. If these were bison, unobscured by water, the evidence would be more clear. This has allowed advantage to be taken.

Finally, the resources of the Chesapeake Bay belong to the citizens, not the government and not corporations. For too long, corporate greed and political donations have determined the fate of the Bay. I hope a new day is dawning.
I support limits on menhaden fishing and appreciate efforts to improve the health of the bay, as it affects us all.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 10:39 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Andrew Carroll

Email

andrew.john.carroll@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I am disheartened to hear a recent report by the Connecticut Audubon society that success of Osprey chicks is at 0.87 chicks per breeding pair this year. Down from 1.26 (another low) in 2025.

I love watching the osprey at my local pond and along the Connecticut River. It is clear that there is a crisis in their food source and that menhaden need to be protected. I join Connecticut Audubon in urging the ASMFC to reduce the fishery cap by 50%, a precautionary measure to ensure that menhaden, a key foundation fish and a prime food source for osprey, are not put in even greater jeopardy. There are so many stressors on these birds and fish from a warming world to more intense storms to further habitat reduction.

I see the importance in letting the menhaden population recover and agree with this measure. For too long we have let companies and economic growth dictate what is "good" for us. I am tired of that and want to see balance return to the world.

Thank you,
Andrew

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 10:24 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

George Giles

Email

gsgct4@yahoo.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Menhaden Addendum II
Providing input regarding menhaden stocks in Madison and Clinton coastal areas. 2025 and 2026 menhaden schools were very low and I personally observed 12 Osprey nests with 1 or no fledgling. I ask that commercial fishing for the vital menhaden in the Chesapeake be drastically reduced to properly assess the impact on the food chain.
Kind regards
George Giles
Madison Ct

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 10:21 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

terry hutchens

Email

pelicanbay2539@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

The overfishing of menhaden, in Virginia, which is the only state who allows inshore fishing, must end! I don't mean it needs to be regulated. It must be stopped! the predator fish that feed on Menhaden are going away, the ospreys who need to Menhadn for their chicks are dying, they have regulated rod and real fisherman to one fish per day, and yet giant menhaden ships are allowed to catch and keep tons, not to mention the by-catch, which they are also allowed to keep and process. stop this insanity, why does every other state see this threat to the chesapeake bay but Virginia does not? keep them out of virgina waters and our bay might recover

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 10:16 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lisa Innarella

Email

njwitch@hotmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

This particular type of fishing has been ecologically wrong and illogical from the beginning. Menhaden are being obliterated by the "INDUSTRIAL" style of fishing practices. The massive 'scooping' up of fish using those ominous nets is decimating them! Menhaden are CRUCIAL to so many other species' survival! END this practice now! Sustainability is paramount. The OVERFISHING of menhaden is OBVIOUS. As a kid these 'bait fish' were everywhere on our shorelines. And they were about 10" long!!! Now they are barely 5" long and the bait stores in my area were OUT OF STOCK this season. Our local WMA had only 1 osprey fledgeling out of 17 and FB had numerous posts from organizations mentioning the similar outcomes of osprey nests from other areas. This is SERIOUS stuff. Don't let Big Industry dictate rules! This situation shouldn't be about economics as they would complain about. This predicament requires SCIENCE and the implementing of SUSTAINABLE procedures. Nature is bountiful! But humans have a tendency to to think our world's resources are infinite. Thank you for your time. GO MENHADEN!!!!!!!!!
Sincerely, Lisa Innarella

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 10:06 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

David Reumont

Email

reumontcpa@aol.com

State

Maryland

Comment

October 7, 2026

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC

Dear Members:

I am writing as a St. Mary's County Maryland resident who purchased property on the St. Mary's River in 2000 which has become our residence and which we have developed a deep personal connection to the Chesapeake Bay. My wife and I are lifelong Marylanders, avid crabbers, boaters and conservationists who spends considerable time on and around the Bay. I am also deeply interested in the wildlife that depends upon this remarkable ecosystem, particularly osprey, striped bass, sharks, whales, and other species whose survival is tied directly or indirectly to a healthy forage base.

Observation on the St. Mary's River

Living on the St. Mary's River, directly across from St. Mary's College of Maryland., we have seen a significant decline in the

fish population in the river especially in the last several years. We used to catch several croakers, perch and strippers from our dock daily, but in the last couple of years not so much to the point now it seems they don't exist. We used to see the Menhaden in large schools on the river throughout the spring through fall but the past couple of years the number of schools and their magnitude have significantly declined and now really don't seem present any longer.

Our underwater green light used to observe fish at night, at the end of our dock, lights up after dark which up to four years ago we would have hundreds of small stripers 10"-16" swimming counterclockwise around the light. Three years ago, there were puppy drum swimming clockwise in the hundreds around the light. Last year we saw verry few fish swimming around the light and very few when the light stopped working this past May. This year we caught a 19" striper in the spring, two small stripers in the summer and none so far this fall, The abondance of perch have disappeared to the point of nonexistence it seems. For now, the only fish which seems present are these puffer fish which are present. We never caught these before in the 25 years we owned and fished off the property here.

Another observation is that the Osprey and their nests are not present as they have been in the past. We had several blue herons a couple of years ago, but we have seen only one which is still present lately. Rarely now we see the bald eagles, I have seen only one which on occasion flies over the river a couple times this summer. They were often seen daily a couple of years ago. The seagulls were light in numbers this spring though July, but in August they were more plentiful until now they again disappeared a couple of weeks ago.

We live on this river every day and have observed the decline in the natural conditions and have had discussions with our neighbors and watermen friends as to what's the cause. In thinking about it, the lack of the masses of schools of Menhaden which use to swim in this river may be part of the problem.

The question remains, why has there been such a serious change, is there a cause to this change and how to look for a path for a remedy. What can we do?

Until we can find answers to the cause, I strongly support the recommendation in reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent—from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons per year, establishing strict seasonal quota periods for menhaden and an independent audit to certify the quota is being followed. The Chesapeake Bay is too important, and the ecological warning signs are too serious, to continue managing this critical forage fish as though the timing and location of harvest do not matter.

Be advised that we are seeing warning signs that should demand a precautionary response. Declining productivity, widespread osprey nest failures, and continuing concerns regarding the Chesapeake Bay striped bass population are not isolated issues. They are reasons to examine carefully whether we are removing too much forage from the Bay at the wrong time.

It's clear to us that the Menhaden are a foundational forage species. They feed an extraordinary range of predators, including striped bass and osprey. Yet the reduction fishery can remove more than 100 million pounds of menhaden from Chesapeake Bay under the existing annual cap. When a substantial portion of that harvest is concentrated into an intense summer fishing window, the issue is not simply how many fish are removed annually. It is when and where those fish are removed.

A menhaden harvested from a concentrated school in the Bay during the summer is no longer available to the predators that depend upon that school. Concentrated removal can create localized depletion during a biologically important period and can affect the availability of forage to other users of this shared public resource.

The consequences extend beyond the reduction fishery. Menhaden support the Bay's recreational fishing economy, commercial and charter fishermen, watermen, wildlife, and coastal tourism. One user group should not be permitted to concentrate an enormous harvest of a shared forage resource during the period when that resource is most important to the rest of the ecosystem and to other Bay users.

For that reason, I urge the Commission to take the following actions:

• Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent to 25,500 metric tons annually.
• Establish strict seasonal quota periods that distribute harvest throughout the year rather than permitting an intense summer harvest.
• Apply a precautionary management approach in light of uncertainty regarding localized menhaden abundance and the ecological condition of the Chesapeake Bay.
• Give greater consideration to the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the broader Chesapeake Bay economy.

The Chesapeake Bay is not simply a location on a fisheries-management map. It is a complex and interconnected ecosystem, and menhaden are one of its essential links.

We should not wait for further deterioration before taking action.

We live here trying to enjoy, crabbing, fishing, boating, kayaking and swimming in these waters and, we care deeply about the wildlife and natural conditions that they depend on. I believe the Commission has an obligation to manage menhaden conservatively and to recognize that the health of the Bay must take precedence over maximizing a concentrated industrial harvest.
Reduce the cap. Establish meaningful seasonal quotas. Protect the forage base. Give the Chesapeake Bay—and the people and wildlife that depend upon it—a greater margin for recovery.

Thank you for considering our comments.
Sincerely,

David Reumont
46860 Frogs Marsh Road
Drayden, MD 20630
Phone 240-338-1672
E-Mail Reumontcpa@aol.com

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 10:01 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Mary Conti

Email

mary.conti1@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I am writing to express my strong support for maximizing the conservation measures outlined in Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3. Atlantic menhaden serve as the foundational forage fish for our entire coastal ecosystem, sustaining iconic fish, marine mammals and birds.

I urge the Board to adopt the most protective options available:

1. Reduce the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap by the full 50%.
2. Create structured, seasonal quota periods to eliminate concentrated industrial effort during key summer breeding windows.
3. Mathematically link the Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC to ensure localized safeguards remain proportional to broader population health.

I further urge that my home state of New Jersey take the strongest position possible in reducing or eliminating menhaden harvest along our coast.

We cannot afford to delay action until "perfect science" is available when clear ecological warning signs like starving osprey

and even the fisheries reporting smaller/scarcer catch demand precautionary management now.

--Mary Conti

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 9:52 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

brian marks

Email

bkm072@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

get into western li sound and see the devastation. no bunker no bass no blues and even a 2 hour ride for the party boats to get a few. porgy. very few boats bait and tackLE many closed even less marine fuel.maybe you will undersTAND this I fish 3-4 times a week and this year caught one sea robin if you know these waters that will tell you how dead our waters are. why a Canadian co can destroy our fishery I don't know. we will be sending info to the white house as well. THIS IS A NO BRAINER WE ARE WATCHING

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 9:50 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

DAVID LENZ

Email

dlenzco@comcast.net

State

Maryland

Comment

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Do we as the human race really need to push a fish species to the brink? Yet another starvation year for the Osprey population. Your outdated data set is driving this antiquated short sighted single remaining harvester to drive the menhaden to collapse. Go to the bay and have a look for yourself, please! Just as we have seen the the end of the commercial sailing vessel and the whale oil trade I believe we are witnessing the the same with the reduction fishery in the Bay. If the will of the state is to support the last of what remains of the fish oil harvesters, then too the will of the state can help the 500 or so workers transition. Lets achieve the 50% reduction with the goal of a final closure. Kindest Regards David B. Lenz

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 9:47 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kurt Engel

Email

kurtengel1978@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I believe the menhaden catch for the reduction industry should be reduced further than the current plan of 20%. I favor a 50% reduction until we have better science to set a sustainable limit. I live on a creek that feeds the Potomac river and have seen first hand the decline in rockfish and other species that depend on the menhaden as a food source. I feel for the livelihood of the watermen who crew the reduction boats but we cannot destroy the health of our nations largest estuary by overfishing a critical species like the menhaden to make protein for pet food.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 9:37 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Capt. Brett Taylor

Email

reelreaction@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

We need major reductions in the Atlantic Menhaden fishery, especially the Reduction fishery, as Menhaden are an integral, if not the keystone organism with the food web falling apart as so many species depend on the biomass of menhaden. From fish, mammals (seals, whales, etc), birds, and more numerous species depend on juvenile to adult menhaden for their survival and their progeny's survival. If you look at just one species, osprey, the young of the year have declined dramatically as other prey items (fluke, weakfish, striped bass, etc) do not carry the fat content to allow juvenile osprey to successfully fledge to adulthood. They are the proverbial "canary in the coal mine" - please enact major reductions to promote restoration of our Atlantic Menhaden.

Sincerely,

Capt. Brett Taylor (charter captain and public school science teacher)
Reel Reaction Sportfishing LLC
609-290-7709

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 9:28 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jane Wells

Email

janemwells48@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I am a resident of Irvington Virginia in the Northern Neck. I routinely see the boats from Reedville, mostly owned by a Canadian company working the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and the Rappahannock River. I am also aware that in the last three years we have had no ospreys nesting on our nesting platform, they have become a rare sighting, and we have had a harder and harder time catching fish from our little boat. I have talked to Maryland fishermen who say there are not enough menhaden to bait their traps. I believe menhaden are being overfished in the Chesapeake Bay. I would like to see a moratorium on fishing for menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay - keeping the fishery out of the Bay and out in the ocean. And I think this is a matter of some urgency. Of the options offered now I would like to support the following:

I support option C1e that would reduce the Bay Cap by 50 percent and limit it to 13.6 percent of the Coastwide Catch Limit. I also support option C2a which sets an upper limit of of 51,000mt for the Bay Cap, which is the Current level.
I support Option B2 which establishes three even length quota periods for the Bay Cap, but distributes harvest 25 percent in period 1, 25 percent in period 2, and 50 percent into period 3. I also support Option B which establishes quota period overage payback and rollover of unused quota within a fishing year. I also support option B to Revisit the efficacy of these new management tools every 3 years.

Respectfully submitted, Jane Wells

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 9:14 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Joseph Mallory

Email

jsmallory3@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

To all public officials: Please take these findings very seriously before it is too late!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 9:19 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lynn Dorsey

Email

dorsey.lynn55@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

This past osprey season I notice a decline in the number of ospreys and their chicks. The nest I monitor had maybe one chick and the other one had a chick fall out. Also notice lack of bunker fish as a food source while out fishing this summer. Not many had success when diving for a fish. Long Island sound is going through some changes as the water warms and other species of fish are now using the sound as a food source. The osprey do not have a chance.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 8:29 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lori Lance

Email

skyeangle17@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Pure and simple our birds need our help today!!!! The Osprey are dwindling in numbers that are completely unacceptable especially when we have a solution. It is time to take action for our beautiful birds in our environment EVERYWHERE! Do the right thing for our Osprey help them thrive in our communities and in our world. With the deepest gratitude for the support in helping the Osprey!!! L Lance

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 8:15 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Rachel Lepine

Email

ralepine72@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Hello,

There is a very clear indication that there is not enough food for the Ospreys. These majestic creatures need our help. Please do everything in your power to help them.

Sincerely,
Rachel Lepine
Madison, CT

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 8:10 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ben Packett

Email

bppack17@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Dear Commissioners:
I work in the menhaden industry in Virginia's Northern Neck region, and my job depends on its future. This fishery has kept people working here for well over a century. It supports workers, their families, and our community. I am worried that what the Atlantic Menhaden Board is considering in Addendum II could put Omega Protein, Ocean Harvesters, and our jobs at risk. That would hit me and my community hard. I am asking you, from the heart, to reject further cuts to the Bay cap and mandatory seasonal allocations.

When the Bay cap was put on us in 2006, we were told it was only a "precautionary" measure. It was supposed to keep our fishery from growing in the Chesapeake Bay while scientists studied whether our fishing affected striped bass. That question still has not been answered with new science, but the cap was cut by more than half.

Today, we are probably fishing at the lowest levels since the 1800s. There used to be many plants and dozens of vessels fishing the Bay. We caught three times as much menhaden in the 1980s and 1990s, and striped bass still recovered.

There are now millions of dollars from Virginia and the federal government to pay for the research the Board says it needs. If

the Board says it needs the science, then let the science get done. Cutting the cap again before the results are in would do nothing but hurt the reduction fishery. We have already done more than our share to help keep the Chesapeake Bay healthy, and we are glad to do our part. We need a productive Bay and a sustainable menhaden fishery as much as anyone. The cap should not change before the science is done.

We need access to the Bay. In the last few years, rough weather offshore has cost us a lot of fishing days. We find menhaden by sight. When the ocean is rough, we cannot see the fish or catch enough to keep the plant running. Fishing in the Bay is safer, costs less in diesel, and gets us home sooner.

We hear plenty about ospreys and the trouble Maryland pound-net fishermen are having catching fish. Ospreys are not doing well, but the Board needs to remember that menhaden migrate and have been showing up later than usual. We are not fishing when the earliest chicks starve. We are not fishing when ospreys first arrive and lay eggs, either. At that time, there is no reduction fishing in the Bay.

We know osprey are not picky. They will eat any fish they can catch, and it looks like they are not finding fish at all. The same goes for pound nets. When the pogies come close to shore, the nets catch them. Why isn't the Commission looking harder at the environment, especially when we keep setting heat records summer after summer? We are catching menhaden in the Bay, so the fish are there. They just seem to be staying away from the nearshore areas where pound nets are set and ospreys hunt.

That is why forcing Virginia to divide up the cap into "seasons" will not fix any proven problem. The reduction and bait fisheries have worked side by side for generations. We catch only a fraction of the menhaden in the Bay. If we were hurting the bait fishery, we would have seen it decades ago. Even the Board's own scientists found higher Maryland catch rates in 2023 when we started late, and lower ones in 2024. That tells me something else is going on.

We have to fish when the pogies are here. The seasonal options would force our boats to catch more than ever before in fall and early winter, right in the middle of storm season. Meanwhile, the boats and the plant would sit idle during good summer months, when there are plenty of pogies for everyone to catch. For the people on the boats and at the plant, this is not just a rule on paper. It could threaten our operations and jobs without any proven biological benefit.

Please reject these measures and let the new Bay-specific research answer the questions the Commission itself has raised. Our jobs and our community matter, too. If these rules cost jobs and damage our community without fixing the pound-net, osprey, or striped bass problems, that damage will not be undone for workers and their families.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 7:52 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Carrie Grimm

Email

carriegrimm@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I am worried about the low rates of osprey fledglings. The scientists believe it is due to lack of their main food source. I ask that catch limits are put in place on these fish until the osprey birth increases.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Carrie Grimm

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 7:40 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Rufus Moffett

Email

rufusmoffett@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Protect Menhaden. Stop overfishing in the Chesapeake.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 7:39 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Robert Thorson

Email

profthorson@yahoo.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please do whatever it takes to keep osprey's in CT. Reducing the menhaden catch would be a good start.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 7:00 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sarah Johns

Email

sarahkjohns@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Dear commissioner,
I urge you to place a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay industrial Manhaden harvest cap to help protect osprey from food shortages and chick starvation. Manhaden are a critical food source for breeding osprey that have to feed their young. Without the adequate numbers of the fish, chicks starve in their nest. 2026 was the lowest breeding season to date in the Chesapeake Bay. We must reduce the cap to protect this magnificent species from extinction.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 6:27 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kyle Brockmann

Email

kyle.brockmann@icloud.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I have been interested in conservation since I was a child and something that has always stuck with me is that the health of the top of the food chain is an indicator of the health of the ecosystem. I watch for hawks, coyotes, bear, all of the top predators.

Reading that one of our top state predators is struggling tremendously throes all the red flags up
Let's makes the changes needed now instead of waiting until we are trying to reintroduce the species that is no longer there.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 6:16 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Frank Faverzani

Email

frankfav66@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

As a frequent recreational fisherman in the coastal waters from CapyMay to longbeach Island, I have seen a drastic reduction in the overall population of bunker over the last 6 years. The menhaden schools when they can be found are significantly smaller in both quantity of fish and size of the actual fish.

I am happy for the Maryland fishery that the commercial catch has been reduced to improve the quality and quantity of available bait fish to support the food chain for predator species. I do hope that regulations for the rest of the East coast follow soon as the fleet has just moved to new grounds and are decimating the stocks in coastal New Jersey waters.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 5:38 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lesley Harrington

Email

lesharring@yahoo.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

You must limit the number of menhaden that come out of Chesapeake a bay. This is severely impacting the osprey and there increasing the likelihood that the species will be in great jeopardy . These incredible birds must be part of the picture. Please act now as we here in CT are already seeing a huge decline in their numbers and fledglings.
Thank you and please do the right thing!!
Lesley Harrington

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 5:03 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Dena Matthews

Email

dena@lifehouseproductions.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I support the Audubon Society's position that a reduction in menhaden catch is necessary to support the osprey population. The beautiful birds are an important part of the coastal ecosystem. Their populations were rising in recent years, but currently are declining. We can adjust what we eat so the osprey can eat, too. Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 3:37 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lisa Bond

Email

lmagyar1979@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

We need to stop commercial fishing in the Chesapeake Bay! This is truely devastating. I go to the beach approx 4 days a week in the summer as I live nearby and this was the first yr ever to see an osprey hunting along the beach. It made me sad to see this as I have recently been made aware of their dire situation. Virginia must stop the foreign companies from fishing and drone spotting before it's too late . Thank you !

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 11:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Edward Megargee

Email

edmegargee@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Please enact legislation to protect menhaden populations so critical to the survival of the coastal osprey populations along the Jersey coast

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 10:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kate Weissbacher

Email

kate.weissbacher@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

The fish of the Chesapeake Bay are an important food source for the Osprey. Based on the the CT Audubon's data, the Osprey had the worst breeding season (2026) in recorded history. The Osprey need a food source to be able to breed successfully and they are already at high risk. Biodiversity in our ecosystem is incredibly important for nature to thrive and the Osprey are an important part of that.

Please save the Osprey.

Thank you

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 9:40 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Nick Gigliotti

Email

nickjg94@vt.edu

State

Virginia

Comment

As an avid, local inshore fisherman, having a foreign-owned company completely decimate schools of critically important forage fish is at best disheartening and at worst disgusting.

Regardless of what the numbers and data say (I'm not going to pretend I know), does the current practice feel right? Spotter planes, massive nets, big crews on big boats. The menhaden don't stand a chance. Neither do the predator fish swimming in and around the menhaden just trying to eat to survive. It's not fishing. It's just taking. It's selfish.

Non-tidal wetlands are protected. Stream buffers can't be touched. Stormwater runoff water quality requirements have never been so stringent. The Bay is actually getting cleaner. The fish should be thriving. But they're not.

Why is this allowed to continue?

"Take what you need and leave the rest."

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 8:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

David Williard

Email

davewilliard@yahoo.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I support reducing the initial Chesapeake Bay Cap by 50%, from 51,000 to 25,500 metric tons.
Establishing the Bay Cap at 13.6% of the coastwide total allowable catch so it can adjust when the coastwide quota changes.
Maintaining 51,000 metric tons as the maximum Bay Cap, with no fixed lower limit.
Allocating 25% of the Bay Cap during the first quota period, 25% during the second period, and 50% during the final period.
Requiring early-season quota-period overages to be deducted from the corresponding period during the following year.
Requiring ASMFC to revisit the Chesapeake Bay Cap and related management measures every three years.
And finally, requiring Virginia to create a 3-mile limit on reduction fishing like all the other states on the Atlantic Seaboard.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 8:33 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michael Christianson

Email

mchristianson1@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

RE: Menhaden-Draft Addendum ii
I am writing to join the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in supporting the 50% reductions in CAP, 3 quota periods alternative to better assure protection of Menhaden populations during critical months for this essential species, as well as for the protection of Osprey reproduction in the Chesapeake Bay.
My wife, Jean, and I are fortunate to live along the headwaters of the Magothy River, a sub-estuary of the bay north of Annapolis, and during the last few years we have witnessed a dramatic reduction in Osprey, their fishing and their nests.
From my experience as a past president of the Magothy River Association, I can personally support CBF's conclusion that over-fishing of Menhaden is dramatically hindering Osprey reproduction.
Ladies and Gentlemen, as an attorney formerly retained by the U.S. House of Representatives for 24 years, I fully appreciate the political obstacles to your mission, and I commend you for your work.
Thanks you, Michael Christianson

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 8:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lenny Brown

Email

lbtikka501@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I support the following.
Reducing the initial Chesapeake Bay Cap by 50%, from 51,000 to 25,500 metric tons. 3.1 C1e
Establishing the Bay Cap at 13.6% of the coastwide total allowable catch so it can adjust when the coastwide quota changes. 3.1 C1e
Maintaining 51,000 metric tons as the maximum Bay Cap, with no fixed lower limit. 3.1 C2a
Allocating 25% of the Bay Cap during the first quota period, 25% during the second period, and 50% during the final period. 3.2 B2
Requiring early-season quota-period overages to be deducted from the corresponding period during the following year. 3.2 B
Requiring ASMFC to revisit the Chesapeake Bay Cap and related management measures every three years. 3.3 B

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 8:23 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Barry Barker

Email

jhualumnus@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Id like consideration of the following regards the harvesting of menhaden in the Bay:

1. Reduce the initial Chesapeake Bay Cap by 50%, from 51,000 to 25,500 metric tons.
2. Establish the Bay Cap at 13.6% of the coastwide total allowable catch so it can adjust when the coastwide quota changes.
3.Maintain 51,000 metric tons as the maximum Bay Cap, with no fixed lower limit.
4. Allocate 25% of the Bay Cap during the first quota period, 25% during the second period, and 50% during the final period.
5. Require early-season quota-period overages to be deducted from the corresponding period during the following year.
6. Require ASMFC to revisit the Chesapeake Bay Cap and related management measures every three years
7. Also I support Virginia being required to create a 3 mile limit on reduction fishing like all the other states on the Atlantic Seaboard.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 8:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Abby Hausberg

Email

abigail.hausberg@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

On behalf of the true masters of the air, sea, and land, the glorious ospreys, please reduce the fishery cap by 50 percent. These remarkable creatures have previously suffered a staggering population decline from heavy use of DDT. They came back stronger than ever once DDT was banned, but starvation is not something from which the ospreys can recover. All the data show an alarming drop in successful osprey nests across the Eastern seaboard. And where there were successful nests, there were a reduced number of fledglings, with successful nests only producing one fledgling chick as other hatchlings starved. In Connecticut this past year, ospreys had the worst breeding success ever recorded. The primary cause of this massive osprey decline is the lack of food. Ospreys rely on menhaden as a prime and foundational food building block. Please act now to protect the ospreys by reducing the fishery cap to 50 percent.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 8:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jesse Williams

Email

rahvatech@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Please stop the overfishing of Menhaden bait fish. Our so called Virginia Government are taking kickbacks from the companies turning Menhaden from fish to oil and animal feed. It is past time to protect the Bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 8:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kara Jackson

Email

karagocart@yahoo.com

State

New York

Comment

Dear ASMFC Board Members,

I am writing as an avid bird watcher, specifically I enjoy watching osprey, eagles and other coastal birds. I urge you to prioritize forage fish conservation by approving strong measures under Draft Addendum II for Atlantic Menhaden.

Menhaden are vital to the health of our oceans, bays, and predator populations like striped bass. We cannot continue to allow industrial purse-seine operations to concentrate harvest in sensitive areas like the Chesapeake Bay.

I support:
* A substantial reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction cap under Draft Addendum II.
* Real reductions in the overall Coastwide Total Allowable Catch (TAC) that match the corrected science.
* Rejecting quota transfers that simply shift fishing pressure rather than keeping fish in the water.

We cannot continue to allow industrial purse-seine operations to concentrate harvest in sensitive areas like the Chesapeake

Bay, where concerns remain about localized depletion and impacts on predator species.

Please put long-term ecosystem health ahead of short-term industrial yield. Keep ospreys in our skies, flying free and well-fed.

Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 8:03 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Elizabeth Beggins

Email

chickentractor@hotmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Dear Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am a Maryland resident who lives on the Chesapeake Bay, and I am submitting this comment because I am concerned about the long-term health of the Bay and its living resources.

I recognize that changes to menhaden management can affect the livelihoods of watermen and others who depend on the fishery, and I do not take that lightly. At the same time, I am concerned about the scale of commercial reduction harvesting in the Bay and whether we are taking too much of an important forage fish from the ecosystem.

I don't have the scientific expertise to say whether a 10%, 20%, 30%, or 50% reduction is the appropriate number, and for that reason I am not comfortable making a choice among those options. What I do believe is that when there is uncertainty about the abundance and distribution of menhaden in the Bay, we should err on the side of protecting the resource rather than assuming that current levels of harvest are sustainable.

I ask the Commission to carefully consider whether the scale and concentration of the reduction fishery in the Bay are

appropriate given the uncertainty about Bay-specific menhaden abundance and distribution. I also support continued investment in monitoring and research so that future management decisions can be based on better information.

The Bay is a shared resource, and protecting its ecological health and the communities whose livelihoods depend on it should be considered together. I hope the Commission will give appropriate weight to the long-term health of the Bay when making this decision.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Beggins

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 8:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Kriz

Email

jpkriz63@gmail.com

State

Rhode Island

Comment

As a RI/MA fisherman, I know first hand the importance of menhaden on our local fishery. As a biologist and researcher, menhaden is ESSENTIAL for our local ecosystems survival. Reduce the menhaden cap to help restore our waters and preserve our fisheries!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 7:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Nina Ruckes

Email

nruckers@optimum.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

As a member of and donor to the Connecticut Audubon Society, I strongly support their efforts to encourage osprey breeding. I am greatly distressed by their latest data which show a marked decline in successful nesting and survival of chicks. The stress of starvation is thought to be the major factor in this decline. Please control fishing so that menhaden can be available to feed these iconic birds. Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 7:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Rosemary Tindall-Gibson

Email

Ludwig91@msn.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

As a devoted bird lover and a member of Connecticut Audubon, I wish to urge you to set a 50 percent reduction in the Bay Cap, with option B2 for how the catch is distributed in amounts across time.

I strongly urge the commission to act now while remaining open to stricter measures.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 7:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kathryn Hotchkiss

Email

hotchkiss.kathryn@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please reduce the amount of menhaden commercially fished so that my granddaughter and future grandson will be able to see schools of bunker and hear the osprey calls.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 7:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Craig Holberger

Email

craigholberger@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I am writing to express my strong support for significant, precautionary reductions to the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap under Draft Addendum II that consists of the recommendations of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Atlantic menhaden play a foundational role in the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, serving as a primary food source for striped bass, osprey, marine mammals, and other sportfish and wildlife. Given the ecological importance of menhaden within the Bay's nursery grounds, industrial reduction fishing in these confined waters poses a distinct risk of localized depletion.

To protect the Bay's food web, I strongly urge the Commission to adopt the following measures in Draft Addendum II:

Maximum Cap Reduction: Select the option that achieves the highest possible reduction—up to 50%—from the current cap of 51,000 metric tons. Reducing the cap to the maximum extent permitted under this addendum provides essential interim protection against localized depletion.

Seasonal Quota Distributions: Implement seasonal management limits to prevent industrial harvest from being concentrated during key months when resident predators, particularly breeding osprey and migrating striped bass, rely most heavily on

menhaden as forage.

Precautionary Approach & Science-Based Limits: Continue moving toward full ecological reference points (ERPs) specific to the Chesapeake Bay, maintaining a precautionary stance or moratorium on industrial reduction fishing inside the Bay until localized depletion studies confirm that harvesting does not compromise ecosystem health.

The health of the Chesapeake Bay food web depends on maintaining robust menhaden populations in estuarine waters. I ask the Commission to prioritize ecosystem health and adopt the strongest conservation options presented in Draft Addendum II.

I have witnessed personally the impact of overfishing of menhaden on the Osprey population. I have participated in the Osprey Watch documenting sightings of ospreys at nesting stands, sightings of mating and nesting ospreys and seen firsthand the limited populations and infrequent nesting and mating and offspring around the Maryland central bay.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 7:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Dudley Chase

Email

dandg999@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Clear evidence for the decline of nesting ospreys can be found 60 miles south of the
Chesapeake Bay, at the Wright Memorial Bridge across Currituck Sound. There are approximately 25 power poles that parallel the north side of the bridge. Twenty years ago everyone had an Osprey nest. In the summer of 2026 there were 2.
Dudley H. Chase

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 6:36 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Beryl Thorpe

Email

berylwthorpe@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I have been monitoring 2 Osprey nests for 5 years . This was a heartbreaking year. Nests were abandoned and many babies did not survive. No food.
They had made a remarkable comeback and now it's at risk.

Please help avoid another decline.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 6:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Alison Minor

Email

alibminor@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Amid growing concern that Osprey populations along the Eastern seaboard are declining due to a lack of food, I support the Connecticut Audubon in urging the ASMFC to reduce the fishery cap by 50%, a precautionary measure to ensure that menhaden, a key foundation fish and a prime food source for Connecticut's Osprey, are not put in even greater jeopardy.

Even more so now, the numbers show that Osprey and other species that rely on menhaden do not have years longer to wait.

Menhaden are not eaten by people. Can we not save menhaden for wildlife that rely on them exclusively for survival?

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 6:08 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Julie Nixon

Email

julienxn@yahoo.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please save our Osprey and other species that depend on the Mehnhaden. Common sense restrictions are essential to maintain the diversity of our species. By helping the Osprey we help others.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 6:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Paula Fanning

Email

paulimay68@yahoo.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

We need to act now !

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 5:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Alyssa Lanpher

Email

alyssalanpher@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC):

I am writing as a Maryland resident who was born and raised in Calvert County, has lived in in St. Mary's County since 2024, and has developed a lifelong, deep, personal connection to the Chesapeake Bay. I am an avid hiker, bird watcher, animal lover, conservationist, and outdoor enthusiast who spends as much time as possible on and around the Bay. I am also deeply interested in the wildlife that depends upon this remarkable ecosystem, particularly osprey, striped bass, sharks, whales, and other species whose survival is tied directly or indirectly to a healthy forage base.

I strongly support a 50 percent reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons annually. I also strongly support establishing seasonal quota periods for menhaden so that harvest is distributed throughout the year rather than concentrated in an intense summer fishing window.
The Chesapeake Bay is facing an ecological crisis that should not be minimized or postponed. Declining productivity, widespread osprey nest failures, and continued concerns about the condition of the striped bass population are warning signs that demand a precautionary approach to the management of one of the Bay's most important forage fish - menhaden.

Menhaden are not merely another commercial commodity. They are a foundational component of the Chesapeake Bay food web. They provide critical forage for striped bass, osprey, bluefish, weakfish, dolphins, and numerous other predators. Removing very large quantities of menhaden from the Bay during the period when they are most concentrated and most biologically important deserves particularly careful scrutiny.

The scale and timing of the reduction fishery are especially troubling. More than 100 million pounds of menhaden can be removed under the existing Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap. When that harvest is concentrated into a relatively short summer period, the ecological effect is not simply a matter of the annual tonnage. Where and when the fish are removed matters.

An intense summer harvest can create localized depletion at precisely the time when menhaden are serving as forage for other species. It also potentially deprives recreational anglers, commercial watermen, charter operators, and the broader coastal tourism economy of access to a shared public resource. These competing interests deserve meaningful consideration in the management process.

I am particularly concerned about allowing an annual quota to be treated as though the timing of harvest is irrelevant. It is not. A fish removed from the Bay in June is not ecologically equivalent to that same fish being harvested months later. The Bay's predators have seasonal feeding requirements, and the availability of forage during critical periods can matter greatly to their survival and reproductive success.

For that reason, I urge the Commission to establish strict seasonal quota periods that distribute the allowable harvest more evenly throughout the year and prevent the reduction fishery from concentrating an extraordinary volume of harvest into the summer months. Seasonal management would provide a more precautionary approach and would better recognize the fact that Chesapeake Bay is a dynamic ecosystem rather than simply another geographic allocation within a coastwide fishery.

There is also an important management issue that deserves attention. The Commission's coastwide menhaden assessment does not provide the same level of quantitative information about menhaden abundance and availability specifically within Chesapeake Bay. That uncertainty argues for caution—not for assuming that the Bay can safely sustain the maximum allowable harvest.

The Chesapeake Bay belongs to all of us. It belongs to the watermen who have made their living here, the recreational fishermen who pursue its species, the sailors and boaters who enjoy its waters, the communities whose economies depend upon it, and the wildlife that has no voice in these proceedings. Menhaden management should reflect that broader public interest.

I respectfully urge the Commission to:
1. Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons per year.
2. Establish firm seasonal quota periods for menhaden.
3. **Prevent excessive concentration of reduction harvest during the summer months.
4. Apply a precautionary approach in light of ecological uncertainty and the importance of menhaden as forage.
5. Give meaningful consideration to the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the Bay's broader tourism economy.

I have spent years watching, enjoying, and caring about the Chesapeake Bay. I have seen firsthand what makes this ecosystem extraordinary, and I am increasingly concerned about the signs that its productivity and resilience are being strained.

We should not wait until the consequences are unmistakable before acting.

The prudent course is to reduce the intensity of the reduction fishery now, protect menhaden as a critical forage resource, and distribute harvest in a manner that gives the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem a better opportunity to sustain the wildlife and fisheries that depend upon it.

Thank you for your consideration and for your responsibility to future generations of Chesapeake Bay users and stewards.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Lanpher
St. Mary’s County, Maryland

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 5:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Melanie Smith

Email

melaniems12@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

It is imperative to reduce fishing quotas before further a collapses. Legislation to reduce overfishing is the first step and protection of estuaries to increase the menhaden population should also be passed.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 5:08 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Tami Christopher

Email

tacimat@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I support reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by up to 50% and creating quota periods to distribute harvest under the cap more evenly throughout the fishing season.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 4:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Barbara Lamb

Email

b-lamb@sbcglobal.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

The reclining Asprey population is truly alarming and something must be done. Please, please please limit the amount of fishing in the waters where they feed. Please do not let these valuable birds disappear from the landscape.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 4:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Joan Cummings

Email

joancummings@sbcglobal.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

We need fish for wildlife. Get a clue. The average person gets this.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 4:49 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Adelheid Koepfer

Email

koepfer@gmx.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

Amid growing concern that Osprey populations along the Eastern seaboard are declining due to a lack of food, Connecticut Audubon is urging the ASMFC to reduce the fishery cap by 50%, a precautionary measure to ensure that menhaden, a key foundation fish and a prime food source for Connecticut's Osprey, are not put in even greater jeopardy.
As the CT Audubon Society just released, mores than 60% of "successful" Osprey nests had only one hatchling this year, and the rate of successful fledglings is below 1 per breeding pair. Finding less hatchlings and starving fledglings is a clear sign that there is not enough prey, especially the decline in manhaden is extremely concerning!
I therefore urge you to set a clear cap for commercial manhaden fishery at 50%, and lower in the earlier season (before September), so Ospreys can still find enough prey during their breeding period!
Thank you for your consideration.
Adelheid Koepfer

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 4:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Renny Perdue

Email

rennyperdue@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC):
I strongly support reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent—from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons per year—and establishing strict seasonal quota periods for menhaden. The Chesapeake Bay is too important, and the ecological warning signs are too serious, to continue managing this critical forage fish as though the timing and location of harvest do not matter.
I have had a place on the lower Potomac River in St. Mary's County since 1999 and have been a full time resident for three and a half years and have developed a deep personal connection to the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River. My husband and I are avid boaters, anglers, and I spend considerable time on and around the Bay. I care deeply about the wildlife that depends upon it, particularly osprey, striped bass, and other species whose survival is tied to a healthy and abundant forage base.
We are seeing warning signs that should demand a precautionary response. Declining productivity, widespread osprey nest failures, and continuing concerns regarding the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River striped bass population are not isolated issues. They are reasons to examine carefully whether we are removing too much forage from the Bay at the wrong time. Menhaden are a foundational forage species. They feed an extraordinary range of predators, including striped bass and osprey. Yet the reduction fishery can remove more than 100 million pounds of menhaden from Chesapeake Bay under the

existing annual cap. When a substantial portion of that harvest is concentrated into an intense summer fishing window, the issue is not simply how many fish are removed annually. It is when and where those fish are removed.
A menhaden harvested from a concentrated school in the Bay during the summer is no longer available to the predators that depend upon that school. Concentrated removal can create localized depletion during a biologically important period and can affect the availability of forage to other users of this shared public resource.
The consequences extend beyond the reduction fishery. Menhaden support the Bay's recreational fishing economy, commercial and charter fishermen, watermen, wildlife, and coastal tourism. One user group should not be permitted to concentrate an enormous harvest of a shared forage resource during the period when that resource is most important to the rest of the ecosystem and to other Bay users.
For that reason, I urge the Commission to take the following actions:
• Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent to 25,500 metric tons annually.
• Establish strict seasonal quota periods that distribute harvest throughout the year rather than permitting an intense summer harvest.
• Apply a precautionary management approach in light of uncertainty regarding localized menhaden abundance and the ecological condition of the Chesapeake Bay.
• Give greater consideration to the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the broader Chesapeake Bay economy.
The Chesapeake Bay is not simply a location on a fisheries-management map. It is a complex and interconnected ecosystem, and menhaden are one of its essential links.
We should not wait for further deterioration before taking action.
As someone who lives here, sails these waters, dives in them, and cares deeply about the wildlife that depends upon them, I believe the Commission has an obligation to manage menhaden conservatively and to recognize that the health of the Bay must take precedence over maximizing a concentrated industrial harvest.
Reduce the cap. Establish meaningful seasonal quotas. Protect the forage base. Give the Chesapeake Bay—and the people and wildlife that depend upon it—a greater margin for recovery.
Thank you for considering my comments.
Sincerely,
Renny Perdue

St. Mary’s County, Maryland

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 4:41 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Judy Jones

Email

jjones184@cox.net

State

Virginia

Comment

The menhaden quota should be reduced because the current level of harvest is placing real stress on the coastal food web, especially for species like Osprey that rely on menhaden as their primary prey during nesting season. When menhaden numbers drop, Osprey struggle to feed their young, leading to lower fledging success and weakened populations. The same ripple effects extend to other predators—bald eagles, herons, striped bass, marine mammals—whose health and stability depend on abundant forage fish. Protecting menhaden is not just about a single species; it is about safeguarding the ecological foundation that supports the entire Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic coastal ecosystem. Reducing quotas now is a necessary step to relieve that pressure and allow these interconnected species to recover.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 4:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kathleen Shea

Email

kateshea48@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

“Menhaden Draft Addendum II”
I would like to enter my thoughts about the upcoming changes to Chesapeake Bay Menhaden Fish collection. I am deeply concerned about the decline of Osprey offspring this year in my home state CT. The numbers of fledged osprey have drastically reduced. Of the 679 total nest attempts, 40% failed. I live on the coast in Fairfield and see Osprey daily from March till September. They are a part of my daily life. It is very troublesome that their food source is being harvested for other means. I wish you to know that I support Audubon with their insistence for a 50 percent reduction in the Bay Cap, with option B2 for how the catch is distributed in amounts across time.

Submitted respectfully, Kathleen Shea

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 4:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michelle Talich

Email

mltalich@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

There was a significant error in the menhaden stock assessment.

Science confirms there are roughly 37% fewer menhaden than previously estimated.

The old TAC of 233,550 mt now carries a 100% chance of overfishing under the corrected science

The bait and reduction fisheries landed only 80% of the quota in 2024.

Hundreds of millions of extra pounds of menhaden were harvested in 2023–2025 because of the error

The science supports a substantial cut: a cumulative reduction closer to 50%.

The ocean TAC was cut 20% for 2026 only. The Bay Cap has not moved.

A narrow-sighted focus on just Chesapeake Bay threats expanding harvest further north and increasing total harvest.

The over harvesting of these fish are damaging an entire coast. Osprey are starving, the food web is collapsing. We must act now and implement decisive, meaningful change before it's too late. Please.

Sinerely,

Michelle Talich

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 4:25 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ryan Eick

Email

ryan.eick150@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I request 50% in the Bay Cap for fishing Menhaden - the Osprey population is literally starving to death

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 4:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ann Bilyew

Email

abilyew@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

As a Fairfield, Connecticut resident, I strongly support meaningful protections for Atlantic menhaden through Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3. I urge the Commission to adopt a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap and seasonal harvest limits that help preserve this essential food source for ospreys and other wildlife.

Connecticut Audubon's preliminary 2026 Osprey Nation findings are deeply troubling. With 99% of the season's data compiled, productivity fell to 0.87 chicks per breeding pair, down from the previous record low of 1.26 in 2025. Forty percent of nesting attempts failed. These results raise serious concerns about the availability of food during the breeding season. Weather, disturbance, and other factors also affect nesting success, making continued research essential alongside immediate precautionary action.

Specifically, I support:

Section 3.1, Option B4: Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by 50%, from 51,000 to 25,500 metric tons.

Section 3.2.1, Option B2: Allocate 25%, 25%, and 50% of the cap across the three seasonal quota periods, shifting more

harvest to later in the season and easing pressure during spring and summer.

Menhaden management should explicitly account for the fish's role in sustaining the broader coastal ecosystem. Protecting abundant forage supports wildlife, sustainable fisheries, and the communities whose livelihoods and quality of life depend on healthy waters.

I also urge the Commission to pair these protections with effective enforcement, continued monitoring of prey availability and osprey breeding success, and timely review as new evidence emerges. Stronger safeguards should remain available if conditions warrant.

Our coastal wildlife is a shared public resource and a responsibility we hold for future generations. Please adopt these protections promptly and make the long-term health of the ecosystem central to this decision.

Ann Bilyew
Fairfield, Connecticut

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 4:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Moira Eick

Email

silvershamrock12@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

PLEASE revise the Bay Cap reduction to 50% as many bird populations, particularly Osprey, are literally having their main food source - Menheden - depleted. Please act soon and remain open to future stricter measures.
Thank you,
Moira Eick

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:17 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Elizabeth Haynes
Email
liz.armenta@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
Wildlife and ecosystems are important. We need to consider our local wildlife populations when enacting legislation. They need to eat too. Please leave enough food for our wildlife so that our ecosystems are sustained and we have a livable planet for our children and grandchildren.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:15 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Lynn Dorsey
Email
dorsey.lynn55@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
I support the change to fishing. There has been less bait fish in our area which means less to eat for the ospreys. Sightings of birds have decreased. The nest in my back yard may have only had 1 fledged. It will be too quiet if there are no ospreys.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:21 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Ava Michelangelo
Email
ava.michelangelo@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
There is growing concern that Osprey populations along the Eastern seaboard are declining due to a lack of food. Last year, Connecticut Audubon's (the organization I am a part of) Osprey Nation recorded its lowest breeding success since the statewide community science program launched in 2014 to monitor the birds. This year is looking even worse. By Aug. 1, 2025, out of 706 nests with up-to-date reports, 113 had failed — about 1 in 6. In the same timeframe this year, of 691 nests with up-to-date reports, 171 have failed — roughly 1 in 4. The decline at Old Lyme's Great Island, once a former Osprey stronghold, has been particularly severe. Thirty-seven Osprey chicks fledged at Great Island in 2024. In 2025, that number decreased to 27. This year, only five chicks fledged. Because Ospreys feed almost exclusively on fish, the Osprey Nation community science program serves as an early-warning system for the health of Connecticut's waters and the abundance of prey species like Atlantic menhaden. We need to protect these birds by sustainably managing their food source and not prioritizing capital gain.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:21 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Alec Lurie
Email
aleclurie3@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
I firmly support a plan to reduce the fishery cap by 50% to help ensure enough menhaden remain available for Ospreys and other wildlife. Protect our environment for ourselves and our children.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:21 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

David Gilman

Email

davidapgilman@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I strongly urge the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board to reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by 50% and to adopt seasonal quota periods that prevent harvest from being concentrated during critical parts of the year.

As a Connecticut resident, I am particularly concerned by the recent decline in Osprey breeding success in our state. Connecticut Audubon's Osprey Nation program has reported a substantial increase in nest failures, and the decline at Great Island in Old Lyme has been especially alarming: 37 chicks fledged there in 2024, 27 in 2025, and only five in 2026.

Ospreys depend almost entirely on fish, and Atlantic menhaden are an important forage species for Ospreys and many other predators throughout the Atlantic coast. While no single factor should be assumed to explain recent Osprey declines, worsening breeding success is a strong reason to take food availability and forage-fish management seriously.

The Chesapeake Bay is an especially important nursery and feeding area, and the Commission has long recognized the value of managing the reduction fishery there precautionarily. Given the ecological importance of menhaden and the uncertainty surrounding localized prey availability, I believe the appropriate response is to leave more fish in the water rather than wait for definitive evidence of ecological harm.

A 50% reduction in the Bay cap is a reasonable precaution that would still allow commercial harvest while providing a greater buffer for Ospreys, striped bass, bluefish, marine mammals, and other wildlife that depend on menhaden. I also support dividing the cap into seasonal quota periods so that fishing pressure is not disproportionately concentrated during spring and summer, when predators may have especially high energetic demands.

Menhaden are worth more than the value of any single fishery. They support the broader Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic coastal ecosystem, including wildlife valued by people far beyond Virginia and Maryland.

Please adopt the 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap and strong seasonal protections under Draft Addendum II.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:17 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Sara Sutton
Email
saralsutton01@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
Please consider , I am urging the commission to reduce the fishery cap by 50% to help ensure enough menhaden remain available for Ospreys and other wildlife. We are at a critical time in history where we can still make changes that can save Osprey and other wildlife in our state by making this important decision. It is up us to be good stewards of this land. Thank you, Sara

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:15 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Ian Cassell
Email
ian.cassell@yale.edu
State
Connecticut
Comment
There is growing concern that Osprey populations along the Eastern seaboard are declining due to a lack of food. Last year, Connecticut Audubon's Osprey Nation recorded its lowest breeding success since the statewide community science program launched in 2014 to monitor the birds. This year is looking even worse. By Aug. 1, 2025, out of 706 nests with up-to-date reports, 113 had failed — about 1 in 6. In the same timeframe this year, of 691 nests with up-to-date reports, 171 have failed — roughly 1 in 4. The decline at Old Lyme's Great Island, once a former Osprey stronghold, has been particularly severe. Thirty-seven Osprey chicks fledged at Great Island in 2024. In 2025, that number decreased to 27. This year, only five chicks fledged. Because Ospreys feed almost exclusively on fish, the Osprey Nation community science program serves as an early-warning system for the health of Connecticut's waters and the abundance of prey species like Atlantic menhaden. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, which sets the ceiling for East Coast states on the number of fish that can be caught commercially, will consider final action on the proposed changes at its annual meeting in November.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 10:08 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Bill Breitbach
Email
bbreitba44@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Menhaden are the most important fish in the sea. We must stop harvesting them in their juvenile stage, their first 18 months. We are killing the future three year olds that begin to reproduce. ALL MARINE LIFE depends on menhaden as their keystone food source, whales, dolphins, striped bass, cobia, eagles, ospreys. Menhaden are the primary water purification system removing more algae and phytoplankton then oysters; menhaden filter six gallons of water per minute. MENHADEN ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT FISH OF THE SEA we must stop killing the 18 month old juveniles of the Bay before they even have a chance to reproduce at age three years old.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 9:50 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Miles Wong
Email
docwong@hotmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
We need to put a moratorium on the amount of menhaden being commercially harvested to save the ecosystem of the Chesapeake Bay. It is obvious that the Chesapeake ecosystem is faltering. The current status is unacceptable to save a few jobs in Reedville.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 7:54 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Brendan Luther
Email
brendanluther15@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
As a Virginia resident, lifelong fisherman and someone who's entire career as an environmental engineer has gone into helping restore water quality in estuaries, especially the Chesapeake Bay - the path of unchecked or exploitative industrial practices on this recovering water body are unbelievably frustrating and must be changed. I support the 50% cut in total allowable catch and spreading the harvest/ quota seasons to different times of the year as suggested by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. A community's right to certain jobs and a foreign company's right to profit do not supersede the right that the millions of people that live near and use the bay have to a healthy water body, especially as that water body is in recovery from centuries of pollution and human effects. Please consider adopting the full Addendum II measure. Sincerely, Brendan Luther

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 5:41 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
David Harmon
Email
Firedkvh@yahoo.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Stop Harvesting Menhaden in THE CHEASAPEAKE BAY.. IT HAS BEEN GROSLY OVERHARVESTED The company will survive elsewhere..... It not about Reedville anymore!!!!!!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 10:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Stephen Brown
Email
stephenm.brown73@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 7:13 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Anton Sorkin
Email
avs_23229@yahoo.com
State
Virginia
Comment
While I am strongly support future menhaden scientific study, I think Virginia along with other bay states has enough practical knowledge that the bay gets depleted and IMMEDIATE actions are needed to restore menhaden population and whole food chain. At least 50% harvesting reduction will be important step. Further reduction or raise can come as an outcome of the study. I believe Virginia fishery industry can avoid economic loses by switching to offshore fishing.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 6:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Kevin Smith
Email
kevin.m.smith250@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I fully support a reduction in the allowed catch of Menhaden in Virginia's Chesapeake Bay. Having fish the bay for over 40 years the damage done to our fisheries, such as stripers, gray trout, blue fish is obvious. Respectully, Kevin Smith

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 6:17 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
William Edmondson
Email
will.edmondson@yahoo.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay menhaden cap and the use of quota periods to spread harvest throughout the season. The Chesapeake Bay is being devastated by these commercial Omega menhaden boats. Please help save the CHESAPEAKE BAY before it's too late!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 3:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
John Sherman
Email
fishcrazy2@verizon.net
State
Virginia
Comment
Cease all commercial fishing of Menhaden. It's long past time.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 3:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Denny Seabright
Email
dennyseabright@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
It's insane to let one company fish for pogies in this close. Lining pockets of out of country businesses and making excuses that the 300 employees need a job. I need a job, as well as all the other charter captains that have watched the decline of Bunker. Either a 50 percent reduction for 5 years to see how it responds or let em fish 3 miles or more off Va. Join the states that have some common since left. Say no to Omega

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 1:30 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Justin Cooner
Email
justincooner@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
The commercial harvest of menhaden needs to be stopped. Several species of fin fish have declined in number and size because of troll netting. There exists many other sources of protein besides menhaden, which can be used my the manufacturer of these diet supplements. Because the chesapeake is important in breeding for many saltwater species, the menhaden need to be unpressured to allow balance in the bay's ecosystem

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 1:23 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Jim Kenny
Email
jimkenny1274@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
I support the 50% reduction. It is absolutely criminal what has happened so far, where one company and one state has decimated the bait fish ecosystem. Please do something.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 12:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Ryan Banas
Email
rhbanas@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I fully support lowering the bay cap to 25mt as well as a quota for the harvest period. These changes protect the nursery that is the Chesapeake Bay. Further, it protects recreational opportunities to enjoy fishing within the bay. The mass culling of menhaden puts extreme pressure on fish and results in changing their migratory habits as well as their spawning.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 12:42 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Geoffrey Philip
Email
geoffphilip@hotmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
LI am writing to support the proposed 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods to spread harvest out across the season.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 12:27 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
James Campbell
Email
jmarshallcampbell1@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
As a fisherman in the Chesapeake Bay for over a decade. The amount of Menhaden has decreased and this year was the least prevalent I have seen the fish and this was reflected in the poor Cobia fishing season. As the migratory fish that spawns in the Chesapeake Bay, this lack of menhaden affects the ability to reproduce which not only impacts the bay, but the entire east coast. When talking to other fisherman in the bay, they have also seen much less menhaden this year. Especially with the two year hard freeze, abundant menhaden populations are essential to the rebound of the red fish population in the Chesapeake bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 12:20 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Alex Scott
Email
alexjscott22@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
As a concerned citizen who does not fish in the Chesapeake Bay, I think 51,000 metric tons is too many Menhaden to be taken out of the bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 12:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Herbert Califano
Email
jeepers2@optonline.net
State
Virginia
Comment
Commercial fishing for Menhaden should be suspended until the fish levels are greater then those of 2010. I have a home in Occohonnock creek and this year I saw no menhaden at all. No Rock fish and no Grey or Speckled trout and only caught Croaker 7" or smaller. I have watched the steady decline of both menhaden and Rock Fish to the point that this year there were none. Shame on the Commonwealth of Va for letting this happen.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 10:46 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Keith Quintrell
Email
kdq21136@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I support new limits on commercial Harvest if menhaden. As a sports fisherman, I will be making decisions on where I vacation next year. I am thinking about a weeklong fishing trip to Exmore, VA to fish for red drum. I will be watching this decision closely. My decision on why to vacation there will largely be determined by this upcoming decision. If you do not adequately protect this community recreational resource, I will vacation elsewhere. I know I am just a drop in the bucket, but I remind you that sports fishing is a crucial element of the eastern shore tourism economy, and that I won't be the only sports fisherman watching this decision. I will refuse to support any form of VA tourism if you allow the impact of lower bay fishing to dramatically impact upper bay fishing that I can more routinely access..

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 9:49 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Vicki Satterwhite
Email
vlsatter@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I have watched my osprey nest in Richmond County, Va. with grave concern over the past 3 years. The adults have worked so hard to find the fish they and their chicks need to survive. Sadly, the chicks each year have one-by-one starved to death. What few menhaden I see the adults bring to the nest are TINY compared to years past. In my area this year out of 6 nests, only one baby survived....the reason, I supplemented her with fish caught off my dock. This over-fishing of menhaden has got to stop! Osprey and other species are being decimated by this practice!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 9:46 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
jack kirby
Email
jkrb86@hotmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
No one wants to see anyone lose their jobs. But the Chesapeake Bay is priceless and should be protected . Most all species of fish have declined most likely due to declining food supply and over harvesting . I think it is time to stop the harvesting of Menhaden in the Bay. Jack Kirby

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 8:53 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Myriam Stitt
Email
mimistitt@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I agree that we need at least a 50% reduction in catch limits so we can help restore the fisheries and give wildlife & watermen a chance to survive

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 8:52 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Zac Duke
Email
dukezb@yahoo.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support the full 50% cap reduction

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 8:04 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michael Ricks

Email

mricks23@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing as a recreational fisherman who has spent considerable time fishing the Chesapeake Bay and the coastal waters of Virginia. I strongly oppose the continued industrial harvest of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay and off the coast of Virginia.

This is not simply an issue of one fishery competing with another. From my perspective as a recreational angler, the industrial reduction fishery for menhaden has become an issue of the overall health and productivity of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

Over the years, I have personally witnessed significant changes in the abundance and distribution of numerous species within the Bay and its tributaries. Areas that once routinely held large concentrations of baitfish and game fish have, in my experience, become noticeably less productive. Species that depend upon abundant forage—striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, cobia, red drum, Spanish mackerel and others—are part of an interconnected ecosystem. Menhaden are not merely another commercially harvested species. They are a critical forage resource for a tremendous number of fish, birds and other predators.

When enormous quantities of menhaden are removed from the ecosystem for reduction into fish meal and fish oil, we should be asking whether we are taking too much of the foundation of the food web to support a relatively concentrated industrial fishery.

The Chesapeake Bay is a unique and enormously valuable natural resource. It should not be managed simply by asking how many menhaden can be removed while maintaining a population that technically meets a biological threshold. We should instead be asking what abundance of menhaden is necessary to support a healthy, resilient and productive ecosystem.

The economic consequences also deserve far greater consideration.

Recreational fishing represents a significant economic engine for Virginia and the Chesapeake Bay region. Recreational anglers spend money on boats, fuel, tackle, licenses, guides, marinas, boat repairs, lodging, restaurants and countless other goods and services. The economic activity generated by thousands of recreational fishermen is distributed throughout coastal communities and supports a broad network of small businesses and jobs.

Every fish that is caught recreationally represents far more than the value of that individual fish. It represents an entire economic chain—from the purchase of a fishing rod or boat, to the fuel used to reach the fishing grounds, to the meals purchased by anglers and their families.

By comparison, an industrial reduction fishery concentrates the economic benefit of harvesting enormous quantities of forage fish among a relatively small number of participants, while the ecological consequences of removing that forage base can be borne by the entire ecosystem and by the much larger recreational fishing community.

That is not a fair tradeoff.

I also believe management decisions need to recognize the value of abundance, rather than merely the value of maintaining a harvestable population. A healthy Chesapeake Bay should have enough menhaden to support its predators. We should be seeing abundant schools of baitfish, healthy populations of predatory fish and an ecosystem capable of supporting both commercial and recreational fisheries.

Instead, recreational fishermen are repeatedly being asked to accept restrictions, shortened seasons, reduced opportunities and declining fishing quality while an industrial fishery continues to remove tremendous quantities of the very forage that supports the ecosystem.

That approach deserves to be reconsidered.

I respectfully ask the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to take the following actions:

End or substantially restrict industrial reduction harvesting of menhaden within the Chesapeake Bay.
Establish substantially more conservative menhaden harvest limits in Virginia's coastal waters, recognizing menhaden's importance as forage for the broader ecosystem.
Give substantially greater weight to the economic value of recreational fishing when evaluating menhaden management decisions.
Adopt an ecosystem-based management approach that considers the forage requirements of striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, cobia, red drum, Spanish mackerel, birds and other predators—not simply the population of menhaden itself.
Increase transparency regarding the actual distribution and magnitude of menhaden harvests within the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia coastal waters, including the ecological and economic assumptions used to establish allowable harvest levels.
Put the health of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem ahead of maximizing the allowable harvest for industrial reduction purposes.

The Chesapeake Bay belongs to all of us. It belongs to the recreational fishermen who spend countless days on its waters, to the families who enjoy its resources, to the businesses that depend upon recreational fishing, and to future generations who deserve to experience a productive and healthy Bay.

As a recreational fisherman, I have personally watched the changes taking place in the Bay. I do not believe we should wait until the effects are impossible to reverse before taking action.

Menhaden are too important to the Chesapeake Bay to be treated simply as an industrial commodity.

I urge the Commission to reconsider the continued allowance of large-scale industrial reduction harvesting of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia's coastal waters and to adopt management measures that prioritize a healthy, abundant forage base and a thriving recreational fishery.

Thank you for considering the perspective of recreational fishermen who depend upon and care deeply about the Chesapeake Bay.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 7:51 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Mildred Reyes-Ritter
Email
Mildredritter1@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support the maximum 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay menhaden reduction fishery cap. Menhaden are an important forage species, and I support precautionary management that helps protect the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and the recreational fisheries that depend upon it.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 7:44 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Charles Howlett
Email
incpops@hotmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I'm an avid bay and river recreational fisherman. I've seen the decline in some of our best species of fish. Mostly striper which I used to always be able to catch several decent fish. The regulations for recreational fisherman and the lack of fish, keep me from even trying to brave those cold December mornings. Sad isn't it. Maybe letting one of their prime meals get a chance to repopulate might help. I'm no scientist, but I believe this is a smart decision to let the bait fish naturally restore themselves.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 7:41 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Pasquale Bombino
Email
otohealth007@aol.comm
State
New York
Comment
Stop Omega protein. Send them back to Canada

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 7:31 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Joel Vedelli
Email
joelvedelli@yahoo.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I fully support the Atlantic Menhadan decision draft addendum II

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 6:00 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Laurie Cody
Email
lauriecody103@gmail.com
State
Florida
Comment
The menhaden needs to survive! The fishing industry has to cut their fishing by half in order for this to happen. Ospreys are dying, starving to death, all along the seaboard because of the menhaden being overfished. It needs to stop now.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 2:49 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
william hudak
Email
countrysideproduce@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
The proof of menhaden over harvesting is real solid proof year after year less menhaden and smaller class fish

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 9:56 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
CHRISTENE MITCHELL
Email
christene80@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support cutting the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap in half and creating three quota periods to better spread the harvest out throughout the season.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 9:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Bryan Rose
Email
forthebears1967@hotmail.com
State
New York
Comment
As an avid long Island south shore fisherman there has been a very noticeable decrease in the bunker schools. I definitely feel a reduction in catch rates should be put in place as soon as possible. I dont feel that its is right for the needs of a single company to able to strip a natural resource which affects so many local resources that are dependent on the bunker as a source of food. Please give this the serious consideration it deserves. Bryan Rose

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 7:52 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Thomas Powell
Email
twpowell757@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I fully support reducing the current menhaden quota by the proposed 50%. This is a good start but Cooke Inc aka Omega Protein should be pushed out of the Chesapeake Bay completely atleast 3 NM off the coast similar to every other state on the east coast. They also should not be able to impede menhaden from entering the Chesapeake Bay. It also should be illegal to use spotter planes, drones, etc for the purpose of spotting menhaden. I hope you make the right decision to save this great natural resource before it's too late and has a lasting negative effect on the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 7:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Matthew Anderson
Email
mganderson278@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in the Bay. This is long overdue. I witness the downside of not enforcing this every time I take my daughters fishing. Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 7:42 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Matt Franz
Email
mfranz218@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Stop the over harvesting! Cut the omega fleet over fishing the Chesapeake

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 6:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Frederick Menage
Email
fmenage@verizon.net
State
Maryland
Comment
SAVE THE CHESAPEAKE BAY! Stop the menhaden netting and let Mother Nature's filter feeders help to clean up the water by straining plankton and converting the sun's energy into fat and protein to feed the predators up and down the bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 5:41 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Harry Montague
Email
montagueheatingandcooling@yahoo.com
State
Virginia
Comment
It’s time to save this valuable asset..I support it and plan to vote that way

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 5:36 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Mary Shaughness
Email
aas1110@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I am an ardent supporter of our Bay. It is vital that we align on maintaining the health and vitality of our sea life and bird life. They are at risk. Fisherman are suffering. The rate of menhaden depletion is devastating our environment and peoples livelihoods. There must me a place where business and the environment can come together to allow both entities to thrive.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 5:34 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Debbie Day-Corritone
Email
debbiecorritone@hotmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
We MUST SAVE THE BAY THE REMOVAL OF OUR MENHADEN RISKS NOT ONLY THE FISH BUT THE OSPREYS AS WELL IN ADDITION WHY ARE WE ALLOWING A FOREIGN COUNTRY TO OVER FISH OUR BAY????

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 5:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Shayne Zasimowich
Email
Shaynezas@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support reducing the Bay Cap by the proposed 50%.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 3:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Scott Gregg

Email

mscottgregg@comcast.net

State

Virginia

Comment

I have been fishing the Chesapeake Bay for 30 years. In the early 2000's there were so many menhaden in the bay that you would frequently be surrounded by giant schools of breaking fish acres in size so thick you would had to yell over them to talk to people in your boat! There were mature fish from 8" to almost a foot long everywhere you looked. The large striped bass were almost always with them well into the summer and it was easy to catch your limit of those trolling just a couple rods. (where now some people use planner boards and 20 or more rods to catch just a couple fish over an entire weekend of trying.)

The menhaden population has been decimated by the reduction fleet and they have fought tooth and nail to keep anyone from studying it, and whenever there is a meeting they flood the building with supporters to keep out any other public from participating. Their lobbyist work over the politicians and they have friendly seats on the boards that control everything about what they consider "their fishery"! And that doesn't even count what their nets do to cobia, redfish and other predators. They say they don't catch any until a net breaks tens of thousands of dead gamefish wash up on the eastern shore! (Rember that? Look it up if you don't)

They will not be happy until the last bunker is gone from the bay and then they'll blame "Climate change" and just fish offshore anyway. They need to be made to stop fishing the bay until it is determined by INDEPENDENT SCIENCE that it is sustainable! Make them fish in the ocean where the coastwise stock assessment shows the stock is healthy until we know for a fact one way or the other.

That is the ONLY thing that makes sense! There are 10,000 jobs that depend on the bay for every 1 of the reduction fleet jobs. Who is more important to the economy of our state and at what costs to the health of such an important resource. Please do the right thing and stop reduction fishing in the bay which should have been done 10 years ago.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 3:49 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Darren Rhoads
Email
selinsgrover@verizon.net
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
Stop the greed and reduce the quota. Menhaden have been reduced along the east coast from the Chesapeake to Maine. If you haven't noticed, you're not paying attention.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 3:34 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Scott Sadler
Email
ssadler763@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Stop the harvest of menhaden reduce by 50% in the Chesapeake Bay or more

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 3:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
P Poz
Email
paulpoz@hotmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Shut Omega down. Keep the blue cat invasion from eating all the sport fish, rock, white perch… etc. kick Omega off shore. No other state allows them to rape their waters like Virginia does. The bay is doomed without decisive and drastic measures. Do what you're paid to do. Protect the bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 2:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Andrew Cain

Email

andy.cain@charter.net

State

Virginia

Comment

It's not about whether menhaden are "overfished" by safe population numbers. It is about whether excess fishing of menhaden is leaving the bay and tributaries overburdened with plankton, allowing the expansion of excessive algae blooms and the resulting deoxygenated dead zones.

Menhaden are filter feeders. Using gill rakers to collect algae and other forms of plankton as they swim, menhaden filter 7 gallons of water per minute. In food-rich environments, they feed by ramming, swimming with their mouths wide open driving water over the gill rakers collecting food. Menhaden can live up to 12 years filtering over 10,000 gallons on a good day. Preserve the menhaden to preserve the marine environment.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 1:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Martin Abramo

Email

martin.abramo45@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

The overharvesting of menhaden has gotten completely out of hand. The evidence supporting this statement is overwhelming. Time to enact a morritorieum on all menhaden harvesting.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 1:08 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Martin Abramo

Email

martin.abramo45@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

This has really gottwn out of hand. The evidence of overharvesting is abundantly clear. A complwte moritoriem on harvesting Menhaden is in order, for the sake of the whole cheasapeak bay!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 12:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

James Houck

Email

jhouck79@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Please follow science and observation, which strongly suggests that the menhaden biomass has been severely and negatively affected by the large-scale commercial fishing industry operating in Virginia's Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic waters. The ramifications of this industry's actions has far-reaching consequences biologically and geographically, across multiple species and waters. Please make the environmentally/ethically appropriate decision and reduce the commercial catch quota allotted to the menhaden fishery, of which the most signifcant and largest operation is primarily based in Reedville, Virginia. Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2026 8:06 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Richard Barber
Email
ritty854@yahoo.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
There are NO menhaden adult menhaden in New Jersey this summer. Ospreys are now targeting fluke at low tide as they have no food! Menhaden are the most importent fish in the ocean. This once very plentiful fish is disappearing and the reason is overfishing by Canadian owner Omega Protein! Please take action before it is too late. We don't need a reduction, we need a three year moratorium!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2026 7:53 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Dickson Young
Email
aspendjy@aol.com
State
Virginia
Comment
The time is now to protect Virgina and the rest of the Chesapeake bay. There should be no harvesting of these in the bay and this is a valid and overdue first step in that direction

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2026 7:00 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Josh Gaines
Email
jlgaines757@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
The ecosystem has been violently stirred, give the bay what it neeeds to protect future generations and support a healthier ecosystem. The bay isn't some cash crop… it's the east coast's sanctuary responsible for reproducing a lot of the inshore, offshore, and migratory species we see today on the decline. Easy for anyone to see that this is a problem, yet big corporations and local government quickly turn a blind eye when blinded by big money…

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 10:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Clara Juncadella
Email
clarajuncadella@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
Reduce amount of allowed Menhaden allowed to be fished so our Osprey can survive!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 9:42 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Roseanne Levy
Email
italianolevy@optonline.net
State
Connecticut
Comment
I live on the Saugatuck River in Westport and every year witness the young ospreys hunting for fish. They need to be protected.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 9:37 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Michael Caldwell
Email
mcmichaelcaldwell@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I have personally witnessed omega protein ships netting giant schools of menhaden extremely close to if not then in the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay. I was catching stripers that were feeding on that school so I have to believe the netters were catching stripers also in their nets.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 8:14 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Robert Hawryluk
Email
robhawryluk@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
It is time to end the foreign owned decimation of our keystone menhaden population. There is no excuse for strip mining the bay. The ecological cost and the costs of lost businesses because and joy/tecreation for our citizens due to the lack of forage based tourism is astronomical and inexcusable.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 7:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Geoffrey Collins
Email
peppycollins@yahoo.com
State
Virginia
Comment
After you've admitted to mismanaging the fishery for years it's time to protect it and give it time to heal from your neglect and error, why has every other state on the eastern seaboard already acknowledged the damage of purse seine nets and industrial fleets fishing inside state waters why won't Virginia do the same? The answer shouldn't be "because they've been doing it for years" or have anything to do with lobbyists money it's time for you to act to protect the bay and its ecosystem make the right decision for once and make it loud cut the full 50% show the people who you actually are here to serve

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 7:30 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Keitha Kinne
Email
keithalk@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
I strongly support reducing the commercial menhaden harvest cap by 50%. Menhaden are a critical forage fish and an essential food source for Ospreys and many other marine and coastal species. Healthy menhaden populations are vital to a healthy ecosystem. I urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to take a precautionary approach and adopt the 50% reduction option to help ensure there are enough menhaden to support the wildlife that depends on them

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 6:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
robert roth (Bob)
Email
rothnml@aol.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I'm a fisherman and fish the bay. The reduction in menhaden has dramatically weakened the fishing in the bay. There should be a moratorium on OMEGA BEING ALLOWED TO HARVEST THE BAIT FISH FOR A FEW YEARS UNTIL THE BAY RETURNS TO ITS VIBRANT FISHERY.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 6:33 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
lee lowe
Email
rooster3333@ymail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
If you think that netting all the menhaden you want Go fishing in the Chesapeake Bay and see what is done

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 5:56 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
matt scheuer
Email
matt@electronarobotics.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
I strongly urge the Commission to adopt the maximum 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay menhaden reduction fishery cap. Menhaden are a foundational forage species that support striped bass, osprey, dolphins, and the broader ecosystem of the Bay and entire Atlantic coast. Removing them at the present industrial scale puts needless pressure on an already stressed environment. Please prioritize the health and future of the Chesapeake Bay and its wildlife over maximizing short-term destructive harvests, and adopt the strongest reduction allowed!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 5:30 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Teryl Reynolds
Email
terylreynolds@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
I support reducing the Chesapeake Bay fishery cap by up to 50% and creating quota periods to distribute harvest under the cap more evenly throughout the fishing season. This action would stop the reduction in osprey survival that has recently been seen and will benefit other wildlife.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 5:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Karen Peel Salvadore
Email
ksalvadore@comcast.net
State
New Jersey
Comment
I've personally witnessed the effects of the declining menhaden stock in New Jersey. I live on Long Beach Island, NJ, in Ship Bottom, and it is heartbreaking to watch our young osprey starve this year, last year, and the year before because of a lack of fish. Do not continue to allow Omega Protein to rape our ocean for their own profit.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 4:41 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Khol Nathan
Email
nathankhol@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
It's shameful this has been allowed to continue for so long. I've seen the fleet work and leave their devastation behind them. Sludge of oily water created by their nets and the destruction of the food for the Chesapeake bay. As a recreational fisherman, the negative impact is obvious.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 4:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Jolan Supan
Email
jolanc113@aol.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
I strongly support reducing the commercial menhaden harvest cap by 50%. Menhaden are a critical forage fish and an essential food source for Ospreys and many other marine and coastal species. Healthy menhaden populations are vital to a healthy ecosystem. I urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to take a precautionary approach and adopt the 50% reduction option to help ensure there are enough menhaden to support the wildlife that depends on them.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 3:04 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Ken Wright
Email
kmwright@smithfield.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in menhaden harvest.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 2:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Robert Pollard
Email
rbpollard46@comcast.net
State
Virginia
Comment
I support the 50% reduction Bay Cap .

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 2:41 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Robert Smith
Email
dropbackking@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Please do the right thing and save the bay by reducing the amount of allowable harvest on menhaden

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 2:33 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Jacques Amyot
Email
jacques.amyot1@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
Please pass Draft Addendum II. Osprey are a vital part of the ecosystem here on Long Island Sound.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 1:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Cheryl Fitzpatrick
Email
coscob70@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
USE COMMON SENSE HERE!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 1:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
John Miller
Email
Timatrooper@aol.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Reduce Menhaden catch by 50% for the Chesapeake Bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 12:36 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Stephen Smith
Email
nikolaixion@gmail.com
State
North Carolina
Comment
I grew up in Virginia, and I've always fished the rivers and ocean there. But I'm 43 years old and I have noticed a dramatic drop in the quality of fish to catch, fewer drums, skinny striped bass, spending all day to catch one fish over the limit to keep, when I remember filling a cooler in an hour as a kid, meanwhile I've steadily seen more and more omega boats hat eating menhaden.these companies are using boats, planes and modern electronics to decimate the food foundation of the Chesapeake bays food chain, IDC how much money omega pays you, when the fish all die or migrate omega and their money will leave with the fish, but u guys are gonna be stuck here dealing with a pissed off public. It's your job to maintain and manage the wildlife, not to subcontract that responsibility to a private party. Do your job and stop omega from destroying our fisheries! My 9yr old son absolutely loves fishing and I really wanna see my grandkids be able to catch something they can eat in 20 years...

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 12:30 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Will Filomarino
Email
wgfilo@cox.net
State
Virginia
Comment
I would like to support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and link the future bay cap to the overall coast-wide quota. As a life long bay fisherman and resident of Virginia Beach of 40+ years. I have witnessed the long term effects of the overfishing of menhaden. The large schools of menhaden that were effective at filtering the bay water and supporting popular gamefish and birds of prey have been vastly depleted. Everyone focuses on the oyster regarding filtering the water in the bay, however the menhaden has just as an import role in filtering the water. In my opinion, since they are not bound to one place they can filter more surface area efficiently. I'm tired of Omega Proteins greedily profiting off this public resource, which has wrecked the ecosystem of the Chesapeake Bay. There needs to be a better balance of harvest of available stocks in the bay with a goal of increasing those stocks. The Chesapeake Bay should not take the biggest hit because it is the most profitable source. Balance should be maintained both locally as well as regionally. Therefore, I reiterate my support for the 50% reduction in the bay cap and link the future bay cap to the overall coast-wide quota. Respectfully, Will Filomarino

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 11:14 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Mareke Schiller
Email
marekeschiller@homil.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Our family has sailed the Bay from Hampton to Annapolis and many destinations in between. We have been members of the Chesapeake Bay Association since the 1970's and hold the health of the Bay for most important. Support the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Amendment II. Save the Bay and all its wild life!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 11:14 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Eleanor McClelland
Email
elmac24-7@sbcglobal.net
State
Connecticut
Comment
As a human, I am speaking to you on behalf of these birds and their dependence on the fish, specifically menhadin, to feed and nourish their offspring. We as humans have caused this crisis. We as humans can reverse this harm. There are so few harms that we humans have done to our home that can be addressed and corrected with simple solutions. This one where there IS a simple solution. Let us employ our intelligence for the survival of the osprey.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 10:51 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
John Ioia
Email
bonefixr@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
You must stop this strip-mining of our resources and the destruction of an ecosystem. There is much more involved than a simple baitfish. This is the basis of the ecosystem that is the entire East Coast of America. There needs to be a moratorium on commercial harvesting to save th system.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 10:45 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Nancy Morris
Email
nanmorris508@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
There is growing concern that Osprey populations along the Eastern seaboard are declining due to a lack of food. Last year, Connecticut Audubon's Osprey Nation recorded its lowest breeding success since the statewide community science program launched in 2014 to monitor the birds. This year is looking even worse. By Aug. 1, 2025, out of 706 nests with up-to-date reports, 113 had failed — about 1 in 6. In the same timeframe this year, of 691 nests with up-to-date reports, 171 have failed — roughly 1 in 4. The decline at Old Lyme's Great Island, once a former Osprey stronghold, has been particularly severe. Thirty-seven Osprey chicks fledged at Great Island in 2024. In 2025, that number decreased to 27. This year, only five chicks fledged. Because Ospreys feed almost exclusively on fish, the Osprey Nation community science program serves as an early-warning system for the health of Connecticut's waters and the abundance of prey species like Atlantic menhaden.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 10:23 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Johnny Boyd
Email
jrayboyd@aol.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Please pass this addendum to reduce menhaden quota in the Chesapeake Bay. People who have fished the bay for decades can tell that fewer menhaden are in the bay and that food source has been greatly reduced!!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 10:22 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
TIMOTHY LIPSCOMB
Email
LIPSCOMBTK@GMAIL.COM
State
Virginia
Comment
STOP THE HARVESTING OF MENHADEN. THIS OVER-HARVESTING IS BAD FOR THE ENTIRE BAY.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 10:09 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Ray Dingledine
Email
rdingle@emory.edu
State
Virginia
Comment
The menhaden policy should ensure adequate supply in the Chesapeake Bay for the next generations of people. This means erring on the side of caution. I favor stopping large scale menhaden harvesting in the bay altogether for several years. Then evaluate the effects on economy and ecology.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 9:53 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Patrick Lynch
Email
patrlynch1@gmail.com
State
North Carolina
Comment
The Atlantic Menhaden is a critical food species for almost all the large predators, food fish, and game fish of the U.S. Atlantic Coast. Osprey, the iconic wild birds of the Atlantic Coast, are starving from Cape Cod down to Cape Hatteras, to serve the fecklessness and green of a few investors. It's also near-criminal that billions of dollars in commercial revenue from recreational fishing, birding, whale-watching, etc. are being threatened to save a few dozen Virginia jobs in a marginal industry at a company that's not even locally owned.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 9:17 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
David Elliott
Email
d.elliott11@yahoo.com
State
Virginia
Comment
The Chesapeake Bay is one of a kind ! Please protect it at all costs! Keep large fishing vessels out !

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 8:19 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Peter Gucciardo
Email
gucci14@earthlink.net
State
Connecticut
Comment
My wife and I live in CT and have been kayaking in Long Island sound for 35 years. We have several launch points ranging from the Norwalk Islands to Barn Island near Stonington CT and have observed menhaden schools in the summer just about every year in varying numbers. We typically kayak once or twice a week in summer and early fall. Starting three years ago we have not seen any menhaden schools in their usual haunts (Sachem Head, Thimble Islands, East River, Granite Bay, etc). We always see numerous Ospreys in spring and summer and know of many reliable nesting sites along the CT coast and often watch them fishing. In our non scientific observations the Ospreys seem to have fewer successful strikes than in the past. We are well aware of the reduction in successful Osprey fledging in Chesapeake Bay and along the CT shoreline and of the fishing pressure on menhaden in the Chesapeake. To lose a viable Atlantic Menhaden population would be disastrous for the wildlife that depends on this keystone food source and also for sport fisherman all along the East Coast. We support a very significant reduction in the menhaden fishing cap to allow for their recovery and sustainability into the future. Peter and Diane Gucciardo 14 Washbrook Road Newtown CT 06470

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 8:10 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Nicholas Wieting
Email
nickwieting@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Cut the cap by 50%. Put the environment ahead of omega.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 8:08 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Rebecca Tourangeau
Email
rebeccalink201153@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment

WANT TO HELP? COPY & PASTE THIS COMMENT:

I strongly support reducing the commercial menhaden harvest cap by 50%. Menhaden are a critical forage fish and an essential food source for Ospreys and many other marine and coastal species. Healthy menhaden populations are vital to a healthy ecosystem.

I urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to take a precautionary approach and adopt the 50% reduction option to help ensure there are enough menhaden to support the wildlife that depends on them.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 6:14 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Julie Curullo
Email
jcurullo@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
I strongly support reducing the commercial menhaden harvest cap by 50%. Menhaden are a critical forage fish and an essential food source for Ospreys and many other marine and coastal species. Healthy menhaden populations are vital to a healthy ecosystem. I urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to take a precautionary approach and adopt the 50% reduction option to help ensure there are enough menhaden to support the wildlife that depends on them. Our wildlife can't speak for themselves. We have to speak for them. Please protect our wildlife.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 9:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
David Eisner
Email
dbe027@gmail.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
Please reduce the quota for commercial menhaden harvesting as much as humanly possible, and implement recreational guidelines for net fishing juvenile menhaden in the bays and estuaries. At the most extreme, a moratorium on all commercial harvesting would be preferred. The pressure put on these fish by recreational fisherman at the juvenile stage, plus the ongoing commercial harvest of menhaden from the Delaware Bay through the North East Corridor has created a clear decrease in stock across the board. As an avid recreational fisherman and beachgoer, I expect to see hundreds of pods of bunker every summer. I have not seen one single school this season, and I have covered over 80 miles of water in single inshore trips up to 35 miles from shore.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 8:33 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
David Glassberg
Email
dfishski@hotmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
The industrial stripping of menhaden (bunker/pogies) and the resulting mortality of the bycatch swimming with them has become entirely inexcusable. Industrial reduction boats are effectively vacuuming foundational nutrients out of our ocean ecosystem. This deprives marine mammals—such as whales, seals, and dolphins—and predatory birds like osprey of their primary food source, while severely disrupting critical game fish populations including weakfish, striped bass, and tuna.I have witnessed these operations firsthand, watching spotter planes and reduction ships vacuum entire schools of fish out of the water. The immediate ecological fallout is devastating: birds are left starving, marine mammals are forced to migrate or suffer, and game fish vanish from our coastal waters. Consequently, our local recreational angling, commercial fishing, and eco-tourism/whale-watching industries are bearing the economic brunt of this practice.Corporate operations like Omega Protein are depleting the sea of the core biological nutrients required to sustain a healthy ecosystem. As a recreational fisherman who actively targets fish up and down the New Jersey coast, I see this environmental damage firsthand.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 8:30 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Mark Lounsbury
Email
doclounz@verizon.net
State
Maryland
Comment
To whom it may concern.. I have been a property owner in Cecil County on the bay in Elkton for 15 years. I have been fishing the upper bay for Striped Bass ever since. I've given up. I haven't seen a menhaden school up here in years. It's no longer worth the gas to catch just catfish. I urge the commission to take immediate and significant action to curb the commercial harvesting of our most important baitfish in the bay. Additionally, this year, I saw zero Osprey chicks in the multiple nesting sites that I frequently pass north of Turkey point.. Please DO SOMETHING!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 8:16 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
John Picard
Email
johnpicardiwcc@ail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
Please do the right thing and immediately reduce the number of fish that are harvested. The negative effects of overfishing are very real and can not be easily reversed. Thank you, John Picard

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 7:34 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Paula Brennan
Email
pbrennan93@yahoo.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
My family and I live bayfront and have watched osprey nests in the water behind our for years. Last year our nesting pair failed to fledge any young and this year has been a terrible struggle for them. They have brought no bunker back to the nest. We only see them with small fluke. And we have a fortunate nest site. The majority of nests in our area lost their fledglings because food was so scarce. Parents abandoned their young because they could not find bunker to feed the babies. You need to stop allowing Omega to decimate the bunker in Chesapeake Bay as well as along the coast. It is so short sighted to allow this over fishing. The entire ocean as well as the osprey and other species depend on the menhaden. Let Omega figure out some other way to get what they need - please protect this precious resource. The osprey will take years to come back from this. Please give them and the other affected species that chance. Paula Brennan Long Beach Township NJ

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 6:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Terry Skinner
Email
terryandsteve@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Please reduce the menhaden catch limits. The osprey chicks are starving.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 6:37 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Joan Meek
Email
jmeekmc@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
We on the east coast have had much to celebrate over several years now, with the ongoing robust Osprey population and lots of people put lots of effort into into helping them rebound.. this return following an almost near extinction of the species due to impacts from DDT. Now it seems we are on the brink of another collapse due to the very high mortality rate among chicks both last year and this. The chicks are apparently starving and we must cease the apparent over fishing of their main food..menhaden. I ask you to please vote to reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by up to 50% to allow the Osprey a chance to rebound with healthy fledglings. They need our help again and this is where we must start. Thank you for your consideration. Joan Meek Old Lyme, CT

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 6:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
John Tefankjian
Email
Jtefankjia@aol.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Please consider a coastwide ban on all Menhaden harvesting, Osprey chicks starved to death in their nests the last few years . Striped Bass, Whales, Dolphins, Bluefish, Redfish , Crabs are struggling and in DECLINE! Do to absence of the most important forage fish in the ocean! Shut it down till all these species can rebound from current population. Thank You please make the right decision before its to late!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 5:59 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Clay Ames
Email
ecsponger@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I fully support any actions to reduce commercial manhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 5:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Wendy Tate
Email
tates13@cox.net
State
Virginia
Comment
Please continue to protect the bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 4:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
William Smithson
Email
grady269@icloud.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Reduction fishing for Menhaden and other baitfish should not be allowed inside the boundaries of the Chesapeake Bay or State Waters only outside the 3 mile ease off shore in federal waters.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 4:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Lauren Vaillencourt
Email
smeepsie@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
To whom it may concern, I would like to strongly urge the commission to reduce the fishery cap by 50% to help ensure enough menhaden remain available for Ospreys and other wildlife. The CT Audobon Society has worked tirelessly to ring the Osprey back from the brink of extinction in our state. Please consider the impact on this species if their only food source is allowed to be fished even more than it already has. Don't reverse all the hard work countless people have put in to insure the Osprey remains a vital part of our ecosystem. Thank you for your time.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 4:40 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Thomas E Deans Jr
Email
tedeans1@verizon.net
State
Virginia
Comment
Please stop large scale purse seine fishing (AKA Omega) within the confines of Virginia inside the Chesapeake Bay. I would like to catch one more rockfish like I did 20 years ago!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 4:40 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Jeffrey Mrtin
Email
artistjeffrymartin@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
REMOVE THEIR FLEET NOW. You claim to stand for regular Americans, Donald J. Trump @POTUS, but right now your administration is sitting back watching corporate, industrial fleets strip-mine the Chesapeake Bay and crush Virginia citizens.Over 112 MILLION POUNDS of menhaden are vacuumed straight out of our waters every single year. Industrial trawlers grind up the foundation of our entire ecosystem for corporate profit, leaving local sportfish, striped bass, and wildlife to starve. Every other Atlantic state had the backbone to kick these commercial fleets out of their inshore bays—so why are federal authorities letting them destroy Virginia?Talking tough means nothing if you let corporate plunderers take what belongs to local people. Shut down commercial operations in the Chesapeake Bay entirely. PERMANENT BAN on all commercial reduction fleets. ZERO corporate purse-seine netting in Bay waters. Chesapeake Bay fishing restricted 100% EXCLUSIVELY to Virginia residents for personal, non-commercial use. Either issue the executive order and put Virginia citizens first, or admit the big corporations run the water while you look the other way.#VirginiaFirst #SaveTheChesapeake #Trump #POTUS #ResidentsOnly #BanCommercialHarvest #ChesapeakeBay #VirginiaFishing #HamptonRoads #VirginiaBeach #ChesapeakeBayAnglers #VirginiaPolitics #FisheriesManagement #SaveOurWaters@Donald J. Trump @The White House @Governor Glenn Youngkin @Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources @Virginia Marine Resources Commission

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 4:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Richard Tighe
Email
n2phi@comcast.net
State
New Jersey
Comment
Please put a moratorium on menhaden and shut down the harvest in its entirety. Let it recover for a 5 year period. If that's not feasible put a commercial ban on harvesting menhaden within a 5-10 miles ban anywhere along the east coast. No commercial harvesting in the Chesapeake Bay and Delaware Bays. Push the commercial trawlers well off shore away from the coastline, before they wipe out the bunker.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 4:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Robert Kelly
Email
rkellydc@yahoo.com
State
Maryland
Comment
As a resident of St. Mary's county who is constantly in Breton Bay, Potomac River, and Chesapeake Bay, I have been alarmed by the extreme drop of in marine activity this year. I have not seen the schools of menhaden, strippers, blues, sea trout, and perch that are normally active in the area. I typically kayak fish and have caught zero stripped bass in the last 18 months and the fish I do catch are way smaller and the numbers are 1/10 of prior years. I normally would invite people from out of the area to come to enjoy Leonardtown/St. Mary's County so they can experience the beauty and amazing fishing but the last 12 months have been so alarming that I worry we have reached a point of no return. Please do what you can to reduce/cut the menhaden cap by 50% to give this area a chance to recover. I have loved fishing my whole life but this year in particular has me praying that we can turn this around and see a recovery as this is pivotal to the economy, quality of life, and ecosystem.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 4:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Matthew Shoultz

Email

mshoultz66@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Dear Mr. Boyle and Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,
I am writing to submit public comment on Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden.
As someone deeply invested in the health and future of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, my primary goal is to see industrial reduction purse-seining completely removed from the Chesapeake Bay.
The Chesapeake Bay is an ecologically sensitive, enclosed nursery ground. Allowing industrial factory vessels to extract tens of thousands of metric tons of menhaden—the foundational forage base of the entire estuary—directly undermines the recovery of recreationally and commercially vital species like striped bass, causes documented starvation and nest failures among Bay ospreys, and harms local bait and crab fisheries.
Under the specific alternatives presented in Draft Addendum II, I urge the Board to adopt the most protective conservation measures possible:
Adopt the Maximum Cap Reduction (50% Cut):
I urge the Board to adopt the full 50% reduction to the Chesapeake Bay harvest cap immediately. While an outright ban on reduction fishing within the Bay is the only true long-term solution, cutting the cap from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons (or lower) is an essential, overdue precautionary step to curb localized depletion.
Implement Strict Seasonal Quota Periods:
I support dividing the harvest cap across three seasonal quota periods. Allowing large industrial fleets to concentrate their harvest during spring and summer months creates intense localized forage deficits right when breeding ospreys, migratory predators, and juvenile fish need them most.
Chart a Path to End Industrial Reduction Fishing in the Bay:
The ASMFC must acknowledge that every other Atlantic coastal state has already banned or restricted industrial reduction purse-seining in internal waters. Omega Protein's industrial reduction operations can operate in the open Atlantic Ocean; they do not need to operate inside the nursery waters of the Chesapeake Bay. The Board should initiate management actions aimed at moving the reduction fishery completely out of the Bay.
A healthy Chesapeake Bay economy and food web must take priority over the private profits of a single industrial reduction corporation. Please adopt the maximum 50% cap reduction under Draft Addendum II and commit to a full phase-out of industrial reduction harvest inside the Bay.
Sincerely,

Matthew Shoultz
Edgewood, MD
mshoultz66@gmail.com
410-708-9178

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 4:08 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Jeffrey MArtin
Email
artistjeffreymartin@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
You claim to stand for regular Americans, Donald J. Trump @POTUS, but right now your administration is sitting back watching corporate, industrial fleets strip-mine the Chesapeake Bay and crush Virginia citizens.Over 112 MILLION POUNDS of menhaden are vacuumed straight out of our waters every single year. Industrial trawlers grind up the foundation of our entire ecosystem for corporate profit, leaving local sportfish, striped bass, and wildlife to starve. Every other Atlantic state had the backbone to kick these commercial fleets out of their inshore bays—so why are federal authorities letting them destroy Virginia?Talking tough means nothing if you let corporate plunderers take what belongs to local people.Shut down commercial operations in the Chesapeake Bay entirely.PERMANENT BAN on all commercial reduction fleets.ZERO corporate purse-seine netting in Bay waters.Chesapeake Bay fishing restricted 100% EXCLUSIVELY to Virginia residents for personal, non-commercial use.Either issue the executive order and put Virginia citizens first, or admit the big corporations run the water while you look the other way.#VirginiaFirst #SaveTheChesapeake #Trump #POTUS #ResidentsOnly #BanCommercialHarvest #ChesapeakeBay #VirginiaFishing #HamptonRoads #VirginiaBeach #ChesapeakeBayAnglers #VirginiaPolitics #FisheriesManagement #SaveOurWaters@Donald J. Trump @The White House @Governor Glenn Youngkin @Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources @Virginia Marine Resources Commission

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 4:03 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Laake Farlow
Email
laakef@cox.net
State
Virginia
Comment
I support cutting the menhaden cap by 50%

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 3:59 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Gene Doebley
Email
gdoebley@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I have been following this and many other fisheries for over 25 years now. I spend many more days on the water than I should. I recognize that my observations are only anecdotal information but that doesn't make it wrong. Maybe it was the many upwellings we had this year, maybe it's just the normal ebb and flow of populations but we seem to be experiencing a severe shortage of bunker this year. When Lund's Fisheries has no bunker for sale for local crabbers, when my marina has no peanuts under the lights at night, when we have a dearth of osprey on the nests and a far smaller population of "resident" stripers in our river and bay then any open-minded person would suspect that there is an issue. Government agencies like ASMFC seem to love to apply the precautionary principle to regulating fluke and sea bass populations for recreational fishermen. Seems to me like you should be consistent and apply it now in managing menhaden. You must also be cognizant to the potential for depletion of the species in localized areas. Too many fish taken too soon from one area can have negative consequences for the health of prey species even if the annual harvest target is met.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 3:36 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Robert Raimo
Email
robertraimomaui@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Every osprey nest i track, five in all, produced yzero chicks that fledged successfully. This is all due to lack of food. Osprey in our area live on bunker, when they were forced to live on juvenile fluke they were unsuccessful in rearing offspring. This is all do to over harvesting bunker. I urge you to drastically reduce the quota, we are in a tragedy situation. Robert Raimo

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 3:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Denise Saldana
Email
denisesaldana@hotmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
For the last 5 years, I have been monitoring an Osprey nest from a bird blind on the Quinnipiac river here in New Haven, CT. During the first three years the Osprey's nest was successful with three fledgelings on the 3rd year. Last year the Ospreys did come back, mated and then abandoned the nest before even laying eggs. This year they mated, laid eggs and I was able to see two little heads popping up. I observed that both parents then abandoned the nest and were unable to succesfully raise the newborn birds. Ospreys need our help if we want to continue seeing these amazing birds. They are suffering from the lack of food which used to be more plentiful. Could we please share our planet with our animal friends?

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 3:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Paul Downey, Jr

Email

paul@fullpagemedia.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Public Comment on Atlantic Menhaden Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap

I am a Virginia recreational angler and a board member of the Peninsula Salt Water Sport Fishermen's Association. I am submitting this comment in my personal capacity and am expressing my own views, not speaking on behalf of the Association.

I strongly support a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap, along with measures to better distribute the remaining harvest throughout the fishing season.

There is a simple way to think about this issue: the Chesapeake Bay is a nursery, and a nursery needs food.

The Bay is an incredibly important nursery and feeding area for young fish and other wildlife. Menhaden are a critical part of that ecosystem, providing forage for striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, red drum, cobia and many other fish, as well as birds and other predators.

I understand that Atlantic menhaden are considered healthy on a coastwide basis. But a healthy coastwide stock does not necessarily mean that sufficient menhaden are available in the Chesapeake Bay, at the right times and in the right places, to support the predators that depend on them.

That distinction matters.

ASMFC has recognized the concern over localized depletion in the Chesapeake for years. The Bay reduction-fishery cap was established in part because of concerns about removing large quantities of menhaden from this important nursery area. Today, we are again being asked to consider whether the amount and concentration of reduction harvest in the Bay could have ecological consequences.

I don't believe we need to prove that menhaden harvest is responsible for every problem facing Chesapeake Bay fisheries before taking reasonable precautionary action.

When there is uncertainty about how much forage a critical nursery ecosystem needs, the responsible approach is to leave more

forage in the system—not remove the maximum amount we are allowed to take.

A 50% reduction would still allow a commercial reduction fishery to operate while leaving substantially more menhaden available to the Chesapeake ecosystem. Distributing harvest throughout the season would provide additional protection against concentrated removals during periods when menhaden and the predators that depend upon them may be particularly important.

Our fishing club has been using a simple phrase in our public outreach:

“The Chesapeake Has Hungry Babies.”

It is intentionally simple, but I believe it captures the heart of the issue. A nursery cannot fulfill its role if we don't ensure that there is enough food in it.

As recreational fishermen, we have a tremendous stake in the health of the Chesapeake and the fisheries it supports. We are not asking that the commercial menhaden fishery disappear. We are asking for a reasonable reduction in harvest from a uniquely important nursery ecosystem and for a management approach that puts the health of that ecosystem first.

We may never have perfect science capable of telling us exactly how many menhaden the Chesapeake needs. But that uncertainty should be a reason for caution, not a reason to continue removing the maximum amount allowed.

I respectfully ask the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board to adopt the full 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap and implement measures to distribute the remaining harvest throughout the fishing season.

The Chesapeake is a nursery. Please leave the babies something to eat.

Paul Downey
Board Member, Peninsula Salt Water Sport Fishermen’s Association
Virginia Recreational Angler

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 2:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Andrea Courduvelis
Email
acourduvelis@mac.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Reduce Menhaden Cap By 50%!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 2:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Patrick Kelly
Email
patrickckelly23@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
REDUCE THE CAP BY 50% Profitability without sustainability is a self-destroying business model. Commercial fisheries do not require this much catch. Especially with waste bycatch and destruction caused by commercial fishing operations. Stop blaming your local anglers and do something to limit commercial loads

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 2:42 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Quentin Woodhead
Email
quentinw4756@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I have been a recreational fisherman on the Chesapeake Bay for 25 years and have seen the damage done by Omega first hand. I have watched the population of striped bass and many other gamefish rapidly decline from abundant to practically non-existent. This decline is directly attributable to Omega Protein. Omega is literally killing the Bay to make dog food and fish oil. You cannot fully understand the extent of this decimation unless you have seen it directly. I am fully in favor of imposing the maximum catch restrictions. If something is not done now it will be too late. Please save the Bay for the current and future residents of all mid-Atlantic states.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 1:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
John Robertson
Email
waterman1527@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Please reduce the tons of menhaden taken from the Chesapeake Bay,lets give time to see what happens to the ecosystem.in the words of a chief of the Mattponi tribe George Custalow we are selling our children’s future to a healthy and prosperous bay!! thanks for your time!!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 1:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
John Joyce
Email
83mdterp@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I am a waterfront property owner in Anne Arundel county MD and an avid recreational fisherman. I have been following the decline of the rockfish population and was shocked recently to learn of the Omega reduction fishing operation in Virginia that has been taking millions of menhaden from Chesapeake Bay waters using huge ships and spotter aircraft. Menhaden are a vital part of the region's food chain for many species of fish and birds and the massive killings of this forage fish must stop. Move that operation out of our Bay and slash the authorized harvest of Menhaden by greater than 50%. Do it now and save our bay species!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 1:17 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Mark Schnupp
Email
markschnupp2112@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Pls put an end to the over harvesting of bunker from east coast waters specifically in the Chesapeake Bay and VA Beach areas. As a homeowner on the beach in Sandbridge Va and an avid surf fisherman I can without hesitation say I have personally seen a DRAMATIC decrease in both numbers and size of Bunker over the past 10 years. Failure to act will result in the destruction of a vital ecosystem that supports so much in this area. Stop this insanity now before it's to late Thanks Mark

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 1:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Jacob Cuff
Email
Jgrcuff@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Cut the harvest by 50%!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 12:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Christopher Gaylor
Email
cpgaylor50@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
the reduction of menhaden harvest is heading in the right direction, however it should be zero. having watched the harvesting off of Assateague with the squadron of vessels culling menhaden was astounding, same I am sure goes for the Chesapeake. since the harvesting began, there was a huge outcry from commercial and recreational fisheries, due in most part to the decreasing potential of forage menhaden provided to all fisheries. there has been a dramatic drop in the recreational catch which has been going down for the 45 years I have been fishing the region. end the mass depletion of menhaden and give the fishery a chance to get back to where it was 50 years ago. thank you

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 12:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Joan Cummings
Email
joancummings@sbcglobal.net
State
Connecticut
Comment
We need to number one protect our open spaces and wildlife. This is such an outrageous high tax state that this is the least we can do. Really???? What are the goals here?

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 12:12 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
PeggySue Hessler
Email
peggysuehessler@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
The Atlantic Menhaden is a beneficial fish for both humans and animals to include the Osprey. High in Omega 3's and even used as fertilizer and supplements for human and animal consumption. This is a gift from our planet. We must learn to divide our gifts from this earth between humans and other animals. The earth has a limit for everything. We as human beings, being as intelligent as we are, must find a way to preserve this resource so we can save other species in the process. the lose of one species affects others, lets be smart, and limit the amount of Menhaden in fertilizer and supplements to save some for other marine life. They need to eat and get their nutrition from this fish. Lets share and preserve a natural resource so it does not decline any further.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 11:49 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
David Ault
Email
dault1@verizon.net
State
Maryland
Comment
During the last year I have seen a decline in the number of osprey in the Chesapeake watershed. I also haven't seen as many menhaden venture up the bay outside of the lower Potomac. The amount of fish that are caught out of Reedville seems to go against any progress made to water quality

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 11:40 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
George Singleton
Email
bogiefish2@gmail.com
State
Florida
Comment
Reduce the quota by half.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 11:34 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/va-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Brandon Hamilton

Email

brandonlhamilton@gmail.com

State

Delaware

Comment

Public Comment in Support of Closing the Chesapeake Bay Menhaden Reduction Fishery

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,
I strongly support a complete closure of the menhaden reduction fishery in the Chesapeake Bay.
Over the past ten years, I have personally observed a dramatic decline in menhaden along the Delaware coast. Areas where menhaden once seemed abundant now appear to have very few. I recognize that the reduction fishery may not be the only factor responsible for this decline, but the apparent depletion is concerning enough that continuing to remove large quantities of this important forage fish is an unnecessary risk.
Until an appropriate study can determine the causes of the decline and establish that the population can support the reduction fishery without harming the broader ecosystem, I believe the precautionary approach is to close the reduction fishery in the Chesapeake Bay.
Menhaden are a critical food source for many species and an important part of the coastal ecosystem. We should not wait until their decline becomes irreversible before taking action.
Please support a complete closure of the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery until sufficient science demonstrates that continued reduction fishing is sustainable.
Thank you for considering my comments.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 11:35 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Sam Pagano
Email
scb1915@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
In the 1980 edition of the Roger Tory Peterson bird book, Osprey were incidental to the northeast. Since then, Osprey have made a miraculous comeback with nests all along the CT shoreline. They are majestic birds that need to be protected. Allowing commercial fishing of most of the fish Osprey feed upon in the mid-Atlantic is a crime against nature for purely profit motives. We used to see many schools of bunker aka Atlantic menhaden in the waters of Long Island Sound east of New Haven, CT. Now, we don't see any. Please limit the commercial fishing that is taking food from Osprey young.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 11:34 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Steven Walker
Email
arpaman@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support the Atlantic Menhaden Addendum II and a significant reduction in Menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay (I would support upto a 50% reduction in Menhaden commercial fishing or if too drastic, a growth path to a 50% reduction over five years. This critical food supply for many species in the Bay is important to the ecosystem of the Bay and should not be commercially overfished. Thank you.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 11:06 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
GEORGE FREEMAN
Email
healthspanhr@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I completely support a 50% cap reduction on the menhaden harvest. The bay and particularly the mouth of the Rappahannock has become the Dead Sea. I grew up in the 70s and lived on fish I caught. Please help.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 10:53 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
paul greenberg
Email
pbgpsg@aol.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
I strongly support the 50% reduction in the amount of Menhaden harvested. I can see impact that the declining population of menhaden is having on both the osprey population as well as the bluefish and striped bass population. There used to be large amounts of menhaden here in Essex CT in the summer months and this year there are hardley any.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 10:31 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Randy Gross
Email
maxgross83@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Highly endorse SIGNIFICANT reduction in the Bay Quota. Have seen a significant reduction in Menhaden reaching the middle Bay, and it's impact on Osprey. Also endorse spreading the quota out over time to allow migration.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 10:31 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
William Dunkin
Email
bpdunkin@md.metrocast.net
State
Maryland
Comment
I support a complete ban on commercial fishing for Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay. Save our fisheries.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 10:22 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
George Davidsen
Email
George@gd3.co
State
Maryland
Comment
I'd like to see a larger cap. Since being on the Chesapeake and Ocean side of the Delmarva penninsula, I have seen, from my perspective, a large drop in the amount of fish (flounder, stripers, etc), an increase in foraging dolphin, a decrease in water fowl and birds of prey. All of which are directly or indirectly impacted by over fishing. I have no hard proof, this is only observation from living on and boating on the bay and ocean. I hope it is well received. Thank you, George Davidsen

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 10:09 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Mary Ellen Kunz
Email
mekunz26@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
Dear members of the Atlantic Marine Fisheries Commission There has been such an incredibly powerful increase in support of wildlife over the years as people witness species make a comeback thanks to the efforts of humans. The great resurgence of ospreys in Connecticut and especially around Great Island in Old Lyme, CT has been especially rewarding for so many. Over the years we have supported placement of nesting platforms for the osprey nests and experienced the joy of seeing babies occupying the nests. It proved that people can help support wildlife and bring back endangered species. We are greatly disturbed by the significant reduction in successful fledging of osprey in the state. We encourage the reduction by 50% of the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery cap. This will greatly ensure enough menhaden remain for osprey and other wildlife. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Mary Ellen Kunz

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 9:29 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Mark ross
Email
kram7677@msn.com
State
Virginia
Comment
We have been fishing the bay for years, and have steadily noticed a decline in the number of manhaden schools as well as the volume of each school that we have seen. It is also become more difficult to catch fish like stripers in the bay, other observations are that offspring seem to be smaller than they have been in years past. We would love to see Virginia join every other East Coast state, and keep Omega out of our waters.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 8:51 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Richard Harris
Email
rbharris39@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
Let's stop the mass murder of Menhaden to use them as fertilizer!! Meanwhile our Ospreys get to starve as another episode unfolds exposing man's greed and stupidity. Please put an end to this over harvesting and save our osprey! Regards, RBH

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 8:49 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Laurie Peccini
Email
lah319@yahoo.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
I just attended a meeting at Meigs Point Nature Center here in Madison CT. on this very subject, the reduction of these protien-rich fish for the young osprey. We have been so encouraged in a few years past at witnessing the growth of population with osprey on our coastlines, eagerly awaiting their return for nesting and fishing in Long Island Sound. Please do not allow their population to backslide due to this important food source for their young! we cherish our osprey population here, and the loss, especially after the last comeback, would be devastating to all!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 8:33 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Joanne Marinaccio
Email
jomar312@yahoo.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
We cannot continue to invade earths resources and all of its inhabitants in such unecssary ways. The ospreys (et al) have finally made it back to population after devastating spray chemicals years ago, how many times could they contnue to overcome human harm. Reducing the cap by 50% helps all wildlife (inlcuding humans). This is a serious and necessary step in protecting all concenrs for generations to come.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 8:23 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Karen Malaney
Email
keekuu2@aol.comI
State
Connecticut
Comment
I am strongly urging that The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission consider changes to the amount of menhaden that can be commercially harvested from the Chesapeake Bay. It is a dire situation for the Osprey population which has been greatly affected which is declining due to lack of food. I advocate to reduce the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery cap by 50%. Thank you

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 8:21 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Richard Youngk
Email
youngkrichard@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I support any reduction to the harvest of menhaden. As a recreational fisherman I feel it is neccessary to ensure the sustainability of sportfish that rely on menhaden as food. The Omega corporation's practices have harmed the Chesapeake bay and I would like to see as large a reduction in harvest as possible.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 8:20 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Will English
Email
w.english983@gmail.com
State
Georgia
Comment
Please reduce the harvest of menhaden and other forage fish. We need these species for healthy game fish fisheries up and down the east coast.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 8:14 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Barbara Scavotto

Email

sky_411@hotmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Dear Members of The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission:

I am an environmentalist and wildlife photographer. Over the years I have had the pleasure of watching Osprey return each spring to their life-long mate, and raise and fledge their young. I've also had the pleasure of watching as their population rebound after protections were put in place to limit the use of pesticides that cause their eggs to break. You can then imagine my heartbreak watching hatchlings die of starvation in their nest this year when their parents had no food to bring to them.

Osprey thrive when the menhaden runs are plentiful. They have enough food to keep themselves healthy and to feed their growing young. In good years, two or three babies can fledge from a single nest. Unfortunately, this year was incredibly difficult for these birds. Only 1 in 4 nests had young survive to fledge, and these "successful" nests had fewer young flege. As someone who loves nature, it was incredibly painful to watch hatchlings die of starvation - such a preventable cause.

I am begging you to reduce the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery cap by 50%. Please consider the impact of the decision you make. This cap will allow humans and wildlife to thrive together, both will have enough food to meet their needs. We are in a pivotal time in history. We, as humans, are under obligation to make conscientious choices to protect vulnerable species. We have the ability to make changes that allow humans and our environment to thrive together. While animals are under constant assault from chemicals, global climate change and habitat loss, this is a small thing in comparison that will make a huge difference. Please, reduce the menhaden fishery cap by 50%.

Sincerely,
Barbara Scavotto

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 8:08 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Stephen Schad
Email
stephenschad@verizon.net
State
Maryland
Comment
Pass this amendment. This is way overdue!! Our nations largest estuary needs all the help she can get right now. Don’t stop at the Chesapeake, lower the TAC for the Atlantic East coast as well. I fish out of Chincoteague and can see the devastating effects these bunker boat fleets have on prey species along ESVA.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 7:41 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Dr Ross Kaplan
Email
kappy2558@hotmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
I have summer place directly on the Farm River in East Haven, CT.. We purchased this place in 2021. I absolutely remember the summer of 2021 through 2023 there would be literally hundreds upon hundreds of small fish fins poking through the water, especially in July and August. Thus thousands of fish for the Osprey to feed on. We have several dozen Osprey nests/ man made in our area, specifically on Kelsey Island, which I am directly across, as well as up and down the river and the protected estuary here in East Haven, Connecticut. I am a steward for the Osprey nests, as I monitor during the nesting season. I have noticed a considerable drop in fledglings. The last two summers I see virtually no fish visible like I had seen 5 years ago. I do see the Osprey overhead carrying their catches so I know there are some fish in the river, but not the abundant amount that used to be just a few short years ago. I am very concerned for the Osprey population that nest in this region, as I absolutely believe that the lack of available fish is effecting their reproduction success, and thus their survival. I think a moratorium, or some kind of organized reduction on commercial fishing would be a huge benefit to not only the Osprey, but many other species that need those fish to survive.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 7:30 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jason Scavotto

Email

jscavotto13@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Dr. Jason Scavotto
1690 King St.
Enfield, CT 06082

09/03/2026

Dear Members of The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission:

I am writing to you today with an urgent request that you reduce the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery cap by 50%. You are in a position to make a decision that will create sustainable practices for fisherman and wildlife alike. Please consider both environmental and commercial interests as you make this decision, knowing that you shape the future for a species of protected bird, the osprey, to survive or perish.

As a wildlife photographer and environmentalist, I have photographed ospreys at multiple nesting locations along the east coast from Maine through New Jersey. Osprey thrive when the menhaden runs are plentiful. There is majesty in first hearing osprey, who mate for life, call to each other from great distances, then to see these beautiful birds carrying a menhaden to their nest, and then share a meal. Unfortunately, this year was incredibly difficult and the menhaden were not abundant. Instead of watching osprey families thrive and chicks fledge, we watched, live on camera, as chicks dwindled and starved to death. Only 1 in 4 nests were successful.

I am asking you to consider the impact of the decision you make. Commercial fishermen will still be able to make a profitable and healthy living, and osprey populations can also thrive. However, we need to make conscientious choices about protecting our vulnerable species. Please, reduce the menhaden fishery cap by 50%.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jason Scavotto

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 7:29 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Sara Gilbert
Email
saragilbert55@yahoo.com
State
New York
Comment
PLEASE cap the amount of Menhaden fish that can be harvested in the Chesapeake Bay so that the Ospreys can thrive in Old Saybrook and through New England. We must do what we can to save these magnificent birds from starvation.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 5:47 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Lisa Mentes
Email
lisamentes@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is considering changes to the amount of menhaden that can be commercially harvested from the Chesapeake Bay. Connecticut Audubon is urging the commission to reduce the fishery cap by 50% to help ensure enough menhaden remain available for Ospreys and other wildlife.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 4:27 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Gretchen Salcedo
Email
gretchen.salcedo13@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
As a lifelong New York resident and supporter of the Connecticut Audubon Society, I am concerned with the decline in Osprey population and support reducing the cap of Atlantic menhaden that can be commercially harvested from the Chesapeake Bay by 50%. I believe this is a critical step in preventing further decline of this native species.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 10:52 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Aaron Brewster
Email
skifflife90@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Omega shouldn't be able to legal fish in the Chesapeake bay ,or in state waters

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 9:06 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michele Viventi

Email

mviventi@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I'll keep this brief...
GET THE INDUSTRIAL MENHADDEN INDUSTRY BOATS OUT OF OUR WATERS! They do not belong in our economic zone nor Federal waters! They are depleting a critical marine food web source. Our osprey chicks are starving, our striper numbers are being reduced and us recreational fishermen (and my commercial friends) are barely seeing the bunker pods in the ocean where we are used to seeing them in abundance previous years.

It's not the recreational, sport for hire or commercial fishermen that are responsible for the rapid decline in numbers. We have all fished here for decades. It's the industrial boats that are destroying not only menhadden, but herring and any other bait fish they can 'strip mine' from our sea.

OUTLAW INDUSTRIAL MENHADDEN FISHING. PERIOD.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 8:37 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

William Klein

Email

wklein014@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Option C1e: To reduce the Chesapeake Bay CAP by at least 50 percent in 2027 and link any changes to the future Bay Cap to 13.6% of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC).

As someone on the water in the Chesapeake Bay day in and day out, I have witnessed firsthand the severe ecological decline driven by the industrial reduction fishery. While cutting the Chesapeake Bay Cap is a decent start, we need to be working toward a full-on ban of reduction fishing in the Bay.

The impacts are impossible to ignore:

Stunted Forage Base: The menhaden themselves are smaller than I have ever seen them, starving the ecosystem of the foundational energy it needs.

Crashed Predator Fisheries: The cobia population has dropped off dramatically, the striped bass fishery has been effectively gutted, and local ospreys are increasingly unable to find enough food to successfully raise their chicks.

The "Zero Bycatch" Myth: While industrial operations claim zero bycatch because certain species aren't brought over the rail, that is simply not the reality on the water. When purse seine nets wrap up a massive bait ball, everything feeding on it gets trapped. I have personally come across dead, floating cobia, red drum, dolphin, turtles, and so on after these nets have been pulled—suffocated in the set even if they aren't officially logged as boat bycatch.

We cannot continue to manage this critical forage base as if the Bay's ecosystem is limitless. We need to support substantial cuts now as a step in the right direction, but our ultimate goal must be completely removing industrial reduction ships from the Chesapeake Bay. I grew up with this fishery and want my kids and future generations to be able to enjoy a health fishery. its time we start prioritizing conservation over greed and money.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 8:45 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Dennis Peterson

Email

dennisp647@aol.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

reduce the limit before they are all gone

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 8:19 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Eugene Jones

Email

ejones6161@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I am a recreational fisherman in the NY/NJ Bight area and I have clearly witnessed a drastic reduction in menhaden over the past several years. I believe we need a total moratorium on menhaden reduction fishing in the region but support at least the 50% Chesapeake reduction target.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 7:57 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Chuck Adcock

Email

adcockcr77@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Best option is to move Refuction fishing out of the Chesapeake Bay

Omega will not close their Reedville plant.itt is an empty threat

Please support Option c and reduce the amount of Menhadden removed from the Chesapeake bay

Virginia officials are too corrupt to take action

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 7:41 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Greg O'Driscoll

Email

gregodriscoll@netscape.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

Please stop the overfishing of menhaden on the whole east coast.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 7:10 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

KEITH CORBIN

Email

fishecious@verizon.net

State

Maryland

Comment

I think there should be no harvesting of manhadden in the Chesapeake Bay due to the increase of invasive species

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 6:57 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Wendy Ayres

Email

wayres11@yahoo.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Hello:

I support the complete end of the fishing of Menhaden until a survey has been completed and an action plan to protect the Menhaden and the bird and other wildlife has been agreed with communities. One greedy company cannot be allowed to destroy an important resource that other species depend on. Conservation is in the interest of the company as well, to ensure the long-term sustainability of its fishing effort.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 6:25 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Charles Horton

Email

vbsb761@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Menhaden are the foundation upon which the mid Atlantic food web rests. We must reduce the amount of menhaden industrial purse seiners are allowed to harvest. Failing to do so will destroy our ecosystem.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 6:18 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Al Budaszewski

Email

4frontdrums@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Over the last decade or so the abundance of Striped bass, speckled trout, croaker and other popular species in the Chesapeake bay have declined. The best fishery on the east coast has been decimated by a severe lack of forage fish, (menhaden) which many attribute to the commercial harvest by a foreign owned company operating in the Virginia portion of Chesapeake Bay. Many Virginians believe that these commercial fishing operations which aren't allowed by our neighboring states sharing the bay have destroyed the recreational fishery, livelihoods of charter fishing operators, boat dealers, tourism, and sent business to other states. It should also be noted that birds of prey have also declined while Virginia politicians fail to act to restore what's been lost. This issue needs national attention to remedy the exploitation and abuse of our natural resources.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 6:17 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Billy Howell

Email

blueskyllc6266@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

too long the menhadden have suffered and population plummeted. Omega can not be in charge of setting and counting the numbers.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 6:16 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

FREDERIC SCHERER

Email

Goosedrnj@comcast.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

Osprey chicks are dying in NJ because the parents can not find any bunker to feed them. It's long past time this madness stopped.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 5:50 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Isaac Weintz

Email

i.weintz@outlook.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I support the following!

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount

Option C1e: To reduce the Chesapeake Bay CAP by at least 50 percent in 2027 and link any changes to the future Bay Cap to 13.6% of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC).

Option C2a: To set the maximum upper limit in any future change at the current level of 51,000mt.

3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution

Option B2: To establish three even length quota periods for the Chesapeake Bay Cap, distributing the harvest at 25% in period 1, 25% in period 2, and 50% in period 3.

Option B: Provides any underage of Quota Periods 1 or 2 be rolled into Period 3 of the same fishing year. Any underage in

Quota Period 3 would not be reallocated. Any overages would be deducted from the same quota period in the following year.

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision

Option B: Revisit the Chesapeake Bay Cap every 3 years.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 4:56 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Matthew Anderson

Email

mganderson278@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Option C1e: To reduce the Chesapeake Bay CAP by at least 50 percent in 2027 and link any changes to the future Bay Cap to 13.6% of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC).

Option C2a: To set the maximum upper limit in any future change at the current level of 51,000mt.

3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution

Option B2: To establish three even length quota periods for the Chesapeake Bay Cap, distributing the harvest at 25% in period 1, 25% in period 2, and 50% in period 3.

Option B: Provides any underage of Quota Periods 1 or 2 be rolled into Period 3 of the same fishing year. Any underage in Quota Period 3 would not be reallocated. Any overages would be deducted from the same quota period in the following year.

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision

Option B: Revisit the Chesapeake Bay Cap every 3 year

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 2:55 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Frederick

Email

jackfrederick3@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

As a fisherman primarily in New Jersey it would benefit the recreational fishermen if the commercial fishery for menhaden was moved outside of a 25 mile limit. Commercial boats have been taking ALL the menhaden (bunker) that striped bass feed on . This bait is vertically wiped out as these boats sometimes 4 to six in a row take everything in their path. The recreational fishermen are left struggling to make a catch. It's high time these commercial fishermen contribute.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 12:45 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

stover hughes

Email

stover044@comcast.net

State

Virginia

Comment

In my opinion, all Medhaden fishing should be moved at least three miles offshore. I am 82 yeasrs old and have been fishing the Chesapeake bay since 1965. My family and I have enjoyed many good years and also some lean years fishing the middle bay.
Since Katrina, when the company consolidated their Gulf of America fleet with the one in Norththumberland county, the catching has dropped significantly. While the Medhaden fleet is not supposed to enter Maryland waters, I have observed them on several occasions when they come well north of Smith Point light. I have been a property owner for many years and pay plenty of taxes ,not only on my home, but my boat as well.

Not sure what all the tax revenue goes to in Northumberland county, but I have a serious problem trying yo get my boat thru the jetty at Sunnybank. It needed to be dredged several years ago.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 10:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lori Huck

Email

seaglasshomedesign@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

We live in Ocean City, NJ and have several stands for osprey nests behind our home. They were always occupied. They produced many offspring. When boating, we also saw most of the channel markers that could sustain a nest were full as well.

This year there are zero nests. Zero babies. That is a 100% decline in our area. It sounds like the rest of NJ is seeing the same problem. This isn't acceptable. If we see an osprey (and it has been rare this year) they aren't in pairs. This sounds like an environmental crisis and it needs to be handled immediately. The menhaden fishing needs to be stopped until the environment recovers.

I have seen dolphins in the bay behind our home this year. I've lived here almost 30 years and have only seen them twice back here over all of those years. Now this year they are frequent and neighbors in other parts of our town are reporting them in their waters as well. Are they starving and chasing any fish they can find?

Please do the right thing and put in immediate restrictions to save our ocean and wetlands.

Lori Huck

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 10:37 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Susan King

Email

susan.king21@verizon.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

I have lived on the Connecticut shore for over 60 years. Over the last 30 years I have watched with joy as Osprey found their way back to Long Island Sound and thrived, with the number of nests and birds increasing dramatically through the last few decades. This year, it was clear that many nests in my town had failed, and by August almost the entire Osprey population had abandoned their nests. Where there had been almost 2 dozen birds hunting daily in June, there was one lone Osprey left the second half of August. These are magnificent birds, whose recovery from the 60s has been a dramatic and wonderful success. We must protect the menhaden fish stock so that they can continue to thrive.
Menhaden are key to the survival of Osprey and many other birds and marine mammals. The time to protect the Menhaden population and the Osprey population is now and we must take strong action. I strongly urge you to reduce the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery cap by 50%.
Thank you for your consideration.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 10:17 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lori huck

Email

seaglasshomedesign@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I am writing due to our great concerns about the sudden drop in the Osprey population around our home and waterways. As a lifelong resident of Ocean City, NJ, I have watched the osprey numbers grow to a point where every stick built nest stand behind our home was occupied, as well as most of the channel markers that were able to sustain a nest. All seemed to have babies and we watched them learn to hunt for years. Last year at least one stand wasn't occupied, and this year no nests. No channel markers have nests either. We see almost no osprey when we are boating, and never in pairs. All of our friends are asking as well. We have never seen it like this since the DDT era. The environment is crying.

My understanding is this is due to menhaden fishing. If so, this is catistrophic. How can they disappear so quickly. Will the whales and dolphins be next. I've notices dolphins behind our home where they were almost never seen. Please take this as a serious warning and cut off the menhaden fishing immediately. Implement strict controls once the population rebounds. It is horrible that this has been allowed to happen, but you are in a position to stop it.

Without our oceans we are nothing.
I speak on behalf of many people in asking you fix it now.

Thank you,
Lori Huck, as well as friends, family and neighbors of the bayfront community

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 10:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

George Smith Jr

Email

gsmith6589@aol.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Just wanted to add that since they are plankton feeders the available of food in the ocean and bay should be studied.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 9:50 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

George Smith Jr

Email

gsmith6589@aol.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I am 77 years old and have been fishing in NJ since I can remember. I did a lot of offshore fishing for 25 years and would see the osprey nesting on the inland water way markers. We used the bunker for bait and would snag a few in the midsummer and fall. The last two years have been the worst that I have seen. They always go in cycles of abundance about every 5 years. I do remember seeing the bunker boats with the high towers about three to five miles out up until about the late 90's. I also remember the bunker nets in the Raritan Bay head waters in the 70ts. The bay water, Little Egg Bay, where I keep a boat has been very warm 87-88 degrees with the ocean at 78 degrees 10 degrees warmer than usual the last two years just about the time when we would see the peanut bunker. There were no Peanut bunker the past two years, and very few large spearing. The last two years the whales have not come inshore, three to five miles, since the large schools of bunker that are usually there from July to October haven's been there. I don't know if the Chesapeake bunker migrate up to NJ.
I really think the bunker are a local stock from the Delaware to the Raritan but reducing the catch from Virginia of millions of pounds certainly will not hurt. hopefully the stock will rebound in a couple of years.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 9:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Samantha S

Email

samantha.scullen123@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Please reduce the fishery cap by 50% and create quota periods to distribute harvest under the cap more evenly throughout the fishing season. The animals that depend on the Menhaden depend on us to keep a balance. If there are no Menhaden, there is no Chesapeake Bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 9:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Vincent DelGozzo

Email

vdelg@hotmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

This is a good first step, thank you, but the Gulf of America really needs to be included as do all mid-Atlantic and northeast coastal states.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 9:20 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

William Roberts

Email

stan.roberts@cox.net

State

Virginia

Comment

No farm would survive killing young of a farmed species. This is essentially what is going. Menhaden are a food source for many species. Many species have crashed (grey trout comes to mind) do to lack of food. In the1970's we had 8-15 Bluefish all over the Chesapeake Bay. Personally the fishing for menhaden should be closed in the bay, no fish taken until after they have bred at least once, preferably twice.
Thank You,
William Roberts

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 9:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Brian Davis

Email

briandavis143@hotmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I've followed Osprey nesting in my Hampton, VA area over the last decade and noticed their faltering appearance over the last 3-4 years with no successful nesting the last 2 years at two sites I check regularly on Ft Monroe. I believe this decline in Osprey breeding correlates with the decline of their food sources (often Menhaden in the Bay) around Ft Monroe.

I would endorse any reduction in the human harvesting of Menhaden (such as the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II) which would help bring back their stable Bay population and the attendant natural predators like Osprey and Striped Bass. Suspect continued commercial harvesting at current levels will likely reduce the Menhaden population to uncommercial levels anyway in the next few years.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 8:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Peter Thiringer

Email

pete@thiringer.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I strongly oppose unlimited menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake bay! The current limits are decimating the wildlife, and in particular the Osprey population. As a Virginia Master Naturalist, I am extremely concerned about the health of the bay in general. While I do not oppose commercial fishing in the bay, there need to be strict limits. Clearly the current menhaden limits (if any) are much too high!

Peter S. Thiringer
Vienna, Virginia

P.S. Why is a foreign company being allowed to remove our precious and limited natural resources, harm our wildlife and ecosystem, and take the spoils out of the country? This makes no sense. What does Virginia get out of this arrangement?

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 8:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

George Lees

Email

gfl3nj@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Reductions in quotas of at least 50% is the best way to ensure the future of the regions fisheries.
We must act now to save the region's fisheries by implementing these reductions.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 8:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Charles Spindelman

Email

cjspindel@yahoo.com

State

New York

Comment

This comment concerns NY & NJ, since many anglers, like myself, from NY, also fish the NJ Coast. I would like to urge your support for a 50% reduction in menhaden commercial quotas. And In addition, I would urge your support for a 12 miles from shore restricted zone for commercial quotas, spanning both the NY AND NJ coastlines. Menhaden are critical for all sport fish and other commercial species in the Northeast and there appears to be a scientific correlation between healthy fish stocks and healthy menhaden populations. Please use current, unbiased science to base your conclusions and not on outdated nor anecdotal evidence since these may be incorrect or biased.
Thank you. Please do the right thing for me and generations to follow.
Charles Spindelman

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 7:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Paul Stanley

Email

dogstarfarms@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

As a foundational species throughout the Northeast coast , Menhaden abundance is crucial to the success of multiple fish stocks and other marine species . The downstream effects of the current quotas allowed to the ' reduction' fishery have been painfully obvious, for far too long . Halving their quota , not just in the Chesapeake Bay Area, will treble the economic value realized by commercial fishermen . As well as enabling the restoration of stocks of depleted species , some caught as bycatch, and benefiting many marine species , from cetaceans to pinnipeds, ospreys to shearwaters . This isn't rocket science or brain surgery . If we let enough of them live , they'll do the rest .

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 7:21 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michael Szymanski

Email

hwmike@comcast.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

This has to end…so many marine species, along with shore birds are reliant on this food source. Allowing these netters to continue this will result in long term effects. We as a human race seem compelled to abuse every resource, and this is no exception. Please put an end to this. The bycatch by these ships is astounding, and the waste gets dumped overboard dead.
Sincerely concerned,
M Szymanski

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 7:04 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Bryon DuBois

Email

bdubois@denviro.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Been a life long fisherman and bait man. I am also a biologist who works with wetlands and coastal permitting, SAV studies and Shellfish studies. I live on the Barnegat Bay and every year there are less and less baitfish. The state of the bay is not good. Over 40 years typically one baitfish picks up while others recede and the last 10 years every baitfish is less. Less eelgrass, less un disturbed shallows, and more people relying on fish for a lot of things other than food. We notice a lot of bunker boats the past 2 years, circling entire schools and removing them. It cannot be good. The commercial guys killed the weakfish doing the same thing. There are so many people on earth unless there are quotas there is no way you can protect these fish. Commercial and recreational all need a better quota.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 7:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ollie Costello

Email

ecostello975@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Lower the Bay Cap and TAC on Menhaden to protect the ospreys.0

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 6:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Victor Toner

Email

vjtoner@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Stop the decimation of the Bait fish, before it's too late for the Ospreys and game fishing

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 6:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

George Finley

Email

gcfinley@comcast.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

As a biologist, fisherman and viewer of baitfish and Osprey I am disturbed by the the lack of menhaden and the pleasure of watching Ospreys dive and catch this baitfish. I am fortunate to watch this beautiful natural phenomenon from my waterfront house in Old Lyme,Ct..The reduction of this natural phenomenon is measurable.
I was also most fortunate as a young person with a 13 ft boat docked at the Black Hall Marina in Old Lyme to be approached by a gentleman to help him bring lumber to Great Island for a construction project which was Os
Prey nests. For gas I was happy to do this and down the road I discovered that he was Roger T. Peterson. My subsequent Masters Thesis in 1970 was on the ecology of an estuary .
I don't know if the reduction of baitfish is just an aberration or is related to overfishing at their origins or pollution but I do know that something is not right and thanks to our Audubon friends and I bet Roger T would be proud.Thank you,
George Finley

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 6:17 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Reilly

Email

jreilly0802@icloud.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

This is another Disappointing Disaster as many species of fish have vanished.Menhaden, Weakfish, Kingfish, Blowfish, etc.… Growing up at Cape May Point, New Jersey, for sixty nine years plus, the numbers of fish have diminished. I personally feel nobody is doing any form of conservation efforts or research. There is never any form of publicity regarding fish… There's something seriously wrong with the ecosystem and environment. As Overfishing is another issue not presented. Since the disappearance of many species of fish, other fish are brought to our table, now Like tilefish, sheep heads and other species. I am very concerned about many species disappearing, especially Menhaden, Weakfish, Kingfish and other species I grew up with. Please keep Publicizing through the News Media, Social Networks and other forms of interaction. John Reilly 609 707 0262

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 6:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Mark Stalgaitis

Email

mudtide@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Protect the MENHADEN population already! Outlaw all reduction boats! Heres thinking outside the box..... Get this one particular corporation to focus on evasive fish poulations (Grass Carp etc.) Lets try AI technology to figure out to rid evasiveness and still profit from it! Thank you

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 6:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Griffin

Email

jqgriffin01@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Ban all reduction fishing. It is crazy to allow any companies, but especially foreign companies to devastate the food base for wild fish, mammals, and birds to make fish food that is also largely sold overseas. The menhadden population could collapse and you will be responsible.

Do you want to risk collapse or manage for abundance?

Do the right thing

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 5:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ellen Lucaire

Email

peyote-program.7z@icloud.com

State

New York

Comment

It's been a beautiful thing to see Osprey come back from endangerment, and shows what we can do to reverse damage caused by other humans in meaningful ways.

Please restrict fishing or do whatever else is needed to protect Osprey and other essential parts of our North American ecosystem.

Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 5:43 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Mark Pantle

Email

pantles@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Enough is enough! shut it down. we all know the right thing to do is NOT to keep taking until they are gone.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 5:37 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lauren Rispoli

Email

laurenconnie63@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Please stop the risky over fishing of essential food of osprey. They are thrilling to watch and have the right to survive on the fish they have been feeding on for centuries. They are beautiful and inspiring.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 5:27 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II - Fort Monroe

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II - Fort Monroe

Action Title

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II - Fort Monroe

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/va-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii-2/

Name

Scott Vantre

Email

stvantre@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I believe it is imperative that the ASMFC strongly consider reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by up to 50% and creating quota periods to distribute harvest under the cap more evenly throughout the fishing season. The other species of fish who rely on menhaden are so much less visible to the average person living or visiting the Chesapeake Bay. For 3 straight rockfish seasons, charter fisherman making their living on the fishing season, are unable to do charter trips because there are no rockfish. I strongly believe that reduction fishing is destroying the equilibrium of our treasured Chesapeake Bay. If we do not limit menhaden reduction fishing now, it may be too late.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 5:16 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Steve Bongard

Email

sjb9178@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Something needs to be done to help the osprey population. We used to see them carrying fish from the beach to the bay all day long. Now we watch them flying over the ocean struggling to find food. Its awful. The menhaden fishing needs to be cut.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 5:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Robert Waldron

Email

Rgwaldron@verizon.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

There needs to be a moratorium to take the pressure off these fish for a 3-year period, if there isn't. Bluefish and striped bass stocks will continue to disappear. It's very apparent the damage has been caused by Omega and I as well as others who have stood by and watched this happen understand what the fisheries council, which is top loaded with commercial fisherman like Omega, have depleted and damaged not only the biomass, but have caused charter fisherman and recreational fisherman, who contribute billions of dollars in economic activity to my state real and unrecoverable losses.
Even the recreational crab boating business in the bays have gone out of business due to the relentless pressure and price of bait. Do something, anything.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 4:03 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sara Doyle

Email

st5905@aol.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Menhaden are the Most Important Fish in the Sea because they are the primary food for many fish and birds that breed in salty water. In the Chesapeake Bay, Striped Bass, Osprey and many other species depend on them to survive and breed. The Bay is the largest nursery on the east coast. Omega chases every school of menhaden with 7 spotter planes and 6 ships with huge stadium size nets, catching everything migrating in and out of the Bay. They grind all these fish and use them to feed farmed salmon in Canada. Every day this happens. Virginia needs to stop allowing this. Our river and lakes in Virginia are drying up because of the severe drought making it even harder for the Osprey to nest and find food. Every year we are seeing less and less Striped Bass come through the rivers here. We need to stop this before it's too late. As time goes on more overfishing is happening with no one putting a stop to it. It's bad enough there are hardly any regulations in ocean fishing, especially for certain species, but it all trickles down the food chain. If Canada wants to feed their fish farms, or anything else for that matter, let them do it near their home instead of coming here destroying our wildlife without a care in the world. Please do not let this continue! Put a stop to it before it's too late and we all pay the consequences for these actions!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 3:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Samantha Tate

Email

samantha.t8@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Please set limits on Menhaden fishing in the Atlantic and its bays. The Ospreys in Cape May are starving and many of their nests failed this year as a direct result of Menhaden over (or accidental) fishing.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 3:33 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Pam Perna

Email

pernabird@pm.me

State

Maryland

Comment

I am writing to say that something must be done immediately to stop the overfishing of menhaden on the Atlantic coast. This overfishing - which is apparently being done by a single Virginia-based company, Omega Protein - is having a devastating effect on Chesapeake Osprey, who depend on menhaden to feed their young. Thousands of chicks are starving and many adults are not breeding at all due to the shortage of menhaden. Fledging success for 70% of Bay Osprey has dropped to a catastrophic 0.25 per nesting pair in 2026 which is well below the ideal replacement level of 1.15 and LOWER THAN THE WORST YEARS OF DDT-CRASHED REPRODUCTION IN THE 1960s! This data is from biologists surveying 900 nesting pairs throughout MD and VA Bay waters. Other bird species, such as Bald Eagles, Brown Pelicans and Common Loons are also being affected, as are fish species of conservation concern such as rockfish and bluefish.

The Omega Protein industrial harvest takes 70% of all harvested Menhaden on the Atlantic Coast! This is neither sustainable nor equitable and is greatly harming life on the Chesapeake Bay. Omega's overfishing practices MUST BE STOPPED at once. Industrial menhaden harvest should be shut down completely until a study is completed on the viability of the Bay's menhaden population and a sustainable system of harvest is developed.

Action must be taken NOW! The survival of the Chesapeake Bay depends on it!

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 3:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/va-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Hodges

Email

jhodges1201@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I strongly encourage the reduction in the menhaden quota in the Chesapeake Bay. As a recreational fisherman for over 60 years I have witnessed the destruction this fishery has done to recreational as well as commercial fishing in and around the bay. I have personally witnessed the bi-catch damage as well.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 3:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Richard Baumhauer

Email

rick.baumhauer@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I am writing in support of a lowered quota on Menhaden along the Atlantic seaboard. I have been monitoring several Osprey nests along the coast for Connecticut Audubon's Osprey Nation citizen science program, and have seen dramatic drop-offs in nest productivity over the last two years. Three of my nests combined to produce seven young that fledged in 2024. In 2025, those three nests dropped to a total of two fledged young. In 2026, they produced no young at all.

Other nests that I monitored this year produced a total of five young across three nests, with two producing only a single fledged juvenile. This likely indicates that either the female Osprey didn't catch enough food during the spring to produce more than one egg, or that the adults were not able to provide enough food to support more than one chick to fledging - one of the nests that fledged only one juvenile had two or three young at one point, but only one survived. Also, anecdotally, I saw fewer Osprey carrying big Menhaden back from Long Island Sound this year than in the past, particularly later in the season, when they were seen carrying only smaller fish.

In 2025, Connecticut's nest monitors heard about the dire situation with Osprey around Chesapeake Bay, so we were apprehensive entering the 2026 season. Sadly, our apprehension appears to have been warranted. We're all hoping that a reduction in the Menhaden quota to allow the population to recover will have benefits up and down the food chain, both in

keeping the algae and smaller prey species that Menhaden feed on in check, and helping larger predators, including Osprey, that depend on Menhaden for their survival.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 3:13 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Mary Ann Massirio

Email

massirio@sbcglobal.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

Connecticut Audubon is urging the commission to reduce the fishery cap by 50 percent, a precautionary measure to ensure that menhaden, a key foundation fish and a prime food source for Connecticut's Ospreys, are not put in even greater jeopardy.

Last year, Connecticut Audubon's Osprey Nation recorded its lowest breeding success since the statewide community science program launched in 2014 to monitor the birds. This year is looking even worse.

I support the Connecticut Audubon and its efforts to save our ospreys which are literally starving. Our state and indeed the entire planet desperately needs our bird population which is endangered and dying by the billions. Please help us save them!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 3:08 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Donna Judge

Email

donna.l.judge@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

We must restrict the over fishing that has resulted in the senseless starvation of our beloved Ospreys. Please stop this - the ripple effects on our birds and other animals is too great a cost.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 2:49 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Brian Anisimov

Email

briananisimov@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

At a minimum, we should enact a 50% reduction. A moratorium should be placed on fishing by companies like Omega until we have secured data indicating that they are not actively pillaging this natural resource. Our fisheries are declining and capitulating to corporate interests will lead to the destruction of our fisheries and the wildlife that depend upon them.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 1:52 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

RICK GRAUER

Email

rickgrauer@keenecribs.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

why is it that the snapper population was so small this year. it greatly reduced the blue fish population. even the annual blue fish turnament area had to be increased as there are no blues in our area.

i heard the snappers are being heavily harvested for their oils. is that accurate?

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 1:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Freda Karpf

Email

marshhawk603@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

As a person who loves the Jersey Shore and also someone who loves Osprey and I am a dedicated Osprey Nest Watcher, I can tell you that the effect of the lack of bunker fish is frightening. And dangerous to our osprey populations frst hand. Please do everything you can to support a sensible and reasonable use of the bunker fish populations. And stop the enormous capture of these fish during the very brief season that the one company that captures them des during the early summer. Osprey are like what people used to say about the Canary in the coal mine - they are an indication of our coastal health. And, we are in trouble. You have to regulate this important fish population - to protect not only the osprey, but also the Jersey Shore and the entire eastern coast that we love. Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 12:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Cara Geschu

Email

carageho@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

This is extremely important for the health of the ecosystem. I strongly believe that the Chesapeake bay's health must be prioritized for the continued wonder that the biodiversity brings and if nothing else, the long term economic benefits.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 12:52 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sarah Gannon

Email

shesofab@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Dear sirs, please reduce the catch to 50 % , so the Ospreys will flourish again. Reduce the harvesting of menhadron, which is their food, reduce the fisherman harvest in the Chesapeake bay please, We are all connected .. strarving Osprey - horrific. We have food we have everything yet this is their food. They are suffering and there is no hope of survival for their off spring. we can help. Kindly Stand up with integrity and do the right thing, We have many sources of food. Help these beautiful majestic creatures survive please.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 12:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Leslie Frankel

Email

lesfrank34@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please reduce the allowed Menhadden catch by 50 percent so that the starving osprey population can survive. Thank you.
Leslie Frankel

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 12:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Hoffman

Email

johnhoffman2@snet.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

I urge the Commission to adopt Connecticut Audubon's proposal to limit the menhaden harvesting in Chesapeake Bay. Doing so will benefit the osprey population as far north as New York and New England.

John Hoffman
Connecticut Audubon member

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 12:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Susan Foose

Email

sefoose@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

We need to do something to reduce the menhaden fisheries current practices. I've seen first hand the reduction in Osprey nests, chicks in our town. We once saw a flourishing community of Ospreys that every morning and evening would catch fish to take back to the bay. We now see Osprey circling the ocean over and over again without any fish. This fishery needs to be managed differently in order to stop the downstream impacts to other species. Thank you

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 12:22 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jeffrey Champion

Email

gm@fenwicknews.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Thank you for the opportunity to chime in ... the overfishing of menhaden is not only adversely affecting the fishing in area but it is also adversely affecting the food supply of the Ospreys, Eagles, and other fishing birds in the area. As the General Manager of the Borough of Fenwick, I can clearly see the decline in fledglings from the Osprey stands over the last few years.

Thank you ~

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 12:21 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Heather Freeman

Email

heathervfreeman@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Our family has fished the bay for decades and watch osprey most years nest within site of our window facing a Rappahannock tributary. The nest has been abandoned for 3 consecutive years. Our catches of sportfish are plummeting. I feel like we moved to the Dead Sea. Our government has been irresponsible in allowing so many metric tons to be harvested, particularly at the mouth of the Rappahannock. We tell our grandchildren about what it once was, as if it is some fairy tale. This can be fixed through responsible resource management! Thanks for your consideration, Heather Freeman

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 12:03 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Brianna Ford

Email

brie_248@hotmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

The issues we are seeing now indicate a much deeper problem has already begun and it will only continue to spread and affect other parts of the ecosystem. Please- let's initiate changes now before it is too late.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 12:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Tracy Morris

Email

freedomfarmllc@hotmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Stop the pillage of our resources

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 11:58 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Stephen Spector

Email

charsjs@sbcglobal.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

The decline in menhaden in Long Island Sound adversely affects Ospreys, gulls, and terns as well as pelagic birds. Please do not decrease the cap on harvests; in fact an increase in the cap is important at this time. As a birder who lives near the Milford shore who has many fishing friends, the problem of the loss of menhaden has been painfully obvious.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 11:42 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

George Jacob Savage III

Email

flysavage80@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

This analysis by the Center for Conservation and Biology at William & Mary concludes that the lack of fish food for the osprey is the primary reason for their low birth rate, which is significantly below the ability to maintain a stable population of ospreys. The survey's press release is below for your review. I hope you will consider reducing and or eliminating the menhaden catch in the bay and around the mouth of the bay. Thank you for your consideration.

Jake Savage

STUDY SAYS CHESAPEAKE BAY OSPREY REPRODUCTION FALLS TO RECORD LOW IN 2026
Home
>
SWAP SHOP MONDAY APRIL 20, 2026
>
Daily News Headlines
>
Study says Chesapeake Bay Osprey reproduction falls to record low in 2026

September 16, 2026
|
Daily News Headlines
Image
Osprey reproduction in the Chesapeake Bay fell to the lowest level ever recorded during the 2026 breeding season, according to new monitoring results from the Center for Conservation Biology at William & Mary.

Researchers monitored 937 osprey pairs across 23 study areas stretching from tidal freshwater portions of the Chesapeake watershed to waters near the mouth of the Bay. The monitoring was conducted from March through August to measure nesting success and the number of young produced.

The results showed a sharp difference between osprey nesting in freshwater areas and those in saltier portions of the Bay.

Among 769 pairs nesting in waters with salinity above five parts per thousand, average productivity was just 0.25 young per pair. Researchers say osprey populations generally need to produce between 0.8 and 1.3 young per pair each year to remain stable.

By comparison, 168 nests monitored in tidal freshwater areas produced an average of 1.04 young per pair, exceeding the minimum level considered necessary for population maintenance.

The study found that 81 percent of osprey pairs in the saltier areas failed to produce any fledged young. Productivity in those portions of the Chesapeake has declined from 0.51 young per pair in 2024 to 0.35 in 2025 and 0.25 this year.

The Center for Conservation Biology says those numbers raise concerns about the long-term Chesapeake Bay osprey population, which has historically been one of the largest breeding populations in the world. Based on current reproductive rates, researchers estimate the breeding population could decline by an average of about 14 percent annually if conditions do not change, potentially resulting in a roughly 50 percent decline over the next decade. Researchers note, however, that the rate of decline would likely vary considerably across different portions of the Bay.

Researchers attribute much of the recent nesting failure to what they describe as food stress. Among the evidence cited are reduced food deliveries to nests, underweight chicks, smaller broods, abandoned nests and documented cases of chicks starving.

The Center says declining availability of Atlantic menhaden appears to be an important factor. Menhaden have historically been a major food source for Chesapeake Bay ospreys because of their abundance, schooling behavior and high energy content. In some areas, researchers report that delivery of menhaden to osprey nests has declined by more than 80 percent since the 1980s.

However, researchers say the underlying reason for the reduced availability of menhaden to ospreys remains uncertain.

The Center lists several possible contributing factors, including climate change, commercial fishing, changes in where menhaden are distributed and the possibility that large numbers of the fish are entering the Chesapeake later in the summer. The researchers did not identify any single one of those factors as the definitive cause.

Other factors can also contribute to osprey nest failures, including storms, predators, human disturbance and heat stress. The Center says the patterns observed during the 2026 season were most consistent with widespread food shortages rather than those other causes. Other studies have linked increasing eagle numbers with declines in ospreys, potentially through territorial aggression or predation. But this study said there was no evidence that competition with eagles for fish or nesting sites was responsible.

Coldwell Banker Harbour Realty
The monitoring included study areas throughout Virginia and Maryland, including the Bayside Eastern Shore, Mobjack Bay, the York, James, Rappahannock and Potomac rivers and other portions of the Chesapeake watershed.

The project included contributions from the Center for Conservation Biology, U.S. Geological Survey, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center, Washington College and several other conservation organizations.

The findings continue a broader research effort examining whether declining reproductive success in saltier portions of the Chesapeake represents a long-term threat to the Bay-wide osprey population.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 11:40 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michelle Ficken

Email

michellegeiger28@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Atlantic Menhaden are a CRUCIAL forage species food source for many Atlantic Ocean predatory species (from fish to birds). They are essential food sources for: ospreys, eagles, whales, porpoises, striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, and many other species.

Their rapid population decline has been detrimental to the productivity of osprey nests, leading to high chick mortality across the coast. Osprey populations have suffered enough during the era of 4,4-DDT use, and have stabilized and flourished after the banning of the pesticide. Current osprey reproductive rates are now below 50% and are expected to continue an annual decline of roughly 14% per year. So why, specifically, are we concerned for the loss of osprey populations? They are a crucial bioindicator of our coastal ecosystem health, as they are a top predatory species. If their populations decline, that means there is a problem with the health of our rivers, bays, and estuaries.

These numbers will only be compounded by rapid climate change, pollution and habitat loss due to development. This year I have seen a massive decline in osprey nests along the many rivers, estuaries, and coastline of southern New Jersey. It has been alarming to say the least. But this decline has been occurring for much longer than a year. Ospreys have been extensively researched for decades- pesticide usage on egg viability, food scarcity, high-salinity areas vs low-salinity areas,

etc.

Humans can rely on Omega-3s through other sources, ospreys can't find another. Please consider distributing the harvest periods and decreasing the cap to the maximum amount possible so we can save not just the osprey, but all the other species of our coast.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 11:27 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/ny-ct-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

William Chapin

Email

billchapinpt@icloud.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I live near LIS and this year we are seeing no schools of fish in the water . The Osprey that nest nearby had great difficulty feeding their 2 chics . One died early .... ? starvation ???
The one remaining chic was killed and eaten by a bald eagle and the adults were not there to protect the chic . They were probably trying to find food .
Seems that something needs to be done quickly to save the Osprey population .
I also understand that there are porpoises in LIS this year as well . They might be impacting the fish population in the sound .

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 11:15 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Pamela Bass

Email

bassomatic5@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

The rebound of Osprey's has been a success story. I would like to see the Manhattan Lowered by 50% so that not only Osprey, but eagles, bigger fish and other animals will all benefit from a healthy and bountiful fish hatchery and environment. We must protect the bait fish if we are to protect all of the species that depend on them. And, it's an easy thing to do by lowering the cap by 50%.
Thank you

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 11:13 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Helen Keegan

Email

hellionk@yahoo.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I urge you to please reduce the fishery cap by 50 percent, a precautionary measure to ensure that menhaden, a key foundation fish and a prime food source for Connecticut's Ospreys, are not put in even greater jeopardy. Thank you, Helen Keegan, New Haven, CT

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 11:11 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Patrick Callahan

Email

pcallahan@fairwindslandingva.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Dear Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board:

I am writing to express my strong support for the management options within Draft Addendum II that seek to significantly reduce the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap (Bay Cap) and establish better spatial and temporal controls on the industrial reduction fishery. The Chesapeake Bay serves as a critical primary nursery area for Atlantic menhaden. Because menhaden are a foundational forage fish, maintaining their abundance within the Bay is absolutely vital to the entire marine ecosystem. Countless predators—including striped bass, osprey, cobia, red drum, and marine mammals—rely heavily on menhaden as a primary food source.Currently, the concentrated effort of the industrial reduction fishery inside the Bay threatens local ecosystem health and negatively impacts other regional fisheries. I support an immediate reduction of the Bay Cap by the maximum proposed amount of up to 50%. Furthermore, I strongly favor options that distribute the harvest cap more evenly throughout the fishing season. This will prevent intense spikes in localized depletion and ensure adequate forage remains in the water during critical summer months.Thank you for your dedication to the responsible, ecosystem-based management of our shared marine resources. I urge the Board to approve a robust reduction of the Bay Cap to safeguard the long-term ecological health of the Chesapeake Bay.

Best Regards,

Patrick R. Callahan

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 10:59 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Alison Zyla

Email

barral11@att.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

Connecticut Audubon is urging the commission to reduce the fishery cap by 50 percent, a precautionary measure to ensure that menhaden, a key foundation fish and a prime food source for Connecticut's Ospreys, are not put in even greater jeopardy.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 10:48 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

H.D. Oliver

Email

hdoliver@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I'm 57 years old and have spent my life on the bay and rivers in Virginia. I grew up on the Lafayette and Elizabeth rivers when there was Kepone contamination and guidelines against consuming any fish or crabs. I cant believe after all these years of recovery for the rivers and the bay that the State of Virginia has not protected the fishery and sustains a great portion of the food chain. I have watched the Osprey population in the Deltaville area go from a nest on every stand to none this last season. In the absence of Menhaden the larger game fish consume more juvenile crabs affecting those stocks. Another study by the State is a weak excuse for delaying the responsibilities placed with them to manage our fisheries. Menhaden are the backbone of the bay's food chain and the greed that has decimated this fishery needs to be confronted and stopped. Shame on us all for not stopping it sooner.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 10:41 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lisa Tryon

Email

arklos@aol.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I am a retired high school science teacher, and ecology and biology were my main subjects. I care deeply about the natural world and in particular the natural world my students will inherit.

That being said, since retiring I have been an active member of Osprey Nation, working with CT Audubon to track the local osprey population. And I can say, unequivocally, that our local population is suffering. This year I have tracked failed nests and a much lower fledgling count than in the past. Where nests last year would have 3 - 4 fledglings, this year I see 1, or even none, from pairs that have, in the past, been successful parents. And while I live on the Housatonic River, and used to watch osprey fish here, I have not seen a single bird flying by with a fish to feed its young. Something is happening to the fish population and it is starving out the osprey that depend on them.

Menhaden fishing must be regulated, and closely, to bring back the wildlife that depend on them.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 10:10 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Diane Edwards

Email

edwardsd68@charter.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

I strongly support reducing the menhaden fishery cap by at least 50%. Menhaden is a critical food source for Ospreys. It's already apparent that Ospreys in the Chesapeake Bay are starving from a shortage of menhaden and Connecticut Ospreys are not doing well either.

Please reduce the allowed take of this critical fish species.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 9:54 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Scott Milsom

Email

scottmilsom@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

The harvesting of menhaden off the coast of New Jersey and New York has to stop. It's decimating the fishery and the ecosystem.

There's been a clear reduction in the amount of bunker and it's already impacting the striped bass fishery as well as the tuna fishery.

It's a travesty that were allowing these bunker boats to come in and pillage this critical resource

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 9:45 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Joseph Szalay

Email

jmszalay@sbcglobal.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

As a citizen scientist volunteer with the CT Audubon Osprey Nation program for the past 8 years I was appalled to witness the precipitous decline in the productivity of our nests over the past 2 years. It was heartbreaking to see chicks starve in the nests abandoned by their parents due to the disappearance of once abundant schools of menhaden in Long Island Sound.

As you know, osprey served as the canary in the coal mine when their population was decimated by the ill effects of DDT not so long ago. Today, the commercial over harvesting of menhaden is decimating the osprey population that once again serves as an early indication that the ecosystem is endangered due to human activity.

I urge you to take immediate action by meaningfully limiting the commercial harvest of menhaden.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 9:27 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Melanie ODonnell

Email

mavison@me.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I support stronger protections for Atlantic menhaden, particularly in the Chesapeake Bay, because menhaden are a foundational forage species that support the health and productivity of the entire ecosystem.

Chesapeake Bay osprey populations have experienced documented declines in breeding success in several regions of the Bay. Scientific research has linked these declines to reduced availability of high-quality forage fish, including Atlantic menhaden, during critical nesting periods. Ospreys rely heavily on menhaden to feed their young. When menhaden become less available, adult birds are forced to travel farther for food and often substitute lower-quality prey, resulting in slower chick growth, lower fledging success, and increased nest failure.

The ecological consequences extend beyond ospreys. Menhaden are a critical food source for striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, dolphins, bald eagles, pelicans, and numerous other predators. Excessive localized removals of menhaden from the Chesapeake Bay can reduce forage availability for these species even when coastwide harvest limits are met. This is especially concerning in a nursery and feeding area as ecologically important as the Chesapeake Bay.
Menhaden also provide valuable ecosystem services through their filter-feeding behavior, helping cycle nutrients and improve water quality.

Protecting adequate menhaden abundance supports not only fisheries, but also the broader health band resilience of the Bay ecosystem.

For these reasons, I urge the Commission to adopt precautionary management measures that account for localized depletion, ecosystem needs, and the forage requirements of dependent predator species. Management should ensure sufficient menhaden remain in the Chesapeake Bay to support healthy populations of ospreys, striped bass, marine mammals, and other wildlife that depend on them.

The Chesapeake Bay should not be managed solely as a source of harvestable menhaden biomass. It must also be managed as critical habitat where sufficient menhaden remain available to sustain the birds, fish, and marine wildlife that make the Bay one of the most important ecosystems on the Atlantic coast.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 9:18 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kathleen Z Lepak

Email

kzlepak@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Dear Sir:

I am respectfully requesting that the Atlantic Marine States Fisheries Commission reduce the cap on Menhaden fishing by 50%.

By so doing, the Commission will aid in keeping an ecological balance necessary to preserve feeding stock for ospreys. I live in Connecticut, and despite efforts to bring back the osprey population in our state, 2026 has seen the lowest breeding success in the past 12 years.

I appreciate your time and consideration of my comment.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 9:18 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

LINDA MARIANI

Email

L.MARIANI@MARIANIRECKLANE.COM

State

Connecticut

Comment

Overfishing is out of control in this country, as well as in many others. We can do something about it and save these spectacular birds from extinction. Please put restrictions on the number of menhaden that can be fished.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 9:13 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Perrone

Email

johnjpperrone@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

These fish are a major food source for many pelagic species, they also filter feed so they help maintain clean oceans.. The Atlantic menhaden are being over fished for things like makeup, dog food and fertilizers, I'm sure much more. I feel this needs to stop for there has been a drastic decrease in Atlantic menhadden populations.. the fishermen are also catching other species as a by catch and killing many fish that are hunting these fish for food. So not only are the menhadden getting whacked but the fish that I and many other people spend thousands if not hundreds of thousands to pursue the fish that are eating the menhadden. Something needs to change to stop this process thanks

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 9:09 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kevin Pauley

Email

kevin@kevinpauley.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Virginia should follow the lead of other eastern seaboard states and move reduction fishing out of the Chesapeake Bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 8:52 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Shannon Supple

Email

sksupple@yahoo.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I write to urge the commission to reduce the fishery cap by 50 percent, a precautionary measure to ensure that menhaden, a key foundation fish and a prime food source for Connecticut's ospreys, are not put in even greater jeopardy.

Last year, Connecticut Audubon's Osprey Nation recorded its lowest breeding success since the statewide community science program launched in 2014 to monitor the birds. This year is looking even worse.

Osprey and other species that rely on menhaden do not have years longer to wait. Decisive action is needed now.

Thank you!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 8:40 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Dana Haugh

Email

tiksa1@hotmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I strongly support reducing the fishery cap by 50 percent to ensure that menhaden, a key foundation fish and a prime food source for Connecticut's Ospreys, are not put in even greater jeopardy. In 2025, Connecticut ospreys had the lowest breeding success since 2014, and this year is looking worse. Their food supply, and many others who rely on menhaden as a food source, is in jeopardy due to overfishing and we must protect these creatures while there's still time for the menhaden population to rebound.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 8:40 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Joanne Ferreira

Email

jrf29@comcast.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please consider reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by up to 50% and creating quota periods to distribute harvest under the cap more evenly throughout the fishing season to address concerns about ecological impacts.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 8:22 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lynn Gilbert

Email

Landsgilbert@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Please take precautions and reduce menhaden limits. Our ospreys are suffering.
I've live 13 years on the Indian River/Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River. I'm not seeing the population I used to.
So many species we have ignored in decline Have posthumously taught us their importance as other things fly out of balance.
We've overdone harvesting—and who knows what else.
Let's try to slow this decline before we learn yet another hard lesson.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 8:21 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

James Norris

Email

jimnorris66@comcast.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

I have lived on the Connecticut shore for the last six years. For the first few years, menhaden were everywhere in Wilson Cove. You could see them in very large schools. In the last two years, they are nowhere to be found. Something has changed drastically in the recent years to diminish the population

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 8:17 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sara Kelly Ramos

Email

sakellypr@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

The osprey that live in the nature conservancy preserve next to my home in Reeds Beach are starving to death. It is DIRE. The lack of fish has been visible from land and so devastating. PLEASE REPEAL FISHING IN OUR COASTLAND SO THE FISH CAN RECOVER.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 8:13 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ann Sheridan

Email

asheridan0@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

It is imperative that caps be put on overfishing of the manhaden fish. Without sufficient quantities of these fish, the larger fish can't survive and reproduce.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 7:58 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kathleen Foster

Email

kathleenfoster17@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I have seen first-hand the decline of Osprey populations as I live near the Hoffler Creek Wildlife Preserve on the James River in Portsmouth, Virginia. I strongly support the proposed reduction in the cap on menhaden capture.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 7:56 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sharon Hirsch

Email

missmidge1948@yahoo.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I am an Osprey Monitor and have been for 8 years. I monitor 4 platforms, all of which have been successful until last year. Last year, one platform was abandonded. This year, two of my platforms didn't get enough fish to raise any fledglings, and the one that did succeed, who alsways have had two, only raised one. After the success of bringing back the Osprey, this is hearbreaking. The Osprey depend on Menhaden. I also kayak, and have seen large schools of Menhaden in the past, but not the last two years.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 7:55 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Ogren

Email

johnogren63@yahoo.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I live adjacent to a salt water marsh in Old Saybrook, CT. For at least 6 years I have monitored 5-6 Osprey nests as part of CT Audubon's Osprey Nation. These nests have averaged between 2-3 sucessful fledgings each up until a year ago. Last year I had one fledgling, this year zero!
There was a nice River Herring run this spring and all pairs appeared to be eating well and all appeared to go into incubation. Herring run seemed to be over just when nestlings should have started feeding. Large schools of Menhaden in years past would have shown up, this year nothing. Adults were showing up with little or no fish.
Small local commercial fishermen who supplied Menhaden for bait shops all said what small schools showed up last year and this year were difficult to find and fish were 4-6" instead of 10-12".
Unless something is done this year I am afraid our coastal Osprey populations will crash.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 7:52 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Brenda Street

Email

bstreet178@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

The osprey depend on the menhaden. Both species are bell weathers of telling us the health of the Bay. Already in a steep decline, further disruption will adversely affect their way of life but will affect humans in ways that cannot be foreseen. Reduce the fishing of menhaden.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 7:43 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Hali MacLaren

Email

halimaclaren@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

Please put proper fishery restrictions in place to allow the recovery of the osprey population and other species that rely on this fishery. Osprey are a critical puzzle piece in our ecosystem on the eastern seaboard. Their feeding habits reduce the number of diseased fish in the wild, and keep small prey populations under control naturally. They also help to signal the strength of their prey populations, clearly there are not enough menhaden, which in turn will affect the whole food web with a domino effect decline from Striped bass, and tuna to humpback whales and dolphins. Nature is resilient if we help it with less greed.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 7:42 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Richard Donnelly

Email

rrjdonnelly@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Watching how this process goes year after year, we continue to think that over fishing and letting other countries deplete our own resources, and listing that there are no issues with this fishery, makes one wonder who really understands how to manage true levels.
I was always taught this type of management means someone isn't doing their job. Fire drills of this level should never happen with today's technological advancement's we have at our finger tips.
One wonders who really has the input on where this type of decision we'll end. It's like adding a red light at that treacherous traffic corner where many people have died before we think we needed a traffic light.
Well let's open our eyes wide and look at the effects these past open seasons have done. Let's shut down outside influence and return the levels of these fish, that affect a tremendous amount of other species, back to healthy sustainable levels.
We shut down stripper Fishing completely in the past I would suspect we should do the same for menhaden for none fishing use.
Thank You
RD

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 7:30 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ellen Bonhard

Email

ellenbinbt@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

We need to help our birds. I have seen this first hand. Their food source isn't enough for them to feed their young. Many babies and young birds have died because they don't get enough food. That is because of to much commercial fishing of their food source. That needs to change. Ospreys where taken off the endangered list. But I feel they need to be put back on it. We need to do everything we can to help them.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 7:28 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sharon Huber

Email

Sayhuber@yahoo.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

PLEASE save the osprey!! Please restrict menhaden fishing! It is cruel not to. The beautiful osprey are starving. They are beloved, magnificent birds and humans must do better FOR THEM. PLEASE!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 7:27 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Danielle Baracia

Email

danielleb15@verizon.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

To who I may concern, I lived in Ocean county, New Jersey all my life. I still do. It's upmost concerning to me to see pictures of juvenile ospreys emaciated due to lack of this fish they need to survive. We need these birds for ecosystem as much as any other animal. When I go to Island beach State Park in New Jersey I always see them. They are beautiful and they are part of my life. I love to watch them every time I'm at the beach. Please do something about this situation. Thank you for giving me some time to speak my grievances. Sincerely, Danielle Baracia

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 7:26 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sharon Huber

Email

Sayhuber@yahoo.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

PLEASE save the osprey!! Please restrict menhaden fishing! It is cruel not to. The beautiful osprey are starving. They are beloved, magnificent birds and humans must do better FOR THEM. PLEASE!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 7:25 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lisa Vawter

Email

lilvawter@aol.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I strongly support the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum to limit menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 7:17 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Picard

Email

johnpicardiwcc@aol.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please do the right things and stop the overfishing.

Thanks, John Picard

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 7:12 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Deborah Woodsome

Email

deb.woodsome@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Conservationists have worked tirelessly to strengthen the osprey population. This bill would threaten the osprey's chance of survival. Please do not pass this bill that would change the number of menhaden harvested.
Thank you

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 6:55 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Christina Nieves

Email

christinainieves@hotmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Regarding Atlantic Menhaden,
Please do not increase the fishing of Menhaden. In Connecticut, we've documented an alarming drop in the number off Osprey, the beautiful bird that relies on Menhaden as it's food source. These birds are already struggling to survive the obstacles mankind has put in its path, pollution, climate, competition for breeding spots, predation at nesting sites. A further reduction in food source may make it difficult or impossible to recoup their numbers. This gorgeous bird relies on this food source as it's makes its long journey twice a year to ànd from South America, up the east coast to breeding sites along the Connecticut River and our shores. It is our shared responsibility to care for these birds and steward all resources. Please do not allow for further reduction in this unique birds food source. We have a choice, they do not. Thank you

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 6:46 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Wesley Paul

Email

wespaul1005@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

As a life long recreational striper fisherman with a hope to have this fishery for my grandchildren and my love for all marine animals dependent on the bunker for food I think it is totally absurd that we allow the reckless harvest of said bunker menhaden by any greedy corporations. Please put real limits on this basic marine building block before it's too late. While you are at it eliminate commercial striper fishing completely. No need for it based on the amount of money brought in by recreational fisherman. Thank you for the opportunity to shape this important measure.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 6:34 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Leslie Geary

Email

lesliehgeary@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Osprey populations, like far too many birds, are threatened. I urge you to vote for their food supply to be protected. We have learned now that the loss of biodiversity has negative ripple effects. Please reduce the fishery cap to ensure these wonderful birds can live.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Geary
Fairfield, CT

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 6:33 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

PAUL SPITZER

Email

spitzer_paul@hotmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

The famous menhaden-dependent osprey nest colony in the Ct. R. Estuary, CT, suffered reproductive crash as bad as the DDT era in 2026. The carefully documented nestling starvation is a reliable bioindicator of menhaden failure in this region. It is unprecedented, in a place where menhaden are normally abundant. PLEASE install harvest quotas and TAC reduction to remedy this ecosystem tragedy. This implies scrutiny of Lund Fisheries and reducing their harvest impact on NJ-NY-CT, with quotas.
18 miles away, on Gardiners Bay NY, the famous menhaden-dependent Gardiners Is. osprey colony also suffered extreme nestling starvation and reproductive failure--so this is a REGIONAL ecosystem depletion of normally abundant Atlantic Menhaden--which must be restored through strict harvest quotas.
AND: We need scientific study and inquiry to determine the sources of this extreme menhaden depletion:
Human harvest, natural events, or some combination of the two. PRS 9/16/2026 Old Lyme, CT
Paul Spitzer PhD Cornell 1980 has studied osprey population ecology for 60 years--I have witnessed nothing like this widespread regional osprey starvation caused by menhaden failure in my lifetime.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 6:30 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Elizabeth Bick

Email

ebickzimm@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I support the reduction of the Chesapeake Bay fishery cap of 50% or more in order to allow the recovery of this fishery to sustainable levels for both fisherman, wildlife, and the ecosystem that relies on the menhaden.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 6:27 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Fred Garbonola

Email

gatoheroifredg@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I am urging the commission to reduce the fishery cap by 50 percent, a precautionary measure to ensure that menhaden, a key foundation fish and a prime food source for Connecticut's Ospreys, are not put in even greater jeopardy.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 6:14 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Timothy Nuckols

Email

timnuckols@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I have watched for years as this body has betrayed the people of Virginia with the brazen disregard of the health of our beloved bay,as in Chesapeake. I grew up in South Hampton Roads and remember night fishing in the winter with tolling near the bay bridge tunnel. We were very cold but the fishing was too good to miss. Back then the striped bass was so plentiful that you were guaranteed to get a boatload of fish. Those were the days. I wish we could go back to those wonderful cold nights fishing but I have accepted that it would take a lifetime of recovery for a healthy bay. The menhaden are the lifeblood of a healthy bay and we need brave men to protect it from the evil of overfishing by a Canadian company no less. Board members, please show some courage and stop this madness once and forever. The other states have banned this destruction of our natural resource. Please show some respect for our children and grandchildren and vote with your heart and not with your wallet.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 6:08 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Meghan Mongillo

Email

MeghanAMongillo@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

There are clear patterns in Osprey decline over the last years. We need to do something now to ensure this species' success. This iconic coastal species is a symbol of resilience on our country's coast. They have bounced back once, and can do it again but they need our support. Reducing the amount of harvestable menhaden is an actionable and meaningful step that will not only support this species but a large array of animals within the coastal food chain.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 12:22 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Alivia Tremmel

Email

doctorfeathers@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

We need a moratorium on bunker fishing before all the Menhaden fish disappear and hurt the ospreys along the east coast. They fish will need several years to rebuilt their population and in turn, help the osprey population, before we should be allowing bunker fishing again. Do not hurt our fragile ecosystem with overfishing PLEASE.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 12:16 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Dawn Tremmel

Email

skysoblue22@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

Please make the necessary restrictions on bunker fishing, now. Once the damage is done, it will be difficult to recover from and the Ospreys in NJ are fading away quickly. We only saw a few last year and only one this year! ONE in an area where many had been seen previously! Shut down menhaden fishing for at least 3-5 years to restore their numbers, so the birds and other marine life reliant on this fish for good can begin to recover. Man's greed is ruining our planet and causing harm to the food chain. Stop the bunker fisheries for the next 5 years. You all caused this travesty, now fix it.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 11:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Aidan Place

Email

aidanjplace@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

I am an ecologist who worked as the hawk counter for the Cape May Bird Observatory in South Jersey for a number of years. I would always count large numbers of migratory Osprey during the fall, evidence of a robust breeding population that had recovered from the ravages of DDT— an incredible conservation success story. Unfortunately, each year, reports trickled in of poor breeding success in Delaware Bay with overfishing of their main food source (Atlantic Menhaden) seemingly to blame. This year I visited Cape May to see old friends from my time living there and, despite being in the peak migratory window for Osprey, I saw relatively few. Those I did see were predominantly adults. I was shocked by how obvious the decline was, how obvious to failure to reproduce and replace themselves was. Friends I spoke to even told me of seeing juvenile Osprey that were emaciated and starving. Of the few Osprey I saw catch fish, I didn't see a single one carrying a Menhaden. Typically, almost every fish I see caught is a Menhaden (I usually joke to people that I could identify what fish an Osprey was carrying from a mile away because it was almost always a Menhaden).
I was sickened by what I saw this past month. To recover this incredible species only to be on the cusp of losing it again is almost too much to bear.
The catch of Atlantic Menhaden must be lowered. Dramatically. Ospreys that starve are dead forever. If the population is wiped out, they're gone, that's it. No amount of economic gain is worth that.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 10:22 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Hannah Bishop

Email

hannahbishop101@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Thank you for considering a reduction in menhaden fishing for the sake of ospreys. I am hopeful that sustainable fishing practices can be implemented so that the population remains strong, those in the fishing industry can maintain their livelihood, and the osprey population continues to grow. It is very upsetting to see the lack of osprey young surviving due to starvation, and I would like good environmental stewardship to win out so we can continue their comeback.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 10:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Darrell Sheehan

Email

darrellsheehan@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Respectfully request that the State of Virginia support:
Bay Cap Amount: Sub-Option B4 — a 50% reduction, resulting in a 25,500 mt cap.
· Quota Periods: Option B1 — even-length periods with evenly distributed harvest.
· Underage Provision: Underage Sub-Option 1 — roll Period 1 underages evenly into Periods 2 and 3.
· Revisit Provision: Option B — revisit the Bay Cap every three years.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 9:40 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Rick Herndon

Email

rzherndon@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I support the greatest reduction in menhaden fishing in the Bay and the most frequent review of the allowable catch, to permit further cuts to harvesting menhaden in the Bay. Everything that eats menhaden is suffering a sharp decline in population in the Bay. Why not ask Omega to use just a little more fuel and do their fishing in the ocean for a few years to see what impact that would have on the recreational fishing in Maryland, and Virginia. Fishing in Maryland is currently being decimated and everything reasonable should be tried to help it recover.
Thank you for this chance to submit comments,
Rick Herndon
240 508-8339
rzherndon@gmail.com

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 8:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Treavor Green

Email

tgreen@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

The ban of bay menhaden has no basis at all except for agenda driven studies. Agenda driven studies will show whatever outcome the person doing the study wants it too, depending on what parameters it uses for reference. Everyone lobbying against menhaden being harvested has an agenda and will soon figure out history. When something is banned from harvesting it never gets better. The ban of crab dredging did not replenish the blue crab population. The regulation of rock fish did not replenish the rock fish population in the bay. Let's open our eyes to the obvious which is contamination in the bay. Constantly spraying round up and toxins draining into the bay has made the bay a toxic pool of roundup. No fish wants to swim in a toxic pool of roundup. The ocean has wonderful amounts of fish while the toxic bay suffers. Everyone needs to use their brain and see the obvious. Everyone living around the bay plays a role. It's not over harvesting. That is the easy target to blame when people don't want to take responsibility for their actions. Be smart and use your critical thinking skills and don't jump on a bandwagon wagon of morons that have no clue what decade it is.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 8:22 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Meredith Stone

Email

tystone2@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I own a house on the Chesapeake and have spent time on the bay my entire life (56 years). Never have I seen so few ospreys as this year. The population has crashed, and it is hard not to connect this to overfishing of menhaden. The catch needs to be reduced and more sustainable for all

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 8:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Rachel Gambino

Email

rgambino2010@gmail.com

State

North Carolina

Comment

I am in support of reducing Menhaden fishing in order to benefit the local ecosystem in the Chesapeake, specifically the Osprey population. These birds are heavily reliant on Menhaden for survival. They had their least successful breeding season on record, even including the peak of the DDT crisis in the 1970s (source- center of conservation biology at William & Mary, linked at the end). Ospreys don't understand the concept of finding an entirely new nesting ground once the season ends- they instinctually return to the same nest year after year, even if the food supply is dwindling. Therefore their chicks will simply starve to death. The Ospreys need our help. Please consider reducing commercial Menhaden harvesting before the local population of ospreys dies out. Thank you for considering this matter. Sincerely yours, Rachel Gambino

SOURCE: https://ccbbirds.org/2026/09/14/2026-osprey-breeding-performance-was-the-worst-ever-recorded-for-the-chesapeake-bay/

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 7:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Mark Kizmann

Email

markkizmann@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Our fishing industry/recreational fishery has been progressively getting worse year after year we fish from Raritan bay to barnegat lighthouse where wonce was an abundance of bunker around this year fishing all species from striped bass tuna fluke etc has been poor we need to cut quotas and bring back the big schools of bunker before all is lost for years to come

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 7:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for MD & PRFC Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

MD & PRFC Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

MD & PRFC Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/md-prfc-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

William Rivituso

Email

billriv62@gmail.com

State

Delaware

Comment

Stop raping the bay the fish are dying.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 6:43 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for MD & PRFC Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

MD & PRFC Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

MD & PRFC Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/md-prfc-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Wallace Poulter

Email

polt5@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I am 70 years old, and have been fishing the Chesapeake Bay all my life. I have never seen fewer crabs, baitfish, especially Menhaden, with my experience I would guess from what I see it's been well over 50%. I actually say 70% less. If we regulate the fishery and change the over harvest stop the other harvest hopefully it's not too late but many times we wait till it is too late, the Chesapeake Bay is a amazing place and must be protected,
I personally have been on the water, and saw the destruction these men menhaden boats are doing I have seen not only dead red fish but even see turtles, and once a bottlenose dolphin dead floating on the surface after the boats have left,
Let's face it they don't care if they killed the last one but once they're all gone, that's it forever. Please don't wait for it to be too late.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 6:27 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Edward Marshall

Email

bob155@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I believe if this keeps up, that will no longer be able to see the things that were seeing on a Jersey shore right now Wales giant man trigger fish, not only that the birds the osprey and I'm sure many of other different species live on Manhaden

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 6:20 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Toni Evans

Email

evans.toni57@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I am writing to urge you to protect the menhaden by reducing the harvest in the Chesapeake Bay. Menhaden are a foundational species, important to other fish and birds. As a birder I have witnessed first hand the decline of ospreys in recent years. As an indicator species, their decline illustrates the risk to the bay ecosystem by the overharvesting of menhaden. Thank you for your consideration.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 6:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Melanie Candelora

Email

melanie.candelora@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

I volunteer with the Coastal Research and Education Society of Long Island and I strongly encourage stricter fishing laws regarding bunker, because they are one of two main food sources for the whales that we study here each summer. This year we have identified 16 new mom and calf pairs, all of whom will return to this “neighborhood” next year looking to feed, and it’s important they have enough to sustain their young.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 4:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Christopher Vena

Email

chrisvena80@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Hello,

The fishing in the Western Long Island Sound has been heavily affected by this netting of fish. My family and I have been fishing these waters for 30 years. Never seen fishing so terrible as now. This has to stop. Plain and simple if they keep taking the baitfish the game fish will no longer come.

Thank you
Christopher Vena

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 4:49 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Hogg

Email

chandler@captainhoggscharters.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Please cut the quota 50 percent the entire bay needs it thsnk you

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 4:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Rochelle Cornell

Email

rochelleshireman@hotmail.com

State

Rhode Island

Comment

Hello Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission!
Thank you for reviewing my comment.
Please cut the menhaden harvest by 50% immediately! Keeping the current harvest rate is unsustainable for industry and wildlife. The current rate of catch is reckless and endangering the long-term health of the fishery. We need limits to protect the fishery as a resource for humans AND... to keep other wildlife such as whales and osprey from disappearing.
This continued overharvest harms the planet and our children and grandchildren and great grandchildren... those who will inherit our blessings or our mistakes. You have a fork in the road now... that you can turn into a blessing...
Thank you,
Rochelle Cornell

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 3:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Bert Olmstead

Email

boatman5@ymail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I vote for Atlantic Menhaden Addendum II

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 3:23 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for MD & PRFC Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

MD & PRFC Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

MD & PRFC Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/md-prfc-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Rebecca Salen

Email

dancecat1122@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

My name is Rebecca Salen, and I grew up boating on the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay. As a child, I remember the joy and sheer awe of being so close to the wildlife living in the bay. One of the most memorable species for me was the osprey. I remember there being so many ospreys, it seemed like everywhere you looked you could find one hunting for fish, or raising its young in one of the many nests on the channel markers. These nests were rarely empty during breeding season. You could hear the sounds of the ospreys hunting, communicating to their mates, and the sounds of their young begging to be fed. I took being able to watch these incredible creatures for granted, assuming that they would always be there.

This year, when I went out on the bay, these nests were empty. Quiet. A scenario described in Rachel Carlson's "Silent Spring," a required reading in my college ecology class.

I remembered reading in 2025 that there would be an increase in the amount of menhaden allowed to be fished out of the Chesapeake Bay. This lack of regulation has led to a drastic decrease in the already small amount of menhaden living in the Chesapeake Bay. Menhaden are a crucial species for ospreys. High in fatty acids and proteins, they are perfect for growing chicks. According to a study done by Center for Conservation Biology, 2026 was the worst year on record for osprey breeding

performance, with many of the young starving to death. The ospreys were unable to feed their young menhaden because there was no menhaden for them to catch. They had already been fished up by companies like Omega Proteins and Ocean Harvesters, who use the menhaden for omega-3 pills, pet food, and salmon farms. The consequences of these disastrous, industry-influenced decisions on menhaden fishing quotas are deadly.

It is past time for us to put environmental concerns above these corporations' constant greed and hunger for profit. We have to make these decisions based off of true scientific data, not data poisoned by the greed of the fishing industry. Stop overfishing menhaden, especially for a foreign company's profit. Like what was seen with DDT in the 1970's, the osprey population was able to bounce back once we stopped spraying DDT. Let the menhaden bounce back and flourish without overfishing, and we will see a return of the osprey population as a result. In an ideal world where we actually cared about the wonders of the nature around us, we would not allow for companies like Omega Proteins to harvest nearly 70% of the Chesapeake Bay's menhaden population (110 million pounds of menhaden) for the purpose of money. Since we do not live in a perfect world, the next best thing is to prevent these companies from fishing so many of the menhaden from the Chesapeake Bay. Regulate them, lower the amount of this keystone species that they are allowed to remove from the ecosystem. Make sure that the limit allows for a resurgence in not only the population of ospreys, but for the striped bass as well. And, most importantly, once the menhaden population recovers, do not allow for these companies to overfish them again.

We have failed to learn from the environmental mistakes of the past. Let's learn from those mistakes now. Reduce the cap by 50%. Protect this keystone species and save the ospreys and striped bass as well. Protect them for our environment and for our future. What kind of world are we letting the next generation inherit? A world where there are no ospreys, no striped bass, no menhaden, and a silent summer. I know I will never take seeing an osprey for granted ever again.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 3:21 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jess Swaringen

Email

jswaringen01@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

As a lifelong angler in my mid-30s, I have had the pleasure of surf fishing from every state on the east coast. Our fisheries are some of the most diverse in the world, and serve as an amazing recreational resource for all residents of this country. While the target species vary significantly between Maine and Florida, one of the few consistent actors is everyone's favorite baitfish, the bunker.

Growing up in Massachusetts in the 90s and 2000s, the years where peanut bunker were present always led to the best summer and fall runs for striped bass, bluefish, bonito, and false albacore. However, we went entire seasons without ever seeing peanuts and the impact was palpable. Adult pogies at that time were the stuff of legend, existing only in the minds of those old timers who witnessed epic blitzes back in the 70s.

During the late 2000s and into the early 2010s, adult bunker made a strong comeback which led to the best northeast fishing I ever experienced. Over the past decade we have watched the bunker stocks dwindle, and the impact to our fisheries has been visible again. Now as a resident of New Jersey, we rely heavily on the southward migration of peanut and adult bunkers to fuel the entire spring and fall runs.

I have friends who are commercial fishermen, and can sympathize with those who think any regulation is hurting the bottom line of an industry already struggling. However the importance of bunker goes far beyond their dollar value per pound.

Menhaden filter our estuaries and help to lessen the impact of runoff and pollution that close our shellfisheries. Menhaden serve as the bedrock of an ecosystem that supports marine wildlife in the water, on land, and flying above our heads. Menhaden are the reason that many patrons travel to coastal towns each year and spend their dollars supporting local tackle shops, restaurants, hotels, and countless other businesses.

Put simply, Menhaden are worth more to our economy in the water than in nets, both in the Chesapeake and up and down the Atlantic Coast.

It is with these sentiments that I respectfully urge the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board to adopt the following options in Draft Addendum II:

Section 3.1 – Sub Option B4: Reduce the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap by 50%, establishing a Bay Cap of 25,500 metric tons. I support the maximum proposed reduction as a precautionary measure to increase the availability of menhaden within Chesapeake Bay and better support the fish, wildlife, and fisheries that depend upon this critical forage species.

Section 3.2.1 – Option B1: Establish Even Length & Even Harvest quota periods. Spreading reduction harvest more evenly throughout the season will help prevent excessive concentration of harvest during any single portion of the year and provide greater opportunity for menhaden to remain available throughout the Bay.

Section 3.2.2 – Underage Sub Option 1: Any underage from Quota Period 1 should be split evenly and rolled over into Quota Periods 2 and 3. This approach preserves access to unused quota while preventing that harvest from becoming concentrated entirely within the next quota period.

Section 3.3 – Option B: Require the Chesapeake Bay Cap to be reviewed at least once every three years. Regular review will allow management measures to respond to updated science, fishery conditions, and the ecological needs of Chesapeake Bay.

Taken together, these options provide a reasonable and precautionary approach that recognizes menhaden's importance not only as a harvested species, but also as a foundational forage fish supporting the broader Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic coastal ecosystem. I respectfully ask the Board to adopt these measures in the final Addendum II.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 3:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jesse King

Email

jkingdnr@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I support the 50% reduction for industrial menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay. And for ocean fishing a minimum of 3-5 miles offshore.

Thank you
Jesse King

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 3:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for MD & PRFC Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

MD & PRFC Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

MD & PRFC Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/md-prfc-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Walker

Email

jkwalker@zoominternet.net

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

Do what is best for the Bay and the people that are in the Bay area.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 2:49 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lisa Lovejoy

Email

lmlovejoy@yahoo.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

For the past four years, I've been monitoring osprey nests as a volunteer for the CT Audubon 'Osprey Nation' Program. Of the nests I've monitored over the previous years, there have consistently been 1-2 fledglings per nest at the end of the season. This past year I monitored four nests, all located on or adjacent to where I live on Johnsons Point in Branford, CT. Nine confirmed eggs (two in three nests; three in one nest) produced only two fledglings this year. There was a post-hatch failure of both nestlings in the other two nests. While the remaining nests did produce one fledgling each, those same nests had two nestlings each. It was quite painful to watch the stronger of the two nestlings being fed by an adult with the other nestling from both those nests perishing soon after. My proximity to the end of Branford Harbor also allowed me to observe osprey flying in and out with food. This year, osprey took longer to find fish and about 75% of the osprey observed came in with smaller fish than previous years. Between the human activity that occurs around some of these nests, and the more extreme weather, these wonderful birds don't need the added stress of finding fish, their only food source! Therefore, I am in favor of reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by up to 50%, and creating quota periods to distribute harvest more evenly throughout the fishing season.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 2:30 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sarina Lewis

Email

qhgirl_2000@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I do not support the cuts. The most recent survey concluded the fishery was not overfished. Making a huge negative financial impact on hard working Americans is not a solution to the problem that the average person has negative feelings because biased orgs tell them they should. The fishery does provide benefit to us.. feeding farm raised fish..fertilizer to grow crops and many other valid and important benefits. No cuts are justifiable at this time.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 1:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Edward Ashley

Email

panambusiness@icloud.com

State

Virginia

Comment

The bay is overfished!! The menhaden are overfished and causing great harm to the ecosystem, in particular for the osprey whose numbers are in sharp decline in the Chesapeake Bay. Our Chesapeake Bay ospreys are in significant reproductive decline and ornithologists have connected that to lack of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay. Virginia is the only Atlantic coast state that allows industrial-scale trawling for menhaden. You must stop overfishing and restrict fishing activities.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 1:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Dale Neal

Email

dalewilliamneal@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Atlantic Menhaden should be managed for abundance as a bait fishery (not a reduction fishery) to benefit ALL states and stakeholders along the Atlantic Coast. The primary nursery of this species, The Chesapeake Bay, should be managed accordingly.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 12:30 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kathleen McAvoy

Email

kathleenmmcavoy@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Thank you for your efforts to sustainably manage our shared resources. I write in support of the Draft Amendment to reduce the Bay Cap by 20-50% (3.1 option C1 c,d,e) with quota periods (3.2.1 B2) and with revisiting the cap limits at least every three years. Osprey poulations in the northeast support fledglings with a diet of menhaden. Dramatic reductions in osprey chick survival in MD, CT, etc. in 2025 and 2026 may indicate a reduction in available mehaden - years in which we do not have actionable non-fishery counts. As noted in the report and in NOAA's 2025 Atlantic Menhaden Stock assessment, the trawl and other fishery independent data sources on Mehaden abundance are 2-3 years old (e.g. NOAA's 2025 report only contains data through 2023). While more data is clearly needed, I believe the uncertainty around true abudance at the current time supports cautious reduction of cap limits.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 12:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Mary Jane Hall

Email

mjhallnorfolk@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

FMP Coordinator James Boyle and Members of the Commission,I am writing as a concerned Virginia resident to express my strong, unequivocal support for Draft Addendum II and to urge the Commission to implement the strictest possible protections for Atlantic menhaden, particularly within the Chesapeake Bay.Menhaden are the ecological foundation of our coastal ecosystem. Decades of intensive industrial reduction fishing have disrupted the local food web, leading to devastating impacts on wildlife that depend on them. We are currently witnessing an ecological crisis with our local osprey populations, where nesting success has plummeted due to a severe lack of food. Osprey chicks are quite literally starving in their nests because industrial purse seines are clearing out the localized menhaden biomass before these birds can forage.To allow the menhaden population to fully restore and to protect critical predators like the osprey, I strongly urge the ASMFC to adopt the following measures:Implement a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery harvest cap immediately.Establish strict seasonal closures during peak osprey nesting and migration seasons to prevent localized depletion.Prioritize ecosystem-based management that factors the nutritional needs of marine mammals, seabirds, and predatory fish into harvest quotas, rather than managing menhaden solely as a single-species commodity.We cannot afford to wait for decades of further study while our osprey populations collapse. Please take decisive action to restrict industrial overharvesting and restore the balance of the Chesapeake Bay.Thank you for your time and your dedication to protecting our shared marine resources.Sincerely, Mary Jane Hall Norfolk VA

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 9:21 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kevin Banach

Email

k.banach@hotmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

To whom it may concern:

I am commenting to urge the commission to reduce the fishery cap by 50 percent to help ensure enough menhaden remain available for ospreys and other wildlife, helping to conserve and grow the ecosystem.

There is growing concern that osprey populations along the Eastern seaboard are declining due to lack of food. Last year, Connecticut Audubon Society's Osprey Nation recorded its lowest breeding success since the statewide community science program launched in 2014 to monitor these birds.

By 8/1/2025, out of 706 nests with up-to-date reports, 113 had failed - about 1 in 6. In the same timeframe in 2026, of 691 nests with up-to-date reports, 171 have failed - roughly 1 in 4.

The decline at Old Lyme's Great Island, once a former osprey stronghold, has been particularly severe. 37 osprey chicks fledged there in 2024; in 2025 this number decreased to 27, and in 2026 only 5.

Because ospreys feed almost exclusively on fish, the Osprey Nation community science program serves as an early-warning system for the health of Connecticut's waters and the abundance of prey species like Atlantic menhaden.

I thank you for considering my suggestion to reduce the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery cap by 50%. Such a decision will have longterm positive impact for osprey populations and help foster a burgeoning ecosystem to be enjoyed by future generations in perpetuity.

Thank you for your time.

Kevin T. Banach
Old Saybrook, CT

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 9:08 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/Atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-II/

Name

Michael Billings

Email

mbillings2@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I have fished the entire length of the Chesapeake bay and it's tributaries for the last 40 years and have seen many positive changes throughout that time. One consistent area that has been lacking however is the continually diminishing amount of boat present throughout the middle and upper bay. Fishing has certainty been affected and has led to the loss of a vast number of jobs. The charter fleet is a fraction of what it was, tackle and bait shops have closed, hotels/motels have closed, and many small businesses related to fishing are in decline. This is a way of life for those around the Chesapeake and it may never be recovered. If the youth cannot experience the bay and understand all that it can offer, why protect it? All of this because of a special interest group touting a relatively small number of jobs that are supported by the reduction fishery. Please stop this cornerstone species from being depleted for the needs of a few and to the detriment of countless people and animals.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 9:08 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michael McCormick

Email

tmichaelmccormick@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I support the Draft Addendum II and conservation-minded reforms that better protect menhaden and support a healthy Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, including reducing the Bay Cap by 50 percent in 2027 and implementing quota periods to more effectively distribute reduction fishing pressure throughout the season.

As a Severn River resident, it has been a great joy to watch osprey fledge in early Summer - we have been watching for 4 years. This is the first year that two young osprey died in the nest. Action is needed.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 7:36 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Connor Ravencraft

Email

connorravencraft@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Virginia's Constitution

Article XI. Conservation
Section 1. Natural resources and historical sites of the Commonwealth.

To the end that the people have clean air, pure water, and the use and enjoyment for recreation of adequate public lands, waters, and other natural resources, it shall be the policy of the Commonwealth to conserve, develop, and utilize its natural resources, its public lands, and its historical sites and buildings. Further, it shall be the Commonwealth's policy to protect its atmosphere, lands, and waters from pollution, impairment, or destruction, for the benefit, enjoyment, and general welfare of the people of the Commonwealth.

Its time to act and create policy that protects our natural resources for future generations.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 10:03 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Thomas Holste

Email

tom.holstejr@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

As a life long Maryland resident and a recreational fishing enthusiast for some 50 + years, I haven't felt more strong about anything in regards to the foolishness of the authorities at both state and federal levels to continue to allow a commercial company to continue fishing inside the Chesapeake Bay waters for Menhaden. It's proven that the Menhaden fish are abundant in the Atlantic Ocean and commercial fishing on this scale should be ONLY allowed in the Atlantic waters. Each year I see the Rockfish problems and in recent years I have watched the Osprey's not having food for their young. In areas like the Kent Narrows, and waters around Kent Island the nests are empty where a few years ago each nest had a healthy pair of parents feeding Menhaden to their young. It's sad that these problems have continued while a commercial company continues to deplete this vital food source for Rockfish and Osprey. The bycatch alone in the Omega companies massive nets inside Chesapeake Bay waters is disgusting and should be ended or reduced greatly.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 9:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/Atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-II/

Name

Beth Supple

Email

beth.supple@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I urge the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board to take strong, precautionary action to reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap and address the ecological impacts of concentrated harvest.
Atlantic menhaden are a critical forage fish and an essential part of the Chesapeake Bay food web. They provide food for striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, ospreys, and numerous other predators. The health of these species and the broader Bay ecosystem depends on maintaining an abundant supply of menhaden in the water.
The Chesapeake Bay cap was originally established as a precautionary measure in response to concerns about localized depletion. Since then, managers have repeatedly recognized the need for stronger protections. The cap was reduced from 109,020 metric tons to 87,216 metric tons in 2012 and ultimately to 51,000 metric tons in 2018, in recognition of the Bay's importance as nursery habitat and the need to better reflect contemporary fishing levels.
The Board's Draft Addendum II is an important opportunity to continue that progress. I support reducing the Chesapeake Bay cap by up to 50 percent and establishing quota periods that prevent excessive concentrations of harvest early in the fishing season.
However, the Board should view these measures as a minimum step toward addressing the problem—not as the final goal. Management decisions should prioritize ecosystem health, predator needs, and the long-term abundance of menhaden rather than simply maximizing allowable harvest.

The Chesapeake Bay is a shared public resource. Its forage fish should be managed accordingly. When there is a reasonable risk that concentrated fishing could reduce the availability of menhaden to predators or negatively affect the broader ecosystem, managers should act conservatively.
I urge the Board to adopt the strongest available reduction in the Bay cap, establish effective seasonal quota periods, and continue moving toward management that prevents overfishing and protects menhaden as a critical foundation of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.
Thank you for considering these comments.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 9:08 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ellis Paul

Email

ellispaul07@proton.me

State

Maryland

Comment

Please support the complete closure of the Menhaden fishery until proper studies are done to determine the actual sustainable level of fishing in the Atlantic. Currently we are seeing up to 1/3 of ospreys avoid nesting in the lower Chesapeake as well as chicks starving to death as their main source of food is disappearing due to overharvesting. This is only one facet of who is being affected by this ecological disaster - menhaden are a keystone species and support the multi-million dollar sport fishing industry as well as being used for bait by blue crab fishermen. If full closure is not an option, at least reduce the take to a more reasonable 50% while we still have a chance to save this important species population from collapse. Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 7:41 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kenneth Adams

Email

Kgadams99@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

No foreign owned company should be allowed to fish the United States waters and deplete our resources for their monetary gain. I have fished the Chesapeake Bay all my life and I'm 63 years of age. Menhaden are the primary forage fish for many of the wildlife in the bay.I caught Striped bass that we're full of little blue crabs because the Menhaden were not plentiful. I believe the sores on the strippers that are caught at times come from the lack of oils the Menhaden have is lacking from their diet. As much money as the Bay states spent trying to get Stripped Bass back from collapse I would think the governing stares would do everything in their power to protect the resources. I believe I read the Chesapeake is one of the largest nurseries for baby Menhaden on the east coast.No Menhaden should be taken from it.Moe baitfisj equals more game fish. More game fish equals more revenue from fisherman at local stores and quides.I would think the States would make more revenue from tourism and money spent on tackle,licenses, and fuel than they get from taxes and revenue from ene foreign owned company. Stop all Menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay. Make them stay in the ocean away from the mouth off the Bay

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 7:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Claudia Weicker

Email

cltweicker@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I am writing to urge the Commission to take action to reduce the catch of Menhaden along the eastern coast of the United States. As a Member of the State Board of the Connecticut Audubon Society and as Chair of it's regional center in Old Lyme Connecticut, I have grave concerns about the documented failure of Osprey nests in our state … and, particularly, on the southeastern coast. As the Commission is aware, it was in Old Lyme where decades ago the renowned writer, and artist, Roger Tory Peterson, was instrumental in verifying that a decline of Osprey in the 60's and 70's was due to the use of DDT and resulted in a failure of Osprey eggs. Today's concern is most seriously manifest in the Chesapeake Bay region but is now also being verified in our waters. Menhaden is a keystone species that, in this region, almost exclusively supports Osprey and their chicks are dying from starvation. They are abandoning their nests and reproducing at a rate insufficient to maintain their population. The Commission has it within its authority to reduce the catch of the commercial fishing industry in order to allow the Menhaden population to recover and preserve an iconic bird.
Sincerely,
Claudia Weicker,
Chair, The Connecticut Audubon Society's Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center
100 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, Connecticut 06371

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 6:25 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

JENNIFER BUDAI

Email

jennifer.budai@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Dear Commissioners,
These are my personal observations from Connecticut in support of eliminating or greatly reducing menhaden catch:

1) Reports of juvenile osprey starving to death in CT! I was contacted by my Mayor in Stratford, CT earlier this month. He'd received several r
who advised her the bird was not injured, it was suffering from malnutrition and ospreys starving to death has been an alarming trend this yea
2) I spend hours at the beach every summer performing independent field work on the horseshoe crab and recently was assigned to the ASM
3) Each year in mid to late August, we go to a specific place called Captain's Cove in Bridgeport CT to watch the thousands of bunker fish fee
datapoints and are visually obvious. We must restrict or pause or place some type of moratorium on the taking of this animal out of the Atlanti

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2026/08/19/fight-save-tiny-fish-powering-atlantic-coast/?pwapi_token=eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJyZWFzb24iOiJnaWZ0IiwibmJmIjoxNzg3NDU3NjAwLCJpc3MiOiJzdWJzY
zE5L2ZpZ2h0LXNhdmUtdGlueS1maXNoLXBvd2VyaW5nLWF0bGFudGljLWNvYXN0LyJ9.GF0gmFZjoOjsMII0CysfIrbIBGaJFoz0oz9y2rA-1A

Thank you for your consideration,
Jennifer Budai

Citizen Scientist
Stratford, CT

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 6:22 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Reed Cass

Email

reed.cass@sbcglobal.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

I'm a recreational fisherman who fishes the mouth of the Connecticut River in the early Spring and late Fall and mainly in Fishers Island Sound in the summer. My friend Ray and I have been fishing almost every week for bluefish and striped bass from 1992 to the present. Our fishing (i.e. catching) has been declining for at least the last 10 years. The last few years have been the worst we've ever experienced. So far in 2026 we each caught only one striper. Also we have not seen any menhaden and very few gulls and terns.
Please do all you can to reduce the menhaden catch so the striper and blue population can recover.
Thank you,
Reed cass

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 5:14 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Mary Good

Email

song4sail@comcast.net

State

Maryland

Comment

Please take the appropriate action to STOP the disruption of the natural food chain by STOPPING the Omega Protein / Cooke Inc. company from overharvesting Menhaden fish. This corporate greed has already cost enough!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 5:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kathryn Kamo

Email

kathryn.kamo@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

The Atlantic menhaden is crucial food for bird species including loons, eagles and especially osprey. Ospreys are currently starving because their major food source is being taken by omega Three. This is not a sustainable practice for Omega Three and other fisherman. Harvesting quotas need to be established ASAP before the menhaden are gone.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 11:20 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kenneth Homsey

Email

homseylaw@verizon.net

State

Massachusetts

Comment

There are always choices to be made on resource allocation. This one is easy, there is more need to limit the allocation of fish protein to industrial uses than there is to allocaate it towards sustaining the food chain for ocean environments. Reduce the uses of this resource for fertilizers and farm feed and increase it for growth of fish stock and ocean environmental balance.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 12:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Mary Shaughness

Email

aas1110@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Hello. I support the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and their vision/request to reduce fishing by certain percentages throughout selective times of the year…then increase during other times. The goal is to balance every resource and need. I want a solution to be found for all impacted communities. We must begin somewhere- and this way we will begin to see recovery and determine paths forward.

Thank you

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 12:34 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Chrysta Donatelli

Email

chrysnz@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

September 11, 2026

Virginia Marine Resources Commission
380 Fenwick Road, Bldg. 96
Fort Monroe, VA 23651

Re: Public Comment in Support of the Proposed 50% Reduction to the Chesapeake Bay Menhaden Reduction Fishery Cap (ASMFC Addendum II)

I strongly support the proposed 50% reduction to the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery harvest cap, including distributing the allowable catch more evenly throughout the fishing season. This measure is consistent with the ASMFC Plan Development Team's own April 2026 draft recommendations and is supported by 92% of Virginia voters, according to a 2026 poll conducted by New Bridge Strategy and FM3 Research.

While I believe a broader review of purse seine netting in Virginia waters is warranted in the future, my primary request today

is focused on the 50% cap reduction currently under consideration.

The ecological evidence for this reduction is compelling. The 2025 ASMFC stock assessment update revealed a 37% decline in menhaden biomass compared to previous models. Virginia's own reported menhaden bait harvest collapsed from 5.4 million pounds in 2019 to less than 1 million pounds in 2024, according to VMRC data. The consequences are visible throughout the food web: striped bass, cobia, bluefish, whales, dolphins, pelicans, and osprey all depend on menhaden as a primary food source. In the lower Chesapeake Bay, menhaden depletion is already causing measurable population-level harm to these species.

The data supporting this action is robust. A 2024 peer-reviewed study by Dr. Bryan Watts at the Center for Conservation Biology documented that only 17 of 167 monitored osprey nests in high-salinity areas of the lower Chesapeake Bay were successful, producing just 21 surviving chicks. The researchers directly linked this unprecedented reproductive failure to menhaden depletion. A subsequent 2025 study confirmed the crisis worsened Bay-wide. These findings, combined with the ASMFC's own stock assessment showing a 37% biomass decline, led the Plan Development Team to recommend the 50% cap reduction now before you.

Industry representatives continue to cite wildlife recovery data from the 1960s through 1990s, attributing population gains to the DDT ban. These references are misleading in our current context: osprey populations recovered decades ago and are now declining again specifically due to food scarcity, not pesticide exposure.

I am sympathetic to concerns about economic impact in Reedville. However, the facts are instructive: when the coast-wide quota was cut 20% for 2026, industry sources confirmed zero layoffs and no reduction in the working fleet (still six fishing boats and two run boats). A 50% Bay cap reduction is manageable. Moreover, Virginia hosts the last industrial reduction fishery on the Atlantic coast, operated by a single company (Omega Protein) owned by Canadian-based Cooke Inc. The economic benefits of this operation are concentrated in one foreign-owned firm, while the ecological and economic costs are distributed across all Virginians.

The broader economic picture favors conservation. In Virginia Beach alone, continued menhaden depletion threatens:

- Commercial fishermen's livelihoods and the restaurants they supply
- Whale and dolphin observation cruises that depend on healthy prey populations
- Recreational fishing charters and tourism
- Restaurant, hotel, and retail revenue tied to coastal tourism

These sectors represent hundreds, if not thousands, of jobs in our community alone.

The 50% cap reduction is a precautionary management measure grounded in the best available science. Even those who dispute individual studies cannot argue against the prudence of protecting our most valuable ecological resource while research continues. The cost of inaction, should the biomass decline prove as severe as current models indicate, would be irreversible.

I urge the Commission to approve the 50% reduction to the Bay cap. Thank you for your consideration of this comment.

Chrysta Donatelli
228 50th St
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Sources

1. ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Stock Assessment Update, 2025 - documenting 37% biomass decline and basis for 20% coast-wide quota reduction.
2. ASMFC Plan Development Team, Draft Addendum II Recommendations, April 2026 - recommending up to 50% Bay reduction fishery cap cut with seasonal distribution.
3. Watts, B.D., Center for Conservation Biology, 2024 - peer-reviewed study documenting osprey reproductive failure (17/167 nests successful) linked to menhaden depletion in lower Chesapeake Bay.
4. Center for Conservation Biology, 2025 - expanded Bay-wide study confirming worsening osprey breeding performance.
5. Virginia Marine Resources Commission landing data, 2019–2024 - menhaden bait harvest decline from 5.4 million lbs to under 1 million lbs.
6. New Bridge Strategy & FM3 Research, 2026 - poll finding 92% of Virginia voters support leaving more menhaden in the Bay (commissioned by Chesapeake Bay Foundation).
7. National Fisherman, May 2026 - industry confirmation of zero layoffs following 20% coast-wide quota reduction.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 11:21 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Steve Roberts

Email

steve.roberts924@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

The Honorable Frank Pallone
I am writing to you as a concerned environmentalist and avid fisherman. I have fished the waters off Maryland to New York for the past 50 years. I have seen both great and awful fishing over those years. Omega Protein has been harvesting beyond excessive amounts of Menhaden and the results to our fisheries has been staggering. To date this year I haven't seen 1 bunker pod either in the Raritan bay or the ocean and I have fished over 50 days this season so far. Something needs to be done to limit their take of Menhaden and the bycatch which destroys all species of marine life.
Sincerely
Steve Roberts MSPT

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 9:13 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sandra Leidy Koontz

Email

jlk21755@comcast.net

State

Maryland

Comment

The ecosystem of the entire Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries is suffering the loss of the crucial menhaden supply that supports it. Fish, birds, crabs, and sea floor are all impacted by the damage that the reduction fishery is causing. Commercial and recreational fishermen as well as the tackle shops, bait stores, tourism, and even land owners are impacted by the damage to the menhaden nursery that is the Chesapeake region. Please move the menhaden fishery entirely offshore, like the other eastern states have done to preserve the menhaden in the Chesapeake. Current damages will take decades to reverse.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 8:53 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Scott Wiley

Email

scott.wiley@timmons.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I strongly support eliminating the Atlantic menhaden reduction fishery from the Chesapeake Bay. A 50% reduction is a step in the right direction and I support this move wholeheartedly, but it is not enough.

The Chesapeake Bay is not just another body of water along the Atlantic Coast. It is the largest estuary in the United States, a critical nursery for countless marine species, and one of the most important ecosystems on the East Coast. Menhaden are at the center of that ecosystem. They are the primary forage base for striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, ospreys, bald eagles, dolphins, and many other species that depend on the Bay.

For decades, Virginia's reduction fishery has been allowed to harvest enormous quantities of menhaden directly from Chesapeake Bay waters and exceed quotas without meaningful repercussions or penalties. While managers may point to coastwide stock assessments showing that Atlantic menhaden are not overfished, those assessments do not answer the most important question: Are there enough menhaden left in the Chesapeake Bay to support the Bay's predators and ecological functions?

The Chesapeake Bay should not be treated as a feedstock source for industrial fishmeal and fish oil production. It should be managed as a living ecosystem.

Evidence of declining osprey productivity in portions of the Bay, concerns about localized depletion, conflicts with bait fishermen, and increasing public concern all point to the same conclusion: more menhaden need to stay in the Bay.

The economic value of menhaden left in the water far exceeds their value once reduced into industrial products. Healthy menhaden populations support recreational fishing, charter captains, tackle shops, tourism, birdwatching, and a thriving Chesapeake Bay economy. Every striped bass caught by an angler, every osprey nesting successfully along the shoreline, and every dolphin sighting enjoyed by visitors depends on a healthy forage base.

The Chesapeake Bay has undergone decades of restoration efforts costing billions of dollars and involving federal, state, and local partners. We work tirelessly to restore habitat, improve water quality, rebuild oyster populations, and recover underwater grasses. It makes little sense to simultaneously allow industrial harvest of one of the Bay's most important forage species.

This issue comes down to priorities.

Do we manage the Chesapeake Bay primarily for a single industrial reduction company, or do we manage it for the health of the entire ecosystem and the millions of people who depend on it?

I believe the answer is clear.

The Commission should eliminate the reduction fishery from Chesapeake Bay waters and manage menhaden first and foremost as the foundation species they are.

Leave the fish in the Bay. Let them feed striped bass. Let them feed ospreys. Let them support the recovery of the Chesapeake ecosystem. I have been fishing the bay for 30 years and have seen with my own eyes the decline in forage fish and specifically the size of menhaden has significantly declined, which should be a warning to everyone.

Thank you for your consideration.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 7:47 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lorrie Shaw

Email

canyonavery@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I have been watching the Osprey population for the last decade. My husband has helped install 3 Osprey cams, 2 in CT and one in RI. I regularly post on social media sites information about nest happenings. We have seen many tragedies on the nests including entanglements with fishing line and suicide. This year has been the worst as we all have watched osprey starve to death, calling to parents for food that does not arrive. These are experienced birds and early in the season when herring was running they brought plenty of food into the nest. When it was time to rely on the menhaden, the food dried up. We also are involved in raptor rescue for A Place Called Hope. The birds we went to pick up were completely emaciated, crops sunken and the birds were featherweights with no fight left them. Most didn't survive. It was a horrible season. Some nests lost 2 out of 3 birds. Other nests we monitor were abandoned, parents left the chicks something we've never seen. My husband has put up over 200 platforms in CT and he maintains contact with many of those landowners on the coast. The reports are grim, dead chicks everywhere.
The time to put a pause on the excessive menhaden taking is now. The industry has proven it cannot regulate itself. The osprey are not the only ones pointing to the problem, once again they are the indicator species showing the effects. If you cannot completely stop the overharvesting, at a minimum drastically curtail it. The time to act is now, pause it until you get further proof of you need that but observations and reports by many should be sufficient.

Thank you
Lorrie and Terry Shaw

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 9:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Thomas Hannan

Email

tomhannan160@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I live near the mouth of the Housatonic river and fish that area regularly and have seen a huge decline in Menhaden. Which is directly affecting fishing and also the wildlife in the area. We need to stop harvesting commercially. The menhaden immediately before it is too late.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 9:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Irene Guertin

Email

irene.guertin@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

It is absolutely necessary establish controls on menhaden harvesting in the US coast and Chesapeake Bay. Companies, especially foreign companies with no stake in the US and states' economies, should not be allowed to vacuum these fish from our waters with no regard to the crushing ecological, recreational, and economic consequences. Our fish and wildlife are suffering documented negative impacts from the dwindling numbers of this important link in the food chain. It is not only devastating to them, but also to everyone who depends on healthy coastal ecosystems—residents, fishers, boaters, tourism, and more. Limit menhaden harvesting before it's too late.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 8:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

daniel mundy

Email

mundyfive32@msn.com

State

New York

Comment

You are failing to properly regulate the harvesting of the Menhaden along the eastern seaboard. I am an active scuba diver, and spend multiple days throughout the spring ,summer, and fall offshore in the New York ,New Jersey waters
. I have never seen such low levels of Menhaden as this past year. In addition, our organization ,theJamaica Bay Ecowatcher's have been monitoring the osprey population in Jamaica Bay for multiple years .this year we had 22 nesting pairs of osprey yet only five surviving chicks were noted in our Survey, which we believe is a direct correlation with the lack of their key food species Menhaden
action needs to be taken now to reduce the allowable take of Menhaden by the reduction industry.
Daniel Mundy
President Jamaica Bay Ecowatcher's

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 6:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II - Fort Monroe

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II - Fort Monroe

Action Title

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II - Fort Monroe

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/va-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii-2/

Name

Sarah Strickler

Email

sa.strickler@verizon.net

State

Virginia

Comment

My understanding is that Virginia still allows purse seine fishing, plane spotting and vacuuming up of menhaden which results in overfishing of menhaden. This type of fishing has been prohibited in other states and should be prohibited in Virginia as well. Efforts to launch research on menhaden fishing and its effects on the food chain (and Osprey breeding) has also failed in Virginia and should be supported.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 4:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/va-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Brett Hankins

Email

brett.hankins@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Has Virginia considered suspending Omegas operation until a study of the impact removing hundreds of millions of pounds of menhaden has been done? This study was purposefully not done so that this practice could continue.
Like all the other states on the east coast, Virginia needs to adopt the 3 miles off shore stance that every other state has in place to preserve this nursery.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 1:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Charles Randolph

Email

scooby244@cox.net

State

Virginia

Comment

I support NOT fishing the bay for menhaden. Move all menhaden fishing out of the bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 12:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

James Hunter

Email

jshdvm@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I strongly oppose industrial menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia's rivers, and I believe it is long past time for Virginia to put the health of the Chesapeake Bay ahead of the interests of Omega Protein.

Menhaden are not simply another fish to be harvested. They are a critical forage species and an essential part of the Chesapeake Bay food web. Striped bass, bluefish, cobia, osprey, dolphins, and numerous other species depend on this resource. Allowing an industrial reduction fishery to remove enormous quantities of menhaden from the Chesapeake Bay year after year is, in my opinion, fundamentally inconsistent with responsible management of this extraordinary natural resource.

Those of us who have spent years on the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia's rivers have witnessed the changes firsthand. Fishing and wildlife have suffered tremendously. At the same time, Omega Protein continues to operate large-scale vessels and nets in waters that belong to all Virginians, removing a vital forage fish by the millions for reduction into fish meal and oil.

Enough is enough.

The Chesapeake Bay should not be treated as an industrial harvesting ground for the benefit of one company. Its menhaden population supports an entire ecosystem as well as Virginia's recreational fishing, boating, tourism, and coastal communities. The value of these fish swimming in the Chesapeake Bay and supporting that ecosystem must be recognized—not simply the value that can be obtained by catching and processing them.

I strongly support ending the industrial reduction harvest of menhaden within the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia's tidal rivers. If Omega Protein wishes to pursue menhaden offshore, that is a separate discussion. But the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries should be protected as a nursery, feeding ground, and recreational resource.

Virginia has an obligation to protect the Chesapeake Bay for its citizens and for future generations. We should not wait until additional damage has occurred before taking meaningful action.

Keep the industrial menhaden reduction fishery out of the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia's rivers. Protect the forage base. Protect our fisheries. Protect our wildlife. And protect the Chesapeake Bay.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 10:51 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Anne Rowley
Email
annerowley@mac.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I have lived in DC, North Carolina and Virginia, and in my life have watched the Menhaden Fleet increase in size to an unsustainable level and begin it''s inevitable decline. In the interest of both the survival of the food web of the Chesapeake Bay on which so much more of our regions economy depends, as well as the marine life, I strongly urge that the Fisheries Commission adopt Addendum II, effective immediately. There is no need to destroy the economic future of the Chesapeake Bay for one industry alone. Respectfully submitted, Anne Rowley (B.S. marine biology, Duke University, M.S. Scientific Communication, University of CA, Santa Cruz)

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 10:51 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Audrey Kinter
Email
alkinter@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
As the largest and at one-time most productive estuary in the United States, the Chesapeake Bay is the DMV's most brilliant jewel. Protecting and restoring the wildlife the bay supports should be a high priority for all of us.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 10:50 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Brett Hankins
Email
brett.hankins@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I live on the Corrotoman River in Lancaster Va very close to the bay. I am very disturbed by the damage Omega protein is doing to the ecology of the bay specifically as it relates to their over harvesting of Menhaden. I am a fisherman and spend alot of time on the water. I also am a biologist and pay close attention to the habitat and how the different species rely on different factors to survive. On my creek there used to be two nesting pairs of osprey. The last two years they have completely left. I have also been down at the mouth of the bay when the ships come in and siphon off all of the menhaden for miles. There was a time where we had bait balls spanning the size of football fields in the bay and the ships come in and the next day you cannot find any menhaden or any other fish for that matter for 50 square miles. The fact that this has been completely ignored for years by the state is outrageous. This over-harvesting of menhaden has to stop before we get to a point of no return.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 10:28 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Joanne Kresic
Email
joannekresic@rcn.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I am writing in support of limiting commercial fishing of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay. It has been exceedingly difficult to hear of the starvation of Osprey chicks due to lack of menhaden. We must learn to share our resources, especially with those who were here long before our disruptive arrival. The Bay will cease to be the Bay as we know it if we dont protect these fish, who anchor so much life along the Atlantic coast. Sincerely, Joanne Kresic

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 9:53 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Cheryl Huggin
Email
chickyhas3@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
We have been traveling the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries for over 13 years. The decline in Osprey is alarming. I'm sure a lot more species are impacted by Menhaden decline due to over harvesting. Something must be done.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 9:52 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Tim Hanold
Email
thanold@yahoo.com
State
Maryland
Comment
They are called Atlantic Menhaden. They should only be able to catch what they can catch out in the Atlantic ocean. Once the fish are up into the Chesapeake Bay, that entire area should be off-limits. They are screwing with mother nature's cycles and in turn throwing off the entire ecosystem.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 9:35 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Roy Combs
Email
royjcombs@cox.net
State
Virginia
Comment
I encourage a reduced annual menhaden catch limit for the Chesapeake Bay. After years fishing the Bay, I see fewer ospreys and catch fewer fish. Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 9:33 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
ROY Young
Email
royyoung320@yahoo.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I think you people are foolish. You're trying to take care of commercial fisheries, but you're screwing the recreational fisherman by taking away the food that actually help and sustained other fish all because of money, but who's putting money in your pocket must not be recreational for Sherman because you're not voting for their side.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 9:07 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Joan Wehner
Email
jhwehner@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
My grandson, Capt. Jon Henry Wehner, is a charter boat captain out of Cape Charles, Va. He is 25 years old, a graduate of JMU and was born on the Eastern Shore. He has described to me, and in his online posts, the devastation caused by the Canadian ships which haul in tons of schools of Menhaden which negatively impact fishing, but more importantly are affecting the population of shore birds and game fish which feed on Menhaden. I have flown over the Chesapeake Bay and seen the Canadian ships with massive nets pull in whole schools of Menhaden to be made into dogfood. Regulations need to be made which allow recovery of those species which are being decimated.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 9:04 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Christopher Linetty
Email
retriever48@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
As the President of the Frederick Saltwater Angler, we all know the importance of Menhaden in the bay. From forage fish to water clarity. The reduction of harvest limits is vital to restore the bays health and food chain. Vote to reduce the catch of Menhaden!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 8:55 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jesse Kirk

Email

jesserkirk@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Menhaden are a keystone forage species in the Bay, and the evidence of ecological strain is mounting. Osprey nests around the Bay have shown sharply reduced reproduction, with empty nests and starving chicks documented where the birds depend on menhaden to feed their young. Maryland bait fishers have reported steep declines in their own menhaden catches, and many suspect the industrial purse-seine fleet is intercepting fish before they migrate further up the Bay. Striped bass, another major predator of menhaden, have also been cited by anglers and scientists as showing signs of nutritional stress tied to reduced forage availability.

For 150 years this fishery has operated in the Bay with minimal Bay-specific research, relying instead on coastwide stock assessments that may mask localized depletion. Repeated legislative efforts to fund independent research through the Virginia Institute of Marine Science have stalled, and I believe industry lobbying has played a role in that delay. A fishery of this scale and ecological importance should not continue to operate without conclusive, Bay-specific science confirming it is sustainable.

I ask the Board to adopt more conservative harvest caps within the Bay, distribute the quota more evenly across the season (particularly protecting the summer months when ospreys are feeding chicks), and make continued access to the Bay contingent on completion of independent research.

Thank you for considering these concerns.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 8:34 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Jodie Ammerman
Email
jpammerman@aol.com
State
Maryland
Comment
A reduction of 50% of the catch is better than no reduction at all. Would be better to shut the Omega ships down all together but doesn't look like VA wants to do that —-really doesn't seem like VA representatives care much about what happens to the bay A 50% reduction is better than nothing. The osprey are starving, the fish migrations have been less…this is what happens when there is no food for them in the bay. Omega is ruining the ecosystem of the bay. Please do the right thing and reduce the quota. Thank you

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 5:24 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
edith vassar
Email
evassar27@cox.net
State
Connecticut
Comment
Osprey are an invaluable resource in our state which we need to protect from starvation and extinction. Please ensure their survival by reducing the cap on Menhaden fishing by 50%. The planet and our children will thank you.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 10:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Robert Mendez
Email
Robertanthonymendez@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Keystone species must be protected! Thriving oceans over profits!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 7:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Katie Dyke
Email
marykatedyke105@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
I am a lifelong resident of CT and have always lived within a few miles of our beautiful and precious Long Island Sound. I am devastated with what I have seen happening in just the past 2 years. My husband and I are boaters and frequently fish in LIS, seeing the Ospreys thrive in these waters has been amazing but I am SCARED!!! The Osprey population will be decimated soon if we don't take dramatic action to stop the overfishing of menhaden, commonly referred to as bunker. We first noticed the bunker weren't around last year. When we did see them they sporadic, whereas in previous years you would see schools of bunker in the hundreds, if not thousands. This year it is even worse. It was a common site to see Osprey diving down into the water and rewarded with a bunker, now, I see them flying and circling with nothing in their clutches. Diving down and coming up empty. What are we doing? We pride ourselves in saying that the sound is cleaner than ever before but we are killing our precious wildlife, potentially making LIS a body of water that is a desert. Unregulated Menhaden fishing MUST be stopped. Menhaden is a keystone species, whithout them we not only loose Ospreys but countless other species of fish, birds and wildlife will disappear. Let's do something Now before it is too late.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 6:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Linda Just
Email
ljustrn@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Please consider reducing the fishing cap on menhaden as proposed by the draft. I'm concerned that Osprey, which are dependent on menhaden are pushed to drastic losses and potential extinction. Breeding successes of Ospreys have been studied for several years and researches have found that the decrease in menhaden have caused drastic and widespread reproduction failures. The Osprey depend on the menhaden for survival for themselves and for their chicks. Researchers have studied Osprey pairs along the Patuxent and Potomac Rivers, and the decrease in menhaden have caused food shortages to adults and chicks that have succumbed to starvation. Chicks are dying after being hatched. Studies show that limited menhaden availability was a major factor in poor production. Osprey were once pushed toward extinction by the pesticide DDT due to eggshells becoming too thin for successful hatching. Conservation efforts and the elimination of DDT have caused Osprey to rebound, but this new threat of starvation from menhaden overfishing may once again push this symbol of the Chesapeake and Potomac towards extinction. Please don't let this happen by reducing the fishing cap to allow these birds to thrive once again. Thank you for your consideration. Linda Just, concerned citizen along the Chesapeake Colora, Md

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 5:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Lisa Mayo
Email
naturesweb@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
My name is Lisa Mayo and I am a Maryland resident who volunteers at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge where we have a sizable osprey population. I am concerned about the ospreys' ability to fish for menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay. We know scientists have already recorded how the declining menhaden population is having a negative impact on osprey breeding. The Bay is proudly known for having the largest breeding population of osprey in the world - how embarrassing it would be to lose that title because our fisheries managers failed us. Please protect the menhaden population for both the osprey and Marylanders.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 4:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Irene Guertin
Email
irene.guertin@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Controls on unregulated menhaden fishing are long overdue. I find it astonishing that a Canadian company can essentially vacuum menhaden— an essential fish in our ecosystem— with no limits or benefit to the US or regard for the consequences on wildlife. Most visibly, scientists and volunteers have documented a tragic collapse in the number of viable Osprey nests, but many other species are negatively affected. And an unhealthy and unbalanced ecosydtem is bad for our economy and recreational fishing. Do the right thing and implement controls on menhaden harvest before it's too late.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 2:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Karen Igou
Email
karenligou@gmail.com
State
Delaware
Comment
I am very much in support of lowering the caps for Menhaden fisheries. We are seeing in real time the disaster that this is creating for these ecosystems and the wildlife that depend on them for their survival. It is even more important knowing that the Menhaden are being overfished for corporate interests around supplements and dog food...certainly not things that are life threatening or worth devastating our natural world and the species on which it depends. If working class jobs are threatened by this, then we need to find sustainable alternatives to support those jobs rather than continue on the same path until those jobs disappear due to overfishing. We have to think of the next 7 generations with everything that we do. Our electeds and office holders should prioritize this more than anyone. Thank you for your consideration. Karen Igou New Castle, DE Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professionals CREWS, Level 1 certified

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 11:33 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Patricia Palmer
Email
pattimpalmer@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
I am an osprey steward for the Connecticut Audubon Society. I and other stewards observe osprey nests throughout the summer. I have firsthand knowledge that the Connecticut shoreline suffered an inordinate amount of failed nests and nestling mortalities this summer. We volunteers have observed chicks starving to death, being culled by their parents, and in many cases parents abandoning the nests due to lack of Atlantic menhaden, their primary food source. We have learned that the osprey crisis along the entire eastern seaboard is due to commercial overharvesting in the Chesapeake Bay. I, and other osprey stewards, implore the Commission to take steps to curtail these practices. Levels of human-caused osprey death have not been seen at these levels since the era before DDT was banned.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 10:40 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Elisa VanDevander
Email
eonthebay@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Moratorium or close to that. Leave menhaden for local fisherman.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 10:15 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Angie Harah
Email
angieharah@hotmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Please help the bay and all of its inhabitants recover and become a healthy place to live. Sustaining menhaden's population at 10% of their original population isn't sustainability

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 10:06 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Paul Forsberg

Email

CaaptPaul@GulfStarFishing.com

State

Florida

Comment

STOP VACUUMING UP THE FOUNDATION OF THE FOOD CHAIN

There comes a point when fisheries management needs to apply some common sense.

Menhaden are not simply another commercial fish to be harvested. They are part of the foundation of the marine food chain.

Striped bass eat them. Bluefish eat them. Cobia eat them. Red drum eat them. Marine mammals and seabirds depend upon forage fish.

And recreational fishermen depend upon the predators that depend upon menhaden.
Yet we continue allowing industrial-scale reduction vessels to remove enormous quantities of these forage fish from one of the most important estuaries and nursery grounds on the Atlantic Coast.

That needs to change.

I have spent more than 55 years in the fishing business. One lesson becomes painfully obvious after enough time on the water: You cannot continually remove the groceries from the pantry and then wonder why everything that eats those groceries is struggling.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is now considering reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by as much as 50%.

I strongly support the maximum reduction being considered — at an absolute minimum.

Frankly, I believe we need to have a much larger conversation about whether industrial reduction fishing belongs inside critical estuaries such as Chesapeake Bay at all.

This isn't about eliminating every commercial use of menhaden.

It is about recognizing the enormous difference between harvesting menhaden for bait and deploying industrial-scale purse-seine operations to capture entire schools for reduction into fish meal and oil.

LOOK AT THE ECONOMICS

According to the American Sportfishing Association, anglers used menhaden during an estimated 13.9 million fishing days in 2025, generating approximately $804 MILLION in spending and supporting more than 7,200 jobs.

That is economic value created because menhaden are part of a living recreational fishery.

But even those numbers don't tell the entire story.

What is a menhaden worth when a striped bass eats it?

What is it worth when that striped bass supports a charter boat, tackle shop, marina, hotel, restaurant, fuel dock and thousands of recreational fishermen?

What is a school of menhaden worth when cobia, bluefish, striped bass and other predators follow it?

A forage fish can generate economic value over and over again when it remains part of a healthy ecosystem.

Grind it into fish meal and that economic chain ends.

WE NEED TO STOP MANAGING SPECIES IN A VACUUM

For decades fisheries management has too often looked at individual stocks and asked:

"How many can we harvest?"

We need to start asking a different question:

"How many do we need to leave in the water?"

A forage species cannot be managed solely according to whether its own population can withstand fishing pressure.

Managers must consider the fish, birds and marine mammals that depend upon that forage.

Fortunately, ASMFC has begun moving toward ecosystem-based management through Ecological Reference Points.

Now we need management decisions with enough teeth to actually protect the ecosystem.

MY REQUEST IS SIMPLE

Adopt the strongest available reduction in the Chesapeake Bay industrial reduction-fishery cap.

Spread any remaining allowable harvest throughout the season so industrial vessels cannot concentrate enormous removals during critical periods.

Regularly reassess the cap using Chesapeake Bay-specific science.

And begin seriously evaluating whether industrial-scale reduction fishing should ultimately be removed from Chesapeake Bay altogether.

There are times when precaution is justified.

When we're talking about one of the most important forage species in one of America's most important estuaries, this is one of those times.

Menhaden aren't just another commodity.

They are FOOD.

Food for striped bass.

Food for cobia.

Food for bluefish.

Food for red drum.

Food for an entire ecosystem.

Before we spend billions trying to restore fisheries after they collapse, perhaps we should try something considerably cheaper:

LEAVE THEIR FOOD IN THE WATER.

Paul B. Forsberg
Fourth-Generation Fisherman
USCG Licensed Captain
57+ Years in the Fishing Industry

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 9:36 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Michael Goodrich-Stuart
Email
mgoodat@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support reducing the menhaden catch to protect other wildlife. I hope that can be accomplished while also safeguarding jobs for fishermen in Virginia, but understand it's a balancing act.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 8:11 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Chris McNelis
Email
chris.mcnelis@penfedrealty.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I am a lifelong Chesapeake Bay Area resident. Annapolis, Solomons Island. I am an avid boater and naturalist. The food source failures that have resulted from gross miscalculations of menhaden harvest are inexcusable and devastating. The over-harvesting is destructive to our Osprey population and other important species that exist in and along the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Baby birds are dying, if in fact they are even born. Osprey nests remain unused and full of weeds. It is shameful and a complete mismanagement of sourcing allotments. Stop this excess harvest of menhaden!!! STOP OMEGA PROTEIN FROM KILLING OUR BAY!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 9:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Emily Neubig
Email
eneubig@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
My name is Emily Neubig and I am a long-time and proud resident who is very concerned about Chesapeake Bay menhaden as well as the species and communities dependent on a healthy menhaden population like the gorgeous native osprey. The Chesapeake Bay is changing and showing increasing signs of stress—protecting menhaden is one of the few ways we can help this struggling estuary. I strongly urge you to significantly reduce the cap on menhaden fishing and consider other protections. Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 7:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Kyle Adams
Email
kyle@adamsperformancerva.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I fully support reducing the current menhaden quota by the proposed 50%. This is a good start but Cooke Inc aka Omega Protein should be pushed out of the Chesapeake Bay completely atleast 3 NM off the coast similar to every other state on the East Coast. They also should not be able to impede menhaden from entering the Chesapeake Bay. It also should be illegal to use spotter planes, drones, etc for the purpose of spotting menhaden. I hope you make the right decision to save this great natural resource before it's too late and has a lasting negative effect on the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 6:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Lorian Gallagher Blewitt
Email
bayblu@comcast.net
State
Virginia
Comment
July 2025 from The Mirror: The picture looks drastically different 100 miles south along the Chesapeake Bay, home to roughly 20% of the world's osprey population. In the lower Chesapeake, reproductive success has collapsed to just 10%, with only 17 successful nests among 167 monitored sites. Please protect the chesapeake Bay. It’s wildlife and beauty.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 4:37 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Robert Golembicki
Email
bob.golembicki@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I have seen fewer and fewer adult sized large schools of bunker in the Bay over the past many years, this year I've not seen a single school and I've been out on the bay waters since 1980. Omega should be completely restricted from harvesting the bay and at the entrance to the bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 4:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Ana Arguelles
Email
acarguelles@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I am a Virginia resident concerned about Chesapeake Bay menhaden as wells the species and communities dependent on a healthy menhaden population. As a birder, I'm very concerned about the Chesapeake Bay Osprey population which is in a serious decline. Mounting evidence points at the decline of menhaden in the Bay is affecting the Ospreys which can't enough food to feed their chicks. Virginia can't afford to do anything about this problem. The Ospreys are telling us that something is changing and it is not good. It isn't just Ospreys that will disappear along with menhaden. I strongly urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to approve conservation-minded reforms that better protect menhaden and support a healthy Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, including reducing the Bay cap by 50% in 2027 and implementing quota periods to more effectively distribute reduction fishing pressure throughout the season. Time to stop using fishing boats that vaccum menhaden out of the Bay. This is a shame for our state. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 4:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Molly Broderson
Email
mollybrodersoneds@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Please, oh please make the decision to limit fishing the menhaden in VA. I have kept personal notes on the osprey who nest on a pole we installed years ago. We live on Blackwater Creek, which feeds into Mobjack Bay. Initially, we simply enjoyed watching young ospreys learn to fly, to fish, and our nest was always inhabited. The last five or so years, we have had our osprey return but the nest wasn't viable. I was told by a VIMS watcher that our nest was the only viable nest within about 10 miles. I'm thrilled we have 2 chicks this year but I'm deeply worried about the future of osprey.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 3:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Dorothy Goldberg
Email
cantordorothyg@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
Osprey chicks are dying of starvation up and down the East Coast for lack of menhaden. This is their primary food and you are responsible for their survival! Don't let this be a die off like during DDT times.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 3:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Marita Patterson
Email
maritapatterson@yahoo.com
State
Virginia
Comment
What part of “menhaden are being overfished and this is affecting the entire Bay ecosystem” is unclear?

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 1:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Thomas Robinson
Email
arobin0511@gmail.com
State
South Carolina
Comment
I support up to a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods until the science can be collected and a Fact Based Management System is developed to manage the menhaden in the bay .

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 1:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Paul Minihan
Email
paulminihan@hotmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Ban omega proteins from the Bay the are destroying the food web

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 12:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Irving Pulling
Email
leepullingnnmg@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I have had a Osprey nest next to my pier on the Corrotoman River for over 15 years. My neighbor who lives a quarter mile away has a nest also. The Osprey have continued to come back every year. We have not had eggs or chicks in our nests the last 2 years. Basically, the menhaden are gone. Omega Protein needs to close their Reedville plant and the employees retire or find other employment. They are changing the food sources of the Bay Thanks for your attention to this matter. IL Pulling 175 Yankee Point Rd Lancaster Virginia 22503

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 12:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Roy Crocker
Email
roycrocker@live.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I'm local recreational fisherman since 2018 the bait balls are a rare thing to see and that is directly affected by Omega over fishing the bay and along the coast Please get them out of the bay before it's to late

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 12:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Bobby Lewis
Email
jblewisinc@yahoo.com
State
Virginia
Comment
My name is Bob Lewis, I am a decent of the Walter Hudgins clan.We have multiple generations of bay fisherman. We have witnessed the men Haden fleets raping the bay and river many times the fish don't have a chance. We think the men Haden are the life blood of the bay. I personally have watched the bay die a little more each year all for the profit of a wealthy company. STOP THE MADNESS put the brakes on now. RobertLewis

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 10:49 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
David Kinder
Email
davek673@yahoo.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
In Connecticut we back in the day you could walk across bunker now rare . We have sharks coming in close looking for food. Never had this before they are eating all out strippers . Please fix this Dave Kinder 48 Sea Spray ave Niantic CT 06357

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 10:08 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Michael Nishball
Email
michaeln.tp.us@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
I support a reduction in catch as outlined in DRAFT Addendum 2.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 7:41 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
George Lamb
Email
kins207@yahoo.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
I urge the commission to reduce the fishery cap by 50% to help ensure enough menhaden remain available for Ospreys and other wildlife. How would you like to have 50% of your food choices taken away from you?

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 12:10 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Brigitte Fox

Email

bfox15@cox.net

State

Virginia

Comment

Dear ASMFC,

I am not a biologist with a large marine research lab, but I have been fishing in the Chesapeake Bay for 50 years.
There was a time you could fill an entire cooler with fish in just 2 hours, now you go out into the York River and fish and fish and catch about three Spot in an entire afternoon.
Clearly there are fewer fish than in my youth.

50 years ago one could throw a cast net and bring it up full of Menhaden and the Menhaden themselves were fat.
Now you have to cast and cast and maybe catch 20 or 30 Menhaden / If you're lucky.

When I used to lifeguard at Yorktown Beach in 1980's the water was full of Jelly Fish. Now they are much less prominent.

All of the Aquatic Life in the YorkRiver has suffered.

How come Omega Protein can cast their nets and suck all of the Life out of the Bay.
The Fish in the Bay are really public property. Omega Protein does not own them and they are in effect stealing the Menhaden from our children and grandchildren.
The Menhaden are a key species which feeds every life-form in the Bay.

As I said: I don't have a marine research lab, but based on my own observations over decades there has been a change in the fish population in the York River/ Chesapeake Bay.

Reducing the catch Omega Protein is allowed by 50 % is in my opinion reasonable, and in fact perhaps the minimum that we should do. In all reality Omega Protein's operation should probably be shut down completely.
Their vessels suck all life out of the bay..... not just the Menhaden but everything that is feeding on the Menhaden too.

If we really wanted to make a big difference, then Omega Protein should not be allowed to operate at all.

Therefore I am strongly in favor of a 50% reduction in catch limits for the Menhaden.

They are important.
All the fish in the bay are on the decline.
Obviously the fish can't live if they have nothing to eat. I don't need any research to understand that. It's common sense.

Respectfully

Brigitte Fox
419 Maple Rd
Yorktown, VA 23690

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 7, 2026 10:03 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Pat Love
Email
backcreekchartersllc@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
As a light tackle cried on the Chesapeake Bay, I have witnessed firsthand the difficulty that striped bass are having particularly juveniles in coming to majority. I recently took a 70 mile ride from Solomons down to the cut channel, once in Virginia Waters I saw hardly any birds, hardly any bait and, you guessed it, the big boats taking Manhattan out of the water. Manhattan harvest should be reduced by 50% until the time at which we have enough studies to determine how much forage our predator fish need and learn how to measure it appropriately.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 7, 2026 7:23 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
David Whalen
Email
dwhalen@cox.net
State
Connecticut
Comment
Reduce reduce commercial Manhattan fishing Harvest by 50% Please

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 7, 2026 5:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Robert Roth
Email
rothnml@aol.com
State
Virginia
Comment
How can it make any sense to allow the harvesting of a food source that sustains all the other life of the Chesapeake Bay? The Rockfish in the bay have largely disappeared. osprey repriduction is rapidly declining. This is not difficult: a moratorium on the Manhaden harvest should be implemented for a minimum of two years to allow the bay to recover. The economic impact of destroying the bays ecosystems is a lot more valuable than the money from the harvest.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 7, 2026 12:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Dianne Traphagen
Email
diannetraphagen@yahoo.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
Saving b Ospreys who depend on Menhaden is extremely important including the fish and the Osprey

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 7, 2026 11:09 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Amy Fraenkel
Email
fraenkelamy@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I am a resident of Maryland with property in Calvert and Montgomery Counties, and a lawyer (Harvard Law, 1990). I have worked on fisheries management, endangered/threatened species conservation and ocean and coastal management and law for over 30 years, including for the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee. I am deeply concerned that the current fishing limits on Menhaden are insufficient to 1) ensure long-term viability for the fishery, and 2) to ensure the survival of the iconic Chesapeake Bay bird species, the Osprey. The evidence from both scientific surveys and sightings by residents and bird observers indicates that the Osprey reproductive success rate has significant worsened, with chicks starving - tied to lack of Menhaden. Therefore, I urge the Board to take immediate action to reduce fishing pressure on Menhaden, to allow their recovery and to support the wild species that rely on them for their survival. With thanks for your consideration, Amy A. Fraenkel, Esq.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 7, 2026 10:30 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Robley Jones
Email
robleyj@aol.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Board Members: I am a lifetime resident of Virginia, a sport fisherman, and, perhaps, most importantly a grandfather. I want my grandchildren to enjoy the wonders of Virginia's waters as I have. I am most alarmed by the decline in striped bass and osprey populations. It seems the brown pelican population is declining as well. I strongly believe that the overfishing of menhaden is a contributing factor. I support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods. Thank you for considering my input, Robley Shelton Jones

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 7, 2026 9:57 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Norman Sandbach
Email
npsandbach@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I think menhaden netting should not be allowed in the the bay period. They can fish in the ocean and leave the bay alone. I have been fishing in the bay when omega boats have shown up. After they are done netting there are no fish of any kind left in that area. I have also noticed that the osprey population has been dwindling the last several years and so has fishing in the Rappahannock river. I also don't understand why omega is allowed to fish in the Rappahannock river east of the route 3 bridge. The over fishing by omega may result in the same outcome of the Pacific sardine fishery.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 7, 2026 9:36 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Judith Adams
Email
jadams7831@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
We support the 50 per cent reduction of Menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake. Judith and James Adams

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 7, 2026 9:02 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Lowell Jacoby
Email
Jacobyle@aol.com
State
Virginia
Comment
We own a home on Prentice Creek near Kilmarnock VA and in close proximity to Reedville. While understanding the importance of the Menhaden reduction facility to Reedville, it in no way is commensurate to the disaster being caused to the Bay ecology by over-fishing of the Menhaden which is a foundational component to Osprey, Rockfish and other species. It is imperative that the guidelines proposed by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation based upon the William and Mary study be adopted immediately. In the battle between the vitality of the Bay and special interest groups the answer is a no-brainer. Support and vote to support the Menhaden and the vitality of this irreplaceable resource.....a vibrant Bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 7, 2026 7:01 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Raymond Powell
Email
raymondpowelljr@hotmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
While fishing in the Chesapeake Bay near Cape Charles, Virginia over the past few years, sometimes in water as shallow as 20 feet, on numerous occasions I have been forced to move my small center console out of the way as Omega ships blast 4 warning horn signals for me to get out of the way as they trawl for menhaden very close to shore. They are overfishing the bay by exceeding their quotas each year and paying paltry fines while greasing the palms of lobyists. As a result the commercial and recreational fishing industry both have suffered in the bay. Please, once and for all, let's keep the pressure on and find a way eventually to ban Omega from fishing in the bay whatsoever so that Virginia is in accordance with every other state on the east cost in this regard. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 7, 2026 1:20 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Frederick Menage
Email
fmenage@verizon.net
State
Virginia
Comment
SAVE THE CHESAPEAKE BAY! Stop the menhaden netting and let Mother Nature's filter feeders help to clean up the water by straining plankton and converting the sun's energy into fat and protein to feed predators up and down the bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 6, 2026 3:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Brandon Cleary
Email
brandoncleary091@gmail.com
State
North Carolina
Comment
Stop the harvest of menhaden by omega boats!!! It's killing the fishery!!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 6, 2026 1:03 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Jeffrey Cotton
Email
bluemoonartisansllc@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
As an Osprey Steward for the past 11 years, to observe what has happened to our osprey population over the last 2 years in particular is horrifying. The nesting osprey on our property, as well as all of our local nests, have suffered tremendously due to the lack of menhaden. Not only have 90% of the babies died but we have no idea how the adults have fared as most of them disappeared after their babies died. The solution has to lie in restricting the harvest limits of menhaden. This doesn't require a genius to figure out! Just do it now please.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 6, 2026 12:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Ed Lewandoski
Email
lewandoski@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I strongly support a substantial reduction in the industrial harvest of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay, including the maximum 50% reduction currently under consideration. Menhaden are not simply another commercial species—they are one of the most important forage fish in the Chesapeake Bay and along the Atlantic coast. Striped bass, bluefish, weakfish and many other predators depend heavily on these fish as a food source. Removing enormous quantities of menhaden for reduction into fish meal and oil takes forage directly out of an ecosystem that is already struggling to support its predator populations. Even if the coastwide menhaden stock is not officially classified as overfished, that does not mean localized depletion within the Chesapeake Bay is not a serious problem. We need to manage menhaden for their value to the entire ecosystem, not simply for the amount that can be commercially harvested. A healthy abundance of menhaden benefits recreational fishing, commercial fishing, birds, marine wildlife and the overall health of the Chesapeake Bay. Please significantly reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction harvest and leave more menhaden in the water where they provide far greater value to the Bay and everyone who depends upon it.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 6, 2026 11:12 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Claudio Ripoll
Email
permit99@aol.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Please save our menhaden, our strip bass

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 6, 2026 10:38 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Lance Farina
Email
craftsmanbuildingco@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Stop destroying our country and our resources for greed and poor management. Lobbying shouldn't be legal in the face of complete menhaden biomass annihilation. Look at Atlantic cod. Your corruption and inaction is utterly disgusting.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 6, 2026 10:31 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
David Kozak
Email
davidmkozak@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
Dear Sir or Madam: I submit these comments as a supporter of efforts to sustain and expand healthy osprey populations, and as a member of Connecticut Audubon Society. Connecticut Audubon Society surveys have documented reduced breeding success for osprey nests monitored by the Society's Osprey Nation program, in which I have participated. Specifically, those surveys show 1 in 6 osprey nests failed in 2025, and 1 in 4 nests have failed in 2026. Ospreys feed almost exclusively on fish. The decline in osprey reproduction rates serves as a warning about the health of Atlantic waters and the abundance of prey species, such as Atlantic menhaden. Accordingly, I urge the ASMFC to reduce the menhaden fishing cap by 50% to provide for sufficient menhaden to support a healthy osprey population, and to create quota periods to allocate permitted harvest more evenly throughout the fishing season. I believe that public policy in this area must be sensitive to the decline of bird and animal populations as indicators of potentially more widespread environmental harm. I commend the ASMFC for its attention to these issues. Respectfully submitted, David M. Kozak

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 6, 2026 10:03 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Kathleen DeMeo
Email
kathleen.demeo@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
I have been involved with CT Audubon's Osprey Nation project for the past nine years as a steward of several osprey nests in the town of Old Lyme. I've observed and reported each year, and up until 2026, had only one unsuccessful nest. This year I've noticed a dramatic difference. Not only did the two nestlings in the nest closest to my home not survive, I believe due to lack of food, additionally the skies are quiet. Where in past years, dozens of ospreys circled overhead all summer long, I now see very few. Other stewards I'm sure have reported the tragic conditions at Great Island in Old Lyme, where only 7 nests among dozens successfully fledged chicks. All evidence points to a lack of menhaden, which was once plentiful along the CT shore. I strongly urge those responsible to reduce the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery cap by 50% or more to help replenish the fish population, and hopefully keep osprey from once again becoming endangered. People have worked hard to help the osprey rebound from near extinction due to DDT. Let's not let these beautiful birds suffer that fate again. Thank you.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 6, 2026 9:33 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
William D Renninger Jr
Email
interarms@pa.net
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
please stop this

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 6, 2026 8:57 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Michelle Dadisman
Email
chelinko@yahoo.com
State
Delaware
Comment
I have fished off the coast of Delmarva for the last 15 years. Since Omega has been commercial fishing menhaden I have noticed less osprey and their chicks. I don't see as many pods of dolphins near shore. Mahi mahi are peanuts instead of bailers and gaffers. Tuna is never great by mid summer, but now there is almost none. You can't keep taking the food source for all these organisms and not have an impact. They are allowed to chase menhaden with planes and multiple boats to take all the schools of menhaden. Why are we allowing Omega to destroy a vital link in the food chain? They literally go up and down Delmarva and NJ as a massive commercial monster taking all the food for the rest of the animals food. This puts unnecessary pressure and stain on other food sources and wrecks the ecosystem.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 6, 2026 8:26 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Gary Sivertson
Email
sivertsongt@yahoo.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Please stop Omega from stripping all the menhaden from the Chesapeake Bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 6, 2026 8:21 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Nathan Khol
Email
nathankhol@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
How long do we have to watch our fish numbers decline in the bay? There used to be hundred of striper in schools next to the CBBT islands…now a handful. There used to be thousands of cobia on the CBBT before their migration and now they are sporadic and scattered. Why does a Canadian company have the right to cause such destruction in the Chesapeake Bay? Yes it makes a difference and I have personally felt the downstream effects of this destruction.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 6, 2026 8:13 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Kate Fisher
Email
klamf2019@gmail.com
State
Rhode Island
Comment
Please stop the overfishing of the Menhaden- It is creating a big disruption in the overall food chain, not just for the Osprey but for many other species as well. This will have consequences beyond our expectations, especially for the next generation!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 6, 2026 8:03 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Chris Shater
Email
cshater@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Please cut the cap for the Chesapeake bay. I have lived in the bay for 15 years. We don't have osprey in our creeks any longer that is a fact. I don't see birds of any sort on the bay any longer. I don't fish bay anymore as it seems to be a dead zone regarding all the fish we used to take for granted. please help and do what is needed.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 6, 2026 8:03 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Jeffrey Kent
Email
jeffreymkent@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support and dream of the 50% menhaden cut. Omega has been robbing our bay of the vital fish for too long.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2026 9:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Chris Rogers
Email
redrogers1971@icloud.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I like to fish for Striped bass in the fall and back in 2011 stipers were so abundant I could feed my family a striper dinner once a week throughout striper season. when they opened that fertilizer plant on the Eastern shore, the bite started going down now today 15 years later you can't catch any Schoolies or anything. they are clearly over Fishing the menhaden and it has to stop! it will already take at least 10 years to recover from the damage they have already done. I have seen their trawlers in the bay where I thought they were supposed to stay in the ocean. They do what they want, and it has to stop! Somebody please help! Thank you

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2026 9:22 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Stewart Bunn
Email
gsbbuy@yahoo.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Please reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by up to 50% and create quota periods to distribute harvest under the cap more evenly throughout the fishing season

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2026 8:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Laurette Saller
Email
laurettesaller@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
Waterford nest #6, cranberry pond. As an Osprey nest monitor for 10 plus years, my nesting ospreys would have one or two successful fledglings . Sadly , during the last 3 years (2023-2026) the ospreys on yhis nest have failed to reproduce. It appeared to be a lack of food because the female would sit on the nest calling for long periods without the male bringing food. I live next to this nest so my observations were daily and lengthy.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2026 7:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Laura Hoye
Email
lghoye@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support reducing commercial menhaden fishing as much as possible. I have seen a notable reduction in successful osprey nests along the Chesapeake Bay. Commercial menhaden fishing does nothing to help the local community or ecosystem. Help protect the Chesapeake for the locals - the wildlife in and around the Bay and the people who enjoy living, working, and playing on the Bay.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2026 5:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Douglas B
Email
dburdett2121@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
Such an unbelievably logical thing to do - more menhaden means layers and layers of the necessary bio-diverse system health..

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2026 5:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Judith Proctor
Email
jcproctor@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
My husband and I have been monitoring the osprey nest at the channel marker to Southport, CT harbor. Initially, we saw two chicks, but sadly only one has survived to fledge. Please reduce the amount of menhaden fisherman are allowed to catch. More fish matters to the osprey and the other seabirds as well as the fish we see in Long Island Sound. Best, Judy & Ched Proctor

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2026 4:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Thomas McGlinchey
Email
tom0153@hotmail.com
State
New York
Comment
As a conservation minded Newyorker, I support enhanced regulation that would protect and increase the bunker population available to the entire food chain by taking steps to limit the overfishing practices of the commercial industry by removing it in numbers thatdeplete the fish, at times of the year and in places where they must be found in sufficient numbers and limit the fishery for bunker that removes them from the food chain as needed.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2026 2:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Marcia Wilcox
Email
mhwilcox@icloud.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
Please protect the menhaden from further depletion from overfishing which would be followed by the extinction of all the ospreys who depend on them as their food source. I am the steward of 2 nests, each of which has failed to hatch chicks two years in a row.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2026 1:59 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Ben Wiedemer
Email
benwiedemer@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Far more people/business depend on the menhaden thriving in the bay than benefit from extraction. All commercial and recreational anglers and the businesses that support them will collapse with continued extraction of menhaden. Here is a list of business that depend on menhaden: Boat builders Boat/engine maintenance Fishing guides Eco tour guides Home rentals that cater to anglers Bait and tackle Restaurants that serve Virginia seafood And many more

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2026 12:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Gary Kimball
Email
kimball.gary@aol.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Please reduce the number of menhaden caught in the bay by the recommended 50% and further reduce the amount of fish caught at any one time! Thanks Gary

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2026 11:29 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sierra Farris

Email

sierrafarris@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

RE: Public Comment in Strong Support of Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 to the Atlantic Menhaden Interstate Fishery Management Plan

Dear Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board:

As a concerned coastal resident of Essex, Connecticut, living along the Connecticut River and the Long Island Sound watershed, I am writing to express my strong support for Draft Addendum II. I urge the Board to adopt the most protective options available: a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap and the strict implementation of seasonal quota periods.

While the reduction fishery operates primarily in Virginia waters, the health of the Chesapeake Bay directly impacts our entire Atlantic coastal ecosystem. Atlantic menhaden are migratory fish. The localized depletion caused by industrial-scale purse-seine netting in their primary nursery waters directly starves the wildlife that balances our local ecosystem here in New England.

In Essex, our identity is deeply intertwined with our coastal environment. Over recent years, residents like myself have watched with growing alarm as our local osprey populations struggle. The sight of these magnificent birds of prey returning to empty nests or failing to successfully fledge chicks due to a lack of available forage fish is heartbreaking and ecologically unacceptable. Multiple scientific and field observations have linked failing osprey nesting success directly to menhaden scarcity.

To address these critical ecosystem failures, I urge the Board to implement the following measures:

1. Adopt a 50% Reduction to the Chesapeake Bay Cap: Lowering the cap from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons is a necessary, precautionary boundary. It reigns in concentrated industrial extraction in vital nursery waters, leaving more forage fish in the water to support struggling predators up and down the coast.
2. Implement Seasonal Quota Periods: Spreading the allowable harvest across distinct periods stops industrial fleets from exhausting the annual cap during a few intense summer weeks. This gives menhaden schools the time and space to migrate safely out of the Bay and travel northward up the Atlantic coast.
3. Maintain Strong Coastwide Linkages: The Chesapeake Bay cap must dynamically shrink whenever the coastwide Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is reduced. This ensures industrial pressure does not intensify inside the Bay when ocean-facing quotas

are tightened.

Ecological failure is a devastating consequence of reactive management. We all should take responsibility when our action impact species that suffer at the cost of just trying to survive. The ASMFC has a commitment and responsibility to ecological management and to steward proactive practices that preserve ecological systems. Please prioritize the long-term health of our shared Atlantic ecosystem, our coastal communities, and iconic species like the osprey over short-term commercial extraction. Thank you for your time and your dedication to protecting our public marine resources.

Sincerely,

Sierra Farris
Essex, Connecticut Resident

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2026 11:06 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Bob Mandigo
Email
mandigor@hotmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount Option C1.e: 50% reduction to 2026 Bay Cap: 2026 TAC 3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution 3.2.1. Quota Periods: Option B1: Even Length & Even Harvest 3.2.2 Quota Period Overages and Underages Option B. Quota period overage payback with rollover of unused quota within a fishing year 3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision Option B. Revisit Provision. Since empirical data on the ecological impact of the menhaden reduction industry's harvest of these fish does not exist, we must rely on anecdotal observations. The general decline of significant menhaden predator fishes and the declining harvest of the menhaden bait industry in the Chesapeake Bay indicate a need for reducing the Bay Cap and then allocating that over the year using three harvest periods. ASMFC should also revisit the Bay Cap every three years. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2026 10:46 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Laura Tillman
Email
lauramiles.tillman@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
From my home near Ingram Bay in the NNK of VA I have seen zero osprey this year and only one pair last year who abandoned their nest early in the summer before attempting to raise a chick. Two summers ago a pair tried and failed to raise a chick there. I have boated all over Cranes Creek and the Great Wicomico and nest boxes that used to be full are unoccupied. The skies are silent. The osprey are unable to catch enough food to survive here. This sad trend has been playing out for the past several years and is obvious to anyone who pays attention to the Bay. Menhaden are a shared biological resource and Omega is taking way more than their fair share. Wake up ASMFC!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2026 10:37 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Randal Schoepp
Email
schoepphome@verizon.net
State
Maryland
Comment
Menhaden is the foundation for many of the species of birds, mammals, and fish in the Chesapeake Bay. While worldwide the menhaden are not endangered, they are in the Bay. The highly efficient commercial harvesters are reducing the population which in turn is negatively affecting other organisms that depend on them. Reduce the allowable catch to permit the population to rebound before it is too late and the ecosystem collapses.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2026 8:38 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Shane Oflynn
Email
oflynnsd10@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I think the entire bay should be a protected fishery with no industrial bunker fishing.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2026 8:31 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
michelle rines
Email
rinesclan@mac.com
State
Maine
Comment
Hello, I am from coastal Maine and are lucky enough to see osprey, both flying and in their numerous nests, on a daily basis. I was distressed to read about the overfishing of menhaden in Chesapeake Bay by the Canadian company Omega Protein, and the resulting loss of food for osprey. The numbers of decline are alarming, and cause for prompt action now. I am advocating for a decision to limit the numbers of menhaden that can be taken so that nature can be in balance again and osprey can continue to thrive. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue .

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2026 8:24 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Robert Bokulic
Email
bcomp5@comcast.net
State
Maryland
Comment
I support the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II. It is a much-needed measure at this point!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: John Glanton <johnglanton1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 1:41 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom it may concern.

As an avid striped bass fisherman for many years, I have noticed the absence of small fish—their numbers seem to decrease each year.
All signs point to an overharvesting of menhaden, which, has become so blatant, it is disgusting.

I urge the commission to cut the menhaden harvest drastically. It is the only hope to sustain the fishery.

John
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: Sue Youngs <sue.pronto@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 1:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

For four years I have been an observer of osprey behavior at Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center in Grasonville, MD.

Under the direction of Dr. Judy Wink, director emeritus at CBEC, myself and other volunteers learned about osprey behaviors including arrival/claiming a platform; courtship/mating/nest building through egg production, hatching, fledging and departure. The information was reviewed and discussed every year just before osprey were expected to arrive. We had schedules to follow including reports sent to the College of William and Mary, all under the guidance of Dr. Wink.

For the last two years the nest I monitored along with other volunteers had osprey appear interested in the site but nothing came to fruition. The nest building was minimal in 2025 and practically none this year, 2026. In fact, there were no nests producing osprey young at CBEC in 2026.

This is tragic! The osprey cannot produce young when there is not enough food - predominantly menhaden - for adults much less the nutrition it takes to produce young. The exploitation of menhaden must stop immediately. The longer we wait to do something about this situation, the worse it is especially for osprey. Do not let this important, majestic and iconic bird be driven to starvation. Strict and immediate laws and regulations must be implemented to protect menhaden and hence ospreys.

Thank you.

Susan Youngs

--
Susan Youngs
847 Holly Drive South
Annapolis, MD 21409-5555
sue.pronto@gmail.com
410-980-1447 - cell

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James Boyle

From: Cairns, Mary Ellen <MCairns@selectmedical.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 1:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] ospreys

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I own a property at the Jersey Shore, and have always enjoyed watching the ospreys fish in the ocean, off of our beach.
This summer, we thought there were less ospreys than usual. We also saw many more unsuccessful attempts at fishing.
I have read that the osprey have had the worst breeding season in more than three decades, and that the osprey reproduction rates fell by more than half statewide, due primarily to the overfishing of menhaden. I am alarmed by the plummeting coastal osprey population, and urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to drastically reduce the allowable menhaden harvest.
Thank you for your time.
Sincerely ,
Mary Ellen Cairns,
201-956-3085

Note: The information contained in this message may be privileged and confidential and protected from disclosure. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or an employee or agent responsible for delivering this message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by replying to the message and deleting it from your computer. Thank you.

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James Boyle

From: David Scanlon <davescanlon18@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 12:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Data shows the TAC (total allowable catch) has been cut and cut and cut. Yet the osprey and recreational fishing industry continues to claim the bay is getting worse and worse and worse for Rockfish and Osprey. Where is the correlation between cutting the TAC and improving the ecosystems for Rockfish and Osprey. Clearly, there is no correlation.

However, there is a correlation between the migration of people from Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Northern Virginia into the Bay area and the decline of Rockfish and Osprey. In addition, there is data to verify that when people move to an area they destroy the habitats of other species and misuse natural resources. Three examples,

1. When Ranchers moved into the western states, they annihilated the wolf and started a chain reaction for that ecosystem.
2. When the two coasts were connected via the railroad, the buffalo was almost brought to the point of extinction.
3. The abuse of water in the west, particularly around Las Vegas (Lake Mead) is being drained to critical levels.

The destruction of habitats by humans is nothing new, but it is new to the Bay.

A primary invisible killer growing in the Bay? Algae
1. People migrate to the water and plant lawns that require phosphate and nitrogen. Food for algae.
2. Septic fields (hundreds maybe thousands) leach BOD into the rivers and creeks. Again food for the Bay.
Other habitat killers…
Grasses needed to hide fingerlings are replaced with rip wrap to stop the erosion caused by the cutting down of shoreline trees. Trees removed to provide that all important "view of the water."

The list could be much longer, but I believe the point has been made. Humans are the root cause for the pressures on Rockfish and Osprey.

If the migration and human demands on the Bay are not stopped. We will shortly start to see **ALGAE BLOOMS**. The Bay is following the same path as the Great Lakes. Search the web for images of algae blooms on the Great Lakes.

This emotional craze about fishing Menhaden has to stop. And ASFMC has to have the courage to tell the facts. There needs to be a refocus on this migration and direct help for Rockfish.

Solutions

1. Immediately, implement a moratorium on fishing Rockfish in the Bay. This was done around 1980 and was very successful. It took about five years to re-establish a healthy Rockfish population. A PROVEN SOLUTION. I would consider making it permanent. There are plenty of Rockfish in the ocean.

2. Legislate and stop the migration.

3. New State and Federal tax laws to provide a revenue stream to poor counties surrounding the Bay. Currently, their prime revenue stream for these counties is selling land for development - this only perpetuates the problem.

4. Eliminate issuing small boat "non residential charter captain" licenses. The increase in licenses, since 2000, validates the influx of pressure on the Bay. Plus, it is another reason why large boat charter captains are being put out of business.

Leave the Bay TAC at 51,000 metric tons.

Thank you,

Dave Scanlon

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James Boyle

From: Robert Geisler <reg9847@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 12:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Decline of Ospreys

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Sent from my iPhone. Stop the over harvest of Menhaden. We can live without chum and Menhaden oil but we need our coastal environment.E.G. Menhaden chum and oil is sold in south Florida where the fish are not normally found. Robert Geisler Manasquan, N.J.
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James Boyle

From: Dave Magno <Dave.Magno@rve.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 12:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am concerned about the overfishing of menhaden.

A lower limit must be put on the catch.

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James Boyle

From: DEBORAH ENDRESEN <debendresen@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 12:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Ospreys

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Good day. Please enforce tighter limits on menhaden fishing to secure the future of ospreys. The state also needs to relist the species to allow for a comeback. We watched many osprey this season from our boat docked on the Hudson in Piermont, the most we've ever seen. Based on the abundance of sightings, I was surprised to learn that the hawks were endangered in the Atlantic & Chesapeake Bay.
Thank you for protecting these magnificent birds, Deborah Endresen
80 Rivervale Road
River Vale, NJ 07675

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James Boyle

From: linda aldridge <ouwoman@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 11:55 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC)

We have owned waterfront property in Saint Mary's County, Maryland, since 1998. We have enjoyed watching the ospreys nest next to our dock all these years until 2020. We typically had a nesting pair return every year producing 2 or 3 chicks. It was so much fun watching them learn to fly from the nest to the pilings on our dock, where they sat gathering the courage to fly back. After 2020 the ospreys returned, but no chicks were produced. We kept wondering why. In the summer we buy menhaden for crab bait. In the last few years the average size of the menhaden has gone from 8”-12” to only 4”-6” long. We recently connected the size/loss of menhaden to the lack of osprey propagation.

I strongly support a 50 percent reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons annually. I also strongly support establishing seasonal quota periods for menhaden so that harvest is distributed throughout the year rather than concentrated in an intense summer fishing window.

The Chesapeake Bay is facing an ecological crisis that should not be minimized or postponed. Declining productivity, widespread osprey nest failures, and continued concerns about the condition of the striped bass population are warning signs that demand a precautionary approach to the management of one of the Bay's most important forage fish - menhaden.

Menhaden are not merely another commercial commodity. They are a foundational component of the Chesapeake Bay food web. They provide critical forage for striped bass, osprey, bluefish, weakfish, dolphins, and numerous other predators. Removing very large quantities of menhaden from the Bay during the period when they are most concentrated and most biologically important deserves particularly careful scrutiny.

The scale and timing of the reduction fishery are especially troubling. More than 100 million pounds of menhaden can be removed under the existing Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap. When that harvest is concentrated into a relatively short summer period, the ecological effect is not simply a matter of the annual tonnage. Where and when the fish are removed matters.

An intense summer harvest can create localized depletion at precisely the time when menhaden are serving as forage for other species. It also potentially deprives recreational anglers, commercial watermen, charter operators, and the broader coastal tourism economy of access to a shared public resource. These competing interests deserve meaningful consideration in the management process.

I am particularly concerned about allowing an annual quota to be treated as though the timing of harvest is irrelevant. It is not. A fish removed from the Bay in June is not ecologically equivalent to that same fish being harvested months later. The Bay's predators have seasonal feeding requirements, and the availability of forage during critical periods can matter greatly to their survival and reproductive success.

For that reason, I urge the Commission to establish strict seasonal quota periods that distribute the allowable harvest more evenly throughout the year and prevent the reduction fishery from concentrating an extraordinary volume of harvest into the summer months. Seasonal management would provide a more precautionary approach and would better recognize the fact that Chesapeake Bay is a dynamic ecosystem rather than simply another geographic allocation within a coastwide fishery.

There is also an important management issue that deserves attention. The Commission's coastwide menhaden assessment does not provide the same level of quantitative information about menhaden abundance and availability specifically within Chesapeake Bay. That uncertainty argues for caution—not for assuming that the Bay can safely sustain the maximum allowable harvest.

The Chesapeake Bay belongs to all of us. It belongs to the watermen who have made their living here, the recreational fishermen who pursue its species, the sailors and boaters who enjoy its waters, the communities whose economies depend upon it, and the wildlife that has no voice in these proceedings. Menhaden management should reflect that broader public interest.

I respectfully urge the Commission to:

1. Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons per year.

2. Establish firm seasonal quota periods for menhaden.

3. **Prevent excessive concentration of reduction harvest during the summer months.

4. Apply a precautionary approach in light of ecological uncertainty and the importance of menhaden as forage.

5. Give meaningful consideration to the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the Bay's broader tourism economy.

I have spent years watching, enjoying, and caring about the Chesapeake Bay. I have seen firsthand what makes this ecosystem extraordinary, and I am increasingly concerned about the signs that its productivity and resilience are being strained.

We should not wait until the consequences are unmistakable before acting.

The prudent course is to reduce the intensity of the reduction fishery now, protect menhaden as a critical forage resource, and distribute harvest in a manner that gives the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem a better opportunity to sustain the wildlife and fisheries that depend upon it.

Thank you for your consideration and for your responsibility to future generations of Chesapeake.

Sincerely,

Mike and Linda Aldridge

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James Boyle

From: Terry Curran <tcurran0922@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 11:42 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden conservation management

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

I am writing to express my serious concern about the dramatic decline in coastal osprey populations and to urge the Commission to take stronger action to protect Atlantic menhaden.

Menhaden are not simply another commercial fishery. They are a critical forage species that supports ospreys and many other predators throughout the Atlantic coastal ecosystem. When menhaden become scarce in areas where ospreys feed, the consequences can extend throughout the food web and can be particularly damaging during the nesting season, when adult birds must find sufficient food for their young.

The continued decline of coastal ospreys should be treated as an important warning sign. Fisheries management should account not only for the sustainability of the harvested species itself, but also for the needs of the wildlife and ecosystems that depend upon it.

I strongly urge the ASMFC to substantially reduce the allowable menhaden harvest, particularly in ecologically sensitive coastal areas, and adopt management policies that explicitly account for the forage needs of ospreys and other predators.

We should not wait until these populations reach a crisis point before taking meaningful action. A healthy menhaden population is essential to a healthy Atlantic coastal ecosystem.

Thank you for considering these concerns and for your stewardship of our marine resources.

Sincerely,

Terrence Curran
Cranford, NJ

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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James Boyle

From: tscharnerwatkins@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 11:03 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Stop the Menhaden travesty !!

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Man overfished whales to almost extinction, mostly for lamp oil ! Hard to believe. Life has a way of repeating itself and it's menhaden now. I'm a third gen Virginian who loves fishing on the Bay or did love fishing on the Bay. I and many other non politicians have noticed the decline of all game fish.
Its past time to act. PASS this legislation!

T.D.Watkins III
3907 West Franklin Street
Richmond, Va. 23221

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James Boyle

From: James Boyle
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 10:47 AM
To: Mark Taylor; Comments
Cc: mikie@mikiesherrill.com; Joe Cimino; Potosnak Ed [DEP]; Gajda Henry [DEP]; Golden David [DEP]; Adam S. Nowalsky; Sen. Vin Gopal; Bob Beal
Subject: RE: [External] Jersey Coast Anglers Association Comments - Comments for Chesapeake Bay Atlantic Menhaden Comment on Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Thank you for providing input on the Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. Your comments will be shared with the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board for consideration at its next Board meeting in November. Upon considering public input, the Board will select final management measures and consider final approval on Addendum II.

Best,
James

James Boyle (he/him) | FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201
Phone: 703.842.0715 | Fax: 703.842.0741
jboyle@asmfc.org | www.asmfc.org

From: Mark Taylor <mtsport64@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 10:44 AM
To: Comments <comments@asmfc.org>; James Boyle <JBoyle@ASMFC.org>
Cc: mikie@mikiesherrill.com; Joe Cimino <joseph.cimino@dep.nj.gov>; Potosnak Ed [DEP] <ed.potosnak@dep.nj.gov>; Gajda Henry [DEP] <henry.gajda@dep.nj.gov>; Golden David [DEP] <dave.golden@dep.nj.gov>; Adam S. Nowalsky <captadamnj@gmail.com>; Sen. Vin Gopal <sengopal@njleg.org>; Bob Beal <RBeal@ASMFC.org>
Subject: [External] Jersey Coast Anglers Association Comments - Comments for Chesapeake Bay Atlantic Menhaden Comment on Draft Addendum II

Dear Mr. Boyle,

On behalf of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association and our 35 member clubs representing more than 5,000 New Jersey anglers, we support meaningful changes to the Atlantic menhaden Bay Cap outlined in Draft Addendum II.

JCAA Official Comment Letter is attached.

Please take the time to read the letter carefully and understand the critical importance of Atlantic menhaden to our coastal ecosystem, recreational fisheries, wildlife, and the economic health of our coastal communities.

The need to protect this essential forage fish is urgent. The decisions being made now will have long-term consequences, and we must act before it is too late.

Respectfully,
Mark A. Taylor
President, JCAA

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James Boyle

From: Andrew Hinz <kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 10:40 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II, Protect Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC),

The Chesapeake Bay osprey population is experiencing an unprecedented reproductive crisis driven by severe food stress, with population sustainability falling below the historic lows seen during the DDT era of the 1960s and 1970s. Researchers are finding an increasingly alarming number of starving chicks unable to survive their first few weeks, and nutritional deprivation is so severe that a substantial portion of female ospreys are failing to lay eggs entirely. In fact, in some areas 74 percent of the pairs nesting failed to produce any young. Current reproduction rates have plummeted far below levels to sustain osprey with an expected decline of 14% of the osprey population annually.
I support the long overdue restrictions on menhaden proposed in Addendum II of Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. I specifically support the following proposed limits and would further support a complete menhaden fishing moratorium should that be considered:

- 3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount: Support option C1e that would Reduce the Bay Cap by 50 percent and limit it to 13.6 percent of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC) and also support option C2a which sets an upper limit of 51,000mt for the Bay Cap, which is the current level.
- 3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution: Support option B2 which establishes three even length quota periods for the Bay Cap, but distributes harvest 25 percent in period 1, 25 percent in period 2, and 50 percent into period 3. We support option B which establishes quota period overage payback and rollover of unused quota within a fishing year.
- 3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision: Support option B Revisit Provision to reassess the efficacy of these new management tools every 3 years.
We have waited far too long to act to protect menhaden which are critical to ospreys and many other species of Chesapeake Bay wildlife.

Sincerely,

Andrew Hinz
1427 Park Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21217
ahinz61@outlook.com
(443) 617-4079

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James Boyle

From: Paul Archibald <paularchibald8@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 10:27 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I support the following selected alternatives for the Chesapeake Bay Cap, as ecologically and socioeconomically appropriate, to inform effective management actions, reduce the risk of overfishing, and promote resilient futures for the resource and its communities.

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Amount
: Sub Option B4 – a 50% reduction in the current Bay Cap, resulting in a Bay Cap of 25,500 mt.

3.2.1. Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period
: Option B1 – Even Length & Even Harvest.

3.2.2 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period Overages and Underages
: Underage Sub Option 1 – an underage in Quota Period 1 would be split evenly and rolled over to Quota Periods 2 and 3.

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision
: Option B – The Chesapeake Bay Cap will be reviewed at least once every three years.

The coastwide TAC must be reduced by at least 30%, from the current 186,840mt to 130,788 mt. Ideally, the coastwide TAC should be reduced by 50%, lowering the operating TAC to 94,420 mt. These are the only options to ensure the coastwide commercial Atlantic Menhaden fishery operates at a capacity that does not carry a 100% probability of overfishing.

Thank you for your time,

-Paul Archibald

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James Boyle

From: kateweller <kateweller@optonline.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 10:25 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden fishing

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am very concerned about the declining Coastal Osprey population in New Jersey, due to over harvesting of the Menhaden fish.
Please reduce the harvesting. Please.
Thank you,
Kate Weller

Sent from my Galaxy

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James Boyle

From: Lynn Conley <lynnjoyconley@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 10:08 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Reduce allowable menhaden harvest

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I've been watching the webcams aimed at the nests of a number of ospreys. Ospreys are such magnificent birds and I thought it would de-stress my day to watch the mystery of life from the laying of eggs through fledging.

HAH!

Instead, this is what I've seen:

Fathers not bringing food regularly to the nests or abandoning the nest altogether Mothers leaving the nest in search of food for her babies or herself Mothers abandoning the nest altogether Nestlings killing siblings Nestlings starving to death

This is horrific! And what is the common denominator? I've since learned that a recent lack of a plentiful supply of available fish, mainly menhaden, has caused the coastal osprey population to plummet with no help in sight.

I am begging you to drastically reduce the allowable menhaden harvest! It's disgraceful that, after DDT was banned and the osprey were finally removed from the NJ endangered list in January 2025, we are now faced with another man-made tragedy.

Thank you in advance for doing the right thing for these beautiful birds.

Sincerely,
Lynn Conley
732-674-7299

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James Boyle

From: wfiora1@icloud.com
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 10:03 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden 2027-2028 TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Greetings.

I am writing to urge the ASMFC to cut the coastwide total allowable catch (TAC) by 40% to approximately 112,100 metric tons for 2027 and 2028. I also urge the ASMFC to set the TAC as a fixed tonnage for 2027 and 2028, not a formula that adjust automatically. Finally, I urge ASMFC to take this action immediately and not to defer it pending further analysis.

All of us along the easter seaboard are seeing the negative effects of menhaden over-harvesting on fisheries and other wildlife, and it's imperative for ASMFC to take decisive action.

Thank you,

Bill Fiora
Westport Point, MA

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James Boyle

From: wfiora1@icloud.com
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 9:57 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Greetings.

I am writing to urge ASMFC to set the menhaden fishery Bay cap at 25,500 metric tons and to reject any option that would link the Bay cap to the coastwide total allowable catch (TAC).

The science makes it clear that reductions are needed and all of us on the eastern seaboard are seeing the negative consequences of menhaden over-harvesting on fisheries, bird life and other related species.

Thank you,

Bill Fiora
Westport Point, MA
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James Boyle

From: W. F. <waynefordjr1111@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 9:42 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear ASMFC,

I am writing to formally request immediate regulatory action regarding the management of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay. Menhaden are a critical food source for striped bass, bluefish, red drum, sea trout, and other important sportfish. The populations of most marine fishes are in distress not due to overfishing, but because they are STARVING to death as their food source vanishes, causing the biomass of these species to dwindle despite strict fisheries regulations. (Some of these recreational fishing regulations are ridiculous and have little or no impact on population management.)

To protect the marine ecosystem, restore essential food sources, and support local wildlife populations, I urge you to implement the following measures:

1. Ban the harvest and landing of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay for at least 5 years.
2. Reduce the overall menhaden harvest and landings by a minimum of 50% for at least 10 years.
3. Continue to rigorously monitor and evaluate the results of these restrictions to assess ecological recovery over time.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and consideration of this critical conservation issue.

Sincerely,
Wayne "Bud" Ford
Yardville, NJ

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James Boyle

From: Bill Evans <phunclesam@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 9:40 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Mr. Boyle

I am greatly concerned about the health of our oceans and coastal wildlife. That's why I'm asking the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to strengthen how it manages Atlantic menhaden, a small but essential forage fish.

Atlantic menhaden play two roles in our oceans: they're a crucial food source for everything from ospreys and herons to whales and striped bass, and they filter plankton from the waters of the Atlantic coasts as they feed.

Sustainable fishing can coexist with a healthy, abundant menhaden population, but achieving that balance requires management that fully accounts for menhaden's dual role: feeding wildlife and potentially influencing coastal water quality — not just traditional catch limits. Addendum II is a step in the right direction, but it doesn't go far enough to ensure menhaden remains a healthy, abundant part of our coastal ecosystems.

I'm asking you to:

-Fully account for menhaden's role as a food source for birds, whales, and fish, and their role in filtering plankton for our coastal waters, in your management decisions.

-Adopt strong, science-based management that preserves menhaden as a robust food source for its predators.

-Expand management tools to prevent excessive catch during critical times and areas, distributing fishing pressure more evenly throughout the season.

-Commit to promptly updating menhaden management as new science and assessments become available.

Atlantic menhaden are too important to get this wrong. Please strengthen protections for this vital fish before it's too late.

Sincerely,

Bill Evans
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James Boyle

From: James Boyle
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 9:29 AM
To: Caitlin Gritt; Comments
Subject: RE: [External] Support for Atlantic Menhaden Conservation (Draft Addendum II)

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Thank you for providing input on the Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. Your comments will be shared with the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board for consideration at its next Board meeting in November. Upon considering public input, the Board will select final management measures and consider final approval on Addendum II.

Best,
James

James Boyle (he/him) | FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201
Phone: 703.842.0715 | Fax: 703.842.0741
jboyle@asmfc.org | www.asmfc.org

From: Caitlin Gritt <caitlin.gritt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 9:02 AM
To: Comments <comments@asmfc.org>; James Boyle <JBoyle@ASMFC.org>
Subject: [External] Support for Atlantic Menhaden Conservation (Draft Addendum II)

Good morning, Mr. Boyle:

As a devoted advocate for the health of our coastal waters and the daughter of two residents of Reedville, Virginia, I am writing in fervent support of stronger conservation measures under the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II. I vigorously support the approval of a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap and establish seasonal quota periods.

Atlantic menhaden are a foundational forage fish. Ecologically, they are critical to the survival of sportfish like striped bass and blue fish, as well as avian predators like ospreys, which are currently suffering from historic nest failures and starvation due to localized food depletion. In addition, an over-concentration of industrial reduction fishing by Ocean Harvesters/Omega Protein has devastated local bait watermen and small-scale commercial operations who rely on stable menhaden populations.

The current industrial cap of 51,000 metric tons allows a highly centralized fleet to extract massive quantities of this ecological anchor from sensitive nursery grounds. Implementing a 50% cap reduction and spreading the remaining harvest evenly across the season will protect the broader Atlantic marine ecosystem and support the coastal economies tied to recreational fishing and tourism.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments in support of protecting our vital public marine resources.

Sincerely,
Caitlin Gritt
1423 Woodstock Road
King George, VA 22485
(202) 747-4860
caitlin.gritt@gmail.com

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James Boyle

From: Caitlin Gritt <caitlin.gritt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 9:02 AM
To: Comments; James Boyle
Subject: [External] Support for Atlantic Menhaden Conservation (Draft Addendum II)

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Good morning, Mr. Boyle:

As a devoted advocate for the health of our coastal waters and the daughter of two residents of Reedville, Virginia, I am writing in fervent support of stronger conservation measures under the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II. I vigorously support the approval of a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap and establish seasonal quota periods.

Atlantic menhaden are a foundational forage fish. Ecologically, they are critical to the survival of sportfish like striped bass and blue fish, as well as avian predators like ospreys, which are currently suffering from historic nest failures and starvation due to localized food depletion. In addition, an over-concentration of industrial reduction fishing by Ocean Harvesters/Omega Protein has devastated local bait watermen and small-scale commercial operations who rely on stable menhaden populations.

The current industrial cap of 51,000 metric tons allows a highly centralized fleet to extract massive quantities of this ecological anchor from sensitive nursery grounds. Implementing a 50% cap reduction and spreading the remaining harvest evenly across the season will protect the broader Atlantic marine ecosystem and support the coastal economies tied to recreational fishing and tourism.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments in support of protecting our vital public marine resources.

Sincerely,
Caitlin Gritt
1423 Woodstock Road
King George, VA 22485
(202) 747-4860
caitlin.gritt@gmail.com

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James Boyle

From: The Hoy-Crawfords <pac.man1@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:48 AM
To: Comments
Cc: Susan Crawford
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden - Support for Harvest Reduction!

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Mr. Boyle:

We live on the Magothy river and have witnessed first hand the decline in the river and bay fishery and strongly support a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay fishery cap (Option B4/ reducing the cap to 25,500 metric tons) and support seasonal quota periods!

Together with the stressed populations of striped bass, these declines signal an URGENT need for precautionary conservation practices NOW.
Industrial reduction fishing extracts over 100 million pounds of fish in a concentrated summer window, harming the local food web and depriving other groups, especially watermen and anglers, of fair access.
We urge fishery managers to implement strict quota periods that will distribute the harvest evenly across the year rather than allowing an intense summer harvest.

Thank you for being a responsible steward of the entire Bay ecosystem before it is too late!

John Crawford
422 Riverside Drive
Pasadena, MD 21122

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James Boyle

From: Dmitrii Che <d.chechotkin@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:44 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Ospreys

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hi there,

Just wanted to let you know that I am alarmed by the plummeting coastal osprey population and would like to urge you to drastically reduce the allowable menhaden harvest.

Thank you,
Dmitriy Chechetkin,
Software developer
1 (240) 8-999-135
d.chechotkin@gmail.com
chedim@chedim.com

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James Boyle

From: Kevin Kelley <kevinjk27@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:32 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To the Atlantic Menhaden
Management Board,
I support:
Cutting the Chesapeake Bay Cap by the full 50%
• Linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide catch limit, so when one drops, the other does too
• Spreading Bay harvest across quota periods so the Bay isn't stripped in spring and summer
Reducing the coastwide catch limit by 40% to meet Science for 2027 and beyond

I am writing to support the most conservative options in Draft
Addendum II.
Please reduce the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap by the full 50%, link the Bay Cap to the coastwide total allowable catch, and divide the Bay Cap into quota periods so harvest isn't concentrated in the spring and summer.
lalso urge the Board to set a coastwide TAC for 2027 and beyond that meets the ecological reference point target. The 2025 assessment showed the stock is smaller than previously
estimated, and the Board's own projections found a cut of 50% or more was needed to meet that target.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Thank you,
Kevin Kelley
114 Falmouth Heights Road
Falmouth MA 02540

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James Boyle

From: Gail Slockett <ggslockett@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:32 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Save the Osprey

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am very much in favor of limiting the menhaden harvest in the Chesapeake Bay.
I am a boater in the bay and have noticed a drastic reduction of Osprey, particularly this year. It is alarming!
I think the loss of this main source of food has definitely affected the food chain in the Chesapeake.
I urge you to drastically reduce the allowable menhaden harvest.
Thank you,
Gail Slockett

Gail G. Slockett
www.ggslockett.com

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James Boyle

From: jim wright <wrightjamesb@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:15 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Please put strict limits on commercial menhaden fishing immediately!

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

The wholesale fishing for menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean is doing irreparable damage to Osprey population -- only recently removed from the endangered list.

This is environmental robbery of the first magnitude. Please put a cap on this before menhaden populations decline even further. The current limits are unsustainable. The ospreys are the canaries in the coal mine.

Thank you.

Jim Wright
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James Boyle

From: J Herlich <judy.herlich@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:10 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] NJ's Ospreys

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

New Jersey's ospreys are in deep trouble.
Because of overfishing, these incredible raptors face their biggest threat since DDT almost drove them to extinction in the 1960s and early 1970s. Here's what's going on. Industrial fishing operations are systematically removing schools of menhaden from the Atlantic coast and Chesapeake Bay. Humans may not find these small, thin fish palatable, but there's plenty of money to be made from harvesting them for bait, animal feed, fertilizer, and nutritional supplements.
To maximize their yield, the massive operations use spotter planes to locate the menhaden, then send their ships to scour the water with huge nets.
According the New Jersey DEP, commercial fishermen have removed more than 400 million pounds of menhaden annually along the Atlantic coast in recent years. Although there are catch limits on menhaden, the current limits seem inadequate, unsustainable, and deadly to ospreys and the marine ecosystem.

I am alarmed by the plummeting coastal osprey population I urge them to drastically reduce the allowable menhaden harvest.

Judy Herlich

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James Boyle

From: Carrie Krier <carrie@butterflyalley.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 7:52 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Lower the cap on Menhaden harvest by 50%

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Board Members,

Some decisions are hard, some are easy. This is an easy decision. Osprey are a national treasure for everyone to enjoy. Commercial fishing needs to be controlled to protect our treasures.

Please lower the cap on Menhaden harvest in the Chesapeake Bay by the largest percentage you can to protect our national treasures for us, our children, and our grandchildren!

Thank you.
Respectfully,
Carolyn Krier
22303 St. Clements Ave.
Leonardtown, MD 20650

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James Boyle

From: Laura Trow <laura@harpertrow.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 7:50 AM
To: Comments
Cc: James Minor; Ingrid Braun-Ricks; Melissa Alberto; Ethan Simpson; Ron Owens; Adele McClure; James Boyle; Joseph Grist
Subject: [External] Request for Stronger Menhaden Protections in the Chesapeake Bay – Support for Draft Addendum II Options

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Mr. Boyle and Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

CC: Virginia ASMFC Delegation

I am writing to urge you and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) to adopt conservation-minded reforms that safeguard menhaden and support a healthy Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. Menhaden play a critical role as a forage fish for stripers, osprey, marine mammals, and many other species that depend on a balanced Bay.

My family owns and runs Mossy Creek Fly Fishing, and through their conservation efforts, I've seen how deeply interconnected our waters are, and why protecting them is essential for future generations. Menhaden may be small, but permitting their overharvest sets a reckless precedent—and we cannot afford to risk the collapse of a vibrant Bay.

To ensure the long-term health of the Bay and reduce the localized depletion caused by concentrated industrial reduction fishing, I strongly call on the ASMFC to approve key measures in **Draft Addendum II**:

- **3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount:**
  - **Support Option C1e:** Reduces the Bay Cap by 50 percent and limits harvest in the Bay to 13.6 percent of the Coastwide Total Allowable Catch (TAC).
  - **Support Option C2a:** Sets an upper limit of 51,000 metric tons for the Bay Cap, capping it at current levels to prevent future expansion.
- **3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution:**
  - **Support Option B2:** Establishes three equal-length quota periods across the season, distributing harvest as 25 percent in Period 1, 25 percent in Period 2, and 50 percent in Period 3 to spread out fishing pressure.
  - **Support Option B:** Implements quota period overage paybacks and allows the rollover of unused quota strictly within a single fishing year.
- **3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision:**
  - **Support Option B:** Mandates a Revisit Provision to evaluate the effectiveness of these management tools every three years.

By approving these options, the ASMFC can take meaningful action to prevent localized depletion and protect the overall health of the Chesapeake Bay for future generations. Thank you for your leadership and consideration of these critical conservation measures.

Sincerely,

Laura Trow

2980 Dragana Dr

Henrico, VA 23233

804-467-3985

Laura@harpertrow.com

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James Boyle

From: J R <jim.riles@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 7:31 AM
To: J R; Comments
Subject: [External] OSPREY POPULATION DECLINING

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

We are alarmed by the plummeting coastal osprey population and urge you to drastically reduce the allowable menhaden harvest!

We help the annual migration of Osprey from New England and south. We see the declining numbers. Its not too late to help until it is!!

Help… now!

Jim Reilly

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James Boyle

From: Jacob Knowles <jknowles831@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 5:11 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden quota comment

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

My name is Jacob Knowles, and I am a fifth generation lobster fisherman from Downeast Maine. I support reallocating more of the coastwide menhaden quota to the Northeast, and I want to focus on one reason I believe deserves more attention: the size, and therefore the number, of fish being harvested.

I have fished here my whole life, and I never personally saw menhaden in our local waters until around 2017–2018. Since then, we have seen large adult menhaden become an important seasonal presence. Meanwhile, I regularly hear fishermen and bait suppliers farther south describe smaller fish and fewer of the large menhaden they used to see.

As lobster fishermen, we source bait from up and down the coast, and the difference matters. Larger menhaden are preferred for our bait needs. Smaller fish are harder to use, yet we often end up buying and trucking them long distances while large menhaden in massive numbers are available close to home.

My main point is simple: a quota measured in pounds or metric tons does not tell the whole story. I think how many individual fish are needed to reach that weight should be taken into consideration here. For example, if a large menhaden, at the end of its life, weighs two or three times as much as a small one, harvesting that larger fish fills the same amount of quota as harvesting two or three smaller fish.

Reallocating quota would not require increasing the coastwide harvest limit. It could instead shift some of the existing harvest toward areas where larger fish are available, inevitably reducing the total number of individual fish removed for the same harvested weight. I believe that possibility deserves serious consideration when evaluating allocation and its effects on the stock.

The benefits to Maine's bait supply are also substantial. We face an ongoing bait shortage, yet we spend money and burn fuel transporting smaller menhaden from other states. These fish are harvested under the same coastwide quota, while we steam past schools of larger fish in our own waters that we cannot fully utilize under our allocation.

I am asking you to consider both where menhaden are available today and how fish size factors into the use of the coastwide quota. Allocating more quota to Maine could provide much needed relief for our lobster industry, reduce unnecessary transportation, and better

match the harvest to the fish available. The potential benefits to the menhaden stock deserve evaluation as part of that decision.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jacob Knowles

--

Jacob Knowles

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James Boyle

From: John Paradis <paradisjohn409@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 5:49 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Re: Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

From: John Paradis <paradisjohn409@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 5:46 AM
To: mulcomments@asmfc.org <mulcomments@asmfc.org>
Subject: Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Dear Members of the ASMFC

I strongly support a substantial reduction in the allowed menhaden catch within the Chesapeake Bay immediately, and for the years necessary to allow full recovery of the osprey, striper, and other populations within the Chesapeake Bay. I have no objection to the menhaden catch outside the Bay.

Menhaden serve as a critical food fish within the Bay. The commercial catch by the menhaden fishery directly competes with the adequate feeding of parental and juvenile osprey, as well as other species such as striped bass. In recent years we have witnessed multiple cases of the starvation of osprey chicks with adult osprey unable to bring fish to the nest. The recreational and commercial catch of striped bass has also declined sharply.

All evidence strongly suggests that the direct competition by the commercial menhaden fishery for this vital food source is strongly adversely affecting the osprey breeding success rate as well as the recreational and commercial striped bass fishery.

Please eliminate this competition by sharply reducing the allowed menhaden catch within the Chesapeake Bay.

VR/John Paradis, PO Box 175, Piney Point MD

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James Boyle

From: Roger Rosenthal <rnrbklyn@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 5:47 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am writing to support protecting menhaden from overharvesting.

I support:
Cutting the Chesapeake Bay Cap by 50%

Linking catches in the Bay to coastwide catches of menhaden

Spreading Bay harvests across quota periods to prevent overharvesting in spring and summer.

Reducing the coastwide menhaden catch limit to 40% of current levels to meet the science for 2027 and years to come.

Thank-you,
Roger Rosenthal

--

Roger Rosenthal, LCSW
347-844-1153
rnrbklyn@gmail.com
RogerRosenthaltherapy.com
Pronouns: He/Him/His

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James Boyle

From: Frankie DeAngelis <frankd5415@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 3:33 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic menhaden draft addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Katie McFadden <kmcfadden89@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 11:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II and 2027–2029 Catch Limits

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom it may concern,

My name is Katelyn McFadden. I live in New York, in Rockaway, Queens, which is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean and Jamaica Bay. I am a reporter in the area and I've been hearing from fishermen, bait shop owners and environmentalists that the reduction fishery purse seine fishing operations off the Atlantic coast are having detrimental effects on the menhaden population. Our osprey nesting season in Jamaica Bay was horrendous, with 20 out of 25 nests empty and only five chicks born this season, as they're having a hard time finding menhaden to feed on. Fishermen and charter boat captains are claiming they aren't seeing many menhaden, which is impacting their fishing season for stripers and bluefish, which feed on menhaden. The bait shops are getting smaller and smaller menhaden and having fewer fishermen come into their shops since the local fishing is so bad now.

They are all attributing this depletion of menhaden to Omega Protein scooping them all up for their operations. It is my understanding that this starts near where they operate in Chesapeake Bay, a nursery for menhaden, where young menhaden that haven't had a chance to reproduce, are being scooped up, and then the industrial fishing boats go within three miles of state limits to fish in federal waters along the coast. There needs to be significant management of these operations and limits placed on this company and their boats, so the menhaden have a chance to rebound for their use, for small fishing businesses and for the local wildlife. If not, there will be detrimental effects on the ecosystem and in turn, on the local economy.

I am asking that you cut Chesapeake Bay's industrial harvest cap by at least 50%, spread the allowed harvest more evenly across the season, and make a substantial coastwide total allowable catch reduction for the 2027-2029 fishing years, to give these fish a chance to repopulate.

The wildlife and small businesses around Rockaway, NY depend on this crisis being managed before it's too late.

Thank you for your time.

Best,
Katelyn McFadden

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James Boyle

From: tjsullivan11@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 9:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Protect Menhaden
Attachments: ThomasJ.vcf

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Menhaden are critical the ecosystem. Please protect the species. Cut the limits. Thank you.

Thomas J. Sullivan, J.D., Ph.D
Tjsullivan11@comcast.net
215.680.4218
https://www.linkedin.com/in/thomas-j-sullivan-6198912/

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James Boyle

From: Bob McDowell <sisubob@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 9:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

ASMFC,

Menhaden is shared resource, and should be shared by all.

What happens in the Chesapeake Bay affects the entire coast. The Bay is the largest estuary on the Atlantic coast, and many fish begin their lives there, especially the striped bass.

I want to go on record that I support addendum 2 and support option B4, with a 50 percent reduction to 25,500 metric tons.
Please do not link the Bay Cap to the Coastwide TAC.
I oppose option C,
I support option B1, and
I support option B, revisiting the cap every three years.

Thank you for your time,

Robert McDowell
NY Sport Fisherman

Sent from Bob's iPad

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James Boyle

From: Ryan Serio <rserio78@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 9:27 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II and 2027-2029 Catch Limits

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a biologist who has been following the Omega Protein story for nearly a decade. What used to be a local crisis in the Chesapeake Bay area has recently spread throughout the Atlantic coast up to Connecticut. Ospreys had begun to make a comeback along the Atlantic coast, but this season was one of the worst ever. In my former home by Jamaica Bay, NY, where I was raised, only 5 chicks survived the entire season because of lack of food, and 20 nests were abandoned. A few years ago I would see triple the amount of young Ospreys on some days, and this year only 5 survived in the entire region.

We know the major reason for this dramatic decline. It is the same culprit that decimated the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem several years ago. Omega Proteins have overfished the Atlantic coast to the point where the ecosystem from Virginia up to Connecticut has been impacted at unprecedented levels. Omega Proteins is a large corporation that spends massive amounts of money on lobbyists that feign innocence in the face of enormous amounts of evidence presented against them by independent scientists working tirelessly around the clock to protect the wildlife they love and their habitat. Please side with the people, the Ospreys, the environmental scientists & biologists, and the environment that supports them and us humans as we battle the effects of climate change. The catch limit must be reduced by at least 50% for there to be any chance for recovery. That is the bare minimum.

After what we have seen this summer, allowing Omega Proteins to continue to deplete the menhaden from the Atlantic coast at the rate they have done will cause irreparable effects long term that will destroy the ecosystem that not only protects wildlife but protects coastal citizens from effects of climate change. We need a healthy coastline, and the loss of vulnerable Ospreys are the proverbial canary in the coal mine. Please vote for what is right and protect our country's coast!

Ryan Serio, Ph.D.
University of Chicago

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James Boyle

From: john.s.teter@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 9:21 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I support stronger restrictions on Atlantic menhaden harvest in Draft Addendum II. I favor reducing the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap by 50%, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons, and I support spreading reduction harvest across quota periods so it is not concentrated in ecologically sensitive parts of the season. Menhaden are a foundational forage fish for striped bass, bluefish, ospreys, and the broader coastal ecosystem; management should err on the side of leaving more forage in the water. I also support revisiting the Bay Cap at least every three years as Bay-specific science improves.

Thank you for considering this comment.

John Teter
Recreational saltwater angler
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James Boyle

From: Colin Marsanico <seamarcharters@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 9:13 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom it may concern,

I'm aware of the proposal to cut Chesapeake Bay menhaden harvesting by 50%. As a fishing charter captain out of the Long Island Sound in NY, the passing of this proposal is vital to my career and those of every northeast charter company/captain.
Cutting the harvesting capacity would foster a rebound in a struggling fish species that feeds the entire northeast's marine life. Whales, game fish, sharks, seals, birds, whales, almost everything consumes bunker, as us Long Islanders call them.
A lot of other fisherman are saying they are doing well catching large striped bass, but that juvenile striped bass are essentially nonexistent. What does this say about the future of the fishery? Large bass are not breeding because they are also heavily fished and they are not able to consume the bunker they need in the Chesapeake. Soon, once the larger stripers pass away, there will be none left.
No bunker means a decimated marine ecosystem and would probe similarly disastrous to the economies of the entire coastal northeast as charter fisherman like myself take people out to catch fish that menhaden eat, then those people go to shops and restaurants in these towns.
The passage of this proposal is incredibly important and must be done. Please.

Thank you for your attention,

Colin Marsanico
President
SEAMAR Charters, LLC

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James Boyle

From: Nick Bonomo <nbonomo@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 9:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Please protect menhaden populations by doing the following:

Cut the Chesapeake Bay cap by the full 50%.

Link the Bay cap to the coastwide limit.

Spread the Bay harvest across quota periods.

Reduce coastwide catch by 40%.

Thank you

Nick Bonomo
Wallingford, CT

Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Jeremy Lis <jlis494@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 8:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic menhaden draft addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

As a Chesapeake bay resident (mouth of the Potomac) I am very much in support of reducing the menhaden harvest. They are critical to the overall health of the Chesapeake bay.
I support
Cut the Chesapeake bay cap by 50%
Link the bay to the coastwide cap so when one drops the other does too
Spreading the bay harvest across the quota period So the bay isn't stripped in spring and summer
Reducing the coast wide quota by 40%

Thanks

-Jeremy

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James Boyle

From: Evan Griswold <evangriswold69@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 7:12 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am writing from the Connecticut River Estuary, where the Osprey, the magnificent fishing hawk, resides and raises its young.
Ospreys were nearly eliminated in the 1950's and 60's by the wholesale use of the pesticide DDT. That tragedy was avoided by the banning of DDT and the ospreys recovered, along with our national bird, the Bald Eagle.
But now the osprey is again threatened with severe reduction and possible elimination from the North Atlantic Coast. This time from food shortage and the starvation of newly born ospreys. The culprit in this scenario seems to be the over fishing of the osprey's primary prey, the menhaden. This high- calorie fish is essential for the feeding of young birds.
I urge the Commission to take immediate steps towards the adoption of regulations that will return the Menhaden to historic levels so that the Osprey can once again thrive along our shores.
Thank you.
Regards,
Evan Griswold
Old Lyme, Connecticut

Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Carol Appleby <kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 6:12 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II, Protect Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC),

The Chesapeake Bay osprey population is experiencing an unprecedented reproductive crisis driven by severe food stress, with population sustainability falling below the historic lows seen during the DDT era of the 1960s and 1970s. Researchers are finding an increasingly alarming number of starving chicks unable to survive their first few weeks, and nutritional deprivation is so severe that a substantial portion of female ospreys are failing to lay eggs entirely. In fact, in some areas 74 percent of the pairs nesting failed to produce any young. Current reproduction rates have plummeted far below levels to sustain osprey with an expected decline of 14% of the osprey population annually.
I support the long overdue restrictions on menhaden proposed in Addendum II of Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. I specifically support the following proposed limits and would further support a complete menhaden fishing moratorium should that be considered:

- 3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount: Support option C1e that would Reduce the Bay Cap by 50 percent and limit it to 13.6 percent of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC) and also support option C2a which sets an upper limit of 51,000mt for the Bay Cap, which is the current level.
- 3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution: Support option B2 which establishes three even length quota periods for the Bay Cap, but distributes harvest 25 percent in period 1, 25 percent in period 2, and 50 percent into period 3. We support option B which establishes quota period overage payback and rollover of unused quota within a fishing year.
- 3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision: Support option B Revisit Provision to reassess the efficacy of these new management tools every 3 years.
We have waited far too long to act to protect menhaden which are critical to ospreys and many other species of Chesapeake Bay wildlife.

Sincerely,

Carol Appleby
528 Sussex
Towson, MD 21286
carolappleby@comcas.net
(410) 821-6470

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club Maryland Chapter. If you need more information, please contact Sierra Club Maryland Chapter at Sierra Club Maryland Chapter at (301) 277-7111.

James Boyle

From: Debbie CAMPBELL <debbiescampbell@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 6:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II – Public Comment – Debbie Campbell
Attachments: ASMFC_Draft_Addendum_II_Debbie_Campbell_Email_Final.pdf

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Please accept the attached document as my formal written public comment on **Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II** for consideration by the ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Management Board.

I respectfully request that **my full attached public comment be distributed to all members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board for their review and consideration and that the document be included in its entirety in the official public record for Draft Addendum II and the associated public hearing process.**

I strongly support the **most protective alternatives available under Draft Addendum II**, including the maximum **50 percent reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons**. I also support measures that reduce concentrated harvest during ecologically important periods and prevent future increases in the coastwide TAC from automatically increasing industrial fishing pressure within Chesapeake Bay.

My interest in this issue is both personal and longstanding. I am a **Maryland property owner and a Bay-adjacent property owner in Northampton County, Virginia**. I am also the **Editor and a founder of *Menhaden Little Fish - Big Deal!***, a **member of SMRFO and the Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association (VSSA)**, a recreational angler, and a conservation advocate.

As explained in my attached comments, I believe the central issue is not simply whether Atlantic menhaden are healthy coastwide, but whether Chesapeake Bay contains sufficient forage, in the right places and at the right times, to support its predators and broader ecosystem while a concentrated industrial reduction fishery operates within the estuary.

Given the significant remaining Chesapeake-specific scientific uncertainties, I believe precaution is warranted. I therefore urge the Board to adopt the strongest protections available under Draft Addendum II, continue and accelerate Chesapeake-specific research, and treat these measures as an **interim step toward ultimately moving the industrial reduction fishery out of Virginia state waters**.

Please confirm receipt of this email and the attached document and, if possible, confirm that the complete document will be distributed to the Board and preserved in its entirety as part of the public record.

Thank you for your assistance and for ensuring that my complete comments are available to the members of the Board as they consider Draft Addendum II.

Respectfully,

Debbie Campbell
Editor and a Founder, *Menhaden Little Fish - Big Deal!*
Member, SMRFO
Member, Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association (VSSA)
Maryland Property Owner
Bay-Adjacent Property Owner, Northampton County, Virginia
Recreational Angler and Conservation Advocate

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James Boyle

From: Falōin Williams <faloinwilliams02@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 5:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC):

I am writing as a Maryland resident who has lived in St. Mary's County since 2015 and has developed a deep personal connection to the Chesapeake Bay. I am a waterfront resident and someone who spends considerable time on and around the Bay. I am also deeply interested in the wildlife that depends upon this remarkable ecosystem, particularly osprey, striped bass, sharks, whales, and other species whose survival is tied directly or indirectly to a healthy forage base.

I strongly support a 50 percent reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons annually. I also strongly support establishing seasonal quota periods for menhaden so that harvest is distributed throughout the year rather than concentrated in an intense summer fishing window.

The Chesapeake Bay is facing an ecological crisis that should not be minimized or postponed. Declining productivity, widespread osprey nest failures, and continued concerns about the condition of the striped bass population are warning signs that demand a precautionary approach to the management of one of the Bay's most important forage fish - **menhaden.**

Menhaden are not merely another commercial commodity. They are a foundational component of the Chesapeake Bay food web. They provide critical forage for striped bass, osprey, bluefish, weakfish, dolphins, and numerous other predators. Removing very large quantities of menhaden from the Bay during the period when they are most concentrated and most biologically important deserves particularly careful scrutiny.

The scale and timing of the reduction fishery are especially troubling. More than 100 million pounds of menhaden can be removed under the existing Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap. When that harvest is concentrated into a relatively short summer period, the ecological effect is not simply a matter of the annual tonnage. **Where and when the fish are removed matters.**

An intense summer harvest can create localized depletion at precisely the time when menhaden are serving as forage for other species. It also potentially deprives recreational anglers, commercial watermen, charter operators, and the broader coastal tourism economy of access to a shared public resource. These competing interests deserve meaningful consideration in the management process.

I am particularly concerned about allowing an annual quota to be treated as though the timing of harvest is irrelevant. It is not. A fish removed from the Bay in June is not ecologically equivalent to that same fish being harvested months later. The Bay's predators have seasonal feeding requirements, and the availability of forage during critical periods can matter greatly to their survival and reproductive success.

For that reason, I urge the Commission to establish **strict seasonal quota periods that distribute the allowable harvest more evenly throughout the year and prevent the reduction fishery from concentrating an extraordinary volume of harvest into the summer months**. Seasonal management would provide a more precautionary approach and would better recognize the fact that Chesapeake Bay is a dynamic ecosystem rather than simply another geographic allocation within a coastwide fishery.

There is also an important management issue that deserves attention. The Commission's coastwide menhaden assessment does not provide the same level of quantitative information about menhaden abundance and availability specifically within Chesapeake Bay. That uncertainty argues for caution—not for assuming that the Bay can safely sustain the maximum allowable harvest.

The Chesapeake Bay belongs to all of us. It belongs to the watermen who have made their living here, the recreational fishermen who pursue its species, the sailors and boaters who enjoy its waters, the communities whose economies depend upon it, and the wildlife that has no voice in these proceedings. Menhaden management should reflect that broader public interest.

I respectfully urge the Commission to:

1. Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons per year.

2. Establish firm seasonal quota periods for menhaden.

3. **Prevent excessive concentration of reduction harvest during the summer months.

4. Apply a precautionary approach in light of ecological uncertainty and the importance of menhaden as forage.

5. Give meaningful consideration to the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the Bay's broader tourism economy.

I have spent years watching, enjoying, and caring about the Chesapeake Bay. I have seen firsthand what makes this ecosystem extraordinary, and I am increasingly concerned about the signs that its productivity and resilience are being strained.

We should not wait until the consequences are unmistakable before acting.

The prudent course is to reduce the intensity of the reduction fishery now, protect menhaden as a critical forage resource, and distribute harvest in a manner that gives the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem a better opportunity to sustain the wildlife and fisheries that depend upon it.

Thank you for your consideration and for your responsibility to future generations of Chesapeake Bay users and stewards.

Sincerely,

Falōin Williams

St. Mary’s County, Maryland

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James Boyle

From: RJ Moreno <rjmoreno604@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 5:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom this may concern,

Reduce the coast wide total catch by 40%. Local menhaden need support and this would allow them to rebound from overfishing.

Thank you for taking the time to read.

RJ Moreno
rjmoreno604@yahoo.com
New York
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James Boyle

From: Karen Royer <karenroyer55@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 5:38 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Paul Spadaro; Sandra Spadaro; Steve Miller; Stevenson, Russ; ted connell; Bob Royer; Ashley Westbrook; Cecily Steppe; Sally Hornor; Lise & Jim Crafton; Jay's Email Account
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Mr. Boyle:

We strongly support a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap (Option B4/ reducing the cap to 25,500 metric tons) and support seasonal quota periods!

We have lived along the Magothy River for almost 50 years and have been boating in the river and the Bay just as long. We care deeply for the Bay ecosystem and all of the creatures that call it home.
We have grave concerns about the declining productivity and widespread nest failures among our osprey population. Together with the stressed populations of striped bass, these declines signal an URGENT need for precautionary conservation practices NOW.
Industrial reduction fishing extracts over 100 million pounds of fish in a concentrated summer window, harming the local food web and depriving other groups, especially watermen and anglers, of fair access. We urge fishery managers to implement strict quota periods that will distribute the harvest evenly across the year rather than allowing an intense summer harvest.

Thank you for being a responsible steward of the entire Bay ecosystem before it is too late!

Robert & Karen Royer
370 Harwin Drive
Severna Park MD 21146

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James Boyle

From: Olivia Pratt <iamoliviaprat@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 5:13 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hi!

Please save the ospray!

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount

"Option C1e: To reduce the Chesapeake Bay CAP by at least 50 percent in 2027 and link any changes to the future Bay Cap to 13.6% of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC).

Option C2a: To set the maximum upper limit in any future change at the current level of 51,000mt.

3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution

Option B2: To establish three even length quota periods for the Chesapeake Bay Cap, distributing the harvest at 25% in period 1, 25% in period 2, and 50% in period 3.

Option B: Provides any underage of Quota Periods 1 or 2 be rolled into Period 3 of the same fishing year. Any underage in Quota Period 3 would not be reallocated. Any overages would be deducted from the same quota period in the following year.

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision

Option B: Revisit the Chesapeake Bay Cap every 3 years

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James Boyle

From: Brad Lumb <bradlumb@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 4:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I support the following selected alternatives for the Chesapeake Bay Cap, as ecologically and socioeconomically appropriate, to inform effective management actions, reduce the risk of overfishing, and promote resilient futures for the resource and its communities.

- 3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Amount
  - : Sub Option B4 – a 50% reduction in the current Bay Cap, resulting in a Bay Cap of 25,500 mt.

- 3.2.1. Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period
  - : Option B1 – Even Length & Even Harvest.

- 3.2.2 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period Overages and Underages
  - : Underage Sub Option 1 – an underage in Quota Period 1 would be split evenly and rolled over to Quota Periods 2 and 3.

- 3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision
  - : Option B – The Chesapeake Bay Cap will be reviewed at least once every three years.

The coastwide TAC must be reduced by at least 30%, from the current 186,840mt to 130,788 mt. Ideally, the coastwide TAC should be reduced by 50%, lowering the operating TAC to 94,420 mt. These are the only options to ensure the coastwide commercial Atlantic Menhaden fishery operates at a capacity that does not carry a 100% probability of overfishing.

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James Boyle

From: emlawler534@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 4:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear ASMFC members,

I am writing to comment on the management of Menhaden harvesting in the Chesapeake Bay. I am strongly in favor of a significant reduction, of at least 50% of the current level, of the Menhaden harvested in the Bay.

As you are aware, reproduction of Osprey in the southern, more saline, portions of the Chesapeake Bay have dropped dramatically in the last few years. Studies indicate that about 30% of adult female Osprey are not breeding at all, and in many nests, Osprey chicks are starving to death. This year's nesting success rate was the worst ever recorded, with a reproduction rate lower than during years when DDT devastated raptor reproduction. Since the rebound of Osprey numbers after the banning of DDT, the Chesapeake Bay has been a stronghold of Osprey along the Atlantic Coast. With the current reproductive rate, the Bay will lose that distinction, and the number of Osprey along the coast will decline significantly.

Although the underlying cause of this decline has not been absolutely proven, a significant reduction in the Osprey's main diet item in the lower Bay, Menhaden, appears to be the culprit. The reproduction rate of Osprey in the fresher portions of the Bay, where they feed on a variety of fish species, has not seen such significant declines. One company, Omega Protein, based in Virginia waters, is responsible for the vast majority of Menhaden harvested in the Bay, 70% of the Menhaden harvested on the Atlantic Coast. The Menhaden caught are rendered to fish meal used in animal feed and for nutritional supplements.

Just like the Canary in the coal mine, Osprey serve as an important indicator species, and the Osprey nest failures are a sign of a broader ecological disruption. The lower Chesapeake Bay is a vital nursery for Menhaden along the Atlantic Coast. And Menhaden, are an important food source for a variety of species in addition to Osprey, including seabirds, dolphins, sharks and other large fish, such as Rockfish, Weakfish and Bluefish. Sports fishermen, particularly those fishing for Rockfish, are also calling for stricter regulations for Menhaden harvesting.

I agree with a number of environmental organizations such as the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the American Bird Conservancy and National Audubon Society, that we need much stricter regulations

regarding the harvest of Menhaden, at least a 50% reduction. A complete closure of all harvest for rendering in the Bay would be even better. We need a more accurate management system that ties harvest limits to coastwide management and adapts as new scientific data becomes available.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my opinion on this important issue. With such a dramatic decline in Osprey populations, we can't afford to wait to make a significant reduction in the harvesting of Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay.

Sincerely,

Ellen M. Lawler
412 Monticello Ave.
Salisbury, MD 21801
emlawler534@comcast.net

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James Boyle

From: Hedy Cohen <hedyjcohen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 4:34 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum III

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap (Option B4/ reducing the cap to 25,500 metric tons). I support seasonal quota periods as this just makes good ecological sense. As a concerned citizen who lives within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, I am concerned about the environmental and economic health of this large important body of water.

If we consider the osprey as an indicator of the health of the Bay, then we are failing miserably. The last several years have seen declining productivity and widespread nest failures. Industrial reduction fishing extracts over 100 million pounds of fish in a concentrated period over the summer. The removal of fish harms the food web and those species dependent on this food source. This reduction in fish also deprives watermen, anglers, and coast tourism economies of fair access.

Please support implementation of strict quota periods that distribute harvest evenly across the year rather than allowing an intense summer harvest. It's in the best interest of all species.
Sincerely yours,
Hedy Cohen

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James Boyle

From: C H <vbsb761@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 4:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

ASMFC,

My name is captain Charles Horton, and I'm a veteran, outdoorsman and lifetime resident of the Chesapeake Bay. Since I began fishing the bay in the mid 90s, there has been an obvious decline in both the amount of menhaden in the bay as well as the bay's overall health. I have personally witnessed Omega Protein break numerous laws while harvesting menhaden as well as thousands of gamefish killed as by catch by the mehaden reduction fishery. The catch limit for menhaden must be reduced and greater restrictions placed on the fishery to preserve the health of the bay.

-Charles Horton

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James Boyle

From: Erik Hoffner <erik.hoffner@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 3:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden 2027-2028 TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello ASMFC, in my view the coast wide TAC on menhaden must be reduced by at least 30% to protect the future of this key forage fish that tuna, bluefish, whales, striped bass, and more rely on, speaking as someone who fishes a lot, though, I'd actually prefer to see the coast wide TAC reduced by 50%.

Thanks,

Erik Hoffner

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James Boyle

From: Sally Hornor <sally.hornor@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 3:12 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am writing as an aquatic biologist who has studied the menhaden issue to encourage the most protective management options for menhaden. Specifically, I strongly urge the Commission to select Option B4 to implement a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap, lowering it to 25,000 metric tons. I also fully support establishing seasonal quota periods to eliminate the severe, concentrated industrial harvest that occurs during critical wildlife breeding season.

Thank you for your time and dedication to protecting our shared marine resources.

Sincerely,
Sally Hornor, Ph.D
Arnold, MD

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James Boyle

From: Carla Norris <carlaknorris@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 2:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II."

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Raymond H. Norris & Carla K. Norris

18152 River Road

Tall Timbers, MD 20690

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC):

I strongly support reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent—from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons per year—and establishing strict seasonal quota periods for menhaden. The Chesapeake Bay is too important, and the ecological warning signs are too serious, to continue managing this critical forage fish as though the timing and location of harvest do not matter. Our family has lived on the Potomac River in St. Mary's County MD since 1977 and have observed first hand the decline in the overall fish population and most recently the marked absence of our annual ospreys, by which we mark our calendars, March 15th, for their return each year! Until this year!! The evidence points to a decline in the number of menhaden that the ospreys, striped bass and other marine life in the Chesapeake watershed depend upon for their survival. It is both when and where those fish are removed that matter. A menhaden harvested from a concentrated school in the Bay during the summer is no longer available to the predators that depend upon that school. Concentrated removal can create localized depletion during a biologically important period and can affect the availability of forage to other users of this shared public resource. The consequences extend beyond the reduction fishery. Menhaden support the Bay's recreational fishing economy, commercial and charter fishermen, watermen, wildlife, and coastal tourism. One user group should not be permitted to concentrate an enormous harvest of a shared forage resource during the period when that resource is most important to the rest of the ecosystem and to other Bay users. For that reason, I urge the Commission to take the following actions: • Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent to 25,500 metric tons annually. • Establish strict seasonal quota periods that distribute harvest throughout the year rather than permitting an intense summer harvest. • Apply a precautionary management approach in light of uncertainty regarding localized menhaden abundance and the ecological condition of the Chesapeake Bay. • Give greater consideration to the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the broader Chesapeake Bay economy, not just one Virginia based fishing company. The Chesapeake Bay is not simply a location on a fisheries management map. It is a complex and interconnected ecosystem, and menhaden are one of its essential links. We should not wait for further deterioration before

taking action. There is no time for additional five-year studies to delay the decision. The severe drop in nesting pairs and the lack of surviving chicks will not replenish the species enough to survive that long. As someone who lives here, fishes and sails these waters, swims in them, and cares deeply about the wildlife that depends upon them, I believe the Commission has an obligation to manage menhaden conservatively and to recognize that the health of the Bay must take precedence over maximizing a concentrated industrial harvest. Reduce the cap. Establish meaningful seasonal quotas. Protect the forage base. Give the Chesapeake Bay—and the people and wildlife that depend upon it—a greater margin for recovery.

Thank you for your consideration.

While this is a partial copy of another concerned citizen's letter, it in NO WAY diminishes the sentiment expressed by us, The Norris Family of Tall Timbers, MD !!! 2 of our sons and their families live in Tall Timbers on the Potomac. We want our grandchildren to be able to enjoy our waterways and to be good steward to these waters as we have tried to be. Please take the appropriate action for us and for future generations!!!!

Sincerely,

Raymond H. Norris

Carla K. Norris

18152 River Road

Tall Timbers, MD

Carla Norris

301-904-2848

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James Boyle

From: ROBERT LAWRENCE <bobajoka@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 2:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Folks at ASMFC, thanks for all you do. I know you are taking public comment on your management plan for menhaden. Here are the options I think you should adopt:

- Reducing the initial Chesapeake Bay Cap by **50%, from 51,000 to 25,500 metric tons**. 3.1 C1e
- Establishing the Bay Cap at **13.6% of the coastwide total allowable catch** so it can adjust when the coastwide quota changes. 3.1 C1e
- Maintaining **51,000 metric tons as the maximum Bay Cap**, with no fixed lower limit. 3.1 C2a
- Allocating **25% of the Bay Cap during the first quota period, 25% during the second period, and 50% during the final period**. 3.2 B2
- Requiring early-season quota-period overages to be deducted from the corresponding period during the following year. 3.2 B
- Requiring ASMFC to revisit the Chesapeake Bay Cap and related management measures every three years.
    - 3.3 B In addition to these options, I believe Virginia should have a 3 mile limit on reduction fishing as does every other state on the Atlantic seaboard.

Thank you for considering my opinion,
Robert Lawrence
100 Richlin Rd.
Cambridge, Md. 21613

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James Boyle

From: Timothy Silva, jr <timothysilvajr@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 12:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Please save our menhaden
Sent from my iPhone
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: DOUGLAS TAYLOR <fishtrek@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 2:13 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Comments for Menhaden: Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

It is well known, though the Atlantic Menhaden is not considered to be a game fish, but is a very important species for both the health of the water system (being filter feeders that help to control includes zooplankton, several species of phytoplankton including *Pfiesteria*, as well as suspended organic plant detritus and algae blooms) and as a feed source for fish further up the food chain, stricter harvest limits must be established.

Taking the NOAA reported metric tonnage over a 66 year history covering 1950 thru 2006 for the Atlantic Menhaden and breaking this information down into different categories, trends did develop. It was noted that as the years progressed the Gulf total tonnage was starting to mimic the Total Metric Tonnage Landings (this trend starts approximately in1966); The Atlantic catch was diminishing and starting to follow the trend and mirror the Chesapeake landings (this trend is most noticeable starting in1983). Today, the total catch is set at a much lower amount than what was the total catch of 2006 without a real gain in the estimated population.

For these reasons I support under 3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution 3.2.1. Quota Periods Option B1 without a carrying forward of the unmet percent harvest to the next period, but with the subtraction of overages from the next period.

Under 3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision I support Option B,tThe Chesapeake Bay Cap will be revisited every three years or more often following implementation of this draft addendum

One other thing to consider that due to the high concentration of netting just east of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, this boundary be redefined as of at least 5 miles east of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.

Thank you for your time concerning this matter.

Douglas Taylor, from NJ; email: fishtrek@comcast.net

James Boyle

From: Roach, Melissa [DEP] <Melissa.Roach@dep.nj.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 11:03 AM
To: Comments
Cc: mike.lebednik@gmail.com
Subject: [External] Fw: Contact NJDEP E-Mail # 31536 - FISH & WL

Thank you for your email, Michael. I've forwarded your email to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to be included in the public comments.

Thanks again,
Melissa

Melissa Roach
Assistant Biologist
New Jersey DEP Fish and Wildlife
Endangered & Nongame Species Program
2201 Tuckahoe Rd
Woodbine, NJ 08270
Office: 609-628-0402
Cell: 609-712-1117

Managing Your Fish and Wildlife Since 1892

From: Glass, Lisa [DEP] <Lisa.Glass@dep.nj.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 10:42 AM
To: Roach, Melissa [DEP] <Melissa.Roach@dep.nj.gov>
Subject: FW: Contact NJDEP E-Mail # 31536 - FISH & WL

From: DEP depwebinbox [DEP] <depwebinbox@dep.nj.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 10:40 AM
To: Glass, Lisa [DEP] <Lisa.Glass@dep.nj.gov>
Subject: FW: Contact NJDEP E-Mail # 31536 - FISH & WL

Veronica Macklin she/her
Customer Service Information Specialist 3 | Office of Communications
veronica.macklin@dep.nj.gov
6099405606
401 East State Street, 402, Trenton, NJ 08625

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From: Contact DEP Form <depweb@dep.nj.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 1:47 AM
To: DEP depwebinbox [DEP] <depwebinbox@dep.nj.gov>
Subject: Contact NJDEP E-Mail # 31536 - FISH & WL

31536

Your Name:

First Name

Michael

Last Name

Lebednik

Phone Number

(508) 718-9344

E-mail Address

mike.lebednik@gmail.com

Nature of Inquiry:

Message Type

Wildlife questions or fishing/hunting questions

Subject

Regional agencies managing menhaden population

Message

I am a resident of Massachusetts. I follow environmental topics related to East Coast salt marshes, the closest to me being Rumney Marsh, just north of Boston. I have read a recent statement from the nonprofit Rumney Marsh Conservancy, which references an extensive article focusing on menhaden fisheries along the New Jersey coast. I wish to express my support for

NJDEP's proactive management of this important species, a reduction of which has consequences for osprey populations in Massachusetts Bay. Please add this comment to your public information campaign, which has a deadline of 9 October 2026.

Unique ID

31536

169.254.129.1

10/07/2026

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James Boyle

From: Vincent Melfi <vmelfi11@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 2:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

STOP TAKING THE BUNKER OUT OF THE OCEAN!
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James Boyle

From: David de Cesare <daviddece55@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 2:56 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum

Good afternoon,

As someone who works on the water and appreciates nature, I have been deeply disturbed by state of our Menhaden population. These fish are a keystone species to the saltwater ecosystem and their lack of abundance has clearly proven that.
Over the years I've personally witnessed a drop in fish stocks such as striped bass and struggles for our marine mammals like whales and dolphins. Ultimately diminished Menhaden stocks have proven to be the common factor for these issues.

I ask as a person who loves our marine ecosystems that Menhaden harvest in the Chesapeake be reduced by the full 50% being proposed. In addition, bay harvest caps must be linked to costal catch limits. Finally I ask that bay harvest be spread across quota periods to stop the bay from being stripped of this major food source during the spring and summer months

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Dave I. de Cesare

Dave I. de Cesare (c) 631-988-3034

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James Boyle

From: Tina Berger
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 3:22 PM
To: Comments
Subject: FW: [External] Menhaden/Osprey

From: William Ellis <guye7235@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 3:21 PM
To: Tina Berger <TBerger@ASMFC.org>
Subject: [External] Menhaden/Osprey

It is clear that the dramatic decline in Osprey population is a result of *overfishing of menhaden*. Please take action to reduce this overfishing. I am a retired commercial fisherman myself and the overfishing of menhaden has crushed the rockfish population as well as causing the serious decline of osprey, for which I have provided a nesting post for many years. Taking vast quantities of menhaden for fertilizer is an environmental evil. Please do the right thing.
William G. Ellis, Jr.
Bozman, MD 21612

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James Boyle

From: Jim Ziepolt <zeeperman@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 2026 12:00 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

It is no secret that the huge decline in osprey and striped bass populations in Maryland & Virginia are due to the lack of nourishment derived from their feeding on menhaden fish that were once plentiful in the Chesapeake Bay. Osprey chicks are literally starving to death because their parents cannot find enough menhaden fish to feed them. Very few offspring survived this year's brood. Allowing foreign countries to profit from the Bay's bounty by circumventing U.S. laws should not be tolerated. Canadian Company, Cooke, Inc. owns Omega Protein who obtains U.S. registration for the aircraft and boats used in the netting of menhaden in Maryland & Virginia waters . They hire American labor to carry out the heist. They enter the bay with their school spotting aircraft and their boats deploy 6-mile-long nets capable of taking an entire school of menhaden at one time. I strongly believe that a moratorium on the taking of the menhaden fish from the Chesapeake Bay in this manner should be in place for no less than 3 years. Hopefully this will be enough time for both species to recover and thus help out the local waterman and recreational fishing industries that are currently at a low ebb. The only argument that favors the current practice is that a handful of watermen from Reedville, Va. will be out of work. The U.S. government has provided for such cases when trades become obsolete. These workers will be eligible to participate in the TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. The program not only teaches workers new trades, but it assures that money is available for them to live on while they make a career change to a more viable profession.

--
Jim Ziepolt

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James Boyle

From: Dorothy Reynolds <ddreynolds36@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 11:59 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Public comments on draft addendumii

Dear Chair Cimino,
As a resident, elected, official, and environmentalist in a small town on the Jersey Shore. I am writing to strongly support a 50% reduction in the cap of the harvesting of the valuable menhaden. Barnegat Light was established as a fishing community and is still very dependent on commercial fishing as well as recreational fishing Local girl fisherman can no longer earn a living because of the depletion of menhaden.
The loss of this resource has also affected our other fisheries which are dependent on the bunker. The r The osprey which are an indicator of the health of the environment along the coast are warning us that the environment is in trouble. It is critically important that as the responsible party in the health of Th the ocean, Local wildlife which respects and is dependent the health of the sea and the life in it. We respectfully request your serious action to protect our interests and livelihood
Dorothy Reynolds
Barnegat Light chairman beaches and parks Borough Barnegat Light
22406 Bayview Avenue
Get light New Jersey 08006

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James Boyle

From: Carl Wilkerson <CarlWilkerson22@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 11:55 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Carl Wilkerson; comments@msfc.org
Subject: [External] Comment on draft menhaden addendum

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I have observed the Chesapeake Bay closely for 74 years in the vicinity of Edgewater, MD. The degradation of the Bay over that time has been immense. Continued pressure on the menhaden population by the reduction harvesters will damage the Bay and its aquatic and bird populations unacceptably. Menhaden are essential to the diets of Ospreys and founding fish like striped bass. Both species have unequivocally suffered greatly, as evidenced by unbiased surveys. These iconic Bay and Atlantic coast creatures are being pushed to criticality dangerous levels by excessive and unnecessary reduction harvesting. Harvesters use menhaden for low importance products like animal food, fertilizer, and omega 3 vitamins, among other things. There are many alternative sources for these products that do not critically impair the Ba y and Atlantic. Coastal regulators and governments have made great strides in repairing the oyster population through conservation, artificial reefs and the encouragement of floating oyster farms, among other things. One benefit is the increased and prodigious filtering that oysters provide. Menhaden are also prodigious filter instruments. This fact does not appear to have been considered in the draft addendum. It should be part of the cost-benefit analysis in weighing the proposal. Please view this link to see menhaden filtering the water: https://myfishingcapecod.com/filter-feeding/ Additional harm to osprey and rockfish has been generated by invasive species overtaking the waters, like blue catfish and snakeheads, who have rapid reproduction rates and feed throughout the water column. We do not need another source of great harm to the osprey, rockfish and other Bay creatures through the unnecessary harvesting of menhaden by reduction harvesting which has many other sources for the products they produce that are not harmful to the Chesapeake Bay or the Atlantic coast. In sum, I strongly oppose all reduction harvesting and support the most extreme, conservative options in the draft addendum. It is important to stop the high-tech, mechanized pursuit of menhaden by aircraft and drones. It won't be long before the reduction harvesters start using artificial intelligence to completely decimate the menhaden population. The Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic coast belong to all of the citizens of the United States and should not be jeopardized to enrich reduction harvesting that has many other sources to manufacture its animal food, fertilizer, and vitamin products. Corporate interests should not prevail over the rights of citizens and the natural order of the waters. With reasonable judgment, objective cost-benefit and economic analysis staunching reduction harvesting, perhaps the Bay will eventually be restored to the levels I recall as a child and adult. The need for reduction harvesting pales in comparison to making the Bay and its animal life healthy again. Please do the right thing. Help preserve this nation's largest estuary that is a critical nursery for East Coast rockfish spawning and osprey nesting. Thank you for your courtesy in considering my comments. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Carl B. Wilkerson
Lifelong Maryland resident

Get Outlook for iOS

James Boyle

From: Greg Case -Peak <gcase@peakequity.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 11:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Pls do the right thing and take a balanced approach to the management of this critical resource. Continued over-harvesting dooms Menhaden and the entire food web they support. Do the right thing for the long term, not the short term selfish thing. Protect these fish.

Greg Case
PeakEquity Partners | Managing Partner
Office: 610-230-0938 | Cell: 917-864-2476
Gcase@peakequity.com

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James Boyle

From: zagorec@comcast.net
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 11:27 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

This is a comment asking for a much reduced allowance of Atlantic Menhaden harvested anywhere on the eastern seaboard. This is also asking for a ban on fishing of young Menhaden.
The Osprey on our eastern coast are failing to thrive, and failing to produce offspring due to the lack of food. People have food alternatives. Other species do not have so many options. The reduction, this summer, of Osprey hatchlings, and of fledgling is alarming. We need to act now to rescue not only the Osprey, but other species which feed on Atlantic Menhaden.

Thank you.
Melene Rose
Ridgefield, Ct

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James Boyle

From: Linda Schneider <lgpschneider@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 11:15 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Delegate Jeion Ward
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am writing to encourage you to pass the strongest possible protections for menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay offered in this Addendum. The plight of the osprey in our bay is obvious: the number of hatchlings that are able to be successfully raised by their parents has dramatically decreased in the last 5 years because the osprey cannot catch enough to keep the baby osprey fed. We cannot see the impacts on the aquatic species in the bay, or the species that depend upon them.

These protections look like the best way to give the menhaden to recover, and the re-examination in 3 years will see if this is actually effective.

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount

I support option C1e: that reduces the CAP by at least 50 percent in 2027 and limits the future Bay Cap to 13.6% of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC).

Also, support option C2a, which sets an upper limit of 51,000mt for the Bay Cap (the current level).

3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution

I also support option B2, which establishes three even length quota periods for the Bay Cap, but distributes harvest 25% in period 1, 25% in period 2, and 50% into period 3.

Also, I support, option B, which establishes quota period overage and underage provisions within a fishing year.

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision

Support Option B to revisit the Bay Cap every 3 years.

The health of the Chesapeake Bay, and of all the communities and species that depend upon it matters immeasurably. You have it in your power to protect the Bay, and to secure not only a tremendous legacy in doing so, but to secure the health of an irreplaceable national ecosystem.

Respectfully,

Linda G. P. Schneider, MD, MBA, FAAFP

James Boyle

From: Michael Ozkaya <lifliesmike@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 11:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Cutting the Chesapeake Bay Cap by the full 50%

Linking the Bay Cap to the coast wide catch limit, so when one drops, the other does too

Spreading Bay harvest across quota periods so the bay isn't stripped in spring and summer

Reducing the coastwide catch limit by 40% to meet the science for 2027 and beyond.

Protect this valuable food fish that so many depend on please!

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James Boyle

From: gkinnen <gkinnen24@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 11:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I strongly support the maximum proposed reduction of 50% in the Chesapeake Bay menhaden reduction fishery cap under Draft Addendum II.

I began saltwater fishing in 2017, and since then I have watched the fishing I care about decline. It is frustrating and heartbreaking to see that change in less than a decade. My experience is a personal observation, not a scientific assessment, but it is why I feel strongly that fisheries management needs to take meaningful action now.

Menhaden are essential forage for striped bass and other predators. Management must account for their value alive in the ecosystem, not simply the amount that can be harvested. Protecting the forage base is an investment in healthier fisheries and the coastal communities that depend on them.

I recognize that multiple factors affect the health of our fisheries. That does not diminish the importance of protecting menhaden or justify delaying precautionary action.

Please adopt the full 50% reduction. I want future generations to experience healthy, abundant saltwater fisheries, and I am asking the Board to prioritize that long-term future.

Garrett Kinnen

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James Boyle

From: Mike Feeney <feenz.mike@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Addendum 2

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Good evening James and committee. Just writing to let you know I support A 50 percent t cut in the bay cap. Fishing over 3 periods. Please don't reallocate unused quotas to other regions etc….hoping you decide to err on the side of conservation. You can always reassess the effects of these moves in 2 or 3 years. The past few seasons Menhaden have been very scarce up here in Western Long Island Sound. I'm just hoping for the sake of our kids and grandkids we do the right thing . Thanks
Mike Feeney.
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James Boyle

From: Debbie Gritt <debbg44@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:33 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] TAC

Opinion: 50 per cent reduction on TAC of menhaden in the Bay. Thank you for listening to our opinion.
Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Mike Feeney <feenz.mike@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello guys . Please go with a 39 percent cut in the Tac. For the sake of the Menhaden. And as a Grandparent I'm writing on behalf of my one and only two year old grandsons. I'm hoping they can experience some of the great sights I have seen over the years when the food source for all marine life is abundant. You can do the same for your children and grandchildren by following the science and observations the past few years. Thanks
Mike Feeney
Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Joe Masley <masley.joe@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

ASMFC Members,

I am writing to ask you to please preserve the menhaden fishery by implementing a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay Cap.

Though I am from Massachusetts, this issue is having a direct impact on the lives of many of my friends who earn their livings guiding the waters, the local fishing/seafood industry, and my own life as well.

I have lived on the water my whole life and have a passion for saltwater fishing - specifically striper fishing. This summer, my two young sons, aged 7 and 5 finally began to ask me in earnest to take them fishing.

Growing up, I was always enthralled by going down to the rivers on the South Shore that were filled with schoolie stripers to catch and release. They were always there.

Now, finding a school of them is a unique, isolated event. Of all my fishing spots and those that my friends who guide took us to, we caught 0...even in "The Fall Run."

All my boys wanted to do was catch a striper. They kept saying it to me over and over again. For a guy (me) who used to go out and catch them by the dozens over the years of my life, it was a sad reckoning that our amazing resources are disappearing before our eyes.

I know that menhaden are not only bait fish stripers eat, but this problem we are all facing is extremely complex, and the rapidly declining menhaden population is most likely a reason for this. It is also most likely a reason why our entire fishery for all species is in decline.

All I want is for my children, your children, and our children's children to be able to go out and enjoy the experiences that our incredible East Coast holds for them.

In an age where we can all agree there is far too much tv, screen time, and social media, I believe it is our obligation to preserve the things in life that truly matter and bring us together.

Thanks for listening.

- Joe

--
Semper Fidelis

Joe Masley

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James Boyle

From: Deborah Boatright <dboatright2m@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:18 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Deborah Boatright
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II -Public Comment - Friday, October 9; 10:00pm

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Members of the Commission,

My name is Deborah Boatright, a 15 year resident of the Bay Creek Community in the town of Cape Charles, and I am CONCERNED!
I am concerned about the continued industrial-scale harvesting of Atlantic menhaden in Virginia's Chesapeake Bay and therefore am writing to urge the Commission to adopt stronger, precautionary measures to protect this vital natural resource.

Menhaden are more than a commercial commodity. They are a foundational species in the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, providing an essential food source for striped bass, osprey, dolphins, and numerous other fish and wildlife. Maintaining an adequate supply of menhaden is critical to the health of the Bay, the survival of predator species, and the long-term sustainability of the region's fisheries.

As a resident of Northampton County, I am particularly concerned about the concentration of industrial harvesting in the Bay and its potential effects on other fisheries and the broader ecosystem. Although coastwise assessments indicate that Atlantic menhaden are not currently overfished, and overfishing is not occurring, those findings do not necessarily establish that local menhaden availability in the Chesapeake Bay is adequate to meet the needs of predators and other fisheries.

Therefore, I urge the Commission to take the following actions:

1.
Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery harvest cap. Adopt a meaningful reduction in the current cap, with serious consideration given to the proposed 50% reduction, as a precautionary step to protect the Bay's ecological balance.
2.
Distribute harvesting more evenly throughout the season. Establish seasonal quota periods to prevent excessive concentrations of industrial harvesting during critical periods for menhaden and the species that depend on them.
3.
Strengthen scientific monitoring and accountability. Improve the collection and analysis of data on local menhaden availability, predator populations, fishing activity, and the effects of industrial harvesting within the Bay.
4.
Protect the long-term interests of the Chesapeake Bay. Ensure that management decisions account not only for the commercial value of harvested menhaden but also for their ecological importance, recreational fisheries, local fishing communities, and the public interest.

The Chesapeake Bay is an invaluable natural resource that deserves responsible, science-informed stewardship. Once ecological damage occurs, restoring the balance can be difficult, costly, and time-consuming. Management decisions should therefore reflect a commitment to prevention, transparency, and long-term sustainability.

I recognize the economic importance of commercial fisheries. However, responsible fisheries management must balance those economic interests with the need to preserve the natural systems that sustain fish populations, wildlife, and fishing opportunities for future generations.

I respectfully urge the Commission to adopt meaningful reductions in industrial menhaden harvesting in the Chesapeake Bay and implement safeguards that protect this essential forage fish and the ecosystem that depends on it.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your responsibility to safeguard Atlantic menhaden and the Chesapeake Bay for present and future generations.

Respectfully submitted,

A Concerned Resident of Cape Charles, Va
Deborah Boatright
Bay Creek Community

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James Boyle

From: Keith Hocker <hocker711@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Keith Hocker from Lewes, DE, writing in to support the following:

- Cutting the Chesapeake Bay Cap by the **full 50%**
- Linking the Bay Cap to the **coastwide catch limit**, so when one drops, the other does too
- Spreading Bay harvest across **quota periods** so the Bay isn't stripped in spring and summer
- **Reducing the coastwide catch limit by 40%** to meet the science for 2027 and beyond

Thank you,
Keith

302-542-2938
hocker711@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

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James Boyle

From: Carol Swan <carolswan@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:03 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commissioners:

I grew up spending every weekend on my family's fishing boat for full weekends on the Chesapeake Bay. We fished for rockfish, bluefish, hardheads, and sea trout. While we long advocated for conservation measures to ensure the long-term viability of the rockfish, no one knew that there would be other factors at play that would be causing the decline in rockfish decades later.

Now, the lack of menhaden has led to the serious decline in rockfish again. Menhaden used to provide 70% of the rockfish diet in the Chesapeake Bay but the lack of menhaden caused a reduction to 8% of the adult rockfish diet. Some rockfish caught on hook and line are emaciated from the lack of prey, especially menhaden.

I have lived on Oyster Creek just off the Chesapeake Bay for the last 29 years and look forward every March to hearing the distinct sound of the return of the osprey and then miss them when they begin their journey south in September. We have an osprey nest in clear view from our bedroom and deck. As a photographer and naturalist, I have observed first hand the change in the mating and nesting behavior of our ospreys. For the second year in a row, the ospreys failed to produce and raise young; this is widespread in our part of the Bay. It is obvious that management efforts need to be strengthened.

There is compelling evidence that the overharvest of menhaden is adversely affecting the critical availability of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay food chain and the Bay's proper ecological functioning. Why should Virginia be allowed to have 75% of all menhaden harvest and to allow Omega Protein to take 90% of that? This is absurd.

All other reduction facilities along the East coast have been closed and no other state allows the purse seining operations employed for Omega Protein's reduction facility. Maryland has banned such harvest methods for more than 50 years. This reduction plant is a relic of the bad old days of unregulated harvest.

I join many others in urging the ASMFC to:
1. Close the reduction fishery until the 2-year Chesapeake menhaden stock assessment and study of the harvest impacts is completed.

2. If this is not done, I urge that the menhaden Total Allowable Catch (TAC) be reduced by 39% from 186,840 mt to no more than 114,200 metric tons as mentioned by the Menhaden Fishery Management Technical Committee. They found that scientific estimates require a reduction to 114,200 metric tons to achieve a 50/50 probability of staying under the ecological fishing target for rockfish. It would be best to reduce the TAC to 100,000 mt to raise the likelihood of helping striped bass recover.

3. As to Addendum II to the Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden, I join with many the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Maryland League of Conservation Voters, Maryland Ornithological Society, the 29 Maryland legislators, and many other conservationists and fishing groups in supporting these changes:

a. Under Section 3.1, Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount, adopt Option C1e, which would set the Bay CAP at 13.6% of the coastwide total allowable catch (a 50% reduction under the current TAC), and Option C2a, which would keep an upper limit of 51,000 metric tons for the Bay CAP.

b. Under Section 3.2, Chesapeake Bay CAP Distribution, adopt Option B2, which would establish three even-length quota periods and distribute harvest 25% in period one, 25% in period two, and 50% in period three, and Option B, which would establish quota-period overage payback and rollover of unused quota within a fishing year.

c. Under Section 3.3, Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery CAP Revisit Provision. Adopt Option B, which would require the Board to reassess the efficacy of these management tools every three years.

There are compelling indications that the overharvest of menhaden is adversely affecting the critical importance to the availability of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay food chain and the Bay's proper ecological functioning. This compounds decades of massive removal of menhaden for the reduction fishery where menhaden are now taken to be processed into fish meal and fish oil to profit a Canadian corporation, Cooke, Inc. This deprives other fish species dependent on menhaden as a forage fish of important protein and fat resources that are of ASMFC conservation concern.

Osprey reproductive success is crashing as evidenced by Dr. Bryan Watts of Virginia's William and Mary Center for Conservation Biology.

Finally, menhaden support a working fishery in Maryland, mainly by pound netters. Our watermen harvest menhaden, and our crabbers rely on them for bait. Menhaden are not making it to Maryland waters like they once did. Since 2017, Maryland has been unable to harvest even half of its small quota. In 2024, Maryland harvested less than 10% of its TAC menhaden quota of 1.17%. This fishery has declined sharply as menhaden harvest dropped by more than 80% since 2020 and still is below 10% of the TAC quota.

Menhaden fishers in Maryland simply cannot find enough menhaden to make economic sense. This leaves crabbers, our main fishery, struggling to find affordable bait as menhaden harvesters are unable to participate in the fishery. The Potomac River Fishery Commission (PRFC) 2025 Commercial Finfish Report documents a radical decline of pound net bait harvest in the Potomac, crashing to 169,423 pounds in 2025 down to 2.4% of the 1964-2025 average and 8.2% of the 2024 take of 2 million pounds. In 1983, 20.8 million pounds were harvested. See this data at: https://www.prfc.us/pdfs/2026/2025finfish.pdf.

It is well past time for the ADMFC to stop allowing Omega Protein to dictate menhaden policy and step up and substantially curb the harvest for the reduction fishery. Jobs saved in Reedville cost jobs in Maryland fisheries.

Sincerely,

Carol L. Swan
Annapolis, MD 21403

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James Boyle

From: Elliott Kagan <elliottkagan@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:03 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II for Public Comment

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

The osprey population in the Chesapeake Bay area has been declining for some time and faces an existential crisis. Many osprey nests have been failing in recent years and several scientists and naturalists have seen an alarming number of osprey chicks essentially starving to death, due to a serious decline in their vital food resource, menhaden fish. The cause of the menhaden decline has been attributed to mass-scale commercial fishing using large, destructive purse seine nets. In view of the size of the annual commercial menhaden catch, I support the proposal to reduce the size of the annual catch by 50% and to distribute the Fishery Bay Cap more evenly throughout the fishing season.

Elliott Kagan

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James Boyle

From: Charles Gallagher <cjgallagher43@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Comments on Modifying the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I'm a retired faculty member from the School of Business at VCU. Sixteen years ago we moved to Meachem Creek, just off the Rappahannock River at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. Our attraction to this area was being able to enjoy the abundance of wildlife on the creek. We saw many birds ---osprey, eagles, even pelicans. Fish jumping...even the occasional river otter.

I believe that menhaden have been overfished by commercial fisheries and that this is affecting the food chain in ways that we can see and ways we cannot see.

I hope someone has the power to restore the health of our river and the Chesapeake Bay before it's too late.

Chuck Gallagher
Mobile: 804-690-1864
email: cjgallagher43@gmail.com

"No mater how difficult life may seem, there's always something you can do and achieve,. The important thing is not to give up". Stephen Hawking

"Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle." Socrates

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James Boyle

From: Jody Carrara <jodycarrara517@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear ASMFC,

Regarding the Atlantic Coast Menhaden:

I ask that you apply a moratorium to Chesapeake and Delaware Bay catches of Menhaden. If you cannot do this, please apply the most restrictive addendums possible to preserve the Menhaden populations in the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays.

Overfishing has diminished the catch in the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays and tributary rivers as evidenced by fishermen's lack of significant catches, diminished predator specie numbers in these waters and increased mortality of Osprey and their young.

The time to act is now. Please fulfill your obligation to protect sustainable Atlantic Coast Menhaden populations. Your actions now will have consequences for generations to come; not only for Menhaden but for the livelihoods of local residents.

Respectfully yours,

Johanna Carrara
193 High Street
Leesburg, NJ 08327
Phone: 609-319-7237

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James Boyle

From: Emily Malfitano <emily.malfitano8@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello,
My name is Emily Malfitano and I am a concerned mother in New Jersey. Our local fisheries rely on a healthy ecosystem, and a lack of menhaden affects all of us.

In order to protect our suffering wildlife, and more importantly, ourselves, I am in full support of a moratorium of menhaden fishing, followed by a 50% cap reduction.

Please do right by ocean communities and place a moratorium on menhaden fishing, followed by a 50% cap reduction.

Thank you,
Emily Malfitano
Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Jean krauth <jeank62@optimum.net>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:36 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Fwd: Reduce Menhaden Overfishing

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "jeank62@optimum.net" <jeank62@optimum.net>
> **Date:** October 9, 2026 at 11:06:33 AM EDT
> **To:** "comments@asfmc.org" <comments@asfmc.org>
> **Subject: Reduce Menhaden Overfishing**
>
> I am alarmed by the plummeting population of coastal osprey because of overfishing of menhaden that are needed to feed the osprey nestlings. Please initiate tighter limits on menhaden harvests.
>
> Thank you for your help in stopping this ecological tragedy.
>
> Sincerely,
> Regina Krauth

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James Boyle

From: s murphy <carpediem040@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Manhadens

Least fishing but in actuality want no fishing, for the sake of the menhadens.

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James Boyle

From: James Price <jameshprice3@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

This is obviously a crisis of major proportion and has been for many years.The commercial catch of menhaden should be prohibited immediately and the reduction facility in Reedville should be permanently closed. Look at what happened in New Jersey shortly after the menhaden catch was reduced/eliminated-- the catch of striped bass and other fish in the tidal waters increased shortly thereafter.
A recreational fishing guide that I've fished with in the Bay and its tributaries for 25 years closed his business in July, 2026 due to the fishery depletion.
It's way past time to stop talking about this problem and do something now.

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James Boyle

From: Carol Gregoire <carolgregoire@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] menhaden over fishing comments

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

As a resident of the Chesapeake Bay region, I understand that the total menhaden population, a keystone species for the ecosystem of the bay, has likely been significantly overestimated (35-40%), and their numbers have actually been declining at quite an alarming rate. The upcoming studies that have been granted funding are great, but I fear the fish cannot wait for studies to be completed since they have been put off for far too long. In fact, I'm not sure why a temporary moratorium isn't on the table.

Additionally, I have seen many osprey nests fail in recent years and I understand that the population in the bay area has fallen below the point of sustainability. This is heartbreaking to see after witnessing their recovery since the elimination of DDT. Scientists and naturalists that I know personally are seeing an alarming number of osprey chicks simply starving to death. Since the birds rely on menhaden, it is long past time to reduce the annual catch to help reverse this troubling trend.

The birds and local fishermen simply cannot compete with mass scale commercial fishing using large destructive purse seine nets, which is another reason to limit the scale of the catch. Therefore, I support the proposal to reduce the annual catch by 50% and also support the 25%/25%/50% spread to push a higher percentage of the catch beyond the osprey nesting period.

Thank you for your consideration!

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James Boyle

From: Ellen-Marie <ellenmariedigi@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello,

I support the Connecticut Audubon Society and the request to reduce the Bay Cap by 50%, a precautionary measure to ensure that menhaden, a key foundation fish and a prime food source for Connecticut's Osprey, are not put in even greater jeopardy.

Ellen-Marie D.
Sent from my iPhone

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James Boyle

From: Linda Bonvie <lbonvie@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Public Comment on Draft Addendum II

Chair Joseph Cimino
Vice Chair Nicole Lengyel Costa
Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Public Comment on Draft Addendum II

Dear Chair Cimino, Vice Chair Lengyel Costa, and Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board:

In her 1962 book *Silent Spring*, Rachel Carson eloquently warned of the alarming impact of DDT on the survival rate of birds such as the American eagle.

This time, the canary in the coal mine is the osprey. Mother birds sit on nests with starving chicks, waiting for their mates, who are desperately hunting for menhaden to bring back from the sea.

Tragically, this will not happen. This alarming shortage of food for the osprey is directly linked to the shocking decrease in menhaden, a.k.a. bunker.

In the 2007 book, *The Most Important Fish in the Sea*, H. Bruce Franklin maintained that menhaden are the most essential fish on the planet. Ospreys would agree, since menhaden serve as their foundational food source.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is now holding the fate of the osprey in its hands.

In just my small town of Barnegat Light, N.J., there were 12 active osprey nests this year, of which only three produced young. A third of them had adult females who did not lay eggs in the spring due to scarcity of Atlantic menhaden in the ocean. All other nests were active with eggs or young and lost them to food stress and starvation.

I urge the ASMFC to adopt the strongest conservation option under Draft Addendum II: a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap, along with measures that distribute harvest more evenly throughout the season and reduce the concentration of harvest during spring and summer.

The ospreys are warning us about an alarming situation. Are we listening? What critically needed action will be taken? Or will the cry of the dying birds be ignored and followed by a Silent Summer?

Dorothy (Dottie) Reynolds

Councilwoman, Borough of Barnegat Light

2406 Bayview Ave.

Barnegat Light, NJ 08006

609-457-7106

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James Boyle

From: Bill Cox <billcoxcreek@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Public Comment: Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am writing to urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to take immediate, strong action to protect the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem by implementing strict catch limits under Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II. Specifically, I support options that substantially lower the reduction fishing allowance in the Bay.

On my property located at 1737 Harbor Dr in Chester we installed an Osprey nest mounted on a pole(2005)/piling(2013) off the property as permitted by the MDE. From the original years nest until just several years ago we have enjoyed watching these beautiful birds build nests and raise as many as 3 fledglings each year. Something began to change in the past few years. In 2021 we had 3 young fledge. Starting in 2022 we began to see nest built, mating and what appeared to be sitting on eggs only to mysteriously abandon the nest approximately 2 weeks after hatching. The pattern continued in 2023 the female seemed to abandon actual babies after two weeks. Since then we have had pairs arrive at the nest, mate, even add building materials to nest but never finish the process or pattern we had seen in the years from 2000 thru 2020. Not only our pole but the many others on Cox Creek are empty of birds. Something is wrong!

As a resident/supporter of the Chesapeake Bay region, I am deeply alarmed by the unprecedented breeding failures and starvation currently devastating our local osprey populations. Decades of scientific monitoring show a direct link between the lack of mature Atlantic menhaden and the inability of ospreys to successfully raise their chicks.

Menhaden are the ecological backbone of the Chesapeake Bay. Allowing industrial-scale reduction fishing to deplete this critical forage fish at the expense of ospreys, striped bass, and other native wildlife is unsustainable and unacceptable.

Please prioritize the long-term health of the Bay's ecosystem over short-term commercial harvest by implementing the maximum possible protections in Draft Addendum II. Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.

William & Donna Cox
1737 Harbor Drive

Chester, Maryland 21619

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James Boyle

From: popclemons@icloud.com
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 8:59 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] alantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

My name is James Clemons . I've held a lobster license since 1963 , have 3 adult sons with family that are also full time lobstermen, and grandson that has his commercial license with a 33' lobster boat. I'm a member of a Maine lobstering family. I also pogie fish and 2 of my sons also have their commercial menhaden license . We are a small scale independent fishermen. We believe that the existing allocation for Maine is grossly too little. My son's ad I catch our own bait and sell the rest to local commercial lobster wharfs. We fish out of Harpswell, and in this town we have over 450 licensed lobstermen . Bait is very limited ,and the menhaden harvest is vital to our lobster fishery . We need more quota for our state. We have the fish stock here, but with this limited quota we are forced to stay home and not catch the fish . The need is here , the fish archer, the fishermen are here , but the large quotas are down in the southern states. 6000 + lobstermen rely on this limited quota , it's just not fair. Protect Maines lobster industry and grant us a lot more quota . Sincerely, James Clemons

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James Boyle

From: Taylor Ingraham <taylor.ingraham@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 8:56 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello,

My name is Taylor Ingraham. I am a life-long angler from Connecticut. My family has property in Rhode Island and I have fished up and down the east coast my entire life. I am a father of four boys.

Healthy fisheries are a priority for me, as each of my sons love fishing as much as I did as a kid and as much as I do now. There is urgent action needed for so many species, but today I am commenting on Draft Addendum II.

I urge the Board to cut the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap by 50% to 25,500 metric tons. I reject any effort to link the Chesapeake Bay cap and the Coastwide TAC. Not only are there not enough details about what that would mean, these two areas, while linked, move separately, and there should not be increases in the Bay in the future if there are increases on the coast. These should remain separate.

I believe option B1 for quota periods is the best, and that quota should be spread evenly throughout the year and not focused on certain times.

I wish there was an option that would not allow underages to be transfered to future periods, however given the options we have, believe Sub Option 1 is the best path forward, requiring that any underage in period one be evenly split across Periods 2 and 3.

The Bay Cap should be reviewed at least once every three years. This should be a bare minimum.

You will hear from me again next week on the Coastwide TAC, please do the right thing and protect these valuable forage fish.

Taylor Ingraham

Tightlined Conservation Coalition

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James Boyle

From: Tammy <dwd12345@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 8:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Draft Addendum, II

I am very concerned about the terrible problem in our waters.
After hearing testimony at a few of the public zoom meetings, I want to express my opinion and the dire need for you to quickly adopt the following measures.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation supports
-- 3.1C;e – a 50% reduction in the allowable Chesapeake Bay harvest and a 13.6% proportional cap on the coastal harvest, referred to as TAC
--3.2.1B2:3 which is a quota catch percentage of 25%, 25% and 50% during the three harvest periods. Delaying the largest harvest until the last catch period will hopefully provide some time for the menhaden to grow
--revisit the catch limits at least in three years.

I appreciate your diligence in protecting our environment, wildlife and the future for ort children.

This decision must be done quickly, before it is too late and the consequences are irreversible.
Sincerely,
Tammy Laverty
133 4 th st
Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660

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James Boyle

From: paulette derocco <paulettederocco@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 8:36 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Please, help us help the Osprey from extinction. This is a critical issue that needs our support . In the 3 years I have been a steward observing these magnificent birds I have seen a part of nature I never knew existed. My grandchildren are now fascinated with the Osprey and the nurturing given by them to their young. To think they may become extinct due to humans is heartbreaking. Please don't allow menhaden to be over fished .

Thank you ,
Paulette Derocco

Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: GCC Membership <gccmembership@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 8:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II Comments

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear ASMFC,

As a resident of Maryland who spent years volunteering for the Smithsonian, I am concerned about the health and sustainability of the Chesapeake Bay. Given that the total menhaden population, a keystone species for the ecosystem, has been overestimated by a reported 37% (and declining rapidly according to researchers at William & Mary), I fear that it will be too late for the fish and the osprey/birds to wait for the upcoming studies to be completed. I would like to see action taken now to reduce the annual menhaden catch. We have waited for too long while industry has pulled too much out of the bay and delayed any meaningful studies to date.

I have personally seen many osprey nests fail in recent years. Right now, the reproductive rate in the bay area has fallen below the point of sustainability. In a 20-mile stretch along the southern end of the Patuxent river, only 11 osprey chicks hatched this past spring according to a naturalist who was tasked with taking the count. Given that there was a higher hatchling success rate further upstream where the food source is different (lots of goldfish!), it suggests that the population nearer to the bay that rely more heavily on menhaden for food has been impacted by the decline in the numbers of fish to the point of starvation for the poor osptry chicks. This incredibly sad -- we must do more to protect our resources and the environment -- for both marine life and wildlife.

Further, Virginia seems to be getting more than its share of the allocation of the total east coast annual limit, which gives the foreign commercial industry (using purse seine nets and aircraft) operating in that area too much influence on the health of the bay, particularly for the fishermen and nature lovers who live in Maryland. We are adversely impacted by the fact that too many fish are being removed from the ocean/mouth of the bay such that they don't make it further up the bay into Maryland waters.

Therefore, I support the proposal to reduce the annual catch by 50% and also support the 25%/25%/50% spread to push a higher percentage of the catch beyond the osprey nesting period. If a total moratorium was a choice, I would have supported that!

Thank you!

Barb Ripp
Maryland

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James Boyle

From: Cynthia Wurst <thewurstone@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 8:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden limited

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear ASMFC Menhaden Management Board,

Please find my public comment regarding the Draft Addendum II below. I would appreciate it if you acknowledge receipt of this email.

Comment:

Mr. Joseph Cimino, Chair
Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Public Comment on Draft Addendum II

Dear Chairman Joseph Cimino and Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on the management of such a vital natural resource.

My late husband, who passed away more than a decade ago, spent most of his life on the water. Whenever he was not working, he was fishing. He loved pursuing large sportfish, including bluefin tuna and striped bass, as well as many other species off the coasts of New Jersey and Maine, where we owned homes. He passed his love of fishing and appreciation for abundant natural resources on to our two sons. One is a recreational angler in New Jersey, and the other is a wildlife biologist who monitors the health of our coast through the lens of our ospreys.

Through my sons, I have come to better understand the critical role Atlantic menhaden play in maintaining healthy coastal ecosystems. Based on what I have learned and heard, I believe a precautionary approach to menhaden management is essential to protect this important resource and the many species that depend on it.

Atlantic menhaden are a vital forage fish, filtering our coastal waters converting phytoplankton into energy-rich proteins and fats that support ospreys and many other marine predators. As a concerned coastal citizen, I believe menhaden management must account for their essential ecological role and

the needs of the wildlife that depend on them. Ospreys are increasingly showing signs of food stress and poor reproductive success along the Atlantic coast. As highly visible predators, they provide valuable insight into changes occurring throughout the marine food web. Precautionary management of Atlantic menhaden is warranted while research and monitoring continue to improve our understanding of menhaden availability, predator demand, and the broader ecological effects of commercial harvest.

I support a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay Atlantic menhaden reduction fishery cap. I also support linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide total allowable catch (TAC), maintaining the Bay Cap at 13.6% of the TAC so that it remains proportionate to the coastwide limit as management targets change. The Bay Cap should not be allowed to increase substantially simply because the coastwide TAC increases.

I support allocating 25% of the Bay Cap to the first harvest period, 25% to the second, and 50% to the final period. Delaying a greater proportion of the allowable harvest until later in the season would provide a more precautionary seasonal approach and reduce the concentration of harvest earlier in the year.

I do not support reallocating quota overages between harvest periods. Allowing overages from one period to be shifted into another could undermine the intended limits and weaken the effectiveness of these seasonal safeguards. Clear accountability, consistent enforcement, and stronger oversight are necessary to ensure that established harvest limits are followed.

I believe the Bay Cap should be reviewed every three years, or sooner if warranted by new information. These reviews should incorporate the latest research and monitoring on the effects of industrial menhaden harvest on fish, wildlife, and overall ecosystem health. Management measures should be adjusted as new evidence becomes available to ensure that harvest levels remain sustainable and account for the ecological needs of predators that rely on menhaden as a food source.

Protecting abundant Atlantic menhaden is an investment in healthy fisheries, thriving wildlife, and resilient coastal ecosystems. I respectfully urge the Commission to place the ecological needs of Atlantic menhaden and the many species that depend on them at the center of its management decisions. A precautionary approach today will help protect these resources for future generations of anglers, wildlife, and coastal communities.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely, Cynthia Z Wurst, Waretown, NJ

Sent from my iPad

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James Boyle

From: Nita Settina <nsettina@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 7:59 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear ASMFC Officials,

I am writing to urge your support for actions to address steep declines in Atlantic menhaden populations, which are severely impacting nesting ospreys in the Chesapeake Bay. Specifically, I urge you to support a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap (option B4) to 25,500 metric tons, as well as strict quota periods to distribute harvest evenly throughout the year rather than permitting an intense summer harvest.

Having worked in Chesapeake Bay conservation for 30 years, I have witnessed the decline of osprey firsthand. Where our community skies were once filled with osprey cries, they are now virtually silent, mirroring the alarming drops in osprey fecundity documented by scientists and volunteer monitors across the Bay. I have monitored the osprey nesting platform in our community and for the first time in 20 years, a mated pair is no longer building a nest.

Osprey nest production in the lower portions of the Bay dropped to a record low of 0.25 young per pair in 2026, down from 0.51 in 2024. On a global scale, ospreys require a breeding success rate of 0.8 to 1.3 young per pair to support a stable, self-sustaining population. In high salinity waters, 81% of all monitored osprey pairs failed to fledge any young at all during the 2026 breeding season due to food scarcity. According to the Center for Conservation Biology at William & Mary, this reproductive rate represents a catastrophic failure. The total number of birds successfully laying eggs has plummeted by 20% to 30%, a steeper initial drop than what was observed during the height of the mid-20th century DDT crisis.

Atlantic menhaden are a non-replaceable, nutritionally essential keystone species, serving as the primary food source for osprey and the foundation of the marine food web. Yet industrial processing extracts over 100 million pounds from Virginia Bay waters during a concentrated summer window. Recent data underscores the urgency of this issue:

- The ASMFC menhaden technical committee reported a 37% decline in overall coastwide menhaden biomass, raising serious sustainability concerns regarding the industrial fishery.
- The 2025 Potomac River Fisheries Commission report noted a menhaden bait fish harvest of just 169,423 pounds—an over 90% drop from the previous record low in 2023, and the lowest landing in 61 years of tracking.

As the Chesapeake Bay is home to the largest nesting osprey population in the world, adopting an ecosystem-based management approach for menhaden is essential. I also urge you to please support funding for a two-year, Bay-wide menhaden stock assessment and research into the full range of potential causes behind osprey nesting failures.

The impact of the ASMFC decisions regarding the Atlantic menhaden are of critical importance to the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, and the fate of the Bay's osprey populations. Sustained reproductive deficits in osprey nesting success, largely driven by extreme food stress and localized depletion of Atlantic menhaden will result in a decline in osprey numbers by 14% annually and in a 50% total population collapse over the next decade if conditions do not change. I urge the Commission to recognize the importance of their decisions regarding the menhaden fishery to the osprey population and act with urgency.

Thank you for your public service, and for consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Nita Settina
1255 Crummell Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21401

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James Boyle

From: V. Elsbernd <siriusly333@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 7:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

comments@asmfc.org

Subject: Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

I am writing to express opposition to making cuts in the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fish caps without supporting science and proven causality and without the benefit of the results of studies currently underway.

Many inflammatory, anecdotal, and inaccurate statements are being put forth in support of making further cuts to the Bay menhaden fishing caps. The decline in osprey productivity is incorrectly being tied to “menhaden depletion” caused by “overfishing”. The commercial fishery is an easy target (especially compared to “climate change” or “pollution”) and is being unfairly demonized. Neither “menhaden depletion” nor “overfishing” in the Bay has been proven or is supported by scientific research. The ASMFC’s 2025 assessment states that the overall coast-wide menhaden stock is **not overfished, nor is overfishing occurring**.

Over twenty years of historical data shows us that osprey decline is independent of menhaden caps. The 1980’s were reported to be great years for osprey – there were no fishing caps in the Bay then. After declining osprey productivity starting in the 1990’s, fishing caps in the Bay were imposed in 2006 as a precautionary measure due to “**concerns”** of localized depletion. From 2006 to 2012, the Bay Harvest cap for menhaden was 109,020 MT. From 2013-2017, a 20% reduction was enacted. In the 2018 timeframe, this cap was reduced to 51,000 MT, a reduction of over 58,000 MT or about 53% lower than in 2006. This cap has remained unchanged since 2018. Yet again, osprey productivity has plummeted in recent years independently of the steady Bay harvest caps.

It’s déjà vu. Again today, there are “concerns” but no “facts” tying osprey productivity declines to overfishing. More research is needed to better understand local abundance of menhaden in the Bay and their migratory movements as well as other factors that are likely impacting osprey productivity and menhaden availability.

Correlation is not the same as causation. A third factor(s) often drives both.

Something else has changed, not only in the Bay, but across North America with drastically **declining bird populations everywhere**. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology says nearly 3 billion birds (over 30%) have been lost in North America since the 1970’s with shorebirds down 37%. This widespread pattern indicates that multiple environmental stressors, rather than a single fishery consisting of 6 boats, are influencing not only osprey’s productivity, but other birds across North America.

Current arguments to cut caps ignore the complexity of the Bay environmental system. It has many more components than just birds, fish and boats. You need to look for the big smoking guns that the research can help reveal and then a more informed decision based upon proven root causes can be made.

What <u>has</u> changed recently that could be impacting the health of birds AND fish in the Bay and East Coast? Several possible causes could result in osprey symptoms that look like the ones described in the Watts study.

(1)Water Quality: Early 2026 was a disastrous time for major chemical-related incidents affecting the Bay watershed. January to June 2026 included several major spills in the Bay releasing (a) **240-300 million gallons** of untreated sewage dumped directly in the Potomac River, (b) 3**2,000 gallons of jet fuel** from Joint Base Andrews leaked into a tributary of the Potomac, (c) **4,700 gallons of jet fuel** into the James River, and (d) **200 gallons of mixed waste fuel spill** in area of Baltimore's industrial waterfront Curtis Bay/Baltimore Harbor (June 2026).

Commercial menhaden fishing did not start until June in 2026, well after osprey arrived in March, established nests, laid eggs and started fledging young. A**ny observations made of osprey nesting problems before June 2026 were not caused by commercial fishing.**

- There is considerable overlap between the areas identified by the Watts study experiencing productivity issues and problem areas identified in the 2025 Chesapeake Bay & Watershed Report Card where eleven out of fifteen region scores decreased.

- **Chemical spills** can devastate bird populations long after the initial event, accumulating in the bird's tissues, causing death, long-term starvation or low-level poisoning. Breeding adults can transfer toxins to their nests which seep through eggshells, causing death or severe development defects in chicks. These same symptoms were observed in the Watt's study, but were attributed to starvation caused by overfishing, rather than starvation caused by toxic chemicals.

(2)Recent weather extremes, including rising air and sea surface temperatures, disrupt menhaden migratory patterns by forcing them to shift toward the north and to greater water depths where waters are cooler. Menhaden are unlikely to swim into shallow waters that are too warm or do not contain enough dissolved oxygen for their high metabolism rates. Heat waves, high temperatures, and declining water clarity in the Bay are also pushing eelgrass, an important nursery habitat for juvenile menhaden, into a steep decline.

Colder than average spring weather temperatures (like the cold snap in spring 2026 that froze up parts of the Bay) or delayed warming can delay menhaden entry into the Bay in the spring when ospreys are nesting.

Per NOAA, July 2026 was the hottest month on record in the contiguous US. Higher temps can kill young osprey chicks in the nest and fuel algae blooms which reduce oxygen levels resulting in dead zones that suffocate fish. These algae dead zones combined with increased pollution from storm water runoffs, further disrupting menhaden migratory patterns within the Bay.

The Bay 2025 Report Card says that 2024 "was the hottest year on record and there were extreme rainfall patterns" which increased storm runoffs. The winter of 2025-2026 brought freezing temperatures causing parts of the Bay to ice over, causing significant menhaden and trout kills around the Bay.

Global predictions of increasing temperatures will only exacerbate these problems.

July 2026's intense heat wave helped trigger a massive 14-mile fish kill in the upper Potomac and in the Baltimore Inner Harbor. USGS data showed water temperature peaks up to 98.4 degrees in the Upper Potomac during the July 2026 heat wave and 76 degrees in Baltimore's Inner Harbor. Menhaden prefer cooler water temperatures (from about 59- 68 degrees) and struggle to survive when temperatures rise much above this. **One of Dr. Bryan Watt's study areas in 2026 identifying the worst young osprey per pair productivity (<0.2) was the Potomac River area.**

(3) Bald eagle populations are at or near all-time highs in the Bay resulting in nesting overcrowding and direct competition with osprey to survive. When the larger eagles and osprey clash, osprey are nearly always on the losing side. Bald eagles compete for limited nesting sites and food, eat osprey eggs, devour chicks from the nest and steal osprey fish catches which can result in food deprivation or starvation for the osprey and their chicks.

(4) PCAS are an increasing concern and along with PCBs, pesticides, nitrogen, phosphorous, and other toxic chemicals like mercury are widespread in the Bay. The latest EPA data (2024) show 80% of Bay tidal waters are impaired or partially impaired by toxic contaminants. PCAS and PCB's are referred to as "forever chemicals". The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's 2025 fish consumption advisories found widespread PCB contamination in **Mobjack Bay**, where the emaciated osprey chick photographed in the Watts study was found and has restricted human consumption of gizzard shad (a favorite fish of osprey) there due to persistently high PCB levels. Gizzard shad are an important food source for ospreys.

The Watts study noted widespread chick starvation in Mobjack Bay. PCB poisoning of osprey can result in symptoms much like the emaciated osprey observations from the Watts study, including reduced fertility, severe weight loss, emaciation, as well as reproductive failures including thinner eggshells, unhatched eggs and reduced clutch sizes. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation reported that PCBs are still found in 91% of Bay segments. Many toxic chemicals and pesticides bioaccumulate in tissues of fish and birds that eat these fish. Amounts of these chemicals in the tissues of birds increase up the food chain to apex predators like the osprey whose diet is close to 99% fish.

Chesapeake Bay's Program's Toxic Contaminants Workgroup advised that there is more research needed to address the science gaps in understanding how PFAS impact the Bay.

- **Neonicotinoids**, referred to as the "**next DDT**", have been linked to reduced bird and fish populations globally. They are now used extensively in the Bay area in agriculture, lawn maintenance applications, etc. Rice farmers near Lake Shinji in Japan starting using neonicotinoid insecticides that indirectly caused a collapse in their local commercial fishery yields. The chemicals didn't kill the fish directly, instead, they **starved them** by wiping out the zooplankton at the base of the food web. Maryland House Bill 91 (HB0091), introduced in the 2026 session proposes bans on neonicotinoid pesticides and is facing stiff opposition from pesticide manufacturers and Bay area agricultural groups. Since menhaden rely heavily upon zooplankton, neonicotinoids are a huge stressor on their population.

- **Neonicotinoids began to be used in the US after FDA approval of imidacloprid in 1991. Coincidentally this was around the same time declines in osprey productivity started as noted in studies by B. Watts.**

(5) Changing weather conditions in 2025-26 include a combination of drought conditions in Virginia and Maryland followed by heavy rainstorms. This has caused increased flooding and **stormwater**

runoffs into the Bay containing toxic wastewater, pollutants, chemicals and agricultural pesticides like neonicotinoids, etc. These runoffs directly and indirectly impact both bird and fish health and reproduction.

<u>In summary,</u> the root cause of bay osprey decline could be due to any one or, more likely a combination of the items listed above, or even other factors. It is a huge jump, without any supporting scientific data, to conclude the root cause is overfishing. Hungry ospreys do not prove a shortage of menhaden.

With shifting menhaden migration patterns due to many of the factors named above, no amount of Bay harvest cuts will reliably bring menhaden back to the increasingly hotter and more polluted Bay waters.

- **There is no evidence that reducing the fishing caps would restore osprey reproduction or bring menhaden back to where they used to be**

- **We live in a dynamic world. Conditions change and ecosystems respond. We cannot travel back in time.**

Rather than accepting theoretical postulations (i.e., starving birds equals menhaden overfishing) as facts, **t**ake the time to do the science - do the study first before making cuts. Find out all the real root cause(s) of changes impacting life in the Bay ecosystem.

Complete the studies before making decisions that will prolong identification of the real root cause(s) and delay actions to mitigate. Do the study first before irreparably and unnecessarily impacting the lives, welfare and livelihood of hundreds of families and communities associated with the Reedville fishery.

Victoria Elsbernd

Reston, VA 2091

703-217-5187

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James Boyle

From: Calvin Pitt <comefleyewithme@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 7:50 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Cut Chesapeake bay menhaden quota by full 50% please.

Alan Pittman
117 central pike
Foster, RI
02825

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James Boyle

From: Bruce Woodford <bww10613@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 7:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

We would like to support the recommendations of the subject document to limit the amount of Menhaden allowed to be harvested.

While we realize that this will affect workers in the fishing industry, the recent reports of coastal Osprey nesting failures have convinced us that action needs to be taken to preserve these Ospreys as well as to ensure that the stock of Menhaden is sufficient to support a sustainable harvest for years to come. This is consistent with past efforts to limit crab and oyster harvests that have protected these species from overfishing.

Bruce & Barbara Woodford

Bruce Woodford
bww10613@icloud.com

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James Boyle

From: Annette Savino <annettesavino@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 7:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Overfishing of Menhaden has severely impacted New Jersey's ospreys. Many of the young have starved to death. Please limit the amount of Menhaden that is commercially fished.

Sincerely,
Annette Savino
Sent from my iPad
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James Boyle

From: Krista Maloney <kristamaloney@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 7:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Public Comment on Draft Addendum II, Atlantic Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board:

In the survey I selected the options that would result in the least fishing, but my actual position is that **menhaden should not be fished at all,** for their own sake and for the many species that depend on them.

Menhaden are food for birds, whales, and other fish, several of which are declining in ways believed to be tied to fewer menhaden. The Chesapeake Bay is a nursery for many of these animals, and Virginia is the only East Coast state that still allows reduction fishing for fish oil and fertilizer. The Commission cut the Bay cap in 2012 and 2018 because earlier levels were too high. A reduction of up to 50% is a good step, but it should be a minimum.

Please weigh the interests of everyone with a stake in a healthy Bay and coast, including the public and wildlife, not only those who fish.

Thank you,

Krista Maloney

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James Boyle

From: Karin Nelson <knelson3@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 7:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

All actions must be taken to reduce the numbers of fish as much as possible. These are a vital fish to a healthy ecosystem and absolutely we should not be taking them for fish oil, fertilizer or farmed fish food.

There are very few people who are Food insecure and need these Fish, the vast majority of people do not need to eat fishes and we need to allow the oceans to replenish. The absolute ideal would be no fishing whatsoever.
Thank you
Karin Nelson
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James Boyle

From: Eileen Weintraub <eileenwj@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 6:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] please leave the mehaden alone!

We are opposed to fishing for menhaden and especially reduction fishing in general.

please submit these comments, thank you!
--
Eileen Johnson
Rockville, MD

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James Boyle

From: Gregory McCrickard <gmccrickard@me.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 6:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden public comment

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

My Name is Greg McCrickard and I am a recreational angler living in Virginia and Maryland. I've been fishing the Chesapeake much of my life in both Maryland and Virginia. I'm an avid striped bass and red drum angler who cherishes our resources here in the bay, as well as along the greater Atlantic coast.

Here are my public comments on the record for the Chesapeake Bay Cap:

- 3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Amount. I choose option B4 - a 50% reduction in the current bay cap which would result in a new bay cap of 25,500 mt.

- 3.2.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period. I choose option B1 - even length and even harvest.

- 3.2.2 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Quota Period Overages and Underages. I choose Underage Sub Option 1 where an underage in quota period 1 would be split evenly and rolled over to quota periods 2 and 3.

- 3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision. I choose option B. Where the Chesapeake bay cap will be reviewed at least once every three years.

The Bay ecosystem is clearly in Crisis mode. We need a 50% reduction to the current Bay Cap as there was an error in the previous natural mortality estimate used in the stock assessment. We drastically overestimated the Atlantic menhaden stock because of this natural mortality error. The bay cap has been set way too high for way too long! And it's readily apparent to folks that spend most of their time on the water. From light tackle fishing guides to large charter boat operations, everyone is experiencing less menhaden in our waters. Our osprey are starving and if this isn't the canary in the coalmine, I'm not sure what is…

It's sad seeing our bay being slaughtered by a massive industrial fishing operation. We now have the chance to at least reduce their cap to conserve the population. Surely its time to put the resource first and help support and revive a great recreational fishery for striped bass where the sportsman's dollars will far outweigh the revenues generated by the commercial menhaden fishery in Reedsville, VA.

Let's please put the ecosystem first and conserve menhaden before it's too late.

Respectfully,

Greg McCrickard
410-925-1844
Gmccrickard@me.com

Sent from my iPad

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James Boyle

From: bethcritton <bethcritton@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 6:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Greater reductions in the Menhaden cap are essential to save our ospreys and restore a healthy ecosystem.

Thank you.

Beth Critton
West Hartford, CT
Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Rhonda <runninglate60@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 6:12 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

ASMFC Members,

As a very concerned lifelong citizen of the Chesapeake Bay area, a passionate conservationist and strong believer of balance in nature, I fully support the following sections of the subject Addendum.

- **3.1 Option C1e:** Reducing the initial Chesapeake Bay Cap by 50%, from 51,000 to 25,550 metric tons.
- Establishing the Bay Cap at 13.6% of the coastwide total allowable catch so it can adjust when the coastwide quota changes.
- **3.1 C2a:** Maintaining 51,000 metric tons as the maximum Bay Cap, with no fixed lower limit.
-
- **3.2.1 B2:** Even Length & Uneven Harvest. Allocating 25% of the Bay Cap during the first quota period, 25% during the second period, and 50% during the final period.

- ***This is particularly important in view of unsuccessful osprey breeding and survival of hatchlings as evidenced by biologist and birder monitoring. I have personally noted the same in formerly active/successful nests in the Choptank River and its creeks. In addition, other marine species that rely on menhaden, for example striped bass, have been declining for years.***
- **3.2.2:** Require early- season quota period overages to be deducted from the corresponding period during the following year.
- ***A quota is a quota. A limit is a limit. There should be no overages.***
-
- **3.3 Option B** Revisit Provision: The Chesapeake Bay Cap and related management measures will be revisited every three years following implementation of this draft addendum.

In addition, I strongly support Virginia being required to create a 3-mile limit on reduction fishing like all the other states on the Atlantic Seaboard. There should be no menhaden harvesting in the Chesapeake Bay until there is conclusive scientific evidence that all

the Bay's marine species needs are satisfied before industry's wants.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Franz-Floyd
Trappe, Maryland

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James Boyle

From: David Gioiella <dgioiella@nledit.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 5:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hi,

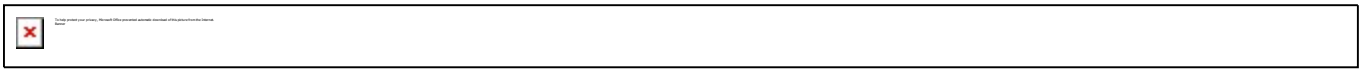
The message is simple, overfishing of this critical species needs to stop.
For the health of our fisheries and the well being of our planet.

I've been fishing in this area since I was a small boy, I'm 53 now.
I've seen almost no Menhaden these past few seasons of fishing on Long Island Sound, and it's sad.
For me, my children, and future generations.

Pleas find a sustainable way to manager this problem.
Things were ok a few years ago and now they're not, so the answer should be clear.

We need action taken soon,
David

David Gioiella
Creative Director / Editor / Partner
212.274.1199 office
917.297.2048 mobile
NY | LA
nl.family



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James Boyle

From: Rosemary Harrison <rosemaryharrison21@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 5:37 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am strongly urging strongly requesting actually pleading with you to consider limiting how many Manhattan are allowed to be fished out of Chesapeake Bay this food is essential for ospreys whose populations are declining their nests are failing, and chicks are not being hatched. They are seriously being endangered by this proposal. I don't see a need for this proposal. You know grid can't always be the driving force neither can profit. These decisions like foresight, they do not take in the bigger picture, and our threat to not just animals but humans as well. We are destroying ourselves very quickly and there's no bouncing back we are destroying land for all kinds of development we are destroying the environment through our actions and once all that is gone when the insects and the animals and the land are gone and the water is polluted And the air is unbreathable and the weather is out of control that it's too late. So please be smart, be bold, and do what is right for all concerned every living being on the planet both now and for the future Thank you
Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Diane Irven <dcirven@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 5:33 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Please vote to PASS this addendum in order to help save the Menhaden population and subsequently our Osprey. I live in Maryland and have friends and family that live along the Magothy River. The Osprey return each year and bring so much enjoyment. Unfortunately, the last three years haven't been good. Three seasons ago a mature offspring died due to starvation. It was horrific. The past 2 years they haven't reproduced. Passing the addendum is critical to the future of the Osprey and the health of the ecosystem which supports so much more.

Thank you for your attention to this extremely important matter. I am grateful for the opportunity to voice my concerns .

Sincerely,
Diane Irven

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James Boyle

From: Trudie Prior <6450coki@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 5:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Strong Support for a Minimum 50% Reduction in Menhaden Catch Limits to Protect Ospreys

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

From: Gertrude Prior
247 Ocean Drive West
Stamford CT
and
19 Loring Lane
Blue Hill ME

October 9, 2026

To: Atlantic Menhaden Management Board
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Subject: **Strong Support for a Minimum 50% Reduction in Menhaden Catch Limits to Protect Ospreys**

Dear Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for imposing at least a 50% reduction in the commercial menhaden catch limit in the Chesapeake Bay, as well as establishing broader regional protections along the Atlantic seaboard.

Atlantic menhaden are a foundational forage fish that sustain an array of marine life and coastal wildlife. Among the most vulnerable to current stock declines are Ospreys, which rely heavily on healthy menhaden populations to successfully feed and raise their young. I have personally witnessed the decline on the Connecticut and Maine coasts. Recent breeding data paints an alarming picture: a survey of 101 Chesapeake Bay Osprey nests this past summer revealed just three successful fledglings. Similar reproductive failures and population pressures are being recorded further north up the Mid-Atlantic coast. The CT Audubon Society reports a steep decline in Connecticut's Osprey population and breeding success driven primarily by the scarcity of Atlantic menhaden, the Osprey's primary food source. The Society reports that in 2025, 1 in 6 nests failed and in 2026 1 in 4 have failed.

These catastrophic breeding numbers point directly to localized overfishing and depletion of crucial forage fish resources. Just as conservation organizations like Connecticut and Maine Audubon stepped

up decades ago to help Ospreys recover from the devastating impacts of DDT, we must act decisively today against this new threat to their survival.

Without sufficient food supplies, regional Osprey recovery will reverse. The evidence clearly indicates that overfishing in the menhaden fishery is a significant factor contributing to these troubling trends. A minimum 50% reduction in the menhaden harvest limit in the Chesapeake Bay is a necessary and urgent step toward restoring ecological balance and ensuring that Ospreys and other dependent species have adequate food during critical breeding seasons.

I urge the Board to adopt a 50% or greater catch reduction at its November 2026 meeting and implement robust ecological management measures to safeguard our coastal ecosystems.

We humans are causing the decline in this fishery and negative effects on Osprey survival. It is our responsibility to rectify it. Thank you for your time, consideration, and leadership on this critical conservation issue.

Sincerely,

Gertrude Prior

(340) 690-1555
6450coki@gmail.com

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James Boyle

From: Steven Saunders <elevation802@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 5:21 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Members of the Board,

I am a sports fisherman who loves fishing for Striped Bass. I have also fallen in love with Ospreys after seeing one dive into the water as I was fishing for Stripers and fly away with a bunker back in the early 80's. It's a memory that has remained with me for over 40 years.

It has also been a joy to watch the Osprey population grow over these past 40 years, and it never ceases to amaze me to see one hit the water feet first and fly away with a bunker.

It's been incredible to watch the Bass population grow with the ever changing size and limit restrictions over these past 40 years as well. Sadly this has been the worst season I've experienced as a Bass fisherman and the Ospreys have not done as well either. There are very few menhaden/bunkers in the water. I do not see the river of rafts of them as I have in the past. The menhaden is a keystone species that many different species depend on, including people employed in the sports fishing industry in bait and tackle shops, fishing guides, boat dealers and clothing manufactures, to name a few.

I have always supported the size & limit restrictions on the Striped Bass fishery. I fully support the 50% reduction in the harvest of menhaden. Please don't let this keystone species collapse. Striped Bass and Ospreys are depending on you to limit the harvest of menhaden, and those of us who enjoy catching and watching them too.

Thank you,
Steve Saunders
East Haddam, CT
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James Boyle

From: Bill chantrell <billchantrell@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 5:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To Whom it may Concern,

As a volunteer Osprey Nation volunteer for the Audubon Society in Connecticut, I have personally witnessed a dramatic reduction in successful osprey nests over the past two years. It seems this is a direct result of the reduction of their primary food source, Menhaden. I urge the Commission to do everything it can to reduce fishing pressure on Menhaden before it is too late!

Thank you.

Bill Chantrell

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James Boyle

From: salafiama@comcast.net
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 5:08 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Ocean TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Board members,

I am a long time resident of the CT shoreline and an Osprey Steward in CT for the past several years. I have witnessed a significant decline in ospreys over the past few years. This year was especially distressing with the viability of the osprey population, especially their young. Hearing the young ospreys crying for food with absent adults is heartbreaking. I feel this is all related to a lack of an available food source and overfishing.

I support a 40% reduction to approximately 112,100 metric tons for years 2027 and 2028.

Thank you for your time and consideration into this matter.

Michelle Salafia

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James Boyle

From: Gregory Andreycak <gandreycak@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 5:08 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden 2027-2028 TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Cut the coastwide TAC by 40%!

DO NOT link the Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC!

Future angling generations and economic depend on this decision!

Finish the job!

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James Boyle

From: Gregory Andreycak <gandreycak@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 5:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Fix the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap at 25,500 metric tons!

DO NOT link the Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC!

Future angling generations and economic depend on this decision!

Finish the job!

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James Boyle

From: Nancy HISKY <nhisky@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 4:59 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Please pass this addendum. I live on the Magothy river in Maryland and lost an osprey three years ago due to starvation, and it was heartbreaking to learn of its cause of death by our local raptor, For the past two seasons there have been no offspring. The Menhaden are an important component to our ecosystem for the Chesapeake Bay and its surrounding subsidiaries and crucial to the survival of the Osprey. Thank you for your attention to this very important matter. I am so graceful to finally have a place to voice my concerns as this has troubled me for over the last three years.

Sincerely, Nancy Hisky

Sent from my iPad

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James Boyle

From: Steven Wolf <swolf010@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 4:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

In our area of CT we have seen significant reductions of osprey these past 2-3 years. Seems from at least in part to overfishing of menhaden. I would support a cut of 50% in the cap on fishing these fish which are popular for ospreys. A lot of work has gone into brining the osprey back from being endangered. It all is being squanders now by overfishing

Steven Wolf Old Saybrook Ct
Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: mrrecluse <dav888zbt@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 4:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello....I'm very concerned about the fate of the Ospreys, and fully support a limit on how much Menhaden can be fished out of Cheapeake Bay.
Thank you. David Gilbert. 21 Micmac Trl. Voluntown, CT.06384

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James Boyle

From: Patty Nizlek <pattynizlek@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 4:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To The Commission,
I am calling on the Commission to reduce the fishery cap by 50%, to ensure that menhaden, a key foundation fish and a prime source for Connecticut's Osprey, are not put in greater jeopardy.
I have been an Osprey monitor with Connecticut Audubon for five years. I monitor Greenwich Osprey Nest #41. The pair failed to produce offspring this year.
It has been so great to celebrate the comeback of the Osprey after their DDT ordeal in the seventies. For the Osprey and their offspring to now starve when there is a solution is heartbreaking. You can act to help reverse this devastating decline of menhaden and the impact it has on the magnificent Osprey. I urge you to reduce the fishery cap by 50%.
Sincerely,
Patty Nizlek
38 Laddins Rock Rd
Old Greenwich, CT 06870

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James Boyle

From: Macdougall, Leslie <leslie.macdougall-jr@siemens.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 4:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

The entire operation needs to be shutdown

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James Boyle

From: Tom Rogers <tr@centralmdaudubon.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 4:39 PM
To: Comments; Russell Dize; Del. Dana Stein; David Sikorski; Max Appelman
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Good evening.

My name is Tom Rogers. I'm a Maryland citizen and someone who has great concern about the overfishing of menhade and its impact on the birds and wildlife in our area, specially the impact on osprey in the Chesapeake Bay.

It is my understanding that there is an opportunity to implement management reforms through the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Draft Addendum II, in particular via the upcoming November ASMFC Menhaden Meeting.

I urge you to do the following:

- Support option C1e: that reduces the CAP by at least 50 percent in 2027 and limits the future Bay Cap to 13.6% of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC);
- Also, please support option C2a, which sets an upper limit of 51,000mt for the Bay Cap (the current level);
- In addition please support option B2, which establishes three even length quota periods for the Bay Cap, but distributes harvest 25% in period 1, 25% in period 2, and 50% into period 3 and option B, which establishes quota period overage and underage provisions within a fishing year;
- Finally, I urge you to support Option B to revisit the Bay Cap every 3 years.

I am proud to add my voice to those who have concern over the long-term future of the Bay and the birds and wildlife who inhabit it.

Thank you for your consideration,
Tom Rogers
8019 Rocky Springs Road
Frederic, Md 21702
443-307-7323

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James Boyle

From: abcfish@atlanticbb.net
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 4:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I support increased restrictions on the Atlantic menhaden fishery. I will be brief as what I am saying is no secret to the Commission and most others concerned about this fishery. Atlantic menhaden of all ages are a significant food source to many fishes, birds, and mammals of the Atlantic coast. Reductions in its biomass can cause disruptions up the food chain with similar effects to higher order consumers. Certainly, we can protect this valuable resource while maintaining a viable fishery, one that is managed scientifically and not just by greed and profit. I thank the dedicated fisheries professionals who are charged with managing coastal fisheries using the best scientific findings and balancing the goals of all user groups.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Danila

Retired fisheries biologist

24 Pattagansett Drive
East Lyme, CT 06333

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James Boyle

From: Kathryn Colao <kathryncolao@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 4:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I strongly encourage you to lower total allowable catch (TAC) limits and to reduce the Chesapeake Bay harvest cap by at least 50% if not more. The osprey population on the coast of New Jersey has not been procreating due to a lack of food. Menhaden is an integral part of our marine ecosystem, and should not be allowed to be overfished by commercial outlets.

Please protect this beautiful and integral natural resource. Thank you.

Kathryn Colao
Surf City, NJ
Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Sandy Reinhard <sr@kenreinhard.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 4:36 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

YES, PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE reduce the limits for menhaden fishing from the Chesapeake Bay! If we need more good quality appropriate studies to support or refute such a reduction, please fund these. If allowed to continue at present menhaden reductions, we will lose not only our osprey population, but other species as well. PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING FOR THE MENHADEN, THE CHESAPEAKE OSPREYS AND OTHER SPECIES, INCLUDING HUMAN BEINGS AND FOR THE EARTH!

Sincerely,
Sandra Reinhard
2607 Love Point Road
Stevensville, MD 21666

Sent from my iPad
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James Boyle

From: Laurie Hoyt <laurie.in.lyme@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 4:33 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Good afternoon ,

I support a 50 percent reduction in the Bay Cap, with Option B2 for how the catch is distributed in amounts across time.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,
Laurie Hoyt
Lyme, CT resident

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James Boyle

From: Lauren BorsaCurran <laborsacurran@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 4:23 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Draft Addendum II"

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I urge the ASMFC to reduce the fishery cap by 50%, a precautionary measure to ensure that menhaden, a key foundation fish and a prime food source for Connecticut's Osprey. Thank you, Lauren Curran, CT Audubon

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James Boyle

From: Abigayle McLennan <abigayle.mclennan@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 4:17 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Addendum 2

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom it may concern,

My name is Abigayle McLennan and I am a fisherman in Maine. I have been fishing for menhaden with my family here on the coast for the last 6 years. I am deeply concerned about the potential cut in quota and the ripple effect this will have on the lives and livelihood of hundreds of thousands of families here in the state of Maine. Our entire economy here in the state of Maine is directly tied to the lobster industry. If there is no bait (I.e. menhaden) there is no lobster fishery. This doesn't just directly affect us families who have been seining for the menhaden it will be a hit to everyone on the coast. The lobster industry employs people beyond those on the water themselves. I hope that whoever is taking the time to read and consider these messages will look at the non-existent scientific data for New England and realize that this is a MUCH broader fisher than just the Chesapeake Bay. We absolutely can not stand to face another quota cut here in Maine because of the feelings of activist groups in the Chesapeake Bay Area.

I appreciate your consideration of my thoughts on this addendum.

Abigayle McLennan
Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Thomas McLennan <bugga3119@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 4:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden draft addendum 2

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello this is Thomas McLennan from Spruce Head Maine.
Here in Maine we rely on menhaden for bait for the lobster Industry.
Managing the entire east coast based of the Chesapeake bay will harm our small boat fishery up here. There is no science on the menhaden biomass up north here where we are.
There has been changes in ecosystems and climate change that may have moved the menhaden more north.
Last year we were hit with a quota reduction and are now done fishing this season a month earlier than last year.
On behalf of all of us Maine small boat menhaden fishermen and Maine lobstermen I ask you to not cut our quota any more. If anything give us more quota as the fish are abundant here.

thank you.

Sent from my Galaxy

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James Boyle

From: Christopher Blake <cblake65@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 3:56 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Public Comment on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC),

I am a resident of the Chesapeake Bay watershed who lives directly on the Chesapeake Bay and I am writing to voice my support for Draft Addendum II. I request that the Commission select Option B4 to reduce the industrial menhaden reduction fishery cap in the Chesapeake Bay by 50%, bringing it down to 25,500 metric tons. I also support splitting the remaining quota into seasonal periods to better protect our coastal waters.

The health of the Chesapeake Bay is central to our region's identity, environment, and economy. Menhaden are not just food for iconic species like striped bass and ospreys; they are a critical ecological component of the Bay itself. When healthy populations of menhaden filter our waters and sustain the food web, our entire ecosystem benefits.

The intense concentration of industrial reduction fishing in the Bay harms our local tourism, recreational opportunities, and local wildlife. It is vital that our fisheries managers shift toward true ecosystem-based management that protects the public trust rather than allowing a single company to deplete local resources during the summer months.

Please take decisive action to restore balance to the Bay. I ask you to support the 50% cap reduction under Option B4 and establish seasonal safeguards for the fishery.

Sincerely,

Christopher Blake

Churchton, MD

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James Boyle

From: Dorothy Galant <darwg@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 3:42 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I believe strongly that the ASMF Commission move forward and put further restrictions on menhaden fishery limits. The recent Connecticut breeding season results for the Osprey, whose main food source is menhaden, is proof positive that there is not enough menhaden available to sustain and grow the Osprey population. A precipitous drop in numbers, the past two years especially, in both chicks being born and fledged chicks cannot be ignored.
I am a resident of Connecticut and understand and appreciate the role the beautiful Osprey plays in our coastline, river, and even lake ecologies. Please, while we can, act to protect these birds and all the interconnected wildlife and reduce the fishery cap by minimum 50%.
Thank you,
Dorothy Galant
Trumbull CT
Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Bobby Groat <robert.v.groat@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 3:41 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II – Public Comment

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To the Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission:

I am writing as a recreational angler who cares deeply about the long-term health of our coastal fisheries. I ask the Board to adopt the strongest conservation measures in Draft Addendum II, specifically a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap, together with seasonal quota periods.

Coastwide models suggest the stock is stable, but they don't always capture localized depletion, which many of us observe firsthand. Atlantic menhaden are a cornerstone forage species along the Atlantic coast, and how they are managed in the Chesapeake Bay affects predators far beyond it.

Here in Connecticut, I and others have seen signs of forage stress this season. Osprey nests have failed in numbers that are hard to ignore, with parents seemingly struggling to find enough fish to feed their chicks. On the water, anglers are reporting thin striped bass and far fewer bait balls than in past years. While many factors can contribute to these changes, concentrated commercial harvest during the summer months, when migratory fish and birds most need forage, is a risk the Board can address.

I urge the Commission to prioritize ecosystem-based management that reflects menhaden's full ecological value, including their role as prey for striped bass, osprey, whales, and other species. Our coastal economies, recreational fisheries, and wildlife all depend on a healthy food web.

Thank you for your time, your work, and your careful consideration.

Respectfully,
Robert Groat
Westport, CT 06880

--
Bobby Groat
(734) 306-4146

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James Boyle

From: Tina Morris <tinamorris474@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 3:36 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden and osprey issue

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I have studied Bald Eagles and Ospreys for 50 years and was involved in the Bald Eagle restoration program with Cornell University in 1976-77. I also have followed osprey populations since then. What is happening to the osprey, after coming back from the brink due to DDT contamination, is a travesty. It is time to take action and reduce the menhaden catch being taken from the waters the osprey depends on for its food. I urge you to do so.

Sincerely,

Tina Morris
Author Return to the Sky
Raptor Biologist.
474 Ipswich Rd.
Boxford, MA 01921
(978)500-3933
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James Boyle

From: Andrew Tonra <andrewtonra@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 3:30 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I will start by saying that I am not an expert on menhaden or fisheries in general.

I have known about the large-scale commercial harvesting of Menhaden for some time. Many of my peers have been following along and sharing their concern about how many menhaden were being taken for years.

When studies started showing up in the local news about ospreys potentially being affected by the overharvesting of menhaden, I started following closely.

I have taken the last year and a half to educate myself and talk to many experts.

They are raising the alarm, and I believe that they are correct.

Please, cut back the total allowable catch of menhaden by the proposed minimum of 50%.

The Ospreys are our canary in the coal mine. If we do not act soon, I believe that the damage will be irreparable.

Thank you for reading.

Best,

Andrew Tonra
757-675-0527
Virginia Beach, Virginia

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James Boyle

From: Brian Goldstein <bjgold96@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 3:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden 2027-2028 TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To Whom it May Concern,

I support Draft Addendum II (Chesapeake Bay Cap)and the most restrictive options.

The future of our wildlife must be protected and preserved, and if not now - when! There must be at minimum, a 50% reduction in the overfishing of menhaden. No additional studies are needed. It is time to act.

Sincerely,
Brian Goldstein
110 west 96th street #12A
New York, NY 10025

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James Boyle

From: craig Huntley <ryetales@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 3:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I'm writing in support of acceptance of the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II. Let's get this passed and implemented.

Craig

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James Boyle

From: Susan West <susanb.west55@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 3:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

The bay and its predators are in big trouble!
I prefer the following:
3.1 option c1e
3.2 option b2
3.3 reassessment every three years.

Thank you!
Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Lynwood Franklin <lynwood.franklin@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 3:08 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

My name is Lynwood Franklin and I am a recreational angler in Virginia. I fish the Rappahannock River, including the tidal river from the mouth up to buoy 10. I am writing as a private angler, not for a club or company.

I support Option C with sub-option C1e and sub-option C2a on the Bay cap amount; Option B with sub-option B2 on quota periods; and Option B on the revisit provision.

Industrial reduction fishing in the Bay has changed how, and how often, I can fish the Rappahannock. The river fishes when menhaden are in it. Striped bass, bluefish, speckled trout, puppy drum, and Spanish mackerel show up behind those schools. When the schools are gone, the predators are gone, and a day that used to be a matter of finding birds and bait becomes a long ride for very little.

That lines up with the timing problem this addendum describes. The reduction season runs from the first Monday in May to the third Friday in November, which is the entire recreational season on this river. In 2023 and 2024 more than half of Bay reduction landings came in a six-week stretch in midsummer. Those are the weeks the Rappahannock should be at its best. Instead I have watched the bait disappear in a short window, birds quit working, and the fish I came for leave the stretches I have fished for years.

The Bay cap was meant to keep that from happening in a nursery system. At 51,000 mt it no longer does that job. It has not moved while the coastwide TAC has, including the 20% cut in 2026, so a larger share of the coastwide catch can now come out of the Bay. Pound-net catch per unit effort in Maryland, Virginia, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission dropped in 2024, Maryland's harvest was down sharply from the 2018–2022 average, and fishery-independent indices fell off in 2024–2025. Striped bass are overfished.

I do not need a coastwide stock assessment to tell me the forage those fish follow is not reliable in this river in summer. C1e puts the Bay cap at 13.6% of the TAC, about 25,500 mt under the current TAC, and keeps that proportion so a future TAC cut actually reaches the Bay. C2a keeps the cap from climbing back above 51,000 mt and does not set a floor that would block a deeper cut later. A one-time 50% cut under B4 would help, but it repeats the mistake this addendum is trying to fix: a fixed Bay number that drifts out of line with the coastwide quota.

On timing, B2 is the option that matches the problem on the water. An even-length split that holds the first two periods to 25% each, and leaves 50% for after mid-September, is the only choice that pulls meaningful harvest out of the late-spring and summer weeks when recreational fishing, and predator feeding, depend on those fish being in the tributaries. Status quo, and to a lesser extent B3, leaves the midsummer pulse in place. Equal thirds under B1 is better than nothing, but it still allows a third of the Bay cap in the worst weeks.

I also support revisiting the cap at least every three years. The Board is being asked to act while Bay-specific research is unfinished. That is a reason to take the precautionary cut and the seasonal split now, and to look again when the research is in, not a reason to wait.

The reduction fleet can still operate. These options change how much comes out of the Bay and when. Leaving the cap and the timing alone continues to put the cost on the rest of us who fish the Rappahannock for food and sport rather than for meal and oil.

Thank you for the chance to comment.
Lynwood Franklin
Henrico, Virginia

Cell: 804-517-8056

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James Boyle

From: rvreeland@esmicrobes.com
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 3:04 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am sending this note to fully support the current draft addendum for the 50% reduction of the menhaden reduction fishery in the Chesapeake Bay. We need to put a stop to this and allow the whole Chesapeake Bay fishery and it's dependent osprey population to recover.

Dr. Russell H. Vreeland
President/CEO
Eastern Shore Microbes
15397 Merry Cat Lane, POB 216
Belle Haven, VA 23306
757-387-7530
www.esmicrobes.com

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James Boyle

From: Richard Reiter <reiter@ieee.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 2:42 PM
To: Comments
Cc: abigail.spanberger@governor.virginia.gov; mailoag@oag.state.va.us; Natural.Resources@governor.virginia.gov; Joseph Grist; Adele McClure; James Minor
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello,
My name is Richard Reiter and I live in Chester, MD. I am very concerned about the health of the Chesapeake Bay, its osprey, its menhaden, and all the other communities and predators that depend on a thriving estuary. I am particularly disturbed about the decline of osprey over Macum Creek that I've witnessed over the 16 years I've lived here.

I support the following options in Draft Addendum II:

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount
Support option C1e: that reduces the CAP by at least 50 percent in 2027 and limits the future Bay Cap to 13.6% of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC).

Also, Support option C2a, which sets an upper limit of 51,000mt for the Bay Cap, which is the current level.

3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution

Support option B2, which establishes three even length quota periods for the Bay Cap, but distributes harvest 25% in period 1, 25% in period 2, and 50% into period 3.

Also, support, option B, which establishes quota period accountability measures within a fishing year.

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision

Support Option B Revisit Provision, to reassess the efficacy of these new management tools every 3 years.

Thank you for consideration of these comments. Please support a struggling Chesapeake Bay by strengthening menhaden conservation measures.

Sincerely,

Richard Reiter

cc: Gov. Wes Moore
Attorney General Anthony G. Brown

James Boyle

From: Holly Conte <hfconte@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 2:37 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Reduce menhaden limits

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am advocating for stronger, science-based protections that support healthy fisheries and thriving ecosystems, including lower catch limits and immediate and severe reductions in Chesapeake Bay limits. I support the most restrictive options. It is so sad to see the impact on ospreys as well as whales, dolphins and striped bass. Watching many ospreys on cameras abandoning their nests and babies due to lack of food and watching the babies starve to death has just been tragic. Action is needed now!
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James Boyle

From: Brick Wenzel <saltysllc@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 2:36 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am happy to support the written comments submitted by the Garden State Seafood Association.

I would like to also suggest that if there truly is a decrease in the menhaden population, the use of seismic testing for Industrial Offshore Wind Development (IOWD) during the spawning period of menhaden could have played a significant role in reducing menhaden recruitment. Rutgers University has suggested that a scientific study by Rutgers could substantiate such an impact. If IOWD has had such an impact on the menhaden population as anticipated in the SEIS submitted to BOEM, it would make sense to contract with the University to study the impact to see if the use of seismic testing exceeded the overall anticipated assessment. Since future sites for IOWD are currently being explored, documentation of the current impacts can help reduce future "over fishing" of the biomass with limitations on where and when seismic testing and pile driving can take place.

Sincerely,
Brick Wenzel
NJ Commercial Fishermen
69 Channel Drive
Point Pleasant Beach, NJ
732-600-8522

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James Boyle

From: Ray Scurr <trek2700@hushmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 2:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hi,

I'm reaching out to ask for your support of the Menhaden Draft Addendum II. It is essential for the health of the Chesapeake Bay to limit the amount of reduction fishing of Menhaden.

Regards,
Ray Scurr

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James Boyle

From: Joyce Belbo <jabelbo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 1:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Food for osprey

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Urging ur Commission to drastically reduce the allowable menhaden harvest so that these magnificent creatures do not become extent.

Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Hiram Larew <hlarew@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 1:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Public comment on Atlantic Menhaden draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC),

I am a resident of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and I am writing to voice my support for Draft Addendum II. I request that the Commission select Option B4 to reduce the industrial menhaden reduction fishery cap in the Chesapeake Bay by 50%, bringing it down to 25,500 metric tons. I also support splitting the remaining quota into seasonal periods to better protect our coastal waters.

The health of the Chesapeake Bay is central to our region's identity, environment, and economy. Menhaden are not just food for iconic species like striped bass and ospreys; they are a critical ecological component of the Bay itself. When healthy populations of menhaden filter our waters and sustain the food web, our entire ecosystem benefits.

The intense concentration of industrial reduction fishing in the Bay harms our local tourism, recreational opportunities, and local wildlife. It is vital that our fisheries managers shift toward true ecosystem-based management that protects the public trust rather than allowing a single company to deplete local resources during the summer months.

Please take decisive action to restore balance to the Bay. I ask you to support the 50% cap reduction under Option B4 and establish seasonal safeguards for the fishery.

Sincerely,

Hiram Larew

Churcton, MD

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James Boyle

From: Val Swan <valnjeff55@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 1:37 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden fishing in the Bay

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello,

I fully support changes regulation limits to decrease the volume of menhaden fishing in the Bay. Regulations are created to prevent harm. Currently, the Osprey population in the Bay is at severe risk. Where previously we had greater than a thousand active breeding nests, this year we had just over 100. Sadly, the vast number of these nests did not yield viable young as food supply is diminished. Menhaden is the main staple of these iconic treasure birds. Businesses will adjust to lower limits to supply pet food protein with alternative sources, but the birds cannot. They are clearly struggling. Please support our native wildlife in the Bay!

Val Swan

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James Boyle

From: Madeline Giotta <be.mindful49@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 1:27 PM
To: Comments; Gottheimer Josh; Booker Senator Cory
Subject: [External] Plummeting Coastal Osprey

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Greetings from North Jersey,
Recently I read about the possibility that ospreys are now endangered due to menhaden overfishing.
As a member of the Bergen County Audubon, I urge you to immediately consider addressing this dire situation.
Thank you for your time and consideration, Madeline Giotta Mahwah NJ

Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Tara Myslinski <taramyslinski@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 1:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello! I am writing to support increased menhaden in the Atlantic in order to allow other species to feed and repopulate and not die out.

Thank you!
Tara
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James Boyle

From: Patrick @ Old Maine Outfitters <patrick@oldmaineoutfitters.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 1:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To Whom it May Concern,

I'm writing from Maine in support of meaningful action through Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II.

I've fished Maine waters for nearly 20 years, am a Registered Maine Tidewater Guide, and am the owner of Old Maine Outfitters, a fishing outfitter. While I'm far from the Chesapeake Bay, what happens there directly affects fisheries throughout the Atlantic coast.

Given the recent problems identified with the menhaden assessment, I believe a more precautionary approach is warranted. We now know abundance was overestimated and fishing mortality underestimated, which makes continued concentrated harvest in the Chesapeake especially concerning.

For Draft Addendum II, I support:

- **Section 3.1: Sub Option B4** — Reduce the Chesapeake Bay Cap by 50%, to 25,500 mt.
- **Section 3.2.1: Option B1** — Even Length & Even Harvest.
- **Section 3.2.2: Underage Sub Option 1** — Split any Quota Period 1 underage evenly between Periods 2 and 3.
- **Section 3.3: Option B** — Review the Chesapeake Bay Cap at least once every three years.

I also oppose linking the Chesapeake Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC. The Bay is too important ecologically for its protections to rise and fall with broader coastwide quota decisions.

As a striped bass angler and guide, I see how important healthy forage populations are. Protecting menhaden is part of protecting the fisheries that depend on them.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Patrick Rudman
Owner, Old Maine Outfitters
Registered Maine Guide

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James Boyle

From: Lise & Jim Crafton <craftons88@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 12:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Fwd: Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II Comments

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Mr. Boyle:

I strongly support a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap (Option B4/ reducing the cap to 25,500 metric tons) and support seasonal quota periods!

I live along side Cattail Creek off the Magothy River, on land that's been in my husband's family for more than 100 years. We care deeply for the Bay ecosystem and all of the creatures that call it home. For many years we have enjoyed watching the local osprey prepare a nest, raise their chicks and finally fledge with "flying lessons" from their parents before we say goodbye for the season, usually in mid-September. But for the last several years there has been no successful nesting here, which mirrors declining productivity and widespread nest failures among our Chesapeake Bay osprey population overall. Along with the stressed populations of striped bass, these declines signal an URGENT need for precautionary conservation practices NOW.

Industrial reduction fishing extracts over 100 million pounds of fish in a concentrated summer window, damaging the local food web and depriving other groups, especially watermen and anglers, of fair access.
We urge fishery managers to implement strict quota periods that will distribute the harvest evenly across the year rather than allowing an intense summer harvest.

We can't wait for the results of a study to do what needs to be done NOW. As was done with the rockfish crisis, the season should actually be closed to encourage recovery. A 50% reduction is already a compromise, a coast-wide reduction would be better still.

Please support responsible stewardship of the entire Bay ecosystem before it is too late!

Most sincerely,

James B. Crafton
321 South Drive

Severna Park, MD 21146

Sent from my iPhone

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James Boyle

From: Leo Giard <leojgiard@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 12:52 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Showing my support for this cause as a local fishermen of New England.

Sent from my iPhone
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: Tom Burkett <seasidercharters@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 12:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum 2

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

I am the owner and captain of Seasider Charters LLC. We operate ecotours in both the lower portion of the Chesapeake Bay and the Seaside of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Our charter business is one of many in this coastal region that depends on a healthy, properly managed fishery. The coastal region of Northampton County where my business operates remains the hardest-hit area by the menhaden reduction fishery. Net-set data show that more menhaden reduction nets are set in Northampton County than in any other county on the Eastern Seaboard. The Northampton County Board of Supervisors recognized the inequity and the socioeconomic strain the menhaden reduction industry places on our region of the Chesapeake Bay and local businesses. For this reason, the Northampton County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved an Industrial Menhaden Moratorium Resolution. The resolution came after years of county concerns regarding the health of the menhaden stock, record low striped bass and osprey recruitment numbers in the Chesapeake Bay, and public health and economic issues caused by the industry's persistent fish spills and concentrated extraction in the lower Chesapeake Bay region. The resolution remarks that the ASMFC and the Atlantic Menhaden Technical Committee can not provide Northampton County scientific assurance that the spatial or seasonal stock of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is healthy, or quantify the ecological and socioeconomic impact of localized depletion due to concentrated industrialized Atlantic menhaden fishing techniques in the Chesapeake Bay. The ASMFC should take the most conservation minded reforms available at this point in time until scientific assurance can be provided.

I call on the ASMFC to approve conservation-minded reforms that better protect menhaden and support a healthy Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and the businesses that depend on a healthy ecosystem, including reducing the Bay Cap by 50 percent in 2027 and implementing quota periods to more effectively distribute reduction fishing pressure throughout the season. Specifically, Seasider Charters LLC supports the following options in Draft Addendum II:

-
-
- 3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount: Support option C1e that would reduce the Bay Cap by 50 percent and limit it to 13.6 percent
- of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC). Also, support option C2a which sets an upper limit of 51,000mt for the Bay Cap, which is the current level.
-
-
-
- 3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution: Support option B2 which establishes three even length quota periods for the Bay Cap, but distributes
- harvest 25 percent in period 1, 25 percent in period 2, and 50 percent into period 3. Also, support option B which establishes quota period overage payback and rollover of unused quota within a fishing year.
-
-
-
- 3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision: Support option B Revisit Provision to reassess the efficacy of these new management
- tools every 3 years.
-

Support these conservation-minded reforms. Local businesses like mine are depending on you to take action and properly manage our fishery.

Thank you,

Captain Tom Burkett
Seasider Charters LLC
Northampton County Virginia

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James Boyle

From: donaldweigl@aol.com
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 12:34 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden 2027-2028 TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am long-standingly well aware of the significance of the menhaden Atlantic fishery from a harvesting, ecological and environmental standpoint.

Apparently, there was already a noticeable decrease in these fish populations as early as last year, but only became a significant factor with the impacts seen this year.

The failure of the Osprey fledge is an early visible warning sign of the imminent collapse of menhaden along the eastern coast. This potential (if not already upon us) will affect the food chain for all species dependent on them, among them, but certainly not limited to, whales, dolphins, seabirds, marsh wildlife, our recreational and fishery catches, which include those used for fertilizers, fish food and pharmaceuticals. We are over harvesting this dependent upon species which can ultimately lead to further environmental collapse.

I am aware and support the utmost protections of the Atlantic menhaden along the entire coast from Maine to the Carolinas, including the Chesapeake Bay. Certainly a 50% reduction in catch limits is the least appropriate at this time to avoid total collapse and allow for recovery over time. Without sufficient spawn and young of year I fear we may be in for the worst detrimental effects.

Please, at least for the short term, modify the reduced fishery cap to conserve the species providing them with the utmost viable protection.

Sincerely,
Donald Weigl
Barnegat NJ

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James Boyle

From: Amy Thomas <startswitha@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 12:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Protect our Ospreys

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello,

I am lucky enough to have ospreys fly behind our house in CT from May-September. They are majestic creatures, critical to our habitat. So I was very distraught to hear they had their worst breeding season ever.

I'm urging the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to reduce the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery cap by 50% to help ensure there are enough fish for Ospreys and other wildlife. We need to make sure the ospreys have enough food and are not put in jeopardy as they have been in the past.

Please, safeguard the ospreys' future.

Thank you for your consideration,
Amy Thomas
Southeastern Connecticut

--
AMY THOMAS
freelance writer | author | sweet freak
amythomas.nyc
@amythomas.nyc

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 9:35 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lydia Stanton

Email

ldstanton2@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I strongly support a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay fishery cap and also the seasonal quota periods. It was a dream come true when we moved to Drum Point on the Chesapeake Bay in 2014. Learning about the ospreys was fascinating and having a front row seat to their spectacular fishing abilities has been a highlight of living on the Bay. Sadly, we have also watched the numbers of birds decrease and I have also found them dead on the beach. This is an issue of critical importance. We cannot wait for research that will take years. The numbers are already in and the depletion in their source of food needs to be managed NOW!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 8:37 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Clare Luisi

Email

claretl@comcast.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

I feel strongly that a complete moratorium on the harvesting of the Atlantic Menhaden should be put into effect immediately. At this point any more studies to show the effect that their loss has had on the Osprey is redundant. The empty nests, the emaciated bodies of the few chicks that have managed to survive should be enough proof that the loss of this fish has been catastrophic. After fighting back from near extinction just a few decades ago this beautiful bird deserves better from the human beings that literally hold the strings to their survival.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 8:35 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jonathan Geary

Email

sp@jkgitc.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

Subject: Comment in Support of Reducing the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap and Implementing Quota Periods (Draft Addendum II)

I am writing to express strong support for Draft Addendum II to the Atlantic Menhaden Fishery Management Plan, specifically endorsing options that reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by up to 50% and establish seasonal quota periods to distribute harvest throughout the fishing year.

Atlantic menhaden (Brevoortia tyrannus) play a foundational role in the marine food web. As filter feeders, they clean the water column, and as a critical forage species, they sustain predator fish like striped bass, bluefish, and weakfish, as well as marine mammals and coastal birds. The Chesapeake Bay serves as the East Coast's primary nursery ground for menhaden and countless predator species that depend on them. Protecting the biological health and ecological function of this specific body of water is essential for the broad long-term success of Atlantic fisheries.
Reasons for Supporting the Proposed Changes:

Mitigating Localized Depletion: While coastwide stock assessments evaluate menhaden abundance across the entire Atlantic,

they do not capture spatial dynamics or localized depletion within the Chesapeake Bay. Concentrating heavy industrial purse-seine fishing within the Bay depletes the immediate forage base needed by resident and migratory predators, creating localized food deficits even when coastwide stock numbers appear stable.

Building on Historical Precedent: The history of menhaden management reflects a progressive understanding of the Bay's ecological sensitivity. From the initial 2006 cap (109,020 mt) to the reductions under Amendment 2 in 2012 (87,216 mt) and Amendment 3 in 2018 (51,000 mt), management actions have continually adjusted harvest levels downward to better match ecological needs. Reducing the current cap by up to 50% is the necessary next step to protect nursery grounds and support ecosystem-based management goals.

Preventing Harvest Spikes Through Quota Periods: Creating structured quota periods throughout the fishing season addresses the concentration of effort. Spreading harvest more evenly prevents intensive, short-term removals that disrupt forage availability during critical growth and migration windows for ecologically and economically vital species.

Supporting Regional Coastal Economies: Recreational fishing, ecotourism, and local commercial fisheries in the Chesapeake region depend directly on healthy populations of predator species. Ensuring adequate forage availability supports the broader coastal economy beyond the single commercial reduction fishery sector.

Recommendation

I urge the Board to adopt the maximum proposed cap reduction of 50% and implement seasonal quota periods to prevent intense harvest bursts. Precautionary management in crucial nursery habitats is essential to ensure resilient fisheries and a healthy marine ecosystem for generations to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your continued commitment to sustainable ecosystem management.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Geary

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 7:58 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

http://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-Menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ray Freed

Email

mantharaysb@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

As someone who is a birder, and also works with injured and sick birds, it is obvious osprey populations are dramatically

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 6:52 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Gerald McArdle

Email

mcardlj1@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Please approve a moratorium on commercial harvesting of Atlantic Menhaden before it's too late!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 1:36 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jennifer Taylor

Email

wooded70@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

We need to put a 5 year hold on all big ocean vessels harvesting any kind of fish!! Stop allowing it!!! Take money and start putting it in conservation

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 12:13 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Emilie Tullis

Email

emilie.tullis@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

I support reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by the full 50%. The Bay is the primary nursery ground for Atlantic striped bass, and menhaden are a cornerstone of their diet. With the striped bass stock still struggling to rebuild, leaving more forage in the Bay is a low-cost, precautionary step that gives young fish the best chance to grow and survive. Menhaden also sustain ospreys, weakfish, bluefish, and other predators that depend on the Bay, and concentrating industrial harvest in a single nursery estuary puts all of them at risk of localized depletion. I also support dividing the cap into quota periods so harvest isn't concentrated in the spring and summer, when predators need forage most.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2026 7:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II - Fort Monroe

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II - Fort Monroe

Action Title

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II - Fort Monroe

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/va-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii-2/

Name

Scott Baron

Email

baron.scott@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Virginia is allowing the overfishing of menhaden. This must end. It is not sustainable for fisheries or for our ecosystem.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2026 5:20 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kevin Ingram

Email

ingramk134@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

Please reconsider the reduction of taking menhaden in BOTH the CHESAPEAKE BAY and the Atlantic Ocean. There is documented evidence that the Osprey population and reproduction rates this year are well below the averages as a resource due to no menhaden to feed on and feed their young.
Additionally, so many species in both the ocean and bay areas depend on the menhaden for food.
Not to mention the bycatch that the Omega fleets are removing from the ocean during their netting operations. American Shad are being removed during these massive netting along with other ocean species. Restoring American Shad population is a key factor on the health of our River estuaries.

These Omega fleets are Killing our oceans by removing a vital fish that other fish depend on for food.

Please stop this raping of our oceans. If this process continues so will go the entire ecosystem and fish populations will plummet to levels that cannot be recovered.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2026 5:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kevin Ingram

Email

ingramk134@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

Please reconsider the reduction of taking menhaden in BOTH the CHESAPEAKE BAY and the Atlantic Ocean. There is documented evidence that the Osprey population and reproduction rates this year are well below the averages as a resource due to no menhaden to feed on and feed their young.
Additionally, so many species in both the ocean and bay areas depend on the menhaden for food.
Not to mention the bycatch that the Omega fleets are removing from the ocean during their netting operations. American Shad are being removed during these massive netting along with other ocean species. Restoring American Shad population is a key factor on the health of our River estuaries.

These Omega fleets are Killing our oceans by removing a vital fish that other fish depend on for food.

Please stop this raping of our oceans. If this process continues so will go the entire ecosystem and fish populations will plummet to levels that cannot be recovered.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2026 4:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lill Cassel

Email

bootscassel@yahoo.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

The devastation of the osprey population in the Cape May area is dramatic and very disturbing. These birds are a significant component of the natural environment. They rely on the menhaden supply to feed their young and to survive. Their needs must be part of the planning for menhaden fishing quotas. Please keep them in the plan.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2026 4:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Joshua Allison

Email

joshuawallison@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

The commercial harvest of menhaden is the Chesapeake must be curtailed. I spend a large portion of my summers fishing the east coast and I've personally seen menhaden stocks falling off precipitately. This is conjunction with stripped bass stocks that are nearing a state of rapid decline will result in major economic impacts to the region. The short term gains from overharvesting of menhaden stocks are not worth the multi-decade impacts to the fisheries.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2026 4:25 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II - Fort Monroe

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II - Fort Monroe

Action Title

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II - Fort Monroe

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/va-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii-2/

Name

Brenda Quanstrom

Email

bquanstrom@aol.com

State

Virginia

Comment

We watched a female osprey cry over her babies as her mate tried desperately to get fish for her. They finally had to abandon their nest with babies and let them die. Hearing them cheep for days broke our hearts. There are literally no fish on Wrights Cove. We used to see schools of menhaden and Stripers but no more. The water is lifeless. Please adopt this addendum for the life of our rivers. 800 Wheatland Acres Rd Lottsburg Va

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2026 4:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Charlie Church

Email

charliechurch1@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Fully in favor of stopping industrial menhaden fishing in VA. Virginia will never do it because of all the lobbying so we need ASMFC to make it happen.

Restore the bay to greatness

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2026 3:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Donald Sweig

Email

skybear41@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Please restrict Menhaaden fishing and quotas in the Chesapeake Bay as much as possible.
The current over fishing is causing serious problems with osprey survival.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2026 1:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Dot Kulina

Email

seahorse75@comcast.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

Please stop this practice immediately. The decline in osprey,eagles and other life that depends on this food source is being extremely over looked! It breaks my heart to see dead babies in the nest.
This has overwhelming impacted the entire ecosystem here on our coast!! The situation is getting worse every year that passes. Please stop until it's too late and the damage is irreversible!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2026 12:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ginger Ficken

Email

trailing-gf@hotmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Stop the over fishing. Which in turn is killing off our birds and effecting all the surrounding natural order of the food chain! Nothing in this world should be mass caught, raised, or cut away from Earth to line the greedy pockets of single minded humans not thinking of everyone living here!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2026 12:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Patty Giovanetti

Email

pattyg786@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Calling for five year moratorium on menhaden harvesting.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2026 12:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/va-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

William Hankins

Email

jeffha@zoominternet.net

State

Maryland

Comment

Prefer option B with maximum reduction of 50%. Also, with even length of periods but uneven harvest, the 25%, 25%, 50%, B2 scenario. Most food would be available for both fish and birds during breeding periods. Reduces depredation of YOY for all species.

Overall comment: this is a horrible fishery in a bay environment, aided by very effective technology that ensures maximum kill rate of food source. Also, no evaluation or consideration of bycatch implications. Fish kills from netting activity need to be better monitored and restricted. No impact on the industry from multiple documented red drum fish kills in 2022 in the lower Chesapeake. How many more have occurred that aren't reported?

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2026 9:58 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kara Schwaller

Email

kara.schwaller@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

We have lost Osprey locally this year after the numbers were finally coming back. Overfishing commercially, lack of serious protection of the estuaries and waters of the coast and lack of support from agencies to aggressively defend overpopulation of fragile ecosystems is causing a perfect storm of resource degradation We seem to be the only species to willingly and knowingly destroy our own habitats in the name of greed and power. We need to be responsible and intelligent about further growth, and how we use our natural resources. Man cannot create natural resources, what is here is it. Let us not in our arrogance think it cannot happen or that we can “fix” it. Once gone it is gone and life as we love it will never be the same.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2026 9:56 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sue Dodd

Email

jgdodd@proton.me

State

Virginia

Comment

I'm in favor of reducing the catch in the bay so that larger fish populations can recover. I am convinced that the bay was intentionally depleted during the 90's. If the county wants jobs, look into data centers, and reducing staff. If the feds can cut back on bureaucracy so can we.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2026 8:11 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Maureen Langevin

Email

maureen@divevoyagerexpeditions.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Two-three years ago the Menhaden (Bunker) in and near the coast of Raritan Bay to Manasquan we observed abundant and large schools on a regular basis especially at the end of our season Oct/Nov. In this same timeframe in the Shark River we observed abundant and large schools of Peanut sized bunker as well.

This year 2026 is concerning because we may have seen a school a few times in the Raritan and off the coast to Manasquan and the peanut bunker schools in the Shark River is also sparse.

This is within the 3 mile or just beyond.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 11:13 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Marisol Helms

Email

mhelms552@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

As a budding scientist in the field of fishery and conservation ecology, I support this addendum. Quota dispersal within a season has been successfully implemented within other high-value Atlantic fisheries (the multispecies ground fish, scup, and mackerel fisheries for example — see NOAA management regulations). Besides being an economic target, menhaden are also ecologically valuable, occupying the role of forage fish upon which many other trophic levels rely on. This includes stocks important to sport fishermen like Black Sea bass (Chagaris et al., 2020). Therefore, I reducing the commercial cap would both act to preserve menhaden populations, and to bolster the populations of many other species iconic to the Bay, like striped sea bass, osprey, and others. These fish provide a key ecosystem service and for a truly sustainable fishery, regulations must benefit the entire system, both commercially and ecologically, which I believe this addendum will do.

Chagaris D, Drew K, Schueller A, Cieri M, Brito J and Buchheister A (2020) Ecological Reference Points for Atlantic Menhaden Established Using an Ecosystem Model of Intermediate Complexity. Front. Mar. Sci. 7:606417. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2020.606417

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 9:52 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Barry Hessinger

Email

hessingerb@rcn.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

Being an avid saltwater sportsman, I am advocating for a reduction in the Atlantic Menhaden harvest. Being on the water several dozen times each year primarily in the NY bight area in New Jersey and New York, I have noticed a severe decline in the number of bunker pods. This has resulted in a diminished fishery in regards to the Striped Bass, fluke and bluefish, in addition to the strain it has placed on the shorebirds like the Osprey who have been identified as struggling to maintain their fledgling's particularly along Island Beach State Park. For the first time ever, I have noticed the Osprey catching immature dogfish as a food source for their offspring.
The reduction in this fishery has also placed a strain on the New Jersey recreational fishing industry which collectively have provided over $867 million in revenue in 2021.
I am an active member in the Jersey Coast Anglers Association and Sandy Hook Bay Anglers and fully support their proposal to Draft Amendment II.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 2:49 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Noah Powers

Email

npowers20@gmail.com

State

Georgia

Comment

We must act now to ensure we have a sustainable fishery for the next generation. PLEASE pass responsible management.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 2:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Simpson

Email

luvmyslade@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Reducing the menhaden catch by 75% is my recommendation for a healthy ecosystem in the Chesapeake Bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 2:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Forrest West

Email

f.west72@aol.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I support the 50% reduction in what Omega is allowed to harvest, although 50% less than they're already taking is still too much.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 2:14 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sue Ricciardi

Email

susiericc@comcast.net

State

Maryland

Comment

I am submitting my preferences regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II. In view of the 2026 disastrous breeding season for Ospreys in the Chesapeake Bay, I prefer the following options:
Section 3.1: Option C1e and C2a, which would reduce the Bay Cap by 50% with limits of 13.6% of the TAC and which sets an upper limit of 51,000mt for the Bay Cap
Section 3.2.1: Options B2 and B, calling for a quota period of even length and uneven harvest and establishes quota period overage payback and rollover of unused quota within a fishing year
Section 3.3: Option B, calling for the Bay Cap to be revisited every three years.
If I were able to vote for an immediate closure of the menhaden reduction fishery, I would. According to the Center for Conservation Biology at William and Mary, the 2026 season was the worst ever recorded for breeding Ospreys in the Chesapeake Bay and that a prime factor was food stress. It is imperative to stop this decline at once. I urge the ASMFC take stronger action as soon as possible.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 1:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Carol Walsh

Email

walshcarol13@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I urge you to adopt the 50% deduction in the cap on menhaden fishing. Data from e-bird and other sources clearly shows a correlation between osprey population reduction and overfishing of menhaden in the Chesapeake bay.
Sincerely
Carol Walsh
Concerned citzen

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 1:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Craig Stanland

Email

craigstanland@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

We urge you to reduce the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery cap by 50% to keep our CT osprey flourishing. We live on the CT coastline and love seeing the osprey flourish. Thank you for your consideration.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 1:42 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Elia Johnson

Email

eliajohnson28@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

We urge you to reduce the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery cap by 50% to keep our CT osprey flourishing. We live on the CT coastline and love seeing the osprey flourish here.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 1:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Alfred Ellis

Email

ar.ellis@hotmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I strongly support NO reduction fishery in the bay. A 0 Bay Cap as the bay is a wildlife nursery and should be ultimately protected as such. In light of that i am asking the ASMFC for the following.

Section 3.1 Bay Cap Amount: Options C1e (reduces the Bay Cap by 50% and then links it to the Coastwide catch limit at a 13.6% proportion) AND option C2a (Upper Cap limit of 51,000mt and no lower limit)
Section 3.2 Bay Cap Distribution: Options B2 (3 even length/uneven harvest quota periods 25%-25%-50%) AND Option B (establishes quota period overage and underage provisions)
Section 3.3 Bay Cap Revisit Provision: Option B (revisit the Bay Cap every 3 years)

AR Ellis
Urbanna VA

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 11:41 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Robert Graffin

Email

robertgraffin@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Please work to reduce over harvesting of menhaden and other critical fish species.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 10:36 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Roger Ludwig

Email

Roger.ludwig9@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Atlantic Menhaden are a vital part of the Long Island Sound estuary's ecology. Unabated commercial fishing for this species is creating a trophic cascade throughout the ecology of the Sound. Tragic!!!!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 10:24 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Harry J Burrows

Email

crabmanhjb@gmail.com

State

Delaware

Comment

We need to stop the over fishing of the Bunker fish, 50% cut will work,, make it happen.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 10:14 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Diana Bailey

Email

artemis29@cox.net

State

Virginia

Comment

I hear fewer and fewer osprey whistles at my home on Lake Lawson in Virginia Beach. There must be extreme limits on menhaden fishing to ensure the calls of these lovely birds don't go silent. Fulfilling the needs of humans have for too long been at the expense of some of the most majestic creatures on earth.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 9:51 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Frank Macalik

Email

Frankmacalik@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Thank you for allowing me to comment on the Atlantic Menhaden draft addendum II. For 3.1, bay cap, I select option B4. 50% reduction in bay quota. For 3.2.1 option B1, three quota periods. for 3.2.2, option 1, any underage in period 1 gets rolled equally into the remaining periods. Last, the health of this fishery should be revisited every three years for stock evaluation.
FM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 6:07 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Eugene Brink

Email

eugenebrink0@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Thank you for addressing this critical issue. I strongly support the most conservative management measures proposed in Draft Addendum II, including the maximum reduction of the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap and restrictions designed to prevent concentrated harvest during the peak summer period.

As a recreational fisherman who fishes regularly in Long Island Sound, I have personally observed a significant decline in the availability of menhaden. While I recognize that the Commission's current scientific data are not sufficient to definitively quantify the extent to which the reduction fishery is responsible for broader changes in menhaden abundance and distribution, that uncertainty should argue for precautionary management—not for delaying action.

Menhaden are a critical forage species supporting striped bass and numerous other fish, birds and marine predators throughout the Atlantic ecosystem. The potential consequences of removing large quantities of forage fish during concentrated periods can extend well beyond the immediate location of the fishery. Given the documented concerns regarding menhaden availability in Chesapeake Bay, the decline in certain fishery-dependent indicators, and the decline observed in the Choptank River survey, I believe it would be unnecessarily risky to maintain the status quo while waiting for additional scientific certainty.

I also believe the economic analysis should more fully recognize the economic value supported by healthy menhaden and the recreational fisheries that depend upon them. The economic impact of reducing the commercial reduction fishery should not be evaluated solely through jobs and output associated with harvesting menhaden. A meaningful analysis should also consider the businesses, jobs and coastal communities supported by recreational striped bass fishing and other fisheries that depend upon menhaden as forage—including charter boats, guides, marinas, tackle shops, boat dealers, fuel docks, restaurants and tourism.

Accordingly, I support the most restrictive Bay Cap reduction under consideration, along with meaningful seasonal quota controls that prevent disproportionate harvest during the peak summer period. I also support establishing a mandatory three-year review so these measures can be evaluated and adjusted as better scientific information becomes available.

This approach recognizes the legitimate economic interests of the commercial fishery while also recognizing that the long-term economic and ecological value of a healthy menhaden population extends far beyond the reduction fishery itself. Where the consequences of forage-fish depletion could be widespread and potentially difficult to reverse, precautionary management is warranted.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 5:46 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Mark Ratcliffe

Email

markdpratcliffe@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

The most bet abundant commercial fishing of Menhaden using spotter planes is a real issue. It removes whole populations at scale which is beyond the replenishing capability of normal breeding cycles. The knock on effect on other east coast species is real and can be felt by recreational anglers.
The adjustment of the cap is required to protect this immediately

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 1:30 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Theophilus Griswold

Email

bgriswold@brittgriswold.com

State

Maryland

Comment

The Menhaden catch should be reduced by at least half if not more. Without a proper understanding of the menhaden population, you have no business setting high catch limits that are not known to be sustainable. The signs of ecological and food web declined are blinking red. Osprey are noticeably in trouble, and industry Menhaden catch is dropping seriously already.

A 50% catch reduction is prudent without a proper population study. Menhaden is a keysone species that could potentially collapse the Bay ecosystem. Please be very careful in protecting it.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 11:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Bobbi Shoenberger

Email

shoenbergerbl@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I am requesting that the proposed reduction in the menhaden harvest cap be increased to substantially more than the proposed 50% or implement stronger restrictions such as a 5 yr moratorium.

Osprey have experienced extremely high reproductive failure in our region. A Stockton University research study has documented failure rates exceeding 80%, consistent with observations made firsthand by myself and others who closely study this species.

This past summer, I watched a newly established osprey pair nesting on an electric pole approximately one mile from the ocean. Although the pair mated and remained at the nest throughout the season, they did not successfully raise any offspring. I observed the birds hunting throughout the day, frequently returning without a fish or with catches so small that they could not reasonably provide sufficient food for the pair.

Osprey are competing for the same menhaden resource that is being harvested on a large commercial scale. They cannot compete with spotter-plane-assisted commercial fishing operations that locate and harvest menhaden from Virginia through the New York Bight.

The issue extends beyond osprey. Menhaden are a foundational forage fish, supporting a much broader marine ecosystem. Commercial fishing operations, including Omega Protein and others, are placing significant pressure on menhaden stocks along the East Coast. Declining availability of this essential forage fish affects osprey, whales, and numerous other marine species.

I respectfully ask regulators to adopt a substantially more conservative harvest cap and prioritize the recovery of menhaden populations and the health of the ecosystem over maximizing commercial harvest. Giving these forage fish populations an opportunity to rebound would benefit the entire marine food web.

Please take meaningful action to protect this critical resource and ensure that commercial harvest does not undermine the ecological needs of the species and communities that depend upon menhaden.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 8:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Robert Haentze

Email

robhaentze@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I've been fishing the Chesapeake bay for about 25years now. Fishing is my passion. I probably fish the bay around 100 times a year. I have noticed a profound drop in my catch over the last 10 years. The last 3 have been horrible. I completely blame the over harvest of menhaden in the bay. If I could vote to stop Omega from fishing in the Chesapeake bay I would! Since that is not a choice I would support the C1e, the 50% reduction of their harvest. Menhaden needs our protection now!!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 7:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Cara Burton

Email

cyberclam1@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Overfishing of menhaden has harmed the ecosystem of the Chesapeake Bay and has disrupted a healthy food chain. The Bay is already stressed and eliminating commercial industriL menhaden fishing will help the Bay recover.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 6:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Talley

Email

huckabuck79@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Omega Protein should not be in Va waters,I've seen the destruction for the last 55yrs. Not good

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 6:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Priscilla Dannies

Email

priscilla.dannies@yale.edu

State

Connecticut

Comment

This comment is in support of reducing the fishing cap for menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay by 50%. I live in Connecticut and we have seen the steady decline of the ability of osprey to feed their young, especially over recent years. In this respect, the losses in Connecticut are similar to those seen in other Atlantic Coast states. Osprey feed heavily on menhaden, and these small fish are now collected in industrial amounts in the Chesapeake Bay by Omega Protein, a subsidiary of the Canadian corporation Cooke, Inc., and its fishing partner Ocean Harvesters. They use enormous nets and every possible technological technique to locate where the bulk of these fish are. Individual fishermen, not part of this massive partnership, are seeing the effects; menhaden collection by individuals, who use them for bait, is down over 70%. The loss of young osprey, because they can not be fed by the adults because there is not enough fish, is bad not just for ospreys, but is an urgent warning. Many fish depend on these small fish for their food source, and it will not be just ospreys whose populations will drastically decline. In the short term, pleasing Omega Protein and keeping its jobs will be good for those that have them, but in soon everyone will be affected as the industry continues to scour the Chesapeake Bay for fish to make fishmeal. These small fish matter more to most of us than we know., and we should protect them more.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 6:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Rebecca Clark

Email

rsbclark@comcast.net

State

Delaware

Comment

I am writing to request, with urgency, that the commission reduce the fishing cap on Atlantic Menhaden by at least 50%.

As a member of the Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park, I joined many in mourning the failure of yet another osprey clutch. We watched the failure unfold on the Park's webcam, which allowed us to witness the lack of food and the horror of chick starvation.

Of additional concern is the fact that the captains of Cape Water Taxi and Tours have told me that they are finding it harder to find dolphin schools during their sunset dolphin tours. One captain attributed the difficulty to the likelihood that the food sources in the usual locations were causing to dolphins to travel further to find food. He told me last Friday "They don't have enough to eat."

The same captain, who is also a commercial fisherman, noted that on many overnights he sees menhaden fishermen in the water for most of the night. These fishermen don't acknowledge other boats, leading the captain to think they might be operating illegally.

We don't need to waste our natural resources on licenses to Omega Protein, which Canadian vacuums up scores Menhaden

for fish oil supplements.

Please consider the evidence and take steps to protect this vital species before it is too late.

Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 4:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michele Millham

Email

michelemillham@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Dear Board Members, my name is Michele Millham and I am a volunteer osprey nest monitor for the Connecticut Audubon Society's Osprey Nation project. For over five years I have been tracking the breeding success or failure of osprey nests in my community.

This month, eight of the nine nests I monitored had chicks that did not survive to fledge from the nests, well above the failure rate from any of the previous five years. I recognize this is an anecdotal observation, but it is in line with similar observations from across the entire eastern seaboard as well as the scientifically collected data that is emerging showing that osprey are unable to find enough food to support their young.

The most likely culprit is a marked reduction in fish stocks, most notably the population drop of Menhaden (bunker). Osprey and other wildlife depend on bunker as a key source of high quality nutrition for both them and their young. Whatever may be the cause of the drop in bunker population, we need to act now to stop a catastrophic population crash of this keystone fish species. We cannot wait for the population to fully crash before making changes because it will then be too late to rescue the species in a meaningful way.

The changes I am calling for include the implementation of stopping or significantly reducing the fishing of Menhaden/bunker while, in parallel, conducting the scientific research necessary to understand the pressures on this population of fish. Indiscriminate harvesting of bunker must stop.

Our ecosystem is giving us very clear warning signals. We need to listen and act to protect our resources as soon as possible. Over 50 years ago, osprey were one of the sentinel species that alerted us to the dangers of DDT. The decision makers listened then and species such as the bald eagles and osprey recovered. Now the current leaders such as this board need to listen to what the osprey failures are telling us and act now to forestall a crash of the ecosystem-critical Menhaden/bunker. We are depending on you to do the right thing.

Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 2:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Don Pirro

Email

dpirro1@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I am advocating for the strongest menhaden protection alternatives considered by Draft Addendum II. This is long overdue. Those which I support include:

Section 3.1 Bay Cap Amount:
Options C1e (reduces the Bay Cap by 50% and then links it to the Coastwide catch limit at a 13.6% proportion) AND option C2a (Upper Cap limit of 51,000mt and no lower limit)

Section 3.2 Bay Cap Distribution:
Options B2 (3 even length/uneven harvest quota periods 25%-25%-50%) AND Option B (establishes quota period overage and underage provisions)
Section 3.3 Bay Cap Revisit Provision:

Option B (revisit the Bay Cap every 3 years)

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 12:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/va-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Rich Parker

Email

buds4223@comcast.net

State

Virginia

Comment

The Osprey population is starving and unable to reproduce enough to sustain their population. Menhaden has been over harvested in Virginia for so many years, and it has caught up with us. Don't allow human greed to lose the Osprey population. All menhaden harvesting should be stopped in order to evaluate before we lose this keystone species.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 11:50 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Robert Beach

Email

robertjbeach@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I support the following options in Draft Addendum II:

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount: Support option C1e that would reduce the Bay Cap by 50 percent and limits it to 13.6 percent of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC). Also, support option C2a which sets an upper limit of 51,000mt for the Bay Cap, which is the current level.

3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution: Support option B2 which establishes three even length quota periods for the Bay Cap, but distributes harvest 25 percent in period 1, 25 percent in period 2, and 50 percent into period 3. Also, support option B which establishes quota period overage payback and rollover of unused quota within a fishing year.

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision: Support option B Revisit Provision to reassess the efficacy of these new management tools every 3 years.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 11:28 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

JoAnn Amann

Email

jmamann@comcast.net

State

Delaware

Comment

The Ospreys are steadily declining due to overfishing of Atlantic Menhaden. Overfishing has to stop.... these birds need Atlantic Menhaden to survive, and feed their chicks so that they survive!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 11:08 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lawrence Turner

Email

laturner123a@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

It's time to pause or restrict over harvesting of Atlantic Menhaden. Overfishing of menhaden is increasingly hurting Chesapeake Bay fish. This year's breeding season for osprey was the worst to date. 80% of nesting osprey pairs failed to fledge any young due to overfishing of Atlantic Menhaden in the Bay. Menhaden populations affect more than just Osprey, but it is devastatingly clear that something needs to be done immediately to save this population and the complex web of ecology they are a part of. This is a clear warning sign and there is a clear answer-- Pause or restrict Atlantic Menhaden harvesting. Stop giving corporations free rein to take whatever they want in their quest for ever increasing profits. Please act to address this problem now.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 11:02 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Tyler Jayne

Email

valiantnorth@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Stop letting these corporations destroy our ecosystems. When the Chesapeake Bay dies, we are talking about a trillion dollar loss to the economy. I know for a fact that you aren't getting billions in taxes from the commercial harvest, so how can you justify this? In pure economic analysis, we are making a catastrophic mistake. The ripple effects are still being studied and it might soon be too late to stop it.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 10:56 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/va-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lesley Bulluck

Email

lpbulluck@vcu.edu

State

Virginia

Comment

Regulation of the menhaden fishing industry is not an anti-business approach, rather a sustainable approach. A healthy menhaden population in the Chesapeake Bay will not only ensure the persistence of Osprey and other fish-eating birds, but also the menhaden fishing industry and jobs.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 10:47 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Marc Colacicco

Email

mmcicco@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Please reduce the quota 50% and then some. Plus, truthfully enforce said quotas. Our children deserve to catch fish and see healthy bird populations for decades to come.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 10:42 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Thomas Sullivan

Email

tmtsull828@outlook.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Do not remove menhaden from the bay! It's a fragile ecosystem with many factors contributing to habitat loss. Sucking the menhaden out, in addition to all the breeding-sized fish that are killed in the process, does not help the Bay, or Virginia. Roughly 26% of all seafood goes to waste in the United States. I'm sure with all that, there are plenty of other ways to make fish pellets. Don't take a primary source of food to manufacture salmon that will likely also be wasted.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 10:24 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/ny-ct-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

George Fabricatore

Email

georgefab@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

As someone who goes fishing in the Long Island Sound several days a week, the decrease in the number of Menhaden has been noticeable and concerning. It was only a few years ago that one could observe several large schools of these fish from early summer through fall. As of the end of September 2026, I have yet to see a single school of these fish. As a result, fish like Striped Bass and Bluefish have not been as abundant and one can not even buy Menhaden for bait in the tackle stores because there is no supply. I am in full support of the maximum reduction in quota for the commercial Menhaden fishery.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 10:22 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Clarence Pierre

Email

mechfist@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

I fully support the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 10:22 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Clarence Pierre

Email

mechfist@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

I fully support the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 10:13 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/va-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Bill Williams

Email

billwilliams154@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Osprey and Royal Tern populations are and have been negatively impacted by the over-harvest of menhaden. Having been involved in decades of field studies of both species, I have witnessed first hand menhaden harvest, and over time, the slow downward decline of successfully breeding Ospreys. Virginia Tech studies of Virginia's Royal Tern colonies provide evidence of the importance of menhaden for reproductive success.
Osprey productivity has fallen below long-term population sustainability. This is directly associated with lack of food for young, in this case menhaden.
I urge a strict moratorium on menhaden harvest in the Chesapeake Bay and from Virginia off-shore waters.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 9:00 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jonathan Bland

Email

jbland@smcm.edu

State

Maryland

Comment

As a Charter Captain on the Chesapeake Bay that fishes from Annapolis to Cape Charles, I strongly support amendment II. Changes in menhaden population over the past few years is something noticeable throughout the entire bay. I can't continue to make a living here on the Bay if the most important baitfish is depleted to a level that no longer supports other marine life.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 7:53 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Janet Peterson

Email

jpetersxyz@hotmail.com

State

Delaware

Comment

As a Tri-State Bird Rescue volunteer, I see first hand the devastating effects that overfishing of menhaden has on the Sussex county Delaware Osprey population. The few young that make it to fledgling size are starving! This year, more than once I have rescued a juvenile Osprey and quickly realized that it was emaciated, with the keel easily felt, almost sharp like a knife - not normal! The situation is desperate. Menhaden meet the dietary needs and are the preferred fish for Osprey. The situation is dire!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 6:15 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Robert Coleman

Email

bobbyc36@hotmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Inact it and cut down on commercial menhaden fishing

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 10:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Tyler Demetriou

Email

tyler.demetriou@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Dear ASMFC,

As a lifelong resident of the Chesapeake Bay watershed who grew up by the Bay, I am writing to urge you to reconsider the current practice of industrial reduction fishing for Atlantic menhaden in the Bay. Menhaden are a crucial part of the Bay ecosystem and food web, and their reduced numbers are contributing to population collapse for ospreys and other species. Ospreys are an icon of the Atlantic coast. The estimates that over 5,000 osprey chicks per year are starving to death from lack of food are just unfathomable. I'm not asking you to wipe out the industry, just to relocate it outside the Bay to where the ecosystem is under less stress than the heavily developed Chesapeake Bay watershed, or at least pause the fishery in the Bay long enough for long overdue study of the issue.

I can't imagine a world where my kids grow up without ospreys on the Bay, but that's where we're headed without action. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Tyler Demetriou

Charlottesville, VA 22901
tyler.demetriou@gmail.com

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 9:36 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Linda Barlow

Email

barlowlj65@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

We live on the Bay in Jamesville VA. We have watched our osprey nest fail and spoken to many friends and neighbors here and on Hungars Creek say the same. We also used to see dolphin every day. Usually twice a day and this past year almost never. We have seen omega Protein so close to our shore, I felt I could walk to the ships. That time, during the 4th of July weekend, their nets broke sending hundreds of dead fish to the shores where our paying tourists were trying to enjoy their holiday. Tourism is one of the biggest incomes for our Northampton County. We dont obtain income from Omega Protein. We need our Bay healthy for our sports fishers and for our tourists and also just for us - the people who live here year round. Many have worked hard to " clean up the Bay" in so many ways. It is devastating to us to see it being sold in this way. Please look at the Chesapeake Bay as a separate entity when it comes to ypur scientific studies. It is unique. It is special. We can all co-exist but , in my opinion, Omega Protein has a much bigger share and take. When the menhaden are gone, so are many other creatures along with Omega protein interests and definitely ours. Please dont let them buy the Bay. Its a resource that should belong to all of us and be used in a caring manner deserving of such a one of a kind system. Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 7:42 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

william phillips

Email

wdp2@verizon.net

State

Virginia

Comment

I am in favor of 3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery cap amount , Option C. I.e., a 50% reduction in Menhaden harvesting in the Chesapeake Bay. Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 7:13 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Joe Masley

Email

masley.joe@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

I urge all reading to please pass any and all measures to help protect the menhaden population.

First, from an environmental perspective, this species is critical to supporting the entire Atlantic marine fishery as a whole. Without the fish, the impact to the ecosystem could be devestating.

Due to the above fact, the collective long-term well-being of both the commercial and recreational economies depends on the well being of the menhaden stock.

Let us all work together on this to preserve our incredible fishery for our children, their children, and the generations to come.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 5:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

http://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Teresa Brown

Email

ms.teresa.brown2020@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Please save our ecosystems along the Atlantic and protect Atlantic menhaden! Limit catches significantly now! Prohibit large commercial fisheries from coming close to shore.

We are witnessing a cruel decline in Osprey by noticeable smaller bunker and less available bunker. Let's protect the baitfish that support our Atlantic!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 4:16 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Dmitriy Begunov

Email

demasoil35@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Living for 20 years in Virginia and Chesapeake bay fishing in decline, we need to prohibit any large scale commercial harvesting in that waters.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 3:21 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Thomas McDonald

Email

ttpm320@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I think all menhaden fishing should be done 3 miles off the shore in the ocean. Common sense says taking Manhattan in the bay is just hurting the recreational fishing and ecosystem of the bay.

Have seen very few menhaden balls in the oceanfront this year. Bluefish striper and speckled trout blitzes at the beach are nonexistent.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: Info (ASMFC)
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 3:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: menhaden public comments

From: info@asmfc.org <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 10:39 PM
To: Info (ASMFC) <info@ASMFC.ORG>
Subject: [External] New website contact submission from Contact Us

Name

Susanne Fordham

Email

fordhamsus@gmail.com

Get in Touch

Re: Managing menhaden for the health of the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic coast

Menhaden are one of the most important fish on the Atlantic Coast. They are vital as a food source to the birds and fish that call the coast home.

3.1: Options C1e and C2a. I support a precautionary reduction in the Bay Cap by 50% .
3.2: Option B2. I support the establishment of three quota periods for the Bay Cap at a 25/25/50% harvest distribution percentage per quota period. This will help reduce food competition for birds like osprey
3.3: Option B I support reviewing the Chesapeake Bay Cap every 3 years.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 1:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Scott Stepanski

Email

wileyscott@comcast.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

As a recreational fisherman, I can clearly see the reduction in menhaden numbers. Gone are the vast shoals of fish and I get excited to see even a medium size school. This has knock on effects up and down the ecosystem as demonstrated by the huge die off of osprey chicks this year. Fish and wildlife will recover if we give them a chance, but fishing them to oblivion leaves nothing for the future. Please reduce the commercial catch immediately before the fishery is destroyed for decades to came.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 11:11 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Samuel Davis

Email

samwdavis76@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Based on my observations of a drastic reduction in menhaden populations over the past several years and the corresponding impact on predatory fish populations and bird populations, I strongly recommended implementing of strict limits to menhaden harvesting.

I recommend option 3.1b4.

Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 10:48 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jeff Boehne

Email

jeffboehne@comcast.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

Have not seen full size menhaden available for years. The size to keep needs to be larger to help the population grow. Netters just care about how much they can make. At some point there will be little to take if not controlled better.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 9:46 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Paul Gloser

Email

paul.gloser@comcast.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

Fishing the bay along the East Coast from Maryland to New Jersey for decades now. The dearth of Osprey in recent years is it once depressing and alarming. Please do what you can to stop the raping of our oceans.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 8:23 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Scott Vaden

Email

scottvaden@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

We humans have been very successful and efficient in decimating and wiping out entire species. Again, we are on a downward spiral to ensure the Menhaden, along with collateral damage of other species are in jeopardy.

Quotas are established on commercial fishing, but they are not enforced and the violators are not fined when they exceed their quota.

Political contributions and greed drive the decision-making/enforcement process, not science.

Certainly, we can place higher priorities to conserve and protect natural resources than manufacturing cat food, cosmetics and fish oil at the expense Menhaden and the interlinked species.

Presumably, the Commission will take bold steps to rebuild Menhaden populations. However, in doing so, local jobs will be lost resulting in severe impacts to the economy of Virginia's Northern Neck. It is only fair and reasonable that a program be developed to compensate and assist employees who are adversely impacted. A good example of such program is the Tobacco Transition Payment Program, entirely funded without tax dollars.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 8:21 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jim Newman

Email

topwater4@juno.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Having lived along the Chesapeake bay most of my 59 years, I can see the dramatic toll cemercial menhaden fishing has had on one of the worlds most important ecosystems. The harvest of millions of tons of bait fish annually that species like Striped Bass and many others rely, including Virginia's sea birds, has already caused great harm to Virginia waters. It's time Virginia places the environment ahead of a foreign owned company and kicks them out of state waters, like every other east coast state has already done.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 6:46 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

http://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Susan Casey

Email

caseybeach@cox.net

State

Virginia

Comment

I have experienced a decline in nesting and successful hatching at my home on the James River. Several years ago we purchased a home on the North River in Mathews VA and were excited by the prospects of better results. There are two nesting stations. One hasn't been occupied in three years and the other has had no successful hatching. I fully support efforts to decrease menhaden removal from the bay and its estuaries.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 6:36 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jeremy Morrison

Email

goodstuffcharters@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I support a cut in industrial menhaden harvest, I haven't seen a bunker bigger than 5" in at least 3 years. Game fishing is slower from this as well.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 5:34 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

robert luise

Email

rluise178@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

There is no menhaden in Long Island sound. This needs to stop Now !!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 10:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Daniel Latoof

Email

dlatoof@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

The Menhaden population in NJ has been decimated by these reduction boats... Ospreys are only one of dozen of local species that have been severely damaged by this Menhaden Reduction Fishery. It has been affecting Rec. Striped Bass Fishing, REC. Bluefin Tuna Fishing. Weakfish , Flounder , Seabass , And on & on

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 8:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Scott Lynster

Email

scallywagcharters@hotmail.com

State

New York

Comment

There has been a definitive decline in bunker along Long Island and New Jersey shorelines.
The only way Striped bass and other fisheries will survive is to have bait fish, mainly Menhaden.
When you loose one bait, others will start to get consumed more frequently. It's just natural. However, we are seeing more oceanic fish in close to shore looking to feed. It doesn't take a college degree to realize that baits are being overfished.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 7:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Julie Kelly

Email

JLKellyRVA@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

The mass overfishing of menhaden inside the Chesapeake Bay needs to be stopped, and a strict boundary several miles OFF of the Atlantic coastline established, immediately. There should be NO spotting planes/drones allowed, and adjustments to nets made to ensure only full-sized adults are caught.

Foreign commercial fisheries are inside our territorial waters, specifically INSIDE the Bay, and they are literally vacuuming up all aquatic life in the Bay to harvest these fish –menhaden. This is causing permanent, crisis–level damage to fishery stocks, as well as a dramatic decline of osprey populations. Menhaden are the foundation of the food web for the entire region, and when the bottom rung collapses, the entire ecosystem will deteriorate.

For the last several years, ospreys have been disappearing from the Bay, and those that have managed to find enough food to have eggs and reproduce have seen a well-above/average death rate of those chicks due to starvation. Menhaden is their primary food.

It is not only the ospreys and the bald eagles that will starve and disappear. The economy of so many people in the Bay region is based on recreational fishing as well as commercial (at a smaller scale) fishing. Blue crabs, bass, are all based in the

Chesapeake Bay.

Just like fishing off of the Grand Banks in the upper northeast of the United States had to be stopped and regulated in the 1980s to ensure the long-term survival of commercial fish populations, so does the excessive depletion of the Chesapeake Bay fish stocks needs to be stopped until there is a solid study done.

Thank you.
Julie Kelly

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 6:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Joshua Conyers

Email

conyersj17@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I support the strongest conservation measures available in Draft Addendum II, specifically:

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount
- Option C1e: To reduce the Chesapeake Bay CAP by at least 50 percent in 2027 and link any changes to the future Bay Cap to 13.6% of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC).
- Option C2a: To set the maximum upper limit in any future change at the current level of 51,000mt.

3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution
- Option B2: To establish three even length quota periods for the Chesapeake Bay Cap, distributing the harvest at 25% in period 1, 25% in period 2, and 50% in period 3.
- Option B: Provides any underage of Quota Periods 1 or 2 be rolled into Period 3 of the same fishing year. Any underage in Quota Period 3 would not be reallocated. Any overages would be deducted from the same quota period in the following year.

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision
- Option B: Revisit the Chesapeake Bay Cap every 3 years.

I believe these measures are a good start, but they do not go far enough. My preferred long-term outcome is the complete elimination of commercial menhaden reduction harvest from the Chesapeake Bay.

Menhaden are a foundational forage species for striped bass, bluefish, red drum, cobia, birds, marine mammals, and countless other species. The Chesapeake should be managed first as a critical ecosystem and nursery—not as a source of industrial-scale forage removal for fish meal and oil.

I urge the ASMFC to adopt the strongest options in this Addendum as an immediate step, while establishing a clear path toward zero commercial reduction harvest of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 6:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michael Madison

Email

fra01mike@aol.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Virginia waters needs a significant reduction in the menhaden catch. Virginia has one of the greatest fisheries in the world and it needs help as now its horrible! Please help restore the mehaden to insure hopefully a better future.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 5:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

david elliott

Email

d.elliott11@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Keep omega and any other large companies out of the bay. Our estuary should be off limits for these large ships with spotter planes decimating our natural resources. Furthermore other countries are buying our USA companies to make it seem as though we are behind this smoke and mirrors game . It is my understanding that a Canadian company is operating in reedville Va . Netting up menhaden and who knows what to feed their farm raised trout. Also Wanchese fish company , owned by Chinese. These companies have no business in our seafood industry. Keep them out of the largest estuary on the east coast. We are already seeing problems with their practices. Once ruined how do propose we feed our families with the overpopulation that is exploding already. David Elliott recreational angler of 50 years.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 5:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

K W

Email

shellskrs@aol.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Save and support our magnificent Osprey!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 5:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/ny-ct-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michael Siconolfi

Email

mike.s1969@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

Please do something. I have not seen an adult size bunker in the western LI Sound in years. Ospreys are having a very tough time. Bluefish have virtually disappeared. Omega 3 vessels are decimating the population. Immediate reduction of at least %50 or more.
Thank you for your time and help.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 3:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

THOMAS ERIKSEN

Email

theoldguy568@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Whatever this board rules for it's being delayed far too long, the draggers are inflicting horrible damage to our ocean life and bird life. Bait fish are disappearing due to the over harvest allowed and the by-catch kill is ridiculous. Osprey chicks are starving at an alarming rate thanks to the Marine Fishery allowing this disaster that is allowed. I'm tired of hearing it's the sport fisherman, the charter boats reducing the Striper and Fluke population when metric tons of bunker are being scooped up and the by-catch being crushed and thrown overboard to die. A 12 mile safe zone isn't enough, too little too late, put a two to three year ban on the Omega draggers for the schools to rebuild and at that time enforce a 15 mile safe zone from Maine to Florida...

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 3:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

William Pollock, EdD

Email

wjp08527@mac.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

We need to be very careful and protect (filter feeders) menhaden. They are the foundation food for most of the fish, raptors and other species in our region. If we over fish them and they don't rebound we will loose many of the species that need them for survival all the way up the food chain.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 3:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Bob Griffin

Email

rgriffin22@verizon.net

State

Delaware

Comment

Government always waits at the very end to do anything which they did from years passed from the carrier pigeon to the Buffalo to the beaver to all kind of animals, the trout, the Manhattan, and lots of other animals by the time they decide to do something they're either extinct or beyond recovery

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 1:33 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Aaron & Delight Cowan

Email

cowancontracting@gmail.com

State

Delaware

Comment

Fishing populations are down, my child doesn't see huge clouds of migratory fish ANYMORE. Harvesting our Eastern seashore is crashing our ecosystem's natural estuaries for small fish. Declining bird populations, and literally no fish hitting from are clear signs of environmental degradation. Stop the commercial trawlers…Safe our Shores!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 12:49 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/va-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Maceo Zelenka

Email

mpzfish@icloud.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I think that Reducing the initial Chesapeake Bay Cap by 50%, from 51,000 to 25,500 metric tons.
Establishing the Bay Cap at 13.6% of the coastwide total allowable catch so it can adjust when the coastwide quota changes.
Maintaining 51,000 metric tons as the maximum Bay Cap, with no fixed lower limit.
Allocating 25% of the Bay Cap during the first quota period, 25% during the second period, and 50% during the final period.
Requiring early-season quota-period overages to be deducted from the corresponding period during the following year.
Requiring ASMFC to revisit the Chesapeake Bay Cap and related management measures every three years.
Together, these measures would reduce the amount of industrial harvest permitted in the Chesapeake Bay, protect more menhaden during ecologically important parts of the year, and create a system that can respond to new science and future coastwide quota changes.

Question 5 — Option C: Link the Chesapeake Bay Cap to the coastwide total allowable catch.
Question 6 — Option C1E: Set the Bay Cap at 13.6% of the coastwide quota, initially equivalent to a 50% reduction from the current cap.
Question 7 — Option C2A: Establish 51,000 metric tons as the upper limit, with no lower limit.
Question 8 — Option B2: Allocate 25% of the Bay Cap to the first quota period, 25% to the second, and 50% to the third.
Question 9 — Option B: Require quota-period overage paybacks while allowingunused quota to roll into the final period of the

same fishing year.
Question 10 — No change.
Question 11 — Option B: Require ASMFC to revisit the Chesapeake Bay Cap every three years.
Question 12: I believe that the abundance and protection of menhaden in Chesapeake Bay is extremely important to not only me as a fisherman, but all species that live in on or around the Chesapeake Bay, all the birds of prey all of the Crabs fish turtles and everything in between that rely on Menhaden to thrive I've seen acres and acres of schools of Menhaden in the past when I was growing up and now in recent years, I only see small schools of peanut bunker and it is really sad because you can clearly see the correlation between the last bait. The last larger fish in this issue is larger than just fisherman. If the decline in the Menhaden species in the bay continues to decrease it will be an ecological collapse for all living species in and around the Chesapeake.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 12:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Edward Lippincott

Email

chefed@mac.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

There are no adult Bunker inshore and therefore no Whales and very little Striped Bass. I can see the Bunker boats scooping them up offshore. these fish are a vital part of the fopodchanin and need to be protected.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 12:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Hodges

Email

jhodges1201@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I along with others have watched Omega pillage the Chesapeake Bay for too long. To me a great recent example is the bi-catch discovered around cape Charles several years ago. The dead puppy drum found floating in the nearby bay waters is just one a many horrific damage Omega has inflicted on the bay's environment. Couple this with the harvested product most if not all leaves this country for Canada. TIME TO REIN OMEGA IN!!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 10:50 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Joe Ballschneider

Email

ballschneidergj@gmail.com

State

District of Columbia

Comment

I read about the devastating effects of Menhaden overfishing on our cherished Chesapeake Bay ecosystem in Audubon magazine. We must place sensible and sustainable limits on the industry to converse the ecosystem long into the future.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 9:08 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Chris Shea

Email

chrishea132@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I have not seen an adult bunker in seven years of fishing in my local tidal river. When the adult bunker are in this river it explodes with life. The herring numbers are also criminally low. This ricer has spawning locations for all types of fish and birds and mammals and reptiles that need the bunker to maintain its obviously simple ecosystem. Ban the harvest of commercial herring/bunker/shad. 100% ban the fishery. We are feeding our most important recourse to foreigners and turning them into food for domestic animals. It is an absolute heinous crime to allow a vessel to net these fish commercially. Even a cast net seems like overkill. 50% of the haul would be a start but o doubt it's enough to reverse the damage just ban the herring fishery. Ban the commercial fishery for herring. It is obviously ruining the Atlantic Ocean. I have not seen an adult bunker in SEVEN YEARS. Seven years! Not one adult bunker on a snagger hook not one school of bunker in the river while kayak 10miles of it on a regular basis there are zero adult bunker left. They are gone and never had the chance to come back. It is absolutely ridiculous that these fish can't make it back to the coast here. Ban this fishery it is absolutely the most absurd fishery in our country. It's like taking food from a baby. It's not fishing. It's as if these boats were going to Africa taking all of the food and leaving not a single scrap. Everything dies and leaves looking for a new food source. Allow the bunker to migrate to Connecticut before a spy plane and net the size of my state clears 50% of the population before it leaves home base. Lowering the haul to to 50% is not enough. Stop the fishery. These people who have boats and planes for this are not going to die of starvation. Their families are fine and their livelihood is not at risk. Our ocean and shoreline ecosystems however do not

have another option or source to recover from. It is not okay to be netting these fish commercially. It is not food for a human. This “omega protein” is not human protein. It is not something we need. These fish are being harvested for greed. Destroying the ecosystem of our ocean for the sake of cat food is unfathomable. Please do better.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 9:08 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jay Carneal

Email

carnealseaford@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Reduce Menhaden Commercial Fishing in Chesapeake Bay NOW.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 9:04 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Daniel Smith

Email

bud25@optonline.net

State

New York

Comment

Menhaden harvesting must be better regulated. I support reducing quotas and areas of harvesting.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 8:25 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Marty Schriebl

Email

mschriebl@icloud.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I think omega should have to stay 3 miles off the coast at all times NO Chesapeake bay harvest!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 8:04 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Vickie Cotton

Email

bluemoonartisansllc@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please cap the commercial fishing of menhaden at the requested 50%. The three stage staggered suggestion with the greatest reduction in September will help get out CT Isorey back on track.
We've worked so hard to bring our Osprey back to a healthy balance in our environment following the DDT decimation in the 60's. Please respect our commitment and assist us in getting back to where we were pre- 2026 when the spawning of menhaden declined from the Chesapeake bay up the eastern seaboard.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 7:54 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Hunter Mathews

Email

hmathews630@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Every year seeing less menhaden in the bay and fish. Something needs to be done or we will not have a fishery.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 7:43 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Chas Faison

Email

chas_faison@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

The idea that this environmental destruction is allowed to take place is shocking. Considering the political climate of right and left today, the fact that we are united on this front, should tell you everything you need to know. Stop the harvesting in the bay!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 7:24 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jeffrey Stewart

Email

captjeffstewart@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I own a party fishing boat out of New Jersey. For the second year in a row I find myself asking where are the Bunker? Now I realize this is for the Chesapeake Bay cap. However I realize that many of the fish we see in New Jersey, arrive here from the Chesapeake.

Our own Delaware Bay no longer supports the abundance of Bunker it once did when I was younger for reasons unknown. We also have seen localized depletions of Striped Bass, Bluefish, Weakfish and Summer Flounder. What used to be a thriving bay of life is a bay of death. The water is so very clean from the abundance of oysters in the bay that were not present there thirty years ago it is difficult to understand why it no longer has the life that it once did.

I can say that the constant attention that the Omega Fleet has given to the mouth of Delaware Bay, particularly during the Bunker runs that normally result in spawning outside the Bay, right on Five Fathom Bank, possibly have decimated the mature Bunker necessary to provide the Bay with Bunker larvae. I'm not a scientist- that's your job.

I can tell you I feel NO ONE is looking into what is wrong with Delaware Bay. I support a reduction in the fishing being done by the Omega Fleet out of Reedville, VA. Localized depletion is exactly what the fleet is designed to do. Localized depletion is what the result of mile long seine nets causes. When this fleet arrives in our area, they run schools out of the three mile limit ,

then sit the vessel on the three mile line and extend the net inshore of the line so their AIS signature is legal- while their net is not. After the fleet departs Cape May, it can be weeks before we see any schools return.

This style of commercial fishing has affected our fishing. It has affected our whale watching. It has had negative affect on the nesting Osprey that have been thriving across Cape May County. So many Osprey Nests have failed in the past two years that we watch with our passengers as the chicks are two week to fly and then bed down and die in the Nest because they have nothing to eat. For the past two years the majority of Osprey I have seen in flight carrying a Bunker in their Talons, the fish was only the size of one Talon. Normally the Osprey pick up 6-10” Bunker and turn the fish to hold them head first with both Talons. The past two years they can only find fish 2-3” long which only fit in one Talon!

This localized depletion of Bunker is affecting the Bald Eagles in my area that also fish for Bunker. The Bald Eagles have turned to eating Laughing Gull chicks to survive. The Bald Eagle at least can adapt. The Osprey Cannot.

Please consider further study of localized populations of Bunker on Chesapeake Bay. Please consider a moratorium on Bunker Fishing at an industrial level. The fishermen in Cape May are not the problem- their landings do not result in the disappearance of Bunker. When they leave an area there are still schools leftover- that is the true mark of sustainable fishing. The Omega Fleet does result in the disappearance of Bunker for long periods of time. How is that considered sustainable. Sustainability should be the goal, not efficiency. This disappearance is not due to the migration of Bunker and has everything to do with picking up whole schools of mature spawning bunker and removing their ability to reproduce.

Thank you for your time

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 7:23 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jeffrey Stewart

Email

captjeffstewart@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

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Thank you for your time

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 5:51 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Nicole Moore

Email

nmoore@nucps.net

State

Virginia

Comment

Nicole Moore
Kindergarten Teacher
Northumberland Elementary School

I was born and raised in the suburbs of Rochester, NY, and lived in Buffalo for over a decade. Looking to escape those brutal winters, I took a map, randomly picked 4 locations between Virginia and N. Carolina, got in my car and my first interview was with the Northumberland County School system. Upon receiving my job offer, I canceled all my other interviews because I had found a hidden gem that captured my heart so completely, I knew I would never leave.

Reedville is a tiny, historic fishing village where life is anchored by tradition. It is truly a unique place where hard-work and dedication center around Omega Protein. This community is comprised of some of the most kind, embracing people you will ever meet, whose lives and livelihoods are deeply intertwined with the Chesapeake Bay.

As an educator here, the heartbeat of this industry resonates in my classroom every single day. Throughout my career, there has never been a year where I did not teach children directly connected to the factory. The beautiful, cyclical nature of this place means that many of the sixth graders I taught 20+ years ago now work at the factory and today, I am blessed to teach

their children in kindergarten. This is generational hard work in action –a vivid, living picture of the quintessential American dream built on grit, calloused hands, and dedication to family.

But because this factory is the lifeblood of our county, our community exists in a delicate balance. The threat of a drastic cut to the menhaden quota looms large over our schools and our families. Imposing such a severe reduction is not just a regulatory adjustment; it is an economically devastating measure that will completely upend this tight-knit community, rippling through local businesses, families, and the school system itself.

A 40% reduction directly threatens the livelihoods of over 200 plant workers, captains, and crew members. In a rural area like the Northern Neck, the factory supports an entire network of local businesses –from fuel suppliers and maritime mechanics to the grocery stores where my students' families shop. Forcing a leaner operation or structural insolvency would decimate our local tax base, defund our schools, and destroy an iconic American working waterfront.

What makes this threat so painful is it is scientifically unwarranted. The push for this cut is driven by localized environmental anxieties rather than the best available coastwide science. Assessments by this very body have repeatedly shown that the Atlantic menhaden stock is not overfished, nor is overfishing occurring. The industry already operates under strict, cutting-edge Ecological Reference Points (ERP's) designed to leave a massive buffer of fish in the water for predators. Slashing the quota by any additional percentage bypasses this established scientific framework in favor of political pressure.

Furthermore, because Virginia is the only remaining state that permits an active reduction fishery, the disproportionate burden of this cut falls entirely on a single community. It ignores heavy conservation compromises the industry has already accepted –including the rigid 51,000-metric-ton cap inside the Chesapeake Bay.

Fisheries management must balance ecological health with human and economical survival. A rigid cut is a blunt instrument that ignores the health of the biomass, threatens domestic food security, and risks permanently extinguishing a historic, sustainable American industry. To protect this factory is to protect a rare, vanishing way of life.

I ask you to carefully consider both the rigorous science and the human component before making your decision. Please protect our families, our schools, and our community by voting against any reduction in fishing.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 5:50 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/me-nh-ma-ri-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Nicole Moore

Email

nmoore@nucps.net

State

Virginia

Comment

Nicole Moore
Kindergarten Teacher
Northumberland Elementary School

I was born and raised in the suburbs of Rochester, NY, and lived in Buffalo for over a decade. Looking to escape those brutal winters, I took a map, randomly picked 4 locations between Virginia and N. Carolina, got in my car and my first interview was with the Northumberland County School system. Upon receiving my job offer, I canceled all my other interviews because I had found a hidden gem that captured my heart so completely, I knew I would never leave.

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As an educator here, the heartbeat of this industry resonates in my classroom every single day. Throughout my career, there

has never been a year where I did not teach children directly connected to the factory. The beautiful, cyclical nature of this place means that many of the sixth graders I taught 20+ years ago now work at the factory and today, I am blessed to teach their children in kindergarten. This is generational hard work in action –a vivid, living picture of the quintessential American dream built on grit, calloused hands, and dedication to family.

But because this factory is the lifeblood of our county, our community exists in a delicate balance. The threat of a drastic cut to the menhaden quota looms large over our schools and our families. Imposing such a severe reduction is not just a regulatory adjustment; it is an economically devastating measure that will completely upend this tight-knit community, rippling through local businesses, families, and the school system itself.

A 40% reduction directly threatens the livelihoods of over 200 plant workers, captains, and crew members. In a rural area like the Northern Neck, the factory supports an entire network of local businesses –from fuel suppliers and maritime mechanics to the grocery stores where my students' families shop. Forcing a leaner operation or structural insolvency would decimate our local tax base, defund our schools, and destroy an iconic American working waterfront.

What makes this threat so painful is it is scientifically unwarranted. The push for this cut is driven by localized environmental anxieties rather than the best available coastwide science. Assessments by this very body have repeatedly shown that the Atlantic menhaden stock is not overfished, nor is overfishing occurring. The industry already operates under strict, cutting-edge Ecological Reference Points (ERP's) designed to leave a massive buffer of fish in the water for predators.
Slashing the quota by any additional percentage bypasses this established scientific framework in favor of political pressure.

Furthermore, because Virginia is the only remaining state that permits an active reduction fishery, the disproportionate burden of this cut falls entirely on a single community. It ignores heavy conservation compromises the industry has already accepted –including the rigid 51,000-metric-ton cap inside the Chesapeake Bay.

Fisheries management must balance ecological health with human and economical survival. A rigid cut is a blunt instrument that ignores the health of the biomass, threatens domestic food security, and risks permanently extinguishing a historic, sustainable American industry. To protect this factory is to protect a rare, vanishing way of life.

I ask you to carefully consider both the rigorous science and the human component before making your decision. Please protect our families, our schools, and our community by voting against any reduction in fishing.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 5:47 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II - Fort Monroe

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II - Fort Monroe

Action Title

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II - Fort Monroe

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/va-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii-2/

Name

Nicole Moore

Email

nmoore@nucps.net

State

Virginia

Comment

Nicole Moore
Kindergarten Teacher
Northumberland Elementary School

I was born and raised in the suburbs of Rochester, NY, and lived in Buffalo for over a decade. Looking to escape those brutal winters, I took a map, randomly picked 4 locations between Virginia and N. Carolina, got in my car and my first interview was with the Northumberland County School system. Upon receiving my job offer, I canceled all my other interviews because I had found a hidden gem that captured my heart so completely, I knew I would never leave.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 5:43 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Nicole Moore

Email

nmoore@nucps.net

State

Virginia

Comment

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Reedville is a tiny, historic fishing village where life is anchored by tradition. It is truly a unique place where hard-work and dedication center around Omega Protein. This community is comprised of some of the most kind, embracing people you will ever meet, whose lives and livelihoods are deeply intertwined with the Chesapeake Bay.

As an educator here, the heartbeat of this industry resonates in my classroom every single day. Throughout my career, there has never been a year where I did not teach children directly connected to the factory. The beautiful, cyclical nature of this place means that many of the sixth graders I taught 20+ years ago now work at the factory and today, I am blessed to teach their children in kindergarten. This is generational hard work in action –a vivid, living picture of the quintessential American dream built on grit, calloused hands, and dedication to family.

But because this factory is the lifeblood of our county, our community exists in a delicate balance. The threat of a drastic cut to

the menhaden quota looms large over our schools and our families. Imposing such a severe reduction is not just a regulatory adjustment; it is an economically devastating measure that will completely upend this tight-knit community, rippling through local businesses, families, and the school system itself.

A 40% reduction directly threatens the livelihoods of over 200 plant workers, captains, and crew members. In a rural area like the Northern Neck, the factory supports an entire network of local businesses –from fuel suppliers and maritime mechanics to the grocery stores where my students' families shop. Forcing a leaner operation or structural insolvency would decimate our local tax base, defund our schools, and destroy an iconic American working waterfront.

What makes this threat so painful is it is scientifically unwarranted. The push for this cut is driven by localized environmental anxieties rather than the best available coastwide science. Assessments by this very body have repeatedly shown that the Atlantic menhaden stock is not overfished, nor is overfishing occurring. The industry already operates under strict, cutting-edge Ecological Reference Points (ERP's) designed to leave a massive buffer of fish in the water for predators.

Slashing the quota by any additional percentage bypasses this established scientific framework in favor of political pressure.

Furthermore, because Virginia is the only remaining state that permits an active reduction fishery, the disproportionate burden of this cut falls entirely on a single community. It ignores heavy conservation compromises the industry has already accepted –including the rigid 51,000-metric-ton cap inside the Chesapeake Bay.

Fisheries management must balance ecological health with human and economical survival. A rigid cut is a blunt instrument that ignores the health of the biomass, threatens domestic food security, and risks permanently extinguishing a historic, sustainable American industry. To protect this factory is to protect a rare, vanishing way of life.

I ask you to carefully consider both the rigorous science and the human component before making your decision. Please protect our families, our schools, and our community by voting against any reduction in fishing.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 5:24 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Perry Depperschmidt

Email

perryd5@md.metrocast.net

State

Maryland

Comment

I Ve fished the Chesapeake bay and rivers for many years. I see less fish and bait every year. It makes no sense except over harvesting of the bait fish. Why would you allow this nursery for many species to be fished at all. Maryland stopped years ago Virginia needs to do the same. The water quality has improved but the water fish and bait are not there as in the past. The striper all vey skinny until the fall of the year. No reason for this except not enough food. Manheden have been overfished up and down the coast. There used to be huge canneries up annd down the coast all are gone because of depleted stock. Industry can't get catfish and carp for fertiliser and leave these fish to support many species and wildlife. Time is running out as we've seen with other species that used to be prevalent and now so scarce.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 11:46 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Andrew Stafford

Email

andrewstaffordgc@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I fully support to addendum to cut the fishery cap by 50%. I'm only 26 years old, and in my lifetime of fishing the bay I have seen a significant decrease in menhaden schools and find them completely absent from areas they once filled. The food chain of the entire bay is held up by menhaden. The terrible Blue crab and Striped bass numbers (two critical species for Maryland's economy and tourism) are surely linked to menhaden depletion, yet the finger always gets pointed elsewhere.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 11:34 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

William Garren

Email

Bill@greenacresllc.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Public Comment Regarding Chesapeake Bay Menhaden Management

I respectfully submit this comment in support of a temporary 50% reduction in menhaden harvest/consumption in the Chesapeake Bay while a comprehensive, adequately funded ecosystem and socioeconomic study is conducted.

My position is not that commercial menhaden fishermen are the problem, nor that the available science proves that reducing menhaden harvest will automatically increase recreational fish populations. The issue is that the Chesapeake Bay is an exceptionally important and complex ecosystem, and the economic and ecological consequences of menhaden management extend far beyond the menhaden fishery itself.

The need for better Chesapeake Bay–specific research

Menhaden occupy a uniquely important position in the food web. They are harvested commercially while simultaneously serving as forage for striped bass, red drum, cobia, bluefish, weakfish, birds, marine mammals, and numerous other predators.

The central question should therefore not simply be whether the existing menhaden stock is considered sustainable in isolation. The more important question is whether the current level of removal is appropriate within the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, particularly given the economic importance of recreational fishing.

Existing socioeconomic information also does not appear to fully capture the economic activity associated with recreational fishing throughout the Chesapeake Bay. Commercial menhaden harvest has a measurable and important economic contribution, but so does recreational fishing—and the economic chain associated with recreational fishing extends well beyond the person holding a fishing rod.

A comprehensive study should examine:

Menhaden abundance and distribution within the Chesapeake Bay
Menhaden spawning and recruitment
Predator-prey relationships and forage requirements
Striped bass, red drum, cobia and other predator populations
Commercial menhaden harvest and its economic contribution
Recreational fishing participation and expenditures
Chesapeake Bay charter captains and fishing guides
Tackle shops, marinas, boat dealers, fuel suppliers and other fishing-related businesses
Restaurants and hotels that benefit from fishing-related tourism
Regional employment and tax revenue generated by recreational fishing
The economic consequences of both increasing and decreasing menhaden harvest

This should be a Bay-specific ecosystem and economic assessment, rather than relying primarily on generalized assumptions about menhaden abundance or economics across the broader Atlantic region.

Why a temporary 50% reduction is reasonable

A 50% reduction should be viewed as an interim precautionary measure—not a permanent determination that commercial menhaden fishing is unsustainable.

Reducing the current Chesapeake Bay menhaden cap from approximately 51,000 metric tons to approximately 25,500 metric tons would provide an opportunity to evaluate whether increased forage availability produces measurable changes in predator populations, distribution, recruitment, and recreational fishing success.

Importantly, this approach creates an opportunity to learn.

If the study demonstrates that the reduction produces little or no measurable ecological or socioeconomic benefit, management can be reconsidered based on that evidence.

Conversely, if the reduction produces measurable improvements in predator abundance, recruitment, fishing success, or recreational economic activity, managers would have meaningful evidence to support maintaining a lower harvest level.

That is preferable to making a permanent management decision without first obtaining the information necessary to understand the full consequences.

The commercial fishing perspective must be considered

Commercial menhaden fishermen and the communities dependent upon them should not be dismissed in this discussion.

A significant reduction in harvest could have real consequences for commercial operators, employees, processing facilities, suppliers, and communities that depend upon the fishery. Those impacts deserve to be quantified and considered alongside the potential ecological benefits.

However, the same standard should apply to the recreational economy.

A Chesapeake Bay charter captain does not operate in isolation. His or her economic activity can support marinas, fuel purchases, tackle sales, boat maintenance, lodging, restaurants, transportation and other local businesses.

Maryland alone has historically documented hundreds of Chesapeake Bay charter captains, illustrating that the recreational fishing industry represents a substantial economic sector. The broader economic footprint—including Virginia, Maryland and the businesses that support visiting anglers—deserves comparable attention in management decisions.

Recreational fishing represents more than the value of a fish

One of the most important considerations is that recreational fishing has an economic multiplier effect.

A successful recreational fishery can generate spending on:

Charter captain → boat/fuel → marina → tackle → bait → restaurants → hotels → transportation → local businesses

The value of the fish caught is therefore only one component of the economic benefit.

For example, trophy-fish citation records in Virginia over the 2006–2025 period document thousands of qualifying catches involving species such as striped bass, red drum and cobia. These records should not be interpreted as proof that menhaden management caused changes in those populations; citation numbers are not a population-abundance index. They do, however, demonstrate the existence of a significant recreational fishery and provide one potential source of historical information that could be incorporated into a broader socioeconomic and fisheries analysis.

This does not have to be commercial versus recreational

I believe this issue is being framed too narrowly when it is characterized as a conflict between commercial fishermen and recreational fishermen.

Both industries have legitimate economic interests.

The better question is:

What level of menhaden harvest provides the greatest long-term benefit to the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and the people whose livelihoods depend upon it?

We should not have to choose between commercial fishing and recreational fishing based on incomplete economic information.

Instead, management should obtain the data necessary to determine how the ecosystem and both economies respond to different harvest levels.

Request

I respectfully request that management:

Temporarily reduce the Chesapeake Bay menhaden harvest/consumption cap by 50%, from approximately 51,000 metric tons to approximately 25,500 metric tons.
Provide substantial additional funding for a comprehensive Chesapeake Bay–specific ecosystem and socioeconomic study.
Measure both commercial and recreational economic impacts, including charter captains, fishing guides, marinas, tackle businesses, restaurants, hotels, tourism and associated employment.
Monitor menhaden abundance and distribution as well as predator species, including striped bass, red drum, cobia and other important forage-dependent species.
Establish measurable benchmarks and a defined review period so that the temporary reduction can be evaluated objectively.
Use the results of that study to determine future menhaden management, rather than allowing either commercial or recreational interests to determine the outcome based solely on economic or anecdotal arguments.

The goal should not be to eliminate or permanently restrict a legitimate commercial fishery. The goal should be to ensure that we have enough information to manage one of the Chesapeake Bay's most important forage species responsibly.

A temporary 50% reduction combined with a properly funded, independent and comprehensive study would allow us to protect the resource while also protecting the economic interests of the people who depend upon it.

We should not be forced to choose between commercial fishermen and recreational fishermen when better science and better economic information could allow us to make a decision that considers both.

Thank you for considering this comment.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 11:05 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jake Garren

Email

garrenj@vt.edu

State

Virginia

Comment

I support the 50% reduction option for the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap, provided that it is implemented as a precautionary interim measure while a comprehensive, adequately funded Chesapeake Bay-specific study is conducted.

I want to acknowledge the legitimate economic concerns of the commercial menhaden industry. Menhaden fishing supports an important regional industry, particularly around Reedville, Virginia, and commercial fishermen should not be expected to absorb regulatory changes without consideration of their economic consequences.

However, I believe the same standard needs to be applied to the recreational and charter-fishing economy.

ASMFC's own July 2026 Committee on Economics and Social Sciences memorandum states that the primary economic studies currently being used to evaluate employment impacts are based on data that are now more than a decade old. The committee specifically cautions that the input-output models used in those studies do not account for price adjustments, business adaptation, substitution, or behavioral responses and may overstate long-term employment impacts. The committee recommends additional socioeconomic research into current employment, vessel and plant costs, production thresholds, harvester diversification, demand, and the economic contributions of the different menhaden sectors.

In other words, even the Commission's own economic experts acknowledge that we do not currently have adequate modern economic information to determine the full consequences of changing the Chesapeake Bay menhaden harvest cap.

The same uncertainty exists on the recreational side.

Maryland's 2021 fisheries data identified 329 Chesapeake Bay charter captains reporting charter activity. NOAA's economic data also estimated that Maryland's for-hire recreational fishery supported 584 jobs and generated approximately $62.3 million in sales and $38.3 million in value added in 2021. These figures do not represent the entire Chesapeake recreational economy, nor do they establish that menhaden availability is responsible for any particular portion of that economic activity. They do, however, demonstrate that the Bay supports a substantial professional and recreational fishing economy whose economic dependence on menhaden has not yet been adequately quantified.

That missing information is particularly important because the current question is not simply whether Atlantic menhaden are overfished coastwide. ASMFC currently reports that the stock is not overfished and that overfishing is not occurring. The unanswered question is whether sufficient menhaden are available in the Chesapeake Bay, at the appropriate locations and times, to support the Bay's predator populations and the recreational fisheries that depend upon them.

ASMFC's own Chesapeake Bay precautionary-management workgroup did not determine whether the Bay has an adequate supply of menhaden to meet predator demand. Virginia Institute of Marine Science researchers have likewise identified the need for research into Bay-specific menhaden abundance, distribution, predator demand, fishery impacts, and the economic value of menhaden to recreational fishing.

That uncertainty is precisely why I support the 50% reduction as an interim precautionary measure.

I am not asking the Commission to permanently eliminate the commercial reduction fishery. I am asking the Commission to temporarily reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons while the necessary research is conducted.

The commercial sector can reasonably argue that reducing harvest could cause economic harm. I agree that this risk deserves serious consideration.

But the inverse risk deserves the same consideration: if localized depletion of menhaden is occurring, and if that depletion is reducing forage availability for economically important predator species, then maintaining the status quo while we conduct the research could impose economic costs on hundreds of charter operators and the much larger recreational-fishing economy that depends on healthy Chesapeake fisheries.

At present, we do not have sufficient science to confidently quantify either side of that equation.

That is not an argument for maintaining the status quo. It is an argument for obtaining better information.

Virginia has already appropriated $2 million over two years for Atlantic menhaden research, and Congress has provided $2.5 million to NOAA for Bay-specific menhaden research. I strongly encourage ASMFC, Virginia, Maryland, NOAA, VIMS, and their research partners to use these resources as a starting point for a comprehensive, independent bioeconomic study rather than allowing fragmented studies to answer only portions of the question.

That study should quantify:

• Bay-wide menhaden abundance, distribution, survival, movement, recruitment, and seasonal availability;

• localized depletion associated with reduction-fishery effort;

• predator consumption and predator distribution;

• the biological consequences of different Bay harvest levels;

• current commercial vessel, processing, labor, and community economics;

• the ability of the reduction fleet to shift harvest outside the Bay;

• current employment and economic contributions of the reduction and bait sectors;

• the number of active Chesapeake Bay charter operators;

• charter revenue, trips, catch rates, cancellations, employment, and associated spending;

• economic effects on marinas, fuel docks, tackle shops, boat dealers, mechanics, lodging, restaurants, and other businesses;

• and, ultimately, the net economic and ecological consequences of 0%, 25%, and 50% reductions in the Bay reduction-fishery cap.

Most importantly, the research should be completed under a clearly defined timeline, with the Bay cap revisited when the results are available.

The choice before the Commission should not be framed as commercial fishermen versus recreational fishermen. Both are legitimate industries that deserve to be considered.

The real question is whether we have enough information to determine how many menhaden can be removed from the Chesapeake Bay without undermining the ecological and economic functions that depend upon them.

Right now, by the Commission's own economic analysis and Virginia's own research recommendations, we do not.

Therefore, I support the 50% reduction as a temporary precautionary measure while the Commission invests in the comprehensive science necessary to establish the appropriate long-term harvest level.

If future research demonstrates that a higher Bay harvest can be sustained without compromising menhaden availability, predator populations, recreational fisheries, or the broader Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, management can be adjusted accordingly.

But until that information exists, temporarily reducing harvest while obtaining the missing science is a prudent way to manage uncertainty while recognizing the legitimate economic interests of all users of the Chesapeake Bay.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 10:32 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Wynette Yao

Email

wyao143@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Please lower the amount of menhaden allowed as an annual harvest--the supply is clearly being overused, and severely disrupting the balance in nature. In particular, industrial fishing should not be allowed.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 10:25 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Donna Moran

Email

imdonnalou@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Subject: Public Comment: Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

To: comments@asmfc.org

Dear Mr. Boyle and Members of the Commission,

I am writing to urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to take immediate, strong action to protect the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem by implementing strict catch limits under Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II. Specifically, I support options that substantially lower the reduction fishing allowance in the Bay.

As a resident/supporter of the Chesapeake Bay region, I am deeply alarmed by the unprecedented breeding failures and starvation currently devastating our local osprey populations. Decades of scientific monitoring show a direct link between the lack of mature Atlantic menhaden and the inability of ospreys to successfully raise their chicks.

Menhaden are the ecological backbone of the Chesapeake Bay. Allowing industrial-scale reduction fishing to deplete this

critical forage fish at the expense of ospreys, striped bass, and other native wildlife is unsustainable and unacceptable.

Please prioritize the long-term health of the Bay's ecosystem over short-term commercial harvest by implementing the maximum possible protections in Draft Addendum II. Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,
Donna Moran
Stevensville, MD

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 10:19 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Catherine Conlan

Email

iziffU@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I support lowering the cap on commercial menhaden harvests.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 10:02 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Henry Chang

Email

henry.betty@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I'm a retired physician-scientist who has been interested in the impact of environmental chemicals on human health. There is far too little data on the impact of estrogenic pesticides on declining sperm counts in men worldwide, so I wonder if this could add to the decline in mehaden population and the osprey who eat them. In addition, rivers that feed into the Bay dump many different chemicals and microplastics, which are rarely tested for. For example, herbicides may slow the growth of marsh grasses that protect crabs, and clams and oysters that are filter-feeders may die from ingesting microplastics, or worse - passing them into diners higher up in the food chain, including people!
I worry that we have forgotten the work of Rachel Carson the writer of Silent Spring, and that herbicides and pesticides are the new DDTs and microplastics are the new asbestos. Please remember that the absence of evidence is not proof of absence, where the data you look at may be biased and not the root cause of the problem. Thanks.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 9:57 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/ny-ct-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Karel Sedlacek

Email

kvs1@cornell.edu

State

New York

Comment

We have monitored the Cayuga Lake Basin Ospreys for the past 15 years as part of the Cayuga Lake Osprey Network. We have the second largest colony of Osprey in New York, outside of Long Island, with 200 nesting pairs - and growing. The basin, surrounding lakes and watersheds have a large supply and variety of fish, throughout the season - trout running in March, lake and stream fish in the summer and fall. When it rains, Osprey fish further out in the lake or at ponds on private land. And so it goes throughout the season. Our food issues relate to the inexperience of new parents rather than our fisheries.

In the Chesapeake, however, Osprey nesting success appears to be substantially better in many freshwater and lower-salinity Chesapeake tributaries than in the saltier portions of the Bay. Researchers studying the decline have examined a range of possible causes and currently conclude that food limitation, particularly reduced availability of menhaden in areas where ospreys depend heavily on them, is the most strongly supported explanation. The geographic pattern of healthier populations in tributaries and poorer reproduction in saltier menhaden-dependent areas is consistent with a food-supply problem rather than a Bay-wide disease or toxin event, although ongoing research continues to evaluate all potential contributing factors.

Ospreys depend on menhaden, and recreational fishermen use them sparingly as bait. The Chesapeake Bay's largest direct removal of menhaden comes from the industrial reduction fishery - a harvest of that magnitude deserves careful scrutiny to

ensure that sufficient forage fish remain in the Bay to support the broader ecosystem.

The debate over menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay should not be framed as a choice between jobs and conservation, or between people and ospreys. The question is whether Virginia can maintain a sustainable menhaden fishery while ensuring that enough forage fish remain in the Bay to support the broader ecosystem.

Today, Virginia stands alone on the Atlantic Coast. It is the only East Coast state that still permits industrial-scale menhaden reduction fishing, and the Omega Protein facility in Reedville, Virginia is the last remaining menhaden reduction plant on the U.S. Atlantic seaboard. The industrial harvest is conducted by a single enterprise: Ocean Harvesters, which catches the fish, and Omega Protein, which processes them into fishmeal and fish oil.

This does not mean industrial fishing is solely responsible for every challenge facing Chesapeake Bay ospreys or menhaden populations. However, it does mean that the Bay's largest direct removal of menhaden comes from one industrial reduction fishery and therefore deserves careful scrutiny when scientists observe food stress among predators that depend on forage fish. Recent research has identified food limitation as the leading explanation for widespread osprey reproductive failure in higher-salinity portions of the Bay.

Virginia should not have to choose between ospreys and fishing. Instead, Virginia should examine the best management practices available elsewhere. That includes ecosystem-based forage fish management used by neighboring Maryland, coastwide scientific assessments conducted through the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), and lessons from the Gulf Coast menhaden industry in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, where large-scale reduction fisheries continue to operate under modern management frameworks and sustainability certifications. At the same time, Virginia should recognize that coastwide stock assessments may not fully answer questions about localized depletion within the Chesapeake Bay itself.

The goal should be simple: maintain a healthy Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, support sustainable commercial fishing, and ensure that future generations inherit both a viable fishery and a thriving osprey population.

Please do the hard work and do the right thing in the Chesapeake so both fishermen and your amazing Ospreys have a chance to thrive again.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 9:44 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Genevieve de Messieres

Email

someginger@duck.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Please lower the cap on menhaden. The osprey population of the Chesapeake, the largest population in the world, is collapsing. The osprey depend on having enough menhaden available.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 9:40 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Alan Jones

Email

ajones@bartlett.com

State

Virginia

Comment

To whom it may concern (like all of us),
As a homeowner on the Chesapeake Bay, I have seen a steady decline in many of our fish species including striped bass, red drum, and large bluefish (and there are others). This is over the last eight years or so. The commercial harvesting of menhaden is the number one culprit. Using aircraft to spot schools of these fish is unfair and should be banned. Why is it illegal to harvest these fish in Maryland and not Virginia? Do they know something that we don't know in Virginia or are they just care more about this important fishery? The Omega company's lobbyists must have some serious influence in Richmond. This is wrong and the commercial fishing of these important baitfish should be banned. Would jobs be lost? Probably some but the jobs will be lost once the resource is not economically feasible to harvest due to limited populations. Do we have to wait for a disaster to happen before we take action? Please consider a full ban on this practice.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 9:30 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Gillian Gaeta

Email

gilliangaeta@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Lowering the cap by 50% and creating quota periods is extremely important to preserve the ecosystems in the Chesapeake and up the East Coast. Virginia needs to do this to preserve its own fishing industry for the future.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 9:28 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jillian Cantor

Email

Jillianlee.r@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

The osprey population has continuously declined, and just experienced its worst decline ever. https://ccbbirds.org/2026/09/14/2026-osprey-breeding-performance-was-the-worst-ever-recorded-for-the-chesapeake-bay/?_bhlid=ceb52f62aab58ffffb21b0bb003b166d0e064c9b

The reason behind this steep decline is food stress. See id. Ospreys depend on menhaden fish for survival . Lowering the cap on commercial menhaden harvests would be extremely detrimental, if not catastrophic to the environment and the osprey as a species. Osprey chicks are starving to death, as the parent birds do not have enough access to menhaden fish. To further allow menhaden fish to be overfished will certainly result in the extinction of the osprey, which will cause a cascade of failures in the ecosystem. This can easily be avoided by ensuring the osprey have access to menhaden and not allowing overfishing. It is an easy choice. Please make the right choice to protect our environment, menhaden and the osprey population.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 9:26 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Steve Atkinson

Email

steveatkinson52@verizon.net

State

Virginia

Comment

Regardless of the cause (water quality, climate change, over harvesting, etc) there are no longer enough menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay to support both the ecosystem and a large scale industrial fishery. That is why I fully support the 50% reduction in the bay cap.
Also, industry claims about job losses are just fear mongering. If you check the records, there were three years in the past decade where the Bay harvest only averaged about 26,000 metric tons (50 % less than the current cap) and there were no layoffs. They simply fished more in the ocean.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 9:24 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lynn Bufka

Email

lbufka@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I support lowering catch limits for Atlantic menhaden or otherwise increasing their presence in the Chesapeake. Decline in Osprey (because their young are starving) could have ripple effects on the health of the Bay- until we know more, protecting their ability to survive and thrive is important. And, who doesn't thrill to see an osprey nest and the birds with their young when hiking or kayaking in the watershed?

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 9:20 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kristin Jones

Email

kejones1907@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Please please do not continue to allow commercial or recreational overfishing of any species, but especially menhaden. Whatever the reason any building block species is low, we collectively have an obligation to stop allowing further depletion of any species. The commercial fishing of menhaden should be stopped immediately to allow stocks to replenish, so that the entire food chain can recover. Studies can be done while the commercial fishing is stopped.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 9:01 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Tammy Belinsky

Email

tambel@swva.net

State

Virginia

Comment

What the hell are you thinking?

Oh, I see, you're not thinking
You are bribed and owned by industrial fish-killing interests.

Save the birds and the food they require to live their innocent and beautiful lives, you low-life idiots. Stop the theft of the birds' food from their habitat.

Keep those starving birds in your thoughts. If you don't do what's right for the ecosystem, may your spinelessness constantly torture you until the moment you take your own last breath.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 8:49 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sheri Blonder

Email

shblonder@hotmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I am now 68 and have enjoyed watching ospreys in Chesapeake Bay since I was a teenager when I moved to this area. It would be a terrible loss if they disappeared due to a lack of food. The over fishing of menhaden is creating this situation, so I hope legislation will make it possible for the ospreys to thrive again in the Chesapeake.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 8:40 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Stephen Heller

Email

Stephenl1612@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

For over 25 years I've been boating on the Bay. You don't really notice the gradual decline of Osprey nests until soneone/ something brings it to your attention. On almost every marker, can, buoy leading out to the Bay proper , you would see these magnificent Osprey nests....some with chicks....heads up screaming to be fed. Their parents fly by or even close to you as a warning to not get too close. These birds stand majestically on those markers, etc. as if to say "this is my home , take care of it". The past few years there has been a definite decline in seeing these creatures. They are just not there...no nests...! So very very sad.
If more controlled menhaden fishing can change that, then let's get to it. Please just stop it!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 8:08 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

lee lowe

Email

rooster3333@ymail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

It's time to stop emptying the Bay of menhanden Went fishing didn't even see a seagull The Whole system depends on the fish Thank you

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 7:37 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/ny-ct-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Cindy Sedlacek

Email

cls2@cornell.edu

State

New York

Comment

We have monitored the Cayuga lake basin Ospreys for the past 15 years and are very knowledgeable about these amazing raptors and their conservation. Thankfully, our area has a large supply and variety of fish, throughout the season, for our Ospreys and the many other birds and mammals that rely on this food source. Osprey diet is solely fish, so when your area doesn't have enough fish you are literally starving them. Please limit fishing in the Chesapeake so your amazing Ospreys have a chance to thrive again.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 7:29 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Rebecca Reed

Email

reblreed@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Please protect the bay, it's wildlife and fisherman by decreasing the allowable Menhaden catch per year, the Osprey have not and cannot survive under the allowable current Menhaden fishing.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 7:17 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/ny-ct-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Anne Higgins

Email

annemarie.higgins1@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

I and several friends follow Osprey in New York State and we're concerned about overfishing leading to depleted food resources for Osprey in New York as well as on their migration paths. We have seen an impact of decreased fish populations already and are very concerned. I highly support this addendum.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 7:12 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Carrie Roling

Email

carrieroling@gmail.com

State

District of Columbia

Comment

Save the fish so that the osprey can live.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 10:56 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Catherine Cretu

Email

ccretu@comcast.net

State

Maryland

Comment

As a lifetime resident of Maryland--40 years in beautiful Calvert County--I have always thought of myself and other area residents--as I'm sure local Native Americans of this area thought of themselves--as people of the Bay.

The sharply declining populations of menhaden threaten so much of what we love and value about the Chesapeake Bay. What would life here be like with our Osprey? Rockfish? Blue Crabs? What if we never again saw dolphins swimming in the Bay? All these treasures are dependent upon a healthy menhaden population.

I strongly support whatever Bay scientists recommend is necessary in terms of fishing controls to restore a healthy menhaden population. Corporate greed has run amuck everywhere it seems. We don't want any part of what remains of our precious environment destroyed for the sake of some company's bottom line. Protecting menhaden is protecting the lives of Marylanders. Please protect our menhaden.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 6:22 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Doer

Email

jd221@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Our family has been in the fishing industry for decades. It unfathomable that we'll allow a keystone species to be depleted as it has. It's quite obvious that there is a lot of money involved in which the policy makers are considering more than the ecological damage that this causes. Osprey's are what we see, but the sport fish and other species are being decimated due to their food source being so badly depleted.

Therefore, it is my recommendation that the catch limit be reduced by AT LEAST 50% for 5 years to determine if this change has a net positive effect on the birds and fish species that rely on Menhaden. While that is being done, additional studies should be completed to look at any other additional factors that may be causing the decline of the sports fish and ospreys.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 4:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Nancy McDonald

Email

seowashdc@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

This is a personalized plea to increase the cap to 90%.

I have been rescuing raptors here on the Chesapeake Bay and surrounding waters for nine years. Due to my centralized location, I rescue a lot of ospreys. From 2017 to 2024, I routinely rescued double digit numbers of this raptor alone, typically 11 - 18 each year. In 2025 and 2026, I rescued low single digits. I'm dispatched to rescue ospreys in these counties along the Bay and the surrounding waters: Anne Arundel, Prince Georges, Baltimore, Harford, Queen Anne's and Talbot counties.

Me, my fellow rescuers and the wildlife rehabbers - we are the boots on the ground, ground zero witnesses to what has happened to the osprey population on the Chesapeake Bay.

In 2024, the majority of ospreys rescues I did from April to October were thin, starving birds - adults and fledglings. I've had them die in my arms. They were literally skin and bone, unable to move much at all. It's infuriating, heartbreaking and demoralizing, seeing how bad these birds are.

It's really hard and horrible to pick up the starving fledglings. They haven't even had a chance to live, to migrate, to find a

mate, build a nest and raise young of their own. I can't tell you how often I've cried, racing to get one to the rehabber, only to find it dead in the box on arrival or die shortly after being admitted for treatment, not to mention euthanizing on arrival (EOA) because even though the bird is alive, it's beyond saving and the kindest thing we can do is end the suffering.

It's also horrible when finders call me, frantically asking how to save nestlings that have been abandoned by parents. What we saw last year and this year was early nest abandonment - sometimes the parents gave up and left before laying/hatching eggs, leaving and migrating early while leaving nestlings and fledglings behind. It's beyond heartbreaking to see a fledgling or almost fledgling stuck on an inaccessible nest, calling for the parents, who are long gone. It's almost impossible to get them off the channel markers and other platforms that are too high to put up a ladder. We have to wait until they jump or almost fly into the water and hope we can get them before they drown.

I have no pity for the overseas market for menhaden. Let them learn how to make a synthesized version of the menhaden for their use. I know that what I propose will put the commercial fishing company out of business and Reedsville VA citizens will lose their jobs. Fund training for them to learn new careers. This harvesting is not sustainable. When all of the menhaden are gone because these commercial outfits have stripped the bay bare, what are they going to do then?

As of this year, I'm coining the phrase "geographically extinct" for the ospreys. It's not completely accurate, but I feel like it's close to the truth. Out of the five neighborhood nests I watch here on Rock Creek off the Patapsco River, two sets of parents arrived this year. One set left in early May; as best as I can tell the other set may have successfully raised one fledgling.

Typically, I hear and see ospreys migrating or fishing here on my creek. I also typically see large schools of young menhaden grow up here, right off my dock.

This year, my creek was completely empty of menhaden. Not one school was here this year. The last time I heard or saw an osprey on my part of Rock creek was the last week in July.

It's time to stop dithering with proposals and putting caps in place in 2027. The entire marine food chain is impacted, and it's only a matter of time before other wildlife that eats Chesapeake bay critters will be impacted, such as otters and heron.

Implement the cap now.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 4:42 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Charles Briggs

Email

charliebriggs1970@gmail.com

State

North Carolina

Comment

100 percent support the removal of industrial menhadden fishing in and around the chesapeake bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 4:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

David Onesty

Email

rodnreel63@hotmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

STOP REDUCTION FISHING! How stupid can you be not to SEE what is in front of you? I hold a commercial license. I live in an area dominated by commercial fishing. I am on the water a LOT (MOBJACK).

I can see no bait. I can see the Osprey's suffering.

WHY CAN'T YOU?

You are letting a foreign corporation RAPE our waters! It obviously is a very lucrative fishery based on how much they PAY OFF our representatives.

I have been fighting this for 25 years, I used to discuss this with Rep Harvey Morgan A LOT. What would it hurt to to a three year moratorium to see if things get better?

In Maine, the herring came back to the Meherrin River when this was halted AND the Bluefin came back to near shore Gulf of Maine so the small boats could once again enter a harpoon fishery.

Where are the Boston Mackerel, remember in the 90's you could head boat off of VA beach for them?

Where are the Shad and Herring? Are they a bycatch of this INDUSTRIAL REDUCTION DESTRUCTIVE FISHERY? North of 350 Million Tons? Gone EVERY YEAR WTF?

As for Reedville, Factory Point would be worth a LOT more in TAXES if it was redeveloped.

Kind of Respectfully (but I have been shouting this for 25 years and no one is listening),
Dave Onesty

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 3:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

James Johnston

Email

rocknreds6960@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

To a non scientist is seems obvious that the menhaden reduction industry in Virginia has seriously depleted the menhaden stock and every species that feeds on them. I feel that a total shut down of this industry is necessary for a few years. In my opinion the industrial boats can not be trusted otherwise.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 3:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Silverio

Email

johnsilverio4940@aol.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I'm in favor of adoption of the Draft Addendum II and, more generally speaking, tight control of the Menhaden fishery as needed to support the many predator species that rely on Menhaden. I'm particularly concerned with reports of Osprey chick mortality and failed nests. Osprey were once ravaged by DDT. I don't remember seeing any during my many trips to to NJ beaches in the 70s and 80s and was enthralled to start seeing them over the past couple of decades. To revert back to a condition of scarcity and endangerment would be disheartening.

Thank you for your consideration.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 3:40 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jennifer Soisson

Email

soissonjenny@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I vote to limit the fishing of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay And surrounding areas. We have fought for years to protect our osprey and now they are suffering terribly. They need our protection immediately. Thank you for your concern. Sincerely, Jennifer Soisson

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 2:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Loretta Seredni
Email
sirtire2@aol.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support the immediate 50% reduction. maybe we can be like Maryland with NO menhaden fishing. I guess we have to start somewhere.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 2:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Dale Nichols
Email
38thga@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support banning this industrial fish harvesting in all Virginia waters. Mehaden are a vital piece of the ecological food chain and this industrial fish harvesting is negatively affecting other fish population and predator fish sizes in the Bay. Let's put the people of Virginia before greedy corporations, raiding our Virginia waters. Dale Nichols

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 2:34 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Victor Mazzanti
Email
vmazzanti@aol.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Stop Omega from raping the Chesapeake Bay of Menhaden and every other things they get in their nets. Send the Canadian Company back up to Canada!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 2:30 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Iyoob, Ali
Email
kingcobraapiary@gmail.com
State
North Carolina
Comment
Reduction by at least 50% would be the bare minimum to support our fishery's health and sustainability

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 2:23 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Bryan Schuster
Email
bschust4@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Please stop letting Omega harvest menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay. They should be pushed at least 3mi off the coast like other states have done. Preferably they should be shut down completely.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 2:08 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
James Morgan
Email
jmcmhmpm@aol.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support the most restrictive option in the chesapeake bay until true science due to research shows what healthy numbers are. I have seen a large decline of menhaden in the reedville area since 2010 which is very concerning to me. I do not believe the small bait fishermen are the problem

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 1:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Rebecca Reed
Email
reblreed@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Please reduce the menhaden caught in the Chesapeake by a least 50%. The overfishing of menhaden has drastically reduced the overall health of species of the Chesapeake who rely on menhaden to exist, especially disseminating the Osprey population with a 90% decline in their nesting activity in 2026 alone. Theses allowable catch limit changes need to be made immediately, as it may be too late before the Osprey becomes extinct. Is that how Virginia wants to be remembered? As the major contributor to the extinction of the Osprey.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 10:07 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Tomoko Hamada
Email
hamada.tomoko.san@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I totally support at least 50% reduction of menhaden fishing in the Bay. I represent Osprey Watch Alliance group that have been observing a drastic decline of osprey breeding in the lower part of the Bay, where the bird's main diet is menhaden. Please stop industrial reduction fishing in the Bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 9:32 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Nina Haeringer
Email
robertandnina08@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
The importance of the Menhaden population cannot be understated. The Osprey especially, are among many other species whose existence depends on the Menhaden. We must do more to ensure the Menhaden not only survive but thrive more than enough to sustain the future lives of the new Osprey chicks. Please enact controls on the commercial fishing. There are other places to fish besides the Bay and its tributaries. The companies don't have to go out of business, just go somewhere else.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 9:14 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Ray Kauffman
Email
rayk7@verizon.net
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods. Get Omega out of our bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 8:29 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Jason Crowder
Email
jason.crowder@thalhimer.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Please place the CAP.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 8:28 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
scott douglas
Email
scott.douglas@thalhimer.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 8:20 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Mark Douglas

Email

mark.douglas1021@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

"I support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods." We had a huge fish kill on June 30th at our place at the mouth of the York River. There were literally hundreds of thousands of small croaker scattered floating and in rafts that stretched for well over a mile along our beaches. We have neighbors that will testify that an Omega menhaden trawler was out in front of our houses either anchored or broken down on Monday. We called Virginia Marine resources, and they responded within the hour. The officer stated this was a release of fish by a trawler (this statement did not get quoted in the report) as there was no evidence of a gill net.
This is an excellent proof of the" biproduct" kill of our game fish! We used to catch croaker that were 18-20 inches long. If we catch on now, it may be 9 inches long. The fishing off my beach, in year's past, was truly spectacular for red fish, trout and rock fish--now it is next to nothing. These Omega trollers with their long nets sweep the shallow waters of the bay. I've had logger head sea turtles wash up on my beach dead. When we purchase menhaden to bait our crab pots, what used to be 1-to-2-pound fish are now 6 to 10 ounces. Everybody talks about the pounds of fish taken what they don't tell you is taking 2 to 3 fish to make a pound. In year's past I've seen as many as 13 osprey diving on bait in the shallows in front of my house on Jenkins Neck Rd in Hayes--we'd have at least 2 nests on our 5-acre lot...now we have no nests and see one to two ospreys at best feeding. I am unable to attach the FOIA report, however, please research case # is MP26-00171 as filed by Officer Kelly Evans w/ the Virginia Marine Police.
In 1984 I worked in a Newport News field office of Congressman Herb Batemen--the year we shut down the rockfish season--we once had to vacate the office due to death threats for taking this firm stance...and our rock fishing came back so strong--now with no menhaden in the bay this hatchery is all but gone again. Please stop the madness! Thank you, Mark Douglas (804) 615-6601.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 8:11 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Robert Gerndt
Email
robertg6779@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in Menhaden catch from the Chesapeake By, and the implementation of quota periods for Menhaden fishing. I have boated the Bay for decades and have sadly watched its decline. Not all of the decline is due to the Menhaden reduction, but the bunker filter the water and are a free resource. They are critical to the Bay's health, and are just no longer there in anything near the numbers necessary.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 7:41 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Brian Werner
Email
bwerner32@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
I support a 50% reduction of menhaden harvest. These fish are critical to a healthy fishery

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 6:51 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
James Enochs
Email
wilson@jwenochs.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 10:41 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Frank Timmons
Email
francistimmons22482@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I live on Dividing Creek on the Northern Neck and have been boating and fishing on the Chesapeake for 30 years. In that time, the schools of menhaden have been steadily declining. This has impacted the osprey population, larger fish, and the overall ecosystem of the bay in countless ways. It is far beyond time to meaningfully regulate and reduce the menhaden catch on the bay. The environmental cost of allowing purse seine netting has become too great.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 5:36 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
thomas goode
Email
TEG4213@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support 50% reduction, would like to see restoring the Bay by NO CATCH.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 3:14 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
David Antos
Email
dantos1@comcast.net
State
Virginia
Comment
As a lifetime resident in the MD/VA area I've enjoyed the bay and all it has to offer. I'm very concerned with the future and support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods. In addition, I believe even keeping Omega out of the bay would be a wise decision to make until further evaluation. Either way something needs to be done.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 2:43 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Andrew Freeman
Email
andrewfreebird@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 10:50 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Pamela Narney
Email
pnarney@verizon.net
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in the bay cap for menhaden harvesting and a use of quotas. I also support a total ban on menhaden harvesting during specific periods in the menhaden's life cycle in the bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 10:49 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Robert Haentze
Email
robhaentze@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I 100% supposed the 50 percent reduction of menhaden catching in the Chesapeake bay and periodic quota checks.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 5:47 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Vivian Pisano
Email
lilly618@msn.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Please preserve our wildlife by all means. We only have one earth to share, let's be mindful, not greedy.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 5:19 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Ross Kushner
Email
kross081957@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I fully support a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake harvest. I would support a much greater reduction. However, I believe this must be accompanied by a coastal redcution in all states to prevent harvest from being shifted from the Chesapeake to other areas. The menhaden in New Jersey have vanished and it is impacting the entire coastal ecosystem from crabs to finfish to birds.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 11:49 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Dominic Rholetter
Email
drholtter0577@gmail.com
State
Delaware
Comment
I support the reduction of menhaden harvesting commercially

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 9:49 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Ross Nasierowski
Email
rnaz78@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
Reduce the quota. I've seen a huge decrease in adult and juvenile menhaden off the coast and inland waterways of Long Island. This decrease has resulted in a decrease of wildlife that we have seen in the past years including whales Porpoises, shark and striped bass.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 7:17 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Marnie Sperling
Email
msperling52370@hotmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
The osprey are dying and they are not able to feed their young. Reduce the commercial fishing. Increased bait fishing is wiping out the food sources of whales and dolphins and osprey. Do the right thing and save the wildlife that relies on these fish. Look at the stats listen to the environmental experts. This is a home we share with this wildlife and it is heart wrenching to see osprey pairs failing and starving and whales washing up on our beaches.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 7:14 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Richard Shoff
Email
wyecrab@verizon.net
State
Virginia
Comment
Please reduce the amount of menhaden Omega Protein can take in the Chesapeake Bay! The health of the bay depends on you ! Menhaden are feeder fish that many species depend on. Game fish and birds depend on menhaden for food. Please,Please,Please reduce the amount of feeder fish taken from the Chesapeake Bay! If something is not done, I fear that someday my children and grandchildren will not be able to enjoy the bounty of the Chesapeake Bay if it's destroyed by over commercial fishing!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 6:41 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
william phillips
Email
wdp2@verizon.net
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and use of quota periods.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 5:43 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Peter Ruffini
Email
weefdoggie@verizon.net
State
New York
Comment
This is ridiculous that we let boats that are taking out our bunker and screwing up the whole ecosystem. It's killing the bait shops and fishing. Not fare.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 5:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
ANNE-MARIE MCCARTAN
Email
amccartan213@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods. Thank you for your consideration of this important move toward a healthier Bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 5:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
John Tefankjian
Email
Jtefankjia@aol.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Please consider shutting down any and all Menhaden harvesting on both Atlantic and Gulf seaboards , Please take into consideration that many species depend on a healthy population of Menhaden, Whales, Bluefish, Striped Bass, Dolphins, Ospreys, Eagles to name a few! Please put a total ban Until research by viable source can provide valuable information regarding population.. Once they are depleted nothing there is no coming back .. Think about it please John Tefankjian

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 5:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Brian Doherty
Email
brian.jeremiah.doherty@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 4:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Roger Hart
Email
rogerhartjr@msn.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in the Bay cap and quota periods. The fact that we are allowing an ecosystem as important as the Chesapeake to wither so a company can make dog food out of the fish is insane to me. Dogs eat anything remotely close to edible. Make their food out of something else.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 3:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Edward Sarfan
Email
sarfannachman@aol.com
State
Virginia
Comment
"I support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods."

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 3:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Jonathan Guion
Email
jg.browndogpg@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a substantial reduction in the commercial harvests in the Bay and the use of quota periods

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 3:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
BRIAN MARKS
Email
BKM072@GMAIL.COM
State
New York
Comment
FISHING WESTERN SOUND FOR 30 YEARS. NO BUNKER AT ALL NO PORGY NO SPOTS NO SEA ROBIN YOU KILLED THE FISHING

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 2:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Bill Harris
Email
billharris_odt@verizon.net
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in menhaden quota. I would have supported no menhaden fish caught by Omega but unfortunately there is no option for that.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 2:59 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Dick Carling
Email
rcarling@aol.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in bay cap and the use of quota periods.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 2:12 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Geoffrey Dobson
Email
ghd1@comcast.net
State
Delaware
Comment
please cut the maximum take by 50% or MORE.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 12:27 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Robert Lewis
Email
lewisbob1964@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
The VA legislature has been abysmal on managing this issue. If understand the above overview correctly, 2006 - 2010 a cap of 109,020 mt was in place, reflecting the average landings from 2001 - 2005. It was lowered to 87,216 mt in 2012 and Amendment 3 reduced the Chesapeake Bay cap to 51,000 mt... to reflect the average reduction landings in the Bay from 2012-2016. So, in 16 years the average landings went from 109,020 mt to 51,000 mt while the quotas allowed more fish to be taken. Landings went down 53%. It would certainly appear the fishery is in serious decline. Overfishing, pollution, climate change, predators, etc. etc. all may play a part in this. Until we know what the cause truly is, we must take action on what we can manage that will have an immediate impact. That is REDUCTION FLEET. Eliminate it! The other causes need to be addressed as well, but they are very long-term corrections. We cannot allow overfishing to continue while we wait for the long-term corrections. I support an elimination of the reduction fishery in the Chesapeake Bay. Require the fishery to conduct all harvest operations outside of the bay. A 50% reduction in the bay cap is a joke. 50% of what!?!?? Push the reduction fleet offshore. Bob Lewis

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 11:41 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Joseph Lupton
Email
joedash7@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support the new preposed restriction of 50% of the current take of Menhadden. I WOULD RATHER SEE A 100% restriction, since most of the product of this fisherie is sold to Canadian fish farms.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:49 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
B N Butler
Email
emptywallet232@yahoo.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I am in favor or a full closure of industrial menhaden fishing in the entire Chesapeake Bay until it can be shown that it not being over fished.As a former recreational fisherman who has sold his boat due to poor opportunities for fishing please act before every Bay town goes away due to poor fishing . Recreational fishing generates more revenue than Omega can dream of for these localities. Please do the right thing.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:33 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Lee Scott
Email
lkmorey@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:31 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Mary Rayme
Email
wvgirl26241@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
The Chesapeake Bay is an invaluable natural resource that is not being fished sustainably or humanely. There need to be limits on fishing that place the overall health of the Bay above making money via commercial fishing. There also needs to be a way for commercial fishing to not destroy everything that lands in their nets. Virginia is not being a good neighbor to other states by not limiting commercial Over Fishing of menhaden which is destroying the Bay's delicate infrastructure that includes all living creatures who depend on the Bay, including people.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:24 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Joseph Weidel
Email
weideljoe@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
I support the 50% reduction. I have watched our osprey population starve in recent years. Nests that have been around for 5+ years are non existent. Pairs that have produced offspring are no longer reproducing. Bunker are non existent due to the OMEGA boats. Our fisheries are slowly dwindling away. We are beginning to see population of fish make their way out of our area due to lack of food. I have seen 1 whale in 15 trips out of east rockaway inlet. Find the bunker find the whales. Find the bait, find the fish. OMEGA boats are the opposite of conservation.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:22 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Geoff Collins
Email
peppycollins@yahoo.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Why is it every other state on the eastern seaboard has already moved to protect their state waters except Virginia? If the Chesapeake bay is to ever become what it once was it's time to prioritize its fragile ecosystem starting with menhaden and protecting the foundation to the food chain for once chose your constituents over foreign companies lobbyists and their money…..our bay is more important than their bribes

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 9:55 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Ralph Roberts
Email
rrob1@aol.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods."

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 9:43 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
RANDY MORTON
Email
randymmorton@hotmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Sirs, I am a sports fisherman and I've fished the bay since 1970. I have observed fewer and fewer menhaden schools in the lower bay. This past Monday, I fished from just below Cape Charles to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel without seeing the first school of menhaden. I cannot ever remember this happening in the past. The prior week, the Omega ships and their spotter plane worked the area. To my knowledge, we are the only state on the east coast to allow the taking of menhaden inside state waters, or even within one mile of the beach. We know this is a valuable fish to the health of the bay. Menhaden and oysters are filters for our water, improving water quality for other species, not to mention for fish and birds which are dependent on menhaden as their primary food source. I would like to see the bay closed to this reduction fishery, but for the immediate future, I strongly support a 50% tonnage reduction. This could be a great help to our bay. Sincerely, Randy Morton

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 9:37 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Nick Muro
Email
nrmuro1@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
"I support a 100% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods." Menhaden are too important to our aquaculture to continue to decimate them There is no reason for a foreign country to be allowed to fish and kill in our waters

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 9:19 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Terry Comeaux
Email
tecomeaux@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods. Please pass this so the ecosystem does not collapse. All the Best Terry

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 8:54 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
B N Butler
Email
emptywallet232@yahoo.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I am in favor or a full closure of industrial menhaden fishing in the entire Chesapeake Bay until it can be shown that it not being over fished.As a former recreational fisherman who has sold his boat due to poor opportunities for fishing please act before every Bay town goes away due to poor fishing . Recreational fishing generates more revenue than Omega can dream of for these localities. Please do the right thing.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 8:43 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Eric Deane
Email
deanertime@hotmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 8:30 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Eldridge Inge
Email
fishrus4@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Why are we letting a foreign country business continue to strip our valuable resources? This has been going on way too long. Wake up and remove them from the Chesapeake Bay!!!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 7:12 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Kevin Grimsdale
Email
seagristle@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I wholeheartedly support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods on the menhaden reduction fishery in the Chesapeake Bay. Please take the responsibile action on the important and long overdue issue! -Kevin Grimsdale

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 6:13 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Russell Turnage
Email
russturnage@aol.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50 percent reduction in the menhaden quota and any other cap restrictions that would help return a healthy population of the fishery.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 6:11 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Eric Ludwig
Email
ericlludwig@yahoo.com
State
Delaware
Comment
It is ridiculous that a forage fish as important as menhaden is for the ecosystem is allowed to be harvested at such large quantities. The reduction of this fishery does not need to only occur in the Bay but also coastwide. A reduction in quota would help bolster the population. As an avid fisherman I have watched the population continue to dwindle each year with menhaden. There used to be schools that were miles long, now there is just small pods. The best result I have seen is when the quota was reduced a few years ago and the population bounced back. I hope this council actually looks at reducing the actual quota rather than just moving the quota around and changing harvest times.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 6:03 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
David Brabrand
Email
dbrabrand@verizon.net
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in the menhaden harvest in the bay along with harvesting quotes broken into segmented time durations throughout the year. I believe the ultimate goal is to ban all harvesting of menhaden with-in the Chesapeake bay and out 3 nautical miles from the Va coast.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 5:58 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Phillip Wilhelm
Email
wilhelmpj@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 2:17 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/va-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

stover hughes

Email

stover044@comcast.net

State

Virginia

Comment

Omega should be barred from all catching in the Bay! I am 82 years old and have been fishing and enjoying the Chesapeake Bay since 1966. Things have really changed a lot over the last 60 years and not for the better. Thinks got much worse when they moved their Gulf of America fleet to Virginia following hurricane Katrina. When they make a sweep (4or 5 ships), for the next several days, you will catch a very small percentage of what you caught before the sweep. They keep any and everything that gets swept up in their nets. Why does Virginia allow them to get away with this. While Maryland doesn't get much right, it had enough sense to prohibit them in Maryland waters. The Osprey population appeared to be much lower this year probably due to lack of enough food for their young. I can't understand why anyone other than Omega and paid politicians could possible think this raping of our precious natural resource is a good idea. I say send the bastards back to Canada.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 10:25 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Frederick Menage
Email
fmenage@verizon.net
State
Maryland
Comment
SAVE THE CHESAPEAKE BAY! Stop the menhaden netting and let Mother Nature's filter feeders help to clean up the water by straining plankton and converting the sun's energy into fat and protein that feeds the predator fish up and down the bay. Let those industrial netting boats scoop menhaden out in the ocean about 100 miles offshore of Virginia's beaches. Those industrial purse seine fleets operated by Canadian-owned Cooke Seafood are scooping up tons of Porgies and are killing the predator fish as bycatch. The recreational fishing community is falling apart due to lack of the menhaden in the bay. Tackle shops are closing and some large companies are closing their doors due to the lost of game fish in our waters. Department Of Natural Resources has placed a limit of fish that can be kept that are not supporting the cost of fishing and fishermen are not going to pay hundreds of dollars to a guide or captain to catch just one or a few fish.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 9:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Tara Schmitt
Email
tara_schmitt@yahoo.com
State
Delaware
Comment
Enough is enough with the overfishing by the commercial fisheries. They are literally killing the wildlife who depend on these food sources. How do you not know this??

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 9:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Joe stephenson
Email
mysteri2@cox.net
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods."

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 8:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Jerry Czosnowski
Email
jczosacc@comcast.net
State
Maryland
Comment
I support a 50% quota reduction

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 8:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Kate Koconis
Email
kkoconis@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 8:33 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Miles Wong
Email
docwong@hotmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I support a 50% reduction in the harvest of menhaden. Miles Wong

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 7:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
James Hedeen
Email
shisherboy@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
I live on the bay.Massive damage has been caused by years of abuse.50 percent is a bandage .Time to keep all commercial seining out of bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 7:36 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Sterling Anderson
Email
scottanderson17@cox.net
State
Virginia
Comment
50% is a good start. Omega needs to be removed from the bay completely. They have, with government approval, been raping the bay for years. It needs to stop. I will be voting accordingly.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 7:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Andrea Steegmayer
Email
steegmayer60@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Chesapeake Bay is the nursery for the fish and mammals and birds of the Atlantic Ocean. Menhaden is their nutrition. We allowed this nutrition to be made into dog food while the nursery inhabitants are starving. Dog food can easily be made without Menhaden. I support a at least 50% reduction in the catch. I also think it's time that observers are on the fleets that catch Menhaden and I support a scientific study of the Menhaden and the impact the industrial fishing has on the Bay (on its people and the animals). Once the Menhaden population collapses it's too late. Andrea Steegmayer

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: Info (ASMFC)
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 1:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: FW: Cut Back the Bunker harvest quota

From: Gary Defranco <Gdefranco@transtechindustries.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 2:58 PM
To: Info (ASMFC) <info@ASMFC.ORG>
Cc: Gary Defranco <Gdefranco@transtechindustries.com>; Tom DeFranco <tdfishdaddy@msn.com>
Subject: [External] Cut Back the Bunker harvest quota

To Whom it may concern:

Please vote to cut back the harvest of the bunker by 50%. I am an avid bay man and fisherman.

Save the resource for the public and all the wildlife that depend upon the bunker for forage.

Thank you,

Gary DeFranco

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 11:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II - Fort Monroe

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II - Fort Monroe

Action Title

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II - Fort Monroe

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/va-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii-2/

Name

Thomas Jenkins

Email

tjenkins43@mac.com

State

Virginia

Comment

My preferences for the proposed management plans are as follows:
3.1 - Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount: Sub Option B4 - 50% reduction, not linked to TAC
3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution
3.2.1 Quota Periods: Option B2 - even length and uneven harvest
3.2.2 Quota Period Overages and Underages - Option B - quota period overage payback with rollover of unused quota
3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision - option B - 3 year revisit provision

My reasons are as follows:
Menhaden is a public trust resource, owned by all the citizens of the Atlantic states subject to ASFMC's jurisdiction. These citizens entrust ASFMC to manage the menhaden population for a variety of reasons that provide benefit to the citizens; among these benefits are economic and ecological. The draft management plans cites the economic benefits of the reduction and bait fisheries to the coastal economies of VIrginia and Maryland. The draft management plans also cites ecosystem benefits as a forage species, but unfortunately, it leaves out the economic value of forage fish. There is real value that flows into coastal economies from fish that are not harvested in bait or reduction fisheries, and that value is not accounted for in this

plan. That value exists because of menhaden's role as a forage species for countless other species that constitute popular commercial and sport fisheries of substantial value. A fish not caught in the reduction fishery still has economic value to the region, because it is available to be eaten by a predator, who then is the target of commercial and sport fisheries which have immense value. None of that value is mentioned in this plan when considering the impact of changes to the Bay Cap on the economic health of the region.

The ASFMC is not accounting for the full value these fish provide to the constituents, and as such, should move forward with great precaution that the currently allowed harvest levels may be too much and are preventing menhaden from providing maximum economic yield (MEY) to the Atlantic States. The even ASFMC admits it doesn't have a good understanding of how to set the Bay cap to account for forage needs in the Chesapeake Bay. (Page 6, paragraph 4 - "No similar approach exists to set the Bay Cap at a level scientifically determined to support forage needs in the Chesapeake Bay…."). If the ASFMC is at all unclear about the ecosystem interactions about menhaden and other valuable forage species within the Bay, they must proceed with utmost precaution to avoid reductions in value of those predator species that rely on menhaden.

For those reasons, I demand the ASFMC adopt the most drastic reductions in the Bay Cap, and defer more of the catch until later in the season, and revisit this plan frequently to aggressively monitor its progress in providing MEY of the menhaden fishery to all constituents of the ASFMC.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:23 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Robert Muller

Email

rcmuller@optonline.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

The loss of manhaden is preventable. Simple as that. Business must share in this issue more than has been assigned. I have personally witnessed the terrible impact it has has on our osprey population and the striped bass fishing is essentially done, which is a critical part of New Jersey's economy (and my personal enjoyment)

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Cole Kennedy

Email

ckennedy@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Save the Bunker

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Cain Ernest

Email

thisiscainyo@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Stop the commercial fishing for them!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Steve Beyer

Email

stumpsandstonesnj@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Born and raised on the water. 38 years ago. My grandfather a ww2 vet in his past time in Bayville nj help and maintain offspray nest on bayveiw Ave in Berkeley township. Every thing that was built and saved is being taken from us for money. Not to include the lack of bait to hold fish in are local water. I am and always have been a water men. I can't say I'm the best fisherman around but surly put my time in. No bait no fish it's pretty simple. Fish catches are down are birds are dying everywhere a clear ideation of are environments health. How ever I am not a well educated man. And I am pretty poor with words and spelling. No matter we do or say or what proof we show.... it will never make a difference. We are selling what's is left of a lively hood for profit. At some it has to end or there will be nothing left. Numbers are numbers. And there all showing the same data. It has to stop. Not to mention I have photos of two different bunks boats in 50 ft of water from last yr with in a half mile of the beach. Witch is wrong. When are we going to let the ocean recover... herebi am 9.38 at night on a friday... hoping something will happen. Knowing it is just false hope. Please save are ocean...

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:37 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Matt Mercuro

Email

mattmerc84@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I can only say what I have experienced and that is a severe reduction in bunker school in size numbers concentration and consistency over the years. With that we also see the same decline in some of our inshore recreational species. Our fisheries all start from forage fish and we rely on them for clean water. I feel I'm just stating the obvious and that everyone who's involved in this knows that we as locals deserve the fish and clean water not private equity trying to make a buck on dog food or Chinese companies feeding farm raised fisheries in places void of fish due to their lack of regulation and self restraint. Please do the right thing and reduce the quotas

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:21 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Andy Wurst

Email

andywurst@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I have loved on the NJ coastline and fished for the last 35 years recreationally. I am disgusted by the reduction menhaden fishing in our NJ waters by foreign companies shipping the local caught product to support international markets. These Canadian companies has descimated their own forage fish stocks of mackerel, herring and others, and now working to decimate our local forage fish menhaden.

The last two years have shown a drastic decline in local bunker schools off the coast of NJ followed by poor showing of humpback whales, porpoise, declining osprey nest health, stripers and the other predators that rely on this forage species.

I have local fill net bunker fisherman friends that cannot harvest there 500# quota for local bait markets due to the depleted stocks.

The recreational fishing industry supports thousand of families in the area and the lack of bunker hd affected them all. The fact that the US government supports a couple large companies with a small amount of employees to catch metric tons of our filter feeding forage fish is ridiculous. We need drastic cuts to the purse seine fleet quotas on menhaden to protect this once plentiful forage fish and the ecosystem it sustains.

Please stop the political nonsense and act today!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 7:37 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Debra Dike

Email

debradike71@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I'm concerned about the fishing of menhaden in the Chesapeake because I have witnessed the decline of the osprey's in my area. The Mattaponi river and the Pamunkey River. We need to protect these wildlife habitats for them and ourselves. Please pass this.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 10:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Eric Nolley

Email

enolley@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

To the ASMFC,

I am writing with grave concern about the state of the menhaden population. I am a physician by training and did research throughout my training, and in doing this, you learn to read patterns. And the patterns in the data here are extremely worrisome.

The science here is well done and raises alarm. The coastal Osprey's that depend on menhaden can't feed their young. This is a harbinger of potential ecosystem collapse as Osprey's are an indicator species.
https://pubs.usgs.gov/publication/70276607

When do you act? I worry you will wait until there is catastrophic collapse. Will menhaden become the Atlantic cod? If so, the bay fishery is as good as dead.

The menhaden population must be protected to ensure the health of the ecosystem that depends on them. I strongly encourage you to adopt the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II with a reduction in the Atlantic Menhaden Chesapeake Bay

Reduction Fishery Cap of at least 50%. I worry this does not go far enough fast enough to save the ecosystem. If reductive fishing is sustained at the current rates, who benefits? Not many many people and wildlife who depend on the bay ecosystem, but the bottom line of foreign companies who do not have to care what happens if the fishery fails.

Follow the best available science (and please talk to actual scientists and conservationists. Industry scientists have a vested intersted in their own bottom line. I've seen this with industry funded pharma trials again and again in medicine). Reduce the coastwide total catch to ensure sufficient menhaden for the ecosystem that depends on them.

If my children and future generations have a vibrant, thriving bay depends on you to make the decisions based on sound science, not on the desires of rich companies and moneyed interests.

Sincerely,
Eric Nolley

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 10:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Steve Marino

Email

steve.marino.428@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

We need to protect our fishery. Please save the future of the bay by protecting menhaden.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 9:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Paige Goodpasture

Email

pgoodpasture@icloud.com

State

Virginia

Comment

It is long past time to reset the limits on menhaden catch in the Chesapeake bay and beyond. For years we've been told - we need more research. Well here it is in black and white. This resource that belongs to us all is being strip mined of one of its most critical resources, the fish on which much of the life in the bay depends. Reduce catch limits by at least 50% now.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 9:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Leslie Serbousek

Email

leslieserbousek2012@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I am writing to express my strong support for reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by 50% and creating sensible seasonal quota periods to distribute menhaden harvest under the cap more evenly throughout the fishing season.

Every morning our resident osprey suns himself from the top of a large tree, overlooking the waterway. In the spring, his mate arrives and they build a giant nest and raise their chicks overlooking the water into the summer. This waterway is also enjoyed by human anglers and the birds and human fishermen are able to feed their families.

This summer, the chicks tragically did not make it. There was not enough menhaden to help them to thrive and grow strong enough to leave the nest. The ospreys have to fly longer distances, and the parent ospreys looked stressed and ragged, thin and were gone for longer periods of time desperately trying to find food to keep their babies alive, to the point I worried about them, and at several points feared they were missing or had perished.

I have never in the years I have lived here, seen anything as bad as this last nesting season. I am just a regular person, and I noticed that something was extremely wrong this season-so much so, that I reached out to everyone I could, to ask what happened.

It is that apparent and without productive seasons of chicks leaving the nests, the osprey can become lost to us forever. We need to protect our osprey and our bass and every other marine animal that relies on menhaden.

Apparently, this year many nesting pairs along our river were adversely impacted by starvation, and most failed to raise any chicks that left the nests. They starved.

This should not be happening.

We also noticed that anglers used to be able to catch very sizable fish in the area, the same area that the adult ospreys fish from, and the catch is becoming smaller and smaller, and this is because those fish are also not getting the nutrition from the menhaden. It is effecting the entire food chain all the way up to human anglers trying to feed their families, as well.

We must implement a stricter cap for these critical reasons:

• Protecting Wildlife: Menhaden are the foundation of our marine ecosystem. Leaving more of them in the water is vital to reversing the devastating food shortages currently facing nesting ospreys, struggling striped bass populations, and other marine predators that rely on this critical forage fish.

• Supporting Local Fishermen: A lower industrial cap protects local recreational anglers, charter boat captains, and light-commercial fishermen. Securing the local bait supply and game fish numbers sustains our community's small, family-owned fishing businesses rather than prioritizing a single industrial reduction fleet.

Please support the lowering of the cap and protect the long-term health of the Chesapeake Bay and the survival of our ospreys.

Sincerely,
Leslie Serbousek
Portsmouth, Virginia

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 9:16 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Leslie Serbousek

Email

leslieserbousek2012@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I am writing to express my strong support for reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by 50% and creating sensible seasonal quota periods to distribute menhaden harvest under the cap more evenly throughout the fishing season.

Every morning our resident osprey suns himself from the top of a large tree, overlooking the waterway. In the spring, his mate arrives and they build a giant nest and raise their chicks overlooking the water into the summer. This waterway is also enjoyed by human anglers and the birds and human fishermen are able to feed their families.

This summer, the chicks tragically did not make it. There was not enough menhaden to help them to thrive and grow strong enough to leave the nest. The ospreys have to fly longer distances, and the parent ospreys looked stressed and ragged, thin and were gone for longer periods of time desperately trying to find food to keep their babies alive, to the point I worried about them, and at several points feared they were missing or had perished.

I have never in the years I have lived here, seen anything as bad as this last nesting season. I am just a regular person, and I noticed that something was extremely wrong this season-so much so, that I reached out to everyone I could, to ask what happened.

It is that apparent and without productive seasons of chicks leaving the nests, the osprey can become lost to us forever. We need to protect our osprey and our bass and every other marine animal that relies on menhaden.

Apparently, this year many nesting pairs along our river were adversely impacted by starvation, and most failed to raise any chicks that left the nests. They starved.

This should not be happening.

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We must implement a stricter cap for these critical reasons:

• Protecting Wildlife: Menhaden are the foundation of our marine ecosystem. Leaving more of them in the water is vital to reversing the devastating food shortages currently facing nesting ospreys, struggling striped bass populations, and other marine predators that rely on this critical forage fish.

• Supporting Local Fishermen: A lower industrial cap protects local recreational anglers, charter boat captains, and light-commercial fishermen. Securing the local bait supply and game fish numbers sustains our community's small, family-owned fishing businesses rather than prioritizing a single industrial reduction fleet.

Please vote to lower the cap and protect the long-term health of the Chesapeake Bay and the survival of our ospreys.
Sincerely,
Leslie Serbousek
Portsmouth, Virginia

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 9:12 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Theodore Carski

Email

thcarski@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I support the CCA/MD position as follows:
CCA's Recommended Survey Responses
• Question 5 — Option C
• Question 6 — Option C1E
• Question 7 — Option C2A
• Question 8 — Option B2
• Question 9 — Option B
• Question 10 — No change
• Question 11 — Option B
• Question 12 — Abundant menhaden are essential to healthy fisheries and a productive Chesapeake Bay.

These recommendations support:

A 50% initial reduction in the Chesapeake Bay Cap

- [x] A Bay Cap linked to the coastwide quota
- [x] Less concentrated harvest during critical spring and summer periods
- [x] Accountability for seasonal quota overages
- [x] A required review of the Bay Cap every three years

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 9:13 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Andy Uria

Email

andy.uria5@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

More should be done to prevent the mass depletion of a critical bay species like Menhaden for the commercial gain of a few entities without forethought about that could men for the delicate ecosystem. We are sacrificing the bay's future for corporate greed without any recompense or plan to mitigate the damage.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 9:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Timothy Sharac

Email

timothysharac@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

James Boyle, FMP Coordinator:

Based on my personal experience recreationally fishing the Eastern Shore of Virginia over the last 15+ years, I've seen fishing become more challenging and Virginia's saltwater recreational fishing regulations become increasingly restrictive, despite a stagnant or declining number of saltwater fisherman over this period.

Similarly, watermen are struggling because the Chesapeake Bay blue crab population is 50% lower than it was in 2010 and access to menhaden as bait has become both more expensive and scarce, relying on out-of-state menhaden due to the recent collapse of the Chesapeake Bay menhaden pound net fishery, with estimates of a 97% reduction in harvest in 2025 compared to 2012. Likewise, a 2025 study by Dr. Bryan Watts of The College of William and Mary's Center for Conservation Biology documented a 90% decline of nesting osprey on Virginia's Delmarva Peninsula.

Like most fisherman, I fully support science-based restrictions to our fisheries to ensure this resource is available for future generations.

The option of a 50% reduction in the menhaden fishery cap should substantially improve the recreational fishery that rely on menhaden and improve the livelihood of watermen, bait watermen, and charter fisherman alike. With more plentiful menhaden, I would expect to see a dramatic recovery in osprey and other shorebirds that primarily subsist on menhaden. Lastly, the proposed 50% menhaden fishery cap reduction would further support the Chesapeake Bay's numerous other species and overall ecosystem health in ways we may not currently have the tools and resources to measure.

Based upon my personal experience and understanding of the science, I support the following options in Draft Addendum II:

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount: Support option C1e that would reduce the Bay Cap by 50 percent and limits it to 13.6 percent of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC).

3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution: Support option B2 which establishes three even length quota periods for the Bay Cap, but distributes harvest 25 percent in period 1, 25 percent in period 2, and 50 percent into period 3. Also, support option B which establishes quota period overage payback and rollover of unused quota within a fishing year.

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision: Support option B Revisit Provision to reassess the efficacy of these new management tools every 3 years.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Steven Fagan

Email

steven.fagan60@icloud.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I support the following and respectfully request you vote for the same.
Section 3.1 - Option C1e - Reduced Chesapeake Bay Cap 50%, limits it to 13.6% of total coastwide catch.
Section 3.2 - Option B2 - Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution - Distributes harvest over the season.
Section 3.3 - Option B - Allows reassessment of management every three years.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:40 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Thomas Bischoff

Email

thomaskanebischoff@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I grew up fishing the Chesapeake Bay ever since I was a kid and I'm a 24-year-old man who owns his own boat and enjoys fishing year-round, I used to be able to catch fish after fish, including the big cow stripers in the winter time left and right but the bunker net Fishing has gotten so out of control. It is seriously impacting the population of striped bass here in the bay. Please at least cut the bunker netting by 50% to allow more stability and food for the striped bass!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:37 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
William Reardon
Email
william.e.reardon@gmail.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
Save the Osprey!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Linda T

Email

NJbird@aol.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Please take immediate action to limit or halt menhaden from being harvested. The osprey faced extinction once from a single chemical – DDT. Now they're facing extinction because of a single company over- fishing for bunker. Barnegat Bay 51% of the Osprey nests failed for 2 consecutive years. At this rate Ospreys as a species cannot survive. This is a man-made problem and demands a man-made solution. Real world surveys have proven the decline of the osprey due to the actions of human beings. Please limit the harvest in bays and the ocean. Thank you.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:34 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Henry Novak

Email

inman84_24@hotmail.com

State

Florida

Comment

Please do what is right and reduce the harvest of the menhaden population in the Atlantic Ocean, a common ground can be found that is more sustainable long term. The amount of income that is generated through sport fishing and commercial fishing for species that rely on the menhaden for survival outweighs the profits made from menhaden harvesting alone. I know you guys will make the right decision, thank you.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Carolyn Bialousz

Email

ccbialousz@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Controls are required before we face more extinctions.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Fred Moellers

Email

f.moellers@comcast.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

As a New Jersey recreational fisherman, I support stronger protection of menhaden as forage for striped bass and other predators.

For Draft Addendum II, I support:

• Section 3.1, Option B4: reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50% to 25,500 metric tons, implemented immediately without a multiyear phase-in.
• Section 3.2.1, Option B2: distribute the cap 25%/25%/50% to preserve more forage during spring and summer.
• Section 3.2.2, Option B, without Underage Sub-option 1: require seasonal overage payback and roll unused early-season quota entirely into the final period.
• Section 3.3, Option B: revisit the Bay cap every three years.

Uncertainty about localized depletion should support precautionary management. Menhaden's value as food for striped bass and other wildlife deserves substantial weight alongside its commercial value.

Please also monitor whether reduced Bay harvest shifts fishing pressure outside the Bay and undermines the intended

ecological benefits.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Fred W. Moellers
Woolwich Township, New Jersey

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:14 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Thomas Wenskus

Email

twenskus@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

Dear Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

My name is Tom Wenskus, and I am a recreational fisherman from Long Island, New York. I support a precautionary approach to managing Atlantic menhaden and request the following selections in Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3:

Section 3.1, Option B4: Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by 50%, to 25,500 metric tons, without a multiyear phase-in.

Section 3.2.1, Option B2: Divide the annual cap into seasonal allocations of 25%, 25%, and 50%, reserving half for the final period.

Section 3.2.2, Option B: Require quota-period overage paybacks and retain the default provision that unused quota from the first two periods rolls into the third period. I do not support Underage Sub-option 1.

Section 3.3, Option B: Revisit the Bay cap every three years.

My primary concern is whether current scientific information adequately describes menhaden availability at the local and seasonal scales necessary to protect Chesapeake Bay's ecosystem. The draft acknowledges insufficient data to comprehensively characterize menhaden abundance and distribution throughout the Bay and the influence of fishing pressure.

A coastwide assessment does not, by itself, establish that sufficient forage is available in a particular area when predators need it. Menhaden management should account for their role in supporting striped bass, bluefish, other predators, and the commercial and recreational fisheries that depend on those species.

I recognize that the available evidence does not establish that a 50% reduction is the exact amount required. However, uncertainty about local forage availability is a reason to maintain a larger safety margin. Among the proposed options, I believe this combination provides the most appropriate precautionary protection while better information is developed.

I prefer a fixed reduced Bay cap over automatically linking it to coastwide total allowable catch, because an increase in coastwide TAC would not necessarily demonstrate improved forage availability within Chesapeake Bay.

I also urge the Commission to prioritize fishery-independent monitoring of menhaden abundance, distribution, and seasonal availability within the Bay, alongside research on predator forage needs. Future decisions should clearly explain how that evidence supports the selected harvest limits.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Tom Wenskus
Long Island, New York
Recreational fisherman

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:12 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Troy Lov

Email

lovt16@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

I support taking a precautionary approach to management of the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery under Draft Addendum II.

I support Option C, which would link the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap to the coastwide Total Allowable Catch (TAC). I believe the Bay Cap should be reduced from its current level by approximately 20–30% when this system is implemented, with the resulting proportion of the TAC maintained as the Bay Cap going forward. Linking the Bay Cap to the TAC provides a more consistent management framework and prevents future changes in the coastwide TAC from unintentionally changing the relative level of Chesapeake Bay harvest.

I also support establishing quota periods to reduce the concentration of reduction harvest during the middle of the fishing season. In particular, I favor a management approach that provides greater protection for menhaden availability during the spring and summer and shifts a greater portion of allowable harvest toward the later portion of the season. I support meaningful overage payback requirements so that exceeding an individual quota period has consequences in subsequent years, rather than allowing the seasonal limits to function only as guidelines.

Finally, I support a mandatory three-year review of the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap. Given the scientific

uncertainty surrounding menhaden abundance, distribution, predator demand, and the relationship between reduction fishing and local menhaden availability, management should be revisited as new scientific information becomes available.

I recognize that the available evidence does not establish that the reduction fishery is solely responsible for recent declines in menhaden availability or pound-net catches in Chesapeake Bay. However, the documented declines in some fishery-dependent and fishery-independent indices, combined with the concentration of reduction harvest during portions of the season, provide sufficient reason for precautionary management. Menhaden are an important forage species, and where there is meaningful uncertainty regarding their availability to predators and other fisheries, I believe management should err on the side of maintaining a robust forage base.

Overall, I support a moderate-to-strong reduction in the Bay Cap, a permanent linkage between the Bay Cap and the coastwide TAC, distribution of harvest throughout the season, enforceable quota-period overage payback, and a mandatory three-year review.
Thank you

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Marina Pierce

Email

marina.photobythebay@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I have had a front row seat to the struggles of osprey in my part of the Bay around Cape Charles, VA. As a wildlife photographer I've had to watch starving chicks fight with each other and watch parents abandon the nest, sometimes before the eggs even hatch, because they are starving. While there is likely more than one reason for this, it's certain that the continued decline in the number of menhaden in the Bay is a contributing factor. In addition to the birds, I've listened to local fishermen and guides lament the declining conditions and watch while some of them go out of business because the fish just aren't here any more. Again, while there may be more than one reason, it's for sure the industrial harvest of menhaden is a contributing factor. I respectfully ask that the commission adopt the following options in Addendum II.

Section 3.1 - Option C1e - Reduce Bay Cap by 50% and limit it to 13.6% of the total coast wide catch.
Section 3.2 - Option B2 - Implement the Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution which would distribute the harvest over the season and minimize the impact on available fish during the critical nesting season.
Section 3.3 - Option B - Allow for the reassessment of management every 3 years so as the science progresses so can the management practices.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

William Anderson

Email

bllndrsn74@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I am writing to urge the adoption of Addendum II, specifically Sections 3.1 option C1e (50% bay cap reduction); 3.2 option B2 (harvest distributed over the season); and 3.3 option B (3 year reassessment of management). The Bay is a treasure but it is under assault. More needs to be done to address the many challenges it faces such as runoff pollution but Addendum II is something concrete that can be done now to help improve the Bay's health. I have seen a definite decline in the Bay over the last decade in a number of ways. Please help save viability of this incredible resource by adopting Addendum II before things decline even further. Thank you

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Peter Leary

Email

pleary29@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

Menhaden need to be protected for the sake of our entire marine ecosystem from southern Florida & the gulf to northern Maine, bunker are what fuels the wildlife we know, love & cherish.

3.1-B4

3.2.1-B1

3.2.2-Option 1

3.3-Option B

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Peter Shepherd

Email

pmshepher@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

We need caps and reduction in Menhaden harvesting now! Save the Osprey and other wildlife of the lower chesapeake.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Joseph Harrison

Email

jaharrison2@me.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I have been fishing the Chesapeake Bay for 50 years. Currently fishing the lower bay regularly. The last three years have been the worst I have seen for Speckled Trout and Rockfish. This includes the years leading up to the Striped Bass moratorium. The pressures on the bay are many - warming waters, algae blooms, over harvesting, pollution. Please pass this legislation so that my kids can inherit a healthy bay!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Nina Breton

Email

ninambreton@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please reduce the fishery cap by 50%. Growing up in Connecticut in the 1980s and 1990s, we rarely saw Osprey due to DDT use before I was born. It brings great joy to see these beautiful creatures back home in their summer nesting grounds. Let's not repeat historical mistakes and protect their food source. When birds of prey thrive, we all thrive.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 7:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Matt Oneal

Email

Wherestaco@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Im for
3.1 option c1e reduce bay cap 50% limits it to 13.6% of total coastwide catch
3.2 option b2 chesapeake bay cap distribution
3.3 option b allows reassessment of management every 3 years

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 7:30 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Nicholas Good

Email

ngoodg1x@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Hello my name is Nicholas Good and I would like to add my two cents to this issue. It's obvious there is a continuing problem that I see every weekend. . I fish the bay from the bridge to the state line down near the target ship on the weekends very frequently for many species . How long do we wait until it gets so bad it's too late? I see barely any schools of bunker and if I do there are very small peanut bunker and if there is a school it's hardly existent . I remember in 2007-2010 I would snag very large ones trolling and see massive pods . That hasn't happened since. Until this can be proven that it's ok to be removing 100 million pounds which is a ridiculous number to begin with. I think a foreign company should be stopped. The writing is on the wall for all to see that this is not good. Thanks

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 7:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Mark Dzindzio

Email

Njbba1954@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Along with a 50%reduction in the Chesapeake bay, there should be an equal reduction for menhaden in the ocean along the whole east coast.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 7:22 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Brandon Davis

Email

badumd0218@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I am in favor of substantially reducing the quota of the Menhaden capture fleet along the Atlantic coast, within the Chesapeake Bay, and other water that connect to the Atlantic Ocean.

I feel other organisms are suffering by the reduction of the pivotal Menhaden bait fish.

Thank you,
Brandon Davis

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 7:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ryan Atwood

Email

ra122488@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

I support Atlantic Menhaden Draft Aaddendum 2. I believe a 50% cap and the quota periods will both help improve the population of Atlantic Menhaden, and therefore help the fish and birds who use this species for food. There has been a noticeable difference in wildlife around my area. This move will also help my local bait and tackle stores which have suffered financially because they were unable to keep Atlantic Menhaden in stock. Thank you for allowing me to submit this comment.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 7:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kathie Atkinson

Email

kathieatkinson@verizon.net

State

Virginia

Comment

I want option c1a, b2, and reassessment in 3 years. Thank you for this very important opportunity to help the bay. I encourage you to ignore the claim that a lower bay cap could result in layoffs. This is classic fear mongering. The industry will simply shift it's fishing out of the bay and into the ocean.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 7:13 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Monique Figueroa

Email

figueroamonique94@gmail.com

State

Rhode Island

Comment

I am writing to strongly support the adoption of the following options under Draft Addendum II. These measures will reduce the Chesapeake Bay's menhaden reduction harvest, build a smarter, more precautionary management system, protect menhaden when and where they are most important, keep Bay harvest limits tied to coastwide management, and ensure that management can adapt as new science becomes available. 3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount: - I support option C1e, which would reduce the Bay Cap by 50 percent and limit it to 13.6 percent of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC). I also support option C2a, which sets an upper limit of 51,000mt for the Bay Cap — which is the current level. 3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution: - I support option B2, which establishes three equal-length quota periods for the Bay Cap, but distributes harvest as follows: 25 percent in period 1, 25 percent in period 2, and 50 percent into period 3. I also support option B, which establishes quota-period overage payback and rollover of unused quota within a fishing year. 3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision: - I support option B Revisit Provision, which would reassess the efficacy of these new management tools every 3 years. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on Draft Addendum II and strongly urge the adoption of the sections outlined above. Ospreys and hundreds of other bird species depend on healthy menhaden populations that are sustainably managed. This is best accomplished by adopting options 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 in Draft Addendum II.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your commitment to responsible menhaden management. I hope we can all continue to enjoy this for generations to come.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 7:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Donna Kelly

Email

dkkelly@msn.com

State

Rhode Island

Comment

Please support lowering the cap on the fishing species that are so important to the health of ospreys. Living on Ninigret Pond in RI, there is a noticeable change in the shore bird populations.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 6:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michael DiMassa

Email

mvj.dimassa@prodigy.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

Menhaden are one of the most important fish on the Atlantic Coast. They are a vital food source for the birds and fish that call the coast home. The Osprey population, however, has struggled in recent years, and it has become clear that a healthy menhaden population is critical to the health of these birds.
I support the following management options:
3.1: Options C1e and C2a. I support a precautionary reduction in the Bay Cap by 50% of the current 51,000 metric tons for the reduction fishery. This will help increase the number of menhaden available in the Chesapeake Bay, an important nursery for Atlantic menhaden.
3.2: Option B2. I support the establishment of three quota periods for the Bay Cap at a 25/25/50% harvest distribution percentage per quota period. This will help reduce food competition for birds like osprey during the most vulnerable times of their life cycles.
3.3: Option B. I support reviewing the Chesapeake Bay Cap every 3 years. This gives the Commission the ability to plan and react to changing conditions and new information.
These options best support the Chesapeake Bay and ensure the health of our birds, people, and planet.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 6:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Larry Hooper

Email

larry@division9associztes.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Please do the right thing and reduce the harvest by 50%. By not doing so, we are harming the entire ecosystem.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 6:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Siegenthaler

Email

Siegenthaler@pga.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Menhaden is not only important for the ecosystem, but for the entire fishing economy. As a recreational angler that spends a lot of time fishing, and a lot of money on tackle, bait, fishing license, hotels, restaurants, etc. I am all for reducing the commercial menhaden catch. Don’t be short sited, consider the big picture which ultimately affects everyone.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 6:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Andrew Geraghty

Email

ageraghty20@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

As a Maryland resident who cares about the long-term health of the Chesapeake Bay, I urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to adopt strong, precautionary measures to limit industrial menhaden harvesting within the Bay.

Atlantic menhaden are a critical part of the Chesapeake Bay's food web. They provide an important food source for striped bass, osprey, and other fish and wildlife. Removing large quantities of these fish for industrial reduction into fishmeal and fish oil raises legitimate concerns about the availability of this essential food source and the broader health of the Bay's ecosystem.

The Commission should prioritize the long-term sustainability of the Chesapeake Bay over maximizing short-term industrial harvests. I support a substantial reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap, including the proposed 50% reduction option, along with measures to distribute harvest more evenly throughout the fishing season and prevent excessive concentrations of fishing effort.

I also urge the Commission to apply a precautionary approach when scientific uncertainty remains about localized menhaden abundance and the effects of industrial harvesting on predator species and other fisheries. Coastwide population assessments

should not be the only consideration when evaluating potential impacts within a specific ecosystem like the Chesapeake Bay.

The Bay is an invaluable natural resource, and its health affects Maryland's wildlife, recreational fishing, local communities, and future generations. Please adopt meaningful, science-based protections that ensure menhaden remain abundant enough to support the ecosystem that depends on them.

Thank you for considering my comments.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 6:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Christiane Hyland

Email

christianegigihyland@me.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Dear Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board:

I am writing as an avid birder and a frequent traveler of the Chesapeake Bay watershed to express my strong support for Draft Addendum II. I urge the Commission to choose the options that enact the maximum reduction—up to the proposed 50% cut—to the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap (Bay Cap) and to more strictly regulate the seasonal timing of industrial reduction fishing.

Every two weeks, my routine takes me across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge as I travel from my home to our family farm in Parksley, Virginia on the Eastern Shore. This regular journey gives me a front-row seat to the changing health of the Bay. Over the years, the joy of watching ospreys soar and hunt along this corridor has been increasingly overshadowed by a heartbreaking reality: empty nests and struggling populations.

As a cornerstone forage fish, Atlantic menhaden are the literal foundation of the Chesapeake Bay food web. They provide essential energy not only for sportfish like striped bass, but critically for local avian predators like the osprey. Decades of intensive, concentrated commercial reduction fishing within the Bay have created severe localized depletion. The localized

scarcity of this vital food resource has directly triggered unprecedented osprey nesting failures in the saltier portions of the Bay. Recent ecological research has clearly connected poor reproductive success and devastating chick starvation directly to food stress caused by a lack of available menhaden.
An ecosystem-based approach to fishery management demands that we protect these predators, especially during vulnerable nesting seasons. For ospreys to successfully nest and raise their young in the Bay and surrounding waters again, they need a reliable, abundant supply of menhaden in the water.

Therefore, I strongly advocate for the following measures in Draft Addendum II:
• A 50% reduction in the current 51,000 metric ton Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap to alleviate total harvest pressure and allow local forage populations to recover.
• Stricter seasonal distribution of the cap to prevent the extreme concentration of industrial fishing effort during the summer months when osprey chicks are actively hatching and entirely reliant on parents for food.
• A responsive, precautionary framework that ties Bay harvest limits to coastwide ecological indicators and adapts seamlessly as localized data improves.

The Chesapeake Bay cannot continue to function purely as an industrial harvesting ground at the direct expense of its iconic wildlife. Preserving menhaden is essential to the survival of the ospreys that define the natural heritage of Virginia's Eastern Shore and the entire Bay ecosystem.

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your commitment to safeguarding the long-term ecological health of the Atlantic coast. I strongly encourage you to approve a robust, conservation-forward Addendum II at your upcoming annual meeting.

Sincerely,

Christiane G. Hyland
Frequent Chesapeake Bay Visitor and Landowner in Parksley, VA

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 6:43 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/?sfnsn=wa

Name

Jason Colby

Email

jasoncolby2@icloud.com

State

Maine

Comment

I would like to see Maine get more quota for the Menhaden fishery. Maine only has a small percentage of the quota and it would be nice to have more. The Menhaden fishery in Maine has been good as a small boat fishery, so more quota would help keep the small guy fishing. Thank you

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 6:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Dr. Albert Perrimo

Email

albertperrino33@yahoo.com

State

Delaware

Comment

You know the critical importance of menhaden as the base for much of our commercial and recreational fishery. Action is needed not more conversation or discussion. More control of the menhaden is essential so move forward with the proposals!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 6:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Eli Voorhees

Email

elivoorhees08@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

Yeah how about we limit the amount of menhaden harvested so we dont starve predators and start to destroy the food chain. No need to harvest as much as we do. We can chill out a little bit and still get what we need while still providing for nature rather than this maximum extraction mindset we seem to have lately in this country. Kinda stupid to pull more than we need. Thats not very efficient

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 5:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Joanne Warren

Email

jo.warren@charter.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. At this crucial time, I urge you to take the most restrictive action to help the menhaden populations recover. Of the choices you have presented, I respectfully, urge you to vote for B4 - reducing the fishery cap by 50% (to 25,500mt), and Option B2 for an Even Length and Uneven Harvest (of 25%, 25%, and 50%) in order to delay the seasonal catch to give menhaden more time to breed.

The decline of menhaden has been reported to be a concern for many years, and the decline has become so substantial that it is now gravely impacting the fishing industry as well as wildlife and coastal economies. At the public hearings, one only needs to hear the comments of those involved in fishing, those who live in coastal towns, and those who monitor Osprey nests who report the obvious impact due to the lack of menhaden. I attended three hearings and the majority of attendees had deep concerns including few menhaden sightings and failing osprey nests. The Connecticut Audubon Society reported, "This marks the first time in Osprey Nation's 13-year history that the majority of successful nests only had a single fledgling." And that was just for the successful nests. They noted, "of 679 total nest attempts, 40% failed." That is astounding! In a single incident 20 of 25 nests failed. Similar reports were given by nest monitors all along the East Coast and many noted sightings of food stress as evidence of lack of food. Resources (menhaden) seem to be at an all time low and it is vital that action be taken now to preserve menhaden for future generations including for local fishermen, for other species that feed off menhaden, to preserve

the Osprey population and other species that rely on menhaden, and for the support of the economies of coastal towns.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Joanne Warren

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 5:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Robert Swanson

Email

rswanson330@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

PLEASE pass Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II.
Industry is trying to get us to believe that they are not having an impact on the menhaden biomass.
As a fisherman and conservation minded adult,
I scream HOGWASH!!!
The menhaden are so scarce in the CT River that you cannot count on the bass being in the river to feed on them.
Starving ospreys are scientifically documented.
I was around for the banning of DDT and watched as the ospreys and eagles rebounded,
Are we going to allow big business to put us through that again?
PLEASE pass this bill.
You know its the right thing to do.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 5:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Latham Billingsley

Email

jlbillingsley05@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

Atlantic menhaden are the backbone of marine ecosystems up and down the entire eastern seaboard. From striped bass and tuna to ospreys, marine aquatic life rely on these menhaden for survival. Not to mention the tens of thousands of recreational, and commercial fisherman who also rely on their presence in the ecosystem, and in turn the economy that supplies these waterman and rely on the presence and effect of menhaden. If you have spent any time on the water in the last decade, or even the last year it is impossible not to notice the dwindling population of menhaden, and in turn the effect this is having on our beloved home waters. Ammendum II is a small step in the right direction towards continuing the restoration of our local waterways, fisheries, and marine ecosystems. They are far more than just a fish, they are the backbone of the Atlantic and they need to be treated as such

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 5:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Emma Vaughan

Email

emmakvaughan@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Sustainable fisheries are a vital part of the economy of the Chesapeake Bay and a key part of making sure this historic and beloved natural area - an American treasure! - remains safe now and in the future. The current take of menhaden is not sustainable. It is having a devastating impact on both the people and the place that I love and that means so much to so many Americans. Please take this opportunity to rein in the damage before it becomes irreversible.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 5:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Perry Depperschmidt

Email

perryd5@md.metrocast.net

State

Maryland

Comment

I've been fishing the bay for years and the bait fish have drastically finished as well as the huge numbers of rock fishi we used to catch. There should be no large scale fishing of menhaden in the bay. It is the nursery for many species of fish and wild llfe . If they are so prvelant why have they declined? Go offshare like the rest of the east coast to find them. Fish oil is snake oil and serves no purpose . it's a scam. Make fertilizer out of trasth fish. catfish, carp etc. beyond time to end this stupidity.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 4:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Carlucci

Email

jcarlucci@fmcarley.com

State

Maine

Comment

My name is John Carlucci and I am a lifelong angler who grew up fishing in New England. Fishing was such a tenet of my upbringing that I spent 6 years in higher education earning multiple degrees in marine biology, fisheries science, and population dynamics so that I could better understand the species I care so much about. Foolishly, my hope was that my education would make me a better, smarter, more observant angler. Unfortunately, many of us have instead watched angling opportunities like those for striped bass become harder, less enjoyable, or disappear entirely because of failed management. It is a frustrating, soul tormenting, disenfranchising experience to invest so much time and effort into educating yourself to become a better angler only to see with great clarity when, how, where, and how many times ASMFC management plans have failed, robbing us of our angling opportunity.

For the past 12 years I have lived in Maine watching the bad and the ugly of ASMFC's poor management unfold in front of me and in short order. I'd encourage every member of the board and anybody who takes the time to read this comment to conduct this simple mental exercise: How many of the 27 species managed by ASMFC are considered healthy and well managed or rebuilt? Of those, how many of them depend on menhaden as a forage base? If you're unwilling to do the work on those word problems I'd be happy to give you a hint - it is an integer less than 1. For each of those species that depend on menhaden, how many rebuilding timelines have been exceeded without success? What we are discussing in this addendum in addition to

the separate coastwide TAC is REDUCING the cap so that the probability of exceeding the ecological fishing target falls FROM from 99.5% TO somewhere between 40% and 50%. Let's flip the script a bit. If you took your life savings to a financial advisor and they told you there is a 99.5% chance of loss on your investment every year, would you invest? If they said, "We made some changes and now the probability of loss is 40-50% per year," what then? What I find appalling is that both scenarios are complete garbage. We are talking about reducing the cap so that exceeding the ecological target is no longer a guarantee, it's a coin toss. Think about that, please. Right now, all we are asking for is a coin toss of success.

Here in Maine I have the pleasure and the privilege of seeing menhaden completely black out a fish plotter, but that does not mean all is well. I do see the lack of striped bass, I see bluefin tuna shifting their behavior because herring are already gone. We seem to be stuck in this cycle of fishing out the foundation of the Atlantic food web. We've gone through herring, we're going through menhaden. How many keystone species can we fish to oblivion before the entire system no longer has a foundation to support it? If the strategy is to just keep moving to the next species, what is the next species after menhaden? As scientists, we are held to the standard of conducting the best possible science so that managers can manage on the best available science. Sometimes scientists get it wrong, I'll be the first to admit that. Why does management get to choose when, or if, it is convenient to implement the best available science when the science is wrong and the scientists rectify the mistake?

What has been done to manage this fishery has not worked. What is being done to manage this fishery is clearly not working. The ASMFC is meant to conserve our natural resources in a way that supports commercial stakeholders, recreational stakeholders, and most importantly, the entire Atlantic ecosystem - the single largest, voiceless stakeholder of them all. So far, we've watched the commercial fleet send spotter planes hundreds of miles to find fish because they're so locally depleted. We're watching guides and anglers change target species, sell off boats and gear. We're seeing tackle shops shut their doors to their local community because that local community has nothing to buy tackle for. We're watching species in the ecosystem—the very ecosystem that the ecosystem-based fisheries management plan for menhaden is meant to protect—decline dramatically. Where is the threshold for damage before we decide on proactive management? The fact that I am asking what the threshold on damage is when the ASMFC's sole purpose is to prevent that damage entirely is as asinine as it sounds. We all need a change now, the future of this fishery and those which depend on it needed that change years ago. If this is the best we can do, which I doubt to be the case, I support the following:

I support option B4 cutting the Bay Cap by 50 % (51,000 mt to 25.5 mt)
I oppose option C tying the Bay Cap to the coastwide quota
I support option B1 for three evenly split quota periods with underage sub-option 1
I support option B revisiting the cap every three years

A cut to the Bay Cap is conservation. It is not quota to be moved to another state. I'd consider this one step in the right direction with a long way to go, but please take that step.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 4:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Tim Molchan

Email

timmolchan@hotmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Something has to be done, menhaden is the sol of the Atlantic, it's been destroyed.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 4:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michael FERRARO

Email

MICHAEL.FERRARO7@GMAIL.COM

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

I am in support of Amendment 3, capping the Menhaden harvest at 51,000 metric ton. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 4:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sarah Feamster

Email

feams@duck.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Protecting the menhaden population protects the species that rely on them as a food source!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 4:40 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Brian Bones

Email

brianlbones@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Dear Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am writing in strong support of a meaningful reduction in the Atlantic menhaden total allowable catch. I have spent roughly three seasons boating the New York Bight, logging more than 200 hours on the water each season. What I have seen over that time concerns me, and I believe it reflects a larger management problem.

Menhaden must be managed as one connected system.
Menhaden and the predators that depend on them do not stay inside state lines or between estuary and ocean. Fish move from estuarine waters to the open ocean and back as part of a single life cycle, and they cannot be divided into separate management zones. A reduction in one area should therefore be a reduction overall. If harvest is cut in one place but simply shifts or expands elsewhere, the coastwide population gets no relief. I also share the concern that fish protected in the EEZ off New York and New Jersey could be landed in Virginia. Conservation measures need to be applied to the population as a whole.

What I have observed on the water.

- Fewer menhaden pods offshore. Within my territory, 30 to 40 miles offshore, I have noticed a clear reduction in the number of menhaden pods.
- Dolphins in the estuaries. Dolphins appear to be coming into the estuaries more often, which I believe is a response to a lack of forage in the open near-shore waters.
- Osprey. I have seen a clear decline in nesting osprey, or a change in their feeding habits, with more birds working the stocked trout waters around the New Jersey shore.
- Cormorants. Cormorants preying on freshwater fish seem to be increasing.

These are anecdotal observations, but together they point in one direction. When the forage base in the ocean is depleted, predators adapt by moving into other waters and taking other prey. I believe the mismanagement of menhaden and the scale of the industrial harvest are affecting the entire Mid-Atlantic and New York Bight ecosystem.

Allocation is not equitable.
I am disappointed that allowance is not distributed more evenly among the states. Under the current structure, the economic opportunity from this resource is effectively concentrated in Virginia, while states like New Jersey and New York bear the ecological and recreational costs without a meaningful share. States should receive larger allocations so that the benefits of this fishery are not captured almost entirely by one state.

What I am asking the Board to do.

1. Reduce the harvest to sustainable levels. The goal should be an overall reduction that supports a healthy, abundant population and the ecosystem services that depend on it.
2. Manage by fish counts, not just pounds. One hundred million pounds of menhaden can mean 50 million adult fish or 200 million peanut bunker, and those are not equivalent. Harvest limits should protect adult spawning-age fish and account for the age structure of the catch.
3. Adopt seasonal allocations. As with tuna, spreading the harvest across the year would limit pressure during critical periods of spawning and migration and allow natural processes to function.
4. Set strictly managed bycatch limits that take precedence over menhaden harvest. The menhaden fishery should be required to stay within tightly controlled bycatch allowances.
5. Rebalance allocations among the states. Larger allocations for other states would better reflect the resource's range and value, and would ensure the economic opportunity is not effectively limited to Virginia.

Menhaden are among the most important forage fish on the Atlantic coast. Striped bass, bluefish, tuna, whales, dolphins, and birds all depend on them, and so do the recreational and commercial fisheries of every state along the coast. I urge the Board to take a precautionary, ecosystem-based approach and to act on these recommendations.

Thank you for your time and for considering my comments.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 4:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Wesley Smith

Email

revwas2017@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

My wife and I are writing in support of Draft Addendum II.
We believe any and all efforts to address the depletion of menhaden are critical to the survival of waterfowl (particularly ospreys) in our area. We support research efforts in order to sustain our environment that allows forage fish to thrive in our waters and thus maintain a healthy and growing osprey population.

With our thanks for your efforts to support and act on Draft Addendum II and other efforts to address this crucial issue post haste.
Rev Wesley and Joyce Smith

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 4:17 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

chris keelips

Email

cgkeelips@hotmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Our local water of CT has seen a drastic reduction of adult menhaden over the last 10 years, 20 years, 30 years. I am born and raised and reside in Rowayton CT. My father moved to Rowayton in 1958. He loved fishing in LI sound and i do also. LI sound is as clean as it has been in years, proper public awareness of what we put on our lawn, what goes into our storm drain all matter. The local population of Osprey has increased exponentially after DDT killed everything in the water & our Osprey population. Now the lack of menhaden in our local waters in killing the Osprey. I remember the Bunker Boats that were allowed in LI Sound years ago....finally they were banned from depleting the local schools...only to deplete the menhaden before they even get to LI sound.

PLEASE REDUCE THE CAP BY 50%

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 4:16 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Popow

Email

jpopow1407@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I am opposed to the reduction fishery of menhaden in Chesapeake Bay. I understand that it will continue despite my opposition because of the money interest and political clout that they exert over the organizations involved in regulating them.. I only hope that some sensible regulations are implemented to reduce the amount of fish taken out of the bay are implemented. I am not a scientist. I am a Fisherman. I'm 73 years old. I grew up, casting into schools of rockfish feeding on alewives covering acres of the bay around Annapolis and points south. They are gone fishing sucks. I have Waterman friends who cannot catch bait in their nets any bigger than their hand. Last year, one of them could not catch any bait. He hoped his oyster lease was gonna help him out but now the oyster market sucks.. so you're gonna worry about a 500 employee business from Canada over all the small Waterman up and down the Chesapeake Bay making a living and spreading their money up and down the bay over one big company because they're lining your pockets. That's my opinion.
Thank you, John Popow

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 4:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sydney Sowell

Email

syds3dds@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I support the action to tie the bay cap dynamic to a fixed percentage (13.5%) of the TAC to prevent disproportionate harvesting of Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay.
'Sydney Sowell

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 3:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lou Truppi

Email

troop2542@yahoo.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

The menhaden is the most important bait source on the eastcoast .
It provides numerous independent businesses with the ability to service the fishing public.
Coupled to providing the primary source of food for our local game fish .
Almost all our local species feed on this bait in order to survive in most cases .
Allowing a foreign company to fish commercially in our waters and decimate this important species is totally unacceptable!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 3:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jeff Brown

Email

jeffeqbrown@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I have noticed a sharp decrease in bunker off of LBi. Please do anything you can to rebuild the bunker population. The lack of this species not only hurts the ecosystem and the osprey population it seems to be having a very negative effect on recreational fishing, which contributes a huge amount of money to the coastal economy.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 3:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Parks Shackelford

Email

pdshack@att.net

State

Virginia

Comment

I am a resident of Virginia, but I also maintain a home on the West River, a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay, in Maryland. While my observations are anecdotal, the changes over the last few years have been so severe that they are obvious to even the casual observer. And I believe others have legitimate scientific research to back them up.

I've owned a boat and fished regularly in the Chesapeake Bay, from Solomon's Island north to Annapolis some 1987. Until recently, one regularly encountered large schools of menhaden in those areas. In recent years, it has been rare to find any adult/larger sized menhaden, no bait balls, no visible schools. The absence is clear, and it seems reasonable to attribute the drastic decline in the quality of striped bass fishing at least in part to this absence of bait fish. It certainly is a major contributor.

More troubling is the sudden change in the osprey population nesting in the area around the West River. Only three years ago, virtually every nesting platform or channel marker had a nesting pair of osprey with at least two chicks. Starting last year and worse this year, about 3/4 of the platforms and similar sites were empty. Where there were birds, we saw no chicks.

A drive down the Western Shore of the bay past hundred or thousands of boats should give one an idea of the importance of Sport fishing to the economy of the area. I can no longer invite guests with a reasonable expectation that we will catch any

fish. That has only been the case for the last three to four years.

Action must be taken to significantly reduce the offtake of menhaden in the Chesapeake bay and surrounding area by one large corporation.

Please take action now before the fishing crashes further and we lose the wonderful osprey population.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 3:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

ROBERT AHART

Email

bobahart8@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

I am very alarmed by the recent reduction in the coastal osprey population and understand that it is related to the overfishing of menhaden. Please take action to significantly reduce the allowable menhaden harvest. Thank you!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 3:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Tinsley

Email

jrtinsley@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

James Boyle
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
comments@asmfc.org

Subject: Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

My name is John Tinsley and I am a recreational angler in Virginia. I fish the Rappahannock River, including the tidal river from the mouth up to buoy 10. I am writing as a private angler, not for a club or company.

I support Option C with sub-option C1e and sub-option C2a on the Bay cap amount; Option B with sub-option B2 on quota periods; and Option B on the revisit provision.

Industrial reduction fishing in the Bay has changed how, and how often, I can fish the Rappahannock. The river fishes when menhaden are in it. Striped bass, bluefish, speckled trout, puppy drum, and Spanish mackerel show up behind those schools. When the schools are gone, the predators are gone, and a day that used to be a matter of finding birds and bait becomes a

long ride for very little.
That lines up with the timing problem this addendum describes. The reduction season runs from the first Monday in May to the third Friday in November, which is the entire recreational season on this river. In 2023 and 2024 more than half of Bay reduction landings came in a six-week stretch in midsummer. Those are the weeks the Rappahannock should be at its best. Instead I have watched the bait disappear in a short window, birds quit working, and the fish I came for leave the stretches I have fished for years.
The Bay cap was meant to keep that from happening in a nursery system. At 51,000 mt it no longer does that job. It has not moved while the coastwide TAC has, including the 20% cut in 2026, so a larger share of the coastwide catch can now come out of the Bay. Pound-net catch per unit effort in Maryland, Virginia, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission dropped in 2024, Maryland's harvest was down sharply from the 2018–2022 average, and fishery-independent indices fell off in 2024–2025. Striped bass are overfished. I do not need a coastwide stock assessment to tell me the forage those fish follow is not reliable in this river in summer.
C1e puts the Bay cap at 13.6% of the TAC, about 25,500 mt under the current TAC, and keeps that proportion so a future TAC cut actually reaches the Bay. C2a keeps the cap from climbing back above 51,000 mt and does not set a floor that would block a deeper cut later. A one-time 50% cut under B4 would help, but it repeats the mistake this addendum is trying to fix: a fixed Bay number that drifts out of line with the coastwide quota.
On timing, B2 is the option that matches the problem on the water. An even-length split that holds the first two periods to 25% each, and leaves 50% for after mid-September, is the only choice that pulls meaningful harvest out of the late-spring and summer weeks when recreational fishing, and predator feeding, depend on those fish being in the tributaries. Status quo, and to a lesser extent B3, leaves the midsummer pulse in place. Equal thirds under B1 is better than nothing, but it still allows a third of the Bay cap in the worst weeks.
I also support revisiting the cap at least every three years. The Board is being asked to act while Bay-specific research is unfinished. That is a reason to take the precautionary cut and the seasonal split now, and to look again when the research is in, not a reason to wait.
The reduction fleet can still operate. These options change how much comes out of the Bay and when. Leaving the cap and the timing alone continues to put the cost on the rest of us who fish the Rappahannock for food and sport rather than for meal and oil.
Thank you for the chance to comment.
John Tinsley
Lancaster, Virginia

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 3:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

ASHLEY WESTBROOK

Email

WESTBROOK_ASHLEY@HOTMAIL.COM

State

Maryland

Comment

I support the strongest proposed conservation measures, which are the following:
- 3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount - Option C1e: that reduces the CAP by at least 50 percent in 2027 (25,500 mt) and limits the future Bay Cap to 13.6% of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC).
- 3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution - Option B2, which establishes three even length quota periods for the Bay Cap, but distributes harvest 25% in period 1, 25% in period 2, and 50% into period 3.
- 3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision - Option B to revisit the Bay Cap every 3 years.

Our family has been boating and living along the Chesapeake Bay for more than 20 years and we have a deep connection to the waters and ecosystems of this area. As the largest estuary in the United States, the Chesapeake Bay is a critical breeding and nesting ground for many land and water species along the entire eastern seaboard. While I understand there are many environmental stressors the Bay must endure, the massive harvests of menhaden is a contributing factor to the decline in critical species such as the osprey and striped bass.

We have an osprey nest at the end of our dock and this summer was the first time in more than ten years the osprey offspring did not survive. While this is anecdotal, it is consistent with other data which shows widespread osprey productivity declines. I

believe it's in part due to a lack of small menhaden in the late spring when they are needed by the osprey to feed their hatchlings. The osprey are starving. In the late spring/early summer, we used to see large schools of menhaden in the waters off our dock, but this year they did not come until late in the summer, after the osprey chick(s) had died.

These declines signal an URGENT need for precautionary conservation practices NOW. Industrial reduction fishing extracts over 100 million pounds of fish in a concentrated summer window, harming the local food web and depriving other groups, especially watermen and anglers, of fair access. We urge fishery managers to implement strict quota periods that will distribute the harvest evenly across the year rather than allowing an intense summer harvest.

While I agree with the need for a broader study that has been funded by the state of Virginia, we cannot wait for the results to take action. We must limit the menhaden harvesting as much as possible NOW and once the results of the study are available, a more permanent plan can be determined.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 3:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Charles Gardner

Email

cwgardner67@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I am a recreational fisherman and boater. I have seen a number of changes in the quality of the water, SAV, birds and wildlife over the last 20 plus years. The YOY study reports for the last 5 years have demonstrated a significant decline in Rockfish reproduction. In 2023 I noticed fewer schools of Menhaden in the Eastern Bay and Miles River areas. Likewise in 2024 and 2025 even fewer. Now in 2026 I saw none. Another signal which cannot be ignored is the decline in ospreys on the Chesapeake Bay as they also rely on the Menhaden for their diet. Another “study” is not needed to prove that a very aggressive limit on the commercial Menhaden reduction industry is needed NOW. This isn’t just a Maryland responsibility even though the Chesapeake Bay is considered by many as the key player in this debate. Virginia has to also do their part. And looking at how states from Massachusetts to North Carolina manage their resources needs better control. Thank you for considering my comments.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 3:37 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Samuel Walker

Email

sbwalker6@earthlink.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

I am a resident of Connecticut and am writing in full support of Draft Addendum II to implement a precautionary reduction in the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery cap. Atlantic menhaden are a vital keystone species that support top-tier predators, particularly ospreys.
Widespread osprey nest failures and chick starvation along the East Coast indicate severe localized depletion of their primary food source. The ASMFC must act to reduce the industrial harvest cap by 50% to ensure enough forage fish remain in coastal waters to support sustainable breeding pairs.
Ospreys serve as an early-warning system for the health of our oceans and coastal waters. The sharp decline in fledgling success rates, such as those tracked by Connecticut Audubon's Osprey Nation, proves that current industrial fishing pressures are out of balance with ecosystem needs.
Protecting ospreys requires looking beyond individual nests to the health of the entire food chain. I urge the Commission to enact stricter regulations to safeguard these birds from starvation.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 3:36 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Celeste Echlin

Email

cechlin151@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I am a resident of Connecticut and am writing in full support of Draft Addendum II to implement a precautionary reduction in the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery cap. Atlantic menhaden are a vital keystone species that support top-tier predators, particularly ospreys.
Widespread osprey nest failures and chick starvation along the East Coast indicate severe localized depletion of their primary food source. The ASMFC must act to reduce the industrial harvest cap by 50% to ensure enough forage fish remain in coastal waters to support sustainable breeding pairs.
Ospreys serve as an early-warning system for the health of our oceans and coastal waters. The sharp decline in fledgling success rates, such as those tracked by Connecticut Audubon's Osprey Nation, proves that current industrial fishing pressures are out of balance with ecosystem needs.
Protecting ospreys requires looking beyond individual nests to the health of the entire food chain. I urge the Commission to enact stricter regulations to safeguard these birds from starvation.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 3:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Malcom Friedel

Email

Njfishbonz@comcast.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

Please choose to curtail harvesting of Atlantic Menhaden at current levels at all costs. I as an independent and individual fisherman have noticed considerable decrease in the volume of Atlantic Menhaden during this past decade if not longer. The vast schools that would appear in the spring through the late fall migration is significantly less than ever before.

The smaller volume of Atlantic Menhaden this summer has impacted fishing off the surf and boating areas of the NJ Shore. This currently impacted the Osprey population and number of offspring they generate. They are starving. The volume of fish that forage during the migration has dwindled significantly. This needs correction and quickly.

For too long we fishermen on the surf and private boats have been given mandates of how many fish we can harvest and when depending on size restraints. Science has blindly led us down a path to recovery that continues to evade recovery.

It’s common sense to me to cut back on the amount of allowances given to the commercial industry within the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Coast. It appears to we fisherman that industry is eliminating the Atlantic Menhaden stock with care of the stock’s future. The industry has the appearance the stock is collapsing or has collapsed beyond recovery. If that’s the case shame on them for ruining it for fishermen. They have raped the stock for their own profit with no regard to science, the stock,

or environment.

I implore you to use common sense to do what is right for the preservation and propagation of the future stock. If you do not use common sense and allow the commercial take to continue unhampered you will be viewed as responsible for the demise of the Atlantic Menhaden. I wish you well with your decision.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 3:23 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Shane Strieby

Email

saslbe@yahoo.com

State

Maryland

Comment

The reality of the negative effect of the menhaden fisheries abuse within the Chesapeake estuary is blatantly obvious. The fact that this level of excessive commercial fishing is taking place in an estuary defies any logic or good science. With modern technology and drone/aircraft - this abusive fishing is far too easy for the commercial entities and very damaging to the estuary's entire ecosystem. Limit any menhaden commercial fishing (seining) to outside the mouth of the Chesapeake and then reduce the overall quota to a more sustainable level for the species that depend on menhaden for their survival. No business or amount of money is worth damaging the estuary that has been decimated by commercial operations in the past and is struggling to recover. Get Virginia under control and change the laws/regulations. Reduce the quotas and/or work towards getting the seines out of the Bay all together. Catch the menhaden after they leave the bay and outside for the state waters. Move the purse seine operations to the EZZ like other fisheries.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 3:16 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sam Azoulay

Email

azousam@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Menhaden. A vital part of our fishery and bird life. Harvesting should be greatly curtailed before it's too late.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 3:12 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Tim Kolm

Email

kolmtim@yahoo.com

State

New York

Comment

Fish on Long Island worst season we have had no bunker to be found majority of the summer fluke bluefish striped bass and tuna were terrible fishing. Less and less peanut bunker or adult bunker around the last few seasons.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 3:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

ryan Wasielewski

Email

hurley2301@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Menahaden is the most important fish in the ocean and we are loosing them!!! Changes need to be made to protect these fish in order to keep our natural resources ALIVE! This is insanity that we need to even come together to discuss what we all know. WE NEED THE BUNKER! AND THEY NEED OUR HELP TO DO IT.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 2:34 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Derrin Fund

Email

djfund@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I am in full support of significantly reducing all commercial and industrial harvesting of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay. I also believe strict enforcement of new regulations will be required with significant fines for any violations.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 2:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jane King

Email

jane791@hotmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I fully support addendum II. Please work on a solution to the depletion of menhaden on the Chesapeake Bay and other parts of our East coast. Save the ospreys!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 2:25 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Richard Kuhlman

Email

rtkuhlman@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I strongly support updating menhaden limits to reflect biological criteria. Taking into consideration the needs of stripedbass, Osprey, bluefish and other inhabitants of the Bay is critical. Just the economic value of fishing in the Bay way offsets any costs associated with additional controls placed on the commercial fishery.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 2:20 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

David Hackbarth

Email

dahacker@optimum.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

I am very concerned about the negative impact on Osprey reproduction in the Chesapeake Bay and along the Atlantic coast of New Jersey. This has caused plummeting of Osprey populations and is due mainly to overharvesting of menhaden. I request major reductions in menhaden catch limits. Thank you for your consideration in halting this major environmental impact.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 2:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for MD & PRFC Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

MD & PRFC Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

MD & PRFC Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/md-prfc-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Chris Zarba

Email

chriszarba@yahoo.com

State

Maryland

Comment

It is time to stop delaying corrective action by saying we need to study it more. The evidence is overwhelming. Now fix it.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 2:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jeffrey Bates

Email

jbates@consultingcfos.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I support CCA Virginia's proposed changes to the Atlantic Menhaden Draft addendum II.
Specifically,
The Chesapeake Bay Cap should be set at a different amount than is currently specified. We recommend Option C – Link the Chesapeake Bay Cap to the coastwide total allowable catch (TAC).
The Chesapeake Bay proportion of the TAC should be Option C1E – Set the Bay Cap at 13.6% of the coastwide quota, initially equivalent to a 50% reduction from the current cap.
The upper and lower limits of the Bay cap would be best served by Option C2A – Establish 51,000 metric tons as the upper limit, with no lower limit.
The Bay Cap should be divided into 3 quota periods to moderate reduction fishery landings in the beginning and middle of the reduction fishery. This would be best accomplished by Option B2 – Allocate 25% of the Bay Cap to the first quota period, 25% to the second, and 50% to the third.
Overages and underages within a quota period would be best addressed by Option B – Require quota-period overage paybacks while allowing unused quota to roll into the final period of the same fishing year. Any underage in Quota Periods 1 or 2 should be rolled into Period 3 of the same fishing year. Any underage in Period 3 should not roll over into a future fishing year, an approach that is consistent with precautionary management.

The ASMFC Board should set a timeframe for periodically revisiting the Bay Cap measures. We support Option B – Require ASMFC to revisit the Chesapeake Bay Cap every three years. However, this requirement should be modified to include “or sooner as may become necessary by changed conditions.”
These options provide a reasonable balance among competing interests under current resource conditions. Their adoption would reduce ecological and economic risk while allowing management to adapt as new Chesapeake Bay-specific science becomes available.

While studies to assess menhaden abundance in Virgina’s Chesapeake Bay waters are an important next step to guide management, we encourage the Board to act now to strengthen precautionary measures to mitigate the risk of long-term harm to the menhaden predator-prey relationships in the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

This includes a return to managing the coastwide TAC at levels that will achieve a 50% or greater probability of achieving ecosystem-based fishing mortality target.

Board members must also recognize the ongoing economic effects associated with this species including not only those that pertain to the coast wide menhaden fishery, but also to the sportfishing and commercial fishing sectors that rely on predators which rely on menhaden as forage or menhaden as bait.

Overall, the extraction of menhaden in Virginia Bay waters by intense, concentrated commercial reduction fishery harvesting without a sufficient scientific basis to support such harvests exacerbates the risk of long-term harm to the food web and forage base-predator relationships in the Chesapeake Bay. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Board select the options we prefer as they trike a reasonable balance under the present circumstances among the competing interests in the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery. Adoption of these options would help mitigate the risk of adverse environmental and further economic effects.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 2:04 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Terri goodwin

Email

pearls4gurlz@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Am a 11th generation Virginian/Marylander and family were oysterman for generations …and a one was an officer during the oyster wars! I grew up on the bay and currently live in Williamsburg on the James. I've seen all sorts of challenges throughout my life.
We've always had nesting Osprey families. The last two years there are none!. Not at our house. Not in anyplace up and down the James.
(Including channel markers and any other previous nesting sites.). That I've seen and what
Others Have reported.
This is a symptom of a system out of balance. (There are other factors in the Bays health and prosperity.). This is urgent, and time is running out.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 2:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Dylan McGovern

Email

dsmcgovern@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

As a young adult who has grown up on the Chesapeake bay I have witnessed the direct impact over fishing of menhaden in the bay has had on the fish and wildlife that I love. I completely support the reduction of menhaden harvest and the proliferation of the sport fish and animals that call the Chesapeake bay there home.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 1:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Mark Cantfil

Email

peggy.cantfil@yahoo.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Please save menhaden fish do not allow harvesting at all for a whole year so that the population can recover. It is important natural resource for the fish industry and our wildlife Habitat.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 1:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Marshall Anderson

Email

marshalldennisanderson@yahoo.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I strongly support reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent—from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons per year—and establishing strict seasonal quota periods for menhaden. The Chesapeake Bay is too important, and the ecological warning signs are too serious, to continue managing this critical forage fish as though the timing and location of harvest do not matter.
I have lived in St. Mary's County since 2008 and am lucky enough to have an osprey nest just off my pier. We used to have two to three chicks annually fledge and migrate at the end of the season. Now, we are lucky to have one chick and the last three years they have all starved before fledging.
The evidence points to a decline in the number of menhaden that the ospreys, striped bass and other marine life in the Chesapeake watershed depend upon for their survival.

It is both when and where those fish are removed that matter. A menhaden harvested from a concentrated school in the Bay during the summer is no longer available to the predators that depend upon that school. Concentrated removal can create localized depletion during a biologically important period and can affect the availability of forage to other users of this shared public resource.

The consequences extend beyond the reduction fishery. Menhaden support the Bay's recreational fishing economy, commercial and charter fishermen, watermen, wildlife, and coastal tourism. One user group should not be permitted to concentrate an enormous harvest of a shared forage resource during the period when that resource is most important to the rest of the ecosystem and to other Bay users.

For that reason, I urge the Commission to take the following actions:
• Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent to 25,500 metric tons annually.
• Establish strict seasonal quota periods that distribute harvest throughout the year rather than permitting an intense summer harvest.
• Apply a precautionary management approach in light of uncertainty regarding localized menhaden abundance and the ecological condition of the Chesapeake Bay.
• Give greater consideration to the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the broader Chesapeake Bay economy, not just one Virginia based fishing company.

The Chesapeake Bay is not simply a location on a fisheries management map. It is a complex and interconnected ecosystem, and menhaden are one of its essential links.
We should not wait for further deterioration before taking action. There is no time for additional five-year studies to delay the decision. The severe drop in nesting pairs and the lack of surviving chicks will not replenish the specicies enough to survive that long.

As someone who lives here, fishes and sails these waters, swims in them, and cares deeply about the wildlife that depends upon them, I believe the Commission has an obligation to manage menhaden conservatively and to recognize that the health of the Bay must take precedence over maximizing a concentrated industrial harvest.

Reduce the cap. Establish meaningful seasonal quotas. Protect the forage base. Give the Chesapeake Bay—and the people and wildlife that depend upon it—a greater margin for recovery.
Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

Marshall D Anderson
14150 Peaceful Place
Mechanicsville, MD 20659

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 1:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

JAMES HILL

Email

hillleroyjames@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Please pass this amendment. I live on the Chesapeake Bay and see first hand the reduced number of Menhaden in the bay and tributaries. It is critical that we pass this amendment, gather data and move forward with a plan to save such a critical resource within our ecosystem. Thank you.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 1:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Angela Herring

Email

aherringmd42@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

We know the osprey are starving, that fewer birds are laying eggs and nests with nestlings are being abandoned. This is a bay-wide thing. The reproductive conditions are not in dispute.

Rather than wait, the commission must act now so catch limits can act now.
Please do not delay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 1:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Karen Smith

Email

goaliechic1@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Hello, I am an Osprey Steward for the CT Audubon for 5 different nests in the Branford and East Haven area of CT. I have been doing this for about 8 years. I have watched the Osprey struggle with so many different aversions over the years with storms, predation, extreme heat, human interference. But nothing has come close to how difficult this season has been for them.
Last season I started noticing a dwindling number of fledglings where most of my nests previously had two or three successful fledglings, last season I was seeing more in the area of one or two. All of the adult activity seemed to be fairly similar to other years, but the successful number of fledglings had dropped. The other thing I started noticing last year was the lack of activity of fish in the water. I live right on the water where the farm river meets Long Island Sound. There has always been so much activity on my beach and along this area based on the running of certain types of fish, especially the bunker or menhaden. I could always tell when the big blue were running because the water would start percolating at certain times of the season with the bunker fish just leaping out of the water, while the blues were chasing them. I started seeing so much less of that last year. I had to search out small areas of percolation. This year it was pretty non-existent at all. I never saw any running of the blues or chasing of the Menhaden or the water percolating with their activity. I saw very few Egrets and great blue heron hanging out on the edge of my beach, waiting for the fish to be jumping. The gathering of many types of shorebird when the fish would get pushed in by the blues was always an amazing thing to watch. There would be hundreds of them. A lot has changed this year,

there were only scatterings of these shorebirds, and they were usually wandering up and down the beach, looking for fish, often unsuccessfully.
Watching the osprey nests that I monitor this year has been one of the most depressing things I've ever had to do. The adults laid the eggs in what seemed like normal numbers, and the little heads started popping up in the nest in what also seemed like normal numbers. And then they started dropping away rapidly. The adults were exhibiting much different activity than they used to. Both adults would leave the nest way more frequently for extended periods of time off trying to find fish.. The females would sit on the nest, calling and calling and calling for the males to no avail, and would then end up leaving the nest themselves. Very often they would both come back with nothing. Or sometimes with very small fish or different types of fish and not very often Menhaden. I do not have cameras on my nest, but I do watch the cameras on some of the other monitors nests and watching the siblings fighting with each other over food was very disturbing. Watching the smaller siblings slowly die off or get beaten down until they died off by their own siblings was very disturbing. I saw several of my adults in my nests dump dead carcasses over the side of the nest. I had never seen that before. I had one nest start with four nestlings and ended up with none. I had another nest that started with three nestlings and ended up with none. I had another nest in another preserve that started with three nestlings and ended up with none. in another nest, in the same preserve, started with two nestlings and ended up with none. I had one final nest in this preserve that started with three nestlings. They were fairly late in the season. I don't know if it helped that they were late, but the male seemed to be a lot better at finding food. Perhaps because so many of the other adults were already leaving. But again, they started with three nestlings and only one made it to fledge stage. He did pledge. I watched him trying to learn how to fish and fly with the mail while the female adult took off for migration. I did not feel as though he was being very successful with fishing. I never saw him catch anything himself. But the adult male kept trying very hard to teach him, and then after a while I didn't see any sign of either one of them, so I am hoping they were able to takeoff on a successful migration, but I don't feel as though this fledgling was very well prepared as others have been in the past. And he is the only one that I have that made it out of the nest.

It was extremely obvious that the problem was food. The adults were constantly leaving the nest and circling and trying to find something, and they were stealing food from each other's nests, which I had not seen much of at all in the past. I never saw them pick up a dead fish before, and yet when I found a dead bunker in my driveway, I decided to give it a try, and I put it down at the edge of the water so that the waves would move it back and forth. It looked fairly fresh, like one of the osprey had dropped it, which they frequently do. Sure enough, I saw something I had never seen before when one of them came in and took the dead fish. I had never seen them pick up a dead one before.

The behavior of the osprey this year is not sustainable. The numbers coming out of our organization are terrible.. They have sent their reports into you, and I am just telling you of a personal observation. This has been the most depressing season ever, and it is especially disturbing to think that it can be so easily fixed if it is in fact caused by overfishing. All of the warnings that came up from the Chesapeake Bay area last year told us this was going to happen, and they were right. So now that we know this is yet another human problem, please do your best to correct this quickly. I don't even know how many of these birds will be back next year, as I don't feel like they were very well prepared for migration.. Let's not end up in the DDT problems again. Let's fix this problem right from the start, and please lower the numbers of bunker that can be taken. It was not just the osprey that were affected. I saw it affecting so many other waterbirds throughout the season. It is very sad that humankind is often the cause of so many problems in the natural world. Let's do our part to stop it now. Thank you for letting me submit my personal observations.. Karen Smith

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 1:22 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Eric Holet

Email

eric172849@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

I am writing to express full support as a tourist to the New England waters for over 15 years - I support the most conservative options in the draft amendment II.

Eric Holet

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 1:20 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Peter Straub

Email

straubpf@comcast.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

I'm asking the Board to manage menhaden for abundance: for the striped bass, bluefish, osprey, whales, anglers, bait fishermen and coastal businesses that depend on them.

For Draft Addendum II, please reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50% to 25,500 metric tons and distribute that harvest evenly through the season.
And when the Board sets the 2027–2029 coastwide TAC in November, please use the updated Technical Committee projections and the newest available science to make a meaningful coastwide reduction at least 30% from the current TAC, and more if needed to reach the ecological target. Especially since the science has shown error in the 2025 stock assessment, and new evidence has emerged it could be even greater.
We need both actions. Protecting forage in Chesapeake Bay AND reducing pressure from the coast."

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 1:20 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Dave Hersch

Email

dhersch74@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

The time for studies is over. Now is the time to end all large scale commercial harvesting of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Having lived on and fished in the Chesapeake Bay and lower Potomac for over 20 years, the decline of all species, bird, fish and sea mammals that feed and depend on menhaden is clearly evident. End it now and save the ecology.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 1:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Philip Sugar

Email

philipsugar@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I would like to speak at your Annual Meeting in November.

My name is Philip Sugar, and I am speaking today on behalf of the thousands of waterman and recreational sports fishermen who love and protect the Chesapeake Bay.

For years, state and federal managers have placed the burden of conservation squarely on the shoulders of the everyday angler and waterman. We are told to cut our bag limits, measure our fish down to the exact fraction of an inch, and stay home during seasonal closures. We are told that every single striped bass counts.

But as a pilot who flies a Cessna over this Bay, I have seen the reality from the air. While regulators micromanage the recreational angler and waterman, industrial purse seine boats operate with staggering efficiency. It is like shooting fish in a barrel, stripping entire schools of menhaden out of the water in a single haul.

Let’s look at the simple math of what we are arguing about:

The Angler's Impact: When a sports fisherman keeps a single, healthy 10-pound striped bass to feed their family, or a waterman to protect their way of living and life that is a drop in the ocean.

The Industrial Impact: The industrial reduction fishery pulls 112.4 million pounds of menhaden out of the Chesapeake Bay under the current cap.

That 10-pound sport fish is equal to a single thimble full of water. The industrial reduction fishery is a massive, 15,000 gallon olympic swimming pool being drained right next to it.

Our recreational and commercial restrictions are meaningless if you allow a single corporate entity to wipe out the entire caloric foundation of the Bay. The 112 million pounds of menhaden taken by the reduction fishery could theoretically feed up to 7.7 million resident striped bass for an entire year. You cannot restrict the catch of predators on one hand while allowing the complete stripping of their food source on the other.

It is time to look at the scale of destruction. On behalf of all waterman and sports fishermen, I strongly urge the Commission to enact the full, maximum 50% reduction to the Chesapeake Bay harvest cap under Draft Addendum II. Stop policing the thimble while turning an eye to a swimming pool.

Please see my documentaries of the waterman of Southern Dorchester done in conjunction with seven time emmy winning producer Larry Engel.

Thank you.

Philip M. Sugar
310 Bohemia Ave, Chesapeake City, MD 21915
2105 Parks Neck Rd, Crapo, MD 21626
302.250.2164

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 1:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Wendy Duby

Email

wendyduby2000@yahoo.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please significantly limit how much menhaden can be fished out of the Chesapeake Bay. We need to keep a vibrant osprey communtiy.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 1:03 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

James Brownhill

Email

brownhill.j@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Dear Ms. Berger and Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,
I am writing as a recreational angler from Mullica Township, NJ to voice my strong support for the ecological protections proposed in Draft Addendum II to the Atlantic Menhaden Fishery Management Plan.
Atlantic menhaden play a critical role as a foundational forage fish. In the Chesapeake Bay, they are vital food for economically and ecologically important predators, including striped bass, bluefish, and vulnerable shorebirds like ospreys.
I strongly urge the Board to adopt options that reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by the maximum proposed 50% and establish strict quota periods. The current cap does not adequately account for the localized depletion happening within the Bay, leaving predators struggling to find enough food during critical life-cycle stages.
Implementing precautionary management tools, such as seasonal or area closures and a reduced harvest cap, is necessary to prevent further ecosystem destabilization and ensure the long-term health of our coastal fisheries.
Thank you for your time and for considering the ecological importance of menhaden in your final decision.
Sincerely,
James Brownhill

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 12:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Robert Beeson

Email

saxgeek49@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I am a Delaware and Maryland home owner. The 50% reduction is not enough! We need to save the infrastructure of our bay and our coast. As a homeowner on the Delaware coast, I have been absolutely distressed not only at the sight of empty Osprey nests, but I feel the entire ecosystem of the ocean has been impacted. I see few birds of any species feeding, see zero evidence of menhaden.. Sitting on Delaware's beach, the ocean is silent.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 12:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Bill Harris

Email

billharris_odt@verizon.net

State

Virginia

Comment

Our Chesapeake Bay will be totally destroyed if you let Omega keep taking all the menhaden. Please shut them down to protect our fisheries and mammals and our birds esp osprey. Bill Harris

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 12:42 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sarah Lavicka

Email

sarahlavicka@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I am in support of regulations that balance industrial menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay and related jobs with other priorities and benefits including wildlife and marine life diversity, clean water, and sport fishing.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 12:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Amy Allen-Chabaot

Email

amallenchabot@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Hi. I am very concerned about the loss of the osprey population due to the depletion of menhaden. We need stricter limits on how many menhaden can be caught so we can protect the osprey and the ecosystem at large. I support further restrictions on the number of menhaden that can be harvested. Thank you

Amy Allen-Chabot
Arnold MD.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 12:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Patricia Lehman

Email

lehmantrish@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Get smarter about Menhaden overfishing issues! Stop!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 12:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Anthony Coe

Email

anthony.carlton.coe@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

The issue of limiting Menhaden catch has been exhaustedly debated on both sides. Common sense and even a cursory examination of the evidence argues strongly for SOME type of greater limitation on the Menhaden catch. Please tale action quickly in limiting the catch and preserving this vital resource.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 11:53 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lou de Fonteny

Email

ldefonteny@optonline.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

Bunker are being decimated by an outside fishery.
Fish and birds are starving
This must stop now

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 11:51 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Daniel Morgan

Email

deelmo@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Menhaden are a backbone of the Chesapeake Bay. As critical filter feeders and the primary forage fish for striped bass, osprey, and marine mammals, their ecological value far outweighs their reduction value. Single-species metrics ignore localized depletion. Please implement stricter, ecosystem-based caps on the Bay reduction fishery to protect our multi-billion-dollar coastal economy. The actions recommended by CCA should be highly considered.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 11:49 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Richard Becker

Email

rbecker1@aol.com

State

New York

Comment

The threat to Peregrine Falcons continued success as a species is imperial. Scientist, believe it's a result of their food source being threatened. But it is not too late to save this exceptional raptor. Please regulate the fisheries so we can ensure this result.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 11:47 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Nick Sterrett

Email

nick.sterrett@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I strongly urge ASMFC to maintain the current 51,000-metric-ton Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap under Option A and not impose an additional reduction without a demonstrated biological need. Draft Addendum II itself acknowledges that there are currently not sufficient scientific data to comprehensively characterize menhaden abundance and distribution throughout Chesapeake Bay or determine the influence of fishing pressure on that availability. At the same time, ASMFC's 2025 assessment concluded that Atlantic menhaden are not overfished and overfishing is not occurring, and the coastwide TAC has already been reduced 20% for 2026 to 186,840 metric tons, a level projected to have a 0% probability of overfishing in 2026. Recent coastwide reduction landings averaged approximately 129,000 metric tons from 2020 – 2024, dramatically below historic harvest levels, which exceeded 300,000 metric tons annually during portions of the 1970s and 1980s and peaked above 700,000 metric tons in the 1950s. Further Bay-specific restrictions should be based on measurable biological need, not simply the assumption that less harvest must produce a better ecological outcome.
Menhaden are unquestionably an important forage species, but the Chesapeake Bay food web is far more diverse than much of the public discussion suggests. USGS information presented to ASMFC shows that osprey diets vary substantially by location: at Poplar Island, striped bass represented 48% of the diet compared with 44% menhaden, while in lower-Bay estuarine areas spotted seatrout represented 29% compared with 24% menhaden; in the upper Bay and Susquehanna, catfish and gizzard shad dominate. Likewise, the Chesapeake Bay Program's forage analysis identified 11 "Key Forage"

groups and listed menhaden separately among several “Additional Important Forage” species. More importantly, ASMFC’s Ecological Reference Points already account for predator needs. ASMFC states that striped bass and osprey are among the predators most sensitive to menhaden fishing and that ERPs designed to provide adequate forage for striped bass would likely also avoid declines in other predators, including osprey. ASMFC also states that even eliminating all menhaden fishing would not, by itself, rebuild striped bass. Long-running VMRC and PRFC condition sampling summarized in the materials includes nearly 100,000 striped bass since 1990 with no year indicating food stress, while Maryland’s juvenile surveys found 2023 and 2024 menhaden abundance at its highest levels since 1990 and found menhaden widespread throughout the Bay for a third consecutive year in 2025.

The economic consequences of an additional Bay Cap reduction also deserve much greater weight. ASMFC’s own Committee on Economics and Social Sciences describes the reduction fishery as a critical and central sector of the economy around Reedville and cautions that the effects of reducing production are not necessarily proportional. Because this is a capital-intensive industry with high fixed costs, there are production thresholds below which employment can change dramatically; the Committee specifically notes that if landings fall below the volume needed to cover those fixed costs, the result could be not a partial layoff, but potentially a 100% shutdown of the facility. The Draft Addendum likewise recognizes that the Atlantic reduction fishery has already contracted from as many as 25 processing plants and 147 vessels historically to roughly 10 vessels and one remaining Atlantic processing plant in Virginia. Once that infrastructure and those skilled jobs disappear, they cannot simply be recreated. The consequences would extend well beyond one company to fishermen, plant employees, contractors, truckers, suppliers, local businesses, tax bases, and generations of families throughout Reedville and the Northern Neck.

Finally, the Reedville fishery produces something of real national value: a domestic, renewable and independently certified sustainable source of fish meal and fish oil. The U.S. Atlantic menhaden purse-seine fishery is currently MSC-certified through 2031, and NOAA identifies menhaden as the largest source of U.S. fish meal and fish oil production. These ingredients provide high-quality protein, essential amino acids and EPA/DHA omega-3s to aquaculture feeds, helping produce nutritious seafood for people. NOAA notes that aquaculture is highly efficient at converting feed into edible protein, and FAO has similarly found that farmed fish generally convert feed to protein more efficiently than most terrestrial livestock—an increasingly important advantage as the world faces growing demand for food along with constraints on arable land, freshwater and agricultural inputs. Fish meal and fish oil are also significant ingredients in American pet food: U.S. manufacturers used approximately 96,700 tons of fish meal and 6,350 tons of fish oil in 2024, and the Pet Food Institute specifically identifies menhaden fish meal among the marine ingredients used in pet foods. Losing the Reedville operation would eliminate a major source of domestically produced marine ingredients and increase reliance on imported or alternative supplies, affecting not only the Northern Neck economy but customers and consumers across the country. These products help feed people and animals efficiently and sustainably – and for millions of American families, pets are family too. I respectfully ask ASMFC to follow the science, maintain the current Bay Cap, and avoid imposing potentially irreversible economic consequences without clear evidence that an additional reduction will provide a measurable ecological benefit.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 11:44 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Taylor Hoyt

Email

taylorhoyt@hotmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please, please put the health of our environment first and vote for reductions in the commercial harvest of the Atlantic Menhaden. A healthy stock of Atlantic Menhaden is critical maintaining a healthy marine ecosystem up and down the Eastern Seaboard. Atlantic Menhaden are a critical lifeline to fish stock, wildlife, commercial industries, and so much more. Making sure that harvest levels are balanced is absolutely necessary to ensure that there is not domino effect on everything that is dependent on these fish. For the record, I am not anti commercial harvesting of menhaden. I'm in manufacturing and actually a good portion of our sales comes from supporting the commercial fishing industry. I also regularly take fish oil pills and depend on various lubrication products that keep my machines running smoothly. I'm not naive to the fact that menhaden oil is present in these products. My point is that the current harvest levels and practices are simply unsustainable and all sorts of disasters are inevitably going to follow if the biomass is depleted further. You have a tough job, and have to balance a lot of interests- but balance is exactly what is needed here. It is currently not so.
Thanks
Taylor

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 11:37 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jennifer Chapman

Email

jennifer.chapman71@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

To the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board:

I am a Pennsylvania resident, conservationist, and avid bird watcher, and I am writing as an individual citizen who cares deeply about the health of the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Coast.

I grew up near the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland, and the Bay has been an important part of my life for as long as I can remember. I continue to spend time throughout the Chesapeake region and regularly visit the Atlantic Coast, including the Delaware beaches and New Jersey Shore. As someone who spends a great deal of time observing birds and wildlife in these ecosystems, I have a personal stake in ensuring that the forage base supporting these species remains healthy and abundant.

I strongly support reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by up to 50% and establishing a dynamic Bay cap tied to a fixed percentage of the coastwide Total Allowable Catch (TAC), such as 13.6%. I urge the Management Board to adopt these protections rather than treating the Chesapeake Bay as a separate reservoir of menhaden available for intensive harvest.

The Bay cap should be directly connected to coastwide management. If the coastwide TAC changes, the Bay cap should change proportionally. A dynamic cap tied to a fixed percentage of the coastwide TAC would prevent the Chesapeake from experiencing a disproportionate increase in harvest pressure simply because coastwide quotas have changed. The Bay is not an isolated fishery; it is a critical component of a larger coastal ecosystem. Its management should reflect that reality.

I also strongly support an option to reduce the Bay reduction cap by 50% and establish strict seasonal or split-period allocations. Harvest pressure should not be concentrated into a single season or short period when menhaden are particularly important to predators and the broader food web. Spreading harvest over defined periods—and reducing the overall amount available for reduction fishing—would provide greater protection against concentrated fishing mortality and help preserve menhaden when and where they are most ecologically valuable.

This is fundamentally an ecosystem issue. Menhaden are forage fish, and their value cannot be measured solely by the pounds available for reduction harvest. They are an essential food source for striped bass, ospreys, marine mammals, and numerous other predators. When management removes large quantities of a forage species from an ecosystem, the question cannot simply be whether the menhaden population as a whole can withstand that harvest. We must also ask whether enough menhaden remain available, in the right places and at the right times, to support the predators and ecological functions that depend upon them.

I therefore urge the Commission to apply conservative coastwide and Chesapeake Bay harvest limits and a sufficiently precautionary standard for achieving ecological reference points (ERPs). Management should prioritize maintaining a healthy forage base and give the ecosystem a meaningful margin of safety rather than managing toward the maximum harvest that models suggest may be sustainable under favorable conditions.

As a citizen who spends time in these ecosystems, I want to see healthy populations of striped bass, ospreys, seabirds, and other wildlife continue to thrive along the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coast. I believe that protecting the forage base that supports these species is a fundamental responsibility of fisheries management.

I respectfully but strongly urge the Management Board to:

• Adopt a Chesapeake Bay reduction cap reduction of up to 50%;
• Tie the Bay cap dynamically to a fixed percentage of the coastwide TAC, such as 13.6%;
• Establish strict seasonal or split-period allocations to prevent concentrated harvest pressure; and
• Use conservative harvest limits and precautionary ecological reference-point management that protects the forage needs of predators and the broader ecosystem.

The Chesapeake Bay is too important to manage with a narrow focus on harvest alone. Menhaden are a foundation of the coastal food web, and management decisions made today will affect the wildlife, fisheries, and ecosystems that depend on them for years to come.

Thank you for considering my comments. Please enter this letter into the official public record for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Chapman
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 11:35 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jane Welsh

Email

jamapaws@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I am writing concerning the plight of the NJ Osprey population in NJ.

Over the course of the last several years their numbers have declined dramatically, because the young are staring in their nests for lack of food, specifically the menhaden fish.

I urge you to ban purse seine fishing to help alleviate the lack of fish available to them. I also urge you to limit harvest on the Chesapeake bay, which is the most important nursery for menhaden.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 11:27 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Carol Harper

Email

harpercharperc@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please ensure the health and well-being of the Ospreys! After all that's been done over the years to bring back their population, do not let them suffer and become extinct. They are a valuable part of the CT River, its tributaries, and the entire Connecticut landscape. Please limit the fishing and do whatever else is needed so ospreys can thrive!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 11:24 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Tucker Rowlinson

Email

tuckermacleodrowlinson@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

While I support a complete ban on the industrial reduction of Atlantic Menhaden within the 3-mile limit of the entire Atlantic coast, reducing the cap by 50% in the Chesapeake Bay is at least a step in the right direction.

Our fisheries and marine ecosystems are under constant and growing assault by pollution, ocean acidification, and anthropogenic climate change-induced ocean warming. I implore the ASMFC to take any and all possible action to restrict the commercial reduction of atlantic menhaden and protect our fisheries for now and generations to come.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 11:04 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Andrew M Ramotnik

Email

pamotam1@cs.com

State

Maryland

Comment

This is a resubmission of my comment as the previous message noted my state as Massachusetts when it should have been Maryland. Thank you.

As brought to my attention by a Maryland non-profit organization with interest in the Chesapeake Bay, I concur with advocating for the following in Addendum II:

- 3.1 Bay Cap: Option C1E and C2A
- 3.2 Bay Cap Distribution: Option B2 (Even Length/Uneven Harvest) and Option B for Quota Period Overages/Underages
- 3.3 Bay Cap Revisit Provision: Option B (To revisit the Cap every three years)

Several years ago, I authored a paper as part of my graduate studies about Russia being forced to change its fisheries strategy from being "far-distant" to "near-distant." It's predecessor, the Soviet Union, possessed one of the world's most formidable distant-water fishing fleets. The fleets harvested vast quantities of marine protein from the North Atlantic to the Southern Ocean, oftentimes depleting one fishing zone and then moving on to another. However, the rapid global adoption of

Exclusive Economic Zones by many nations, compounded by the economic collapse of the USSR, forced the Russian fishing industry to pivot from a far-distant fishery to a near-distant operation focused heavily within its own domestic waters.

My paper dealt primarily with the Russian Far East: The Sea of Okhotsk and the Western Bering Sea which became the bedrock of their industry. Russia, heavily dependent on the ocean for profits as well as feeding its population and livestock sectors, was still dependent on a high-protein source. It focused its efforts on high-volume, cold-water species like Alaska pollock and herring. Unfortunately, their penchant for overfishing indiscriminately continued, whereby juvenile stocks were harvested along with adults, leading to future stocks being depleted by a reduction of adults to repopulate. Moreover, pollock do not comprehend international maritime boundary lines very well, and thus fish that crossed over into Russian waters from the US side oftentimes failed to return, thus causing economic harm to US fisheries.

While I no longer follow such issues since my retirement, reviewing the paper by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission on the declining menhaden's declining population in the Chesapeake Bay allowed me to reassess the importance of controlled fishing policies. And thus, I submit my comments to help in looking for better and stronger solutions and enforcement for this important fish stock. Thank you.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 10:58 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Andrew M Ramotnik

Email

pamotam1@cs.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

As brought to my attention by a Maryland non-profit organization with interest in the Chesapeake Bay, I concur with advocating for the following in Addendum II:

- 3.1 Bay Cap: Option C1E and C2A
- 3.2 Bay Cap Distribution: Option B2 (Even Length/Uneven Harvest) and Option B for Quota Period Overages/Underages
- 3.3 Bay Cap Revisit Provision: Option B (To revisit the Cap every three years)

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My paper dealt primarily with the Russian Far East: The Sea of Okhotsk and the Western Bering Sea which became the bedrock of their industry. Russia, heavily dependent on the ocean for profits as well as feeding its population and livestock sectors, was still dependent on a high-protein source. It focused its efforts on high-volume, cold-water species like Alaska pollock and herring. Unfortunately, their penchant for overfishing indiscriminately continued, whereby juvenile stocks were harvested along with adults, leading to future stocks being depleted by a reduction of adults to repopulate. Moreover, pollock do not comprehend international maritime boundary lines very well, and thus fish that crossed over into Russian waters from the US side oftentimes failed to return, thus causing economic harm to US fisheries.

While I no longer follow such issues since my retirement, reviewing the paper by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission on the declining menhaden's declining population in the Chesapeake Bay allowed me to reassess the importance of controlled fishing policies. And thus, I submit my comments to help in looking for better and stronger solutions and enforcement for this important fish stock. Thank you.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 10:48 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

William Thorn

Email

thornb54@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

There was a time in the not too distant past where I would leave Barnegat Inlet and be greeted by acres of bunker pods all up the coast toward Manasquan and beyond. Most, if not all, day markers in Barnegat Bay are nesting sites for Ospreys. But in recent years more and more nesting sites are vacant. Likewise bunker pods are becoming more and more difficult to find. I live in Barnegat Light and I found several dead young Ospreys in the marshes and on the beaches that look like they starved to death. Please follow the science and put reasonable regulations in place that protect this important resource. Time is of the essence. Thanks for the opportunity to contribute.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 10:35 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Tessia Hamilton

Email

tessiaeden@icloud.com

State

North Carolina

Comment

We need to take action to save the bay, a resource that many rely on for food. It shouldn't be able to be destroyed by foreign companies for short term profits. The locals need to take back what is ours, and we intend to do just that. We will continue to fight for what is right and I think the people we have elected should too.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 10:35 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Laura Thornton

Email

laura_thornton01@yahoo.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I support the CT Audubon's request to reduce the Menhaden Fishery cap by 50% in an effort to protect osprey and their potential offspring. I have the privilege of living with osprey nests in my front yard. They are an important part of our eco-system. Their depletion would be a serious blow to the shore bird population.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 10:31 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jason Stick

Email

stickjp@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Sounds like the current rules are creating an imbalance in nature. There should be a way to preserve jobs without causing harm to our ecosystem. Short term financial gains aren't worth the long term devastation that we'll create by being poor stewards of our natural resources.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 10:30 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NJ & DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

David Roth

Email

rothwood@comcast.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

I support a broad reduction in the Atlantic menhaden harvest off the coast of New Jersey and the Atlantic Coast in general. The recent crash in recruitment of Ospreys due to starvation is the Canary in the Coal Mine. The issue should be viewed in the context of long term economic viability of All commerce associated with this resource, not just one narrow sector. The economic value of commercial and recreational fishing of species dependent on Menhaden, as well as the burgeoning eco-tourism industry related to marine mammal and avian species far outweighs the limited benefit of a small sector of the economy. Seems like a straight forward choice to me.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 10:27 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Richard Smith

Email

rick.smith.mgs@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I strongly support a significant reduction of the allowable catch of Atlantic Menhaden to a level of 50% of current allowed limits. Why? The menhaden population is a critical component of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, some have called it a keystone species. It is also an important component for the economics of multiple CB industries including seafood harvesting such as Striped Bass, and recreational activities such as fishing and bird watching. My belief is that there is not a single factor that affects menhaden populations in the Chesapeake Bay and that the commercial catch is just one of those factors. Environmental factors most likely play the greatest role in population fluctuations, but until we are able to control the environmental factors we must have a capability to adjust and modify those factors that we can control. There are a number of studies that indicate that the Chesapeake Bay menhaden population might be affecting other important species of the ecosystem. Please consider this allowable catch reduction before it might be too late for some species such as the Osprey that are currently in decline. Thank you for your serious consideration of this important matter.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 10:14 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ron Boyer

Email

lizronmcboyer@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I am a retired environmental educator and am very concerned about the impact of the industrial menhaden harvest on the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. As an avid birder I am especially concerned about the impact to osprey in the bay. I urge you to reduce the Total Allowable Catch of Atlantic menhaden to no more than 100,000 metric tons for the next three years.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 10:14 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Erin Alvey

Email

nothanks@gkdkskskskskskjsjsjsjewwww.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I have personally witnessed the effects of menhaden fishing in the chesapeak bay on downstream (or rather, "up gulf stream?") ecosystems. Birds, marine life, and shoreline economies including tourism proliferated after the Covid-19 pandemic temporarily shut down commercial Menhaden fishing in the Chesapeak Bay; the impacts of that decreased take were immediate, profound, and even experienced all the way up in New England. After the pandemic regulations were lifed, the Menhaden populations crashed up north, and were once again profound and immediate but completely negative. Birds like osprey were starving, and nesting success plummeted. So too did recreational fishing, commercial fishing of other species, and tourism. It was amaxing to witness how quickly and broadly all these effects occurred, just by changing volume of Menhaden being fished in the Chesapeak Bay. Significantly decreasing the volume of Menhaden allowed to be fished will have profound positive economic and ecological impacts.

Menhaden are are one of the most important fish on the Atlantic Coast. They are vital not just as a food source to the birds and fish that call the coast home, but also as a key forage fish species that many of our bait fisheries, coastal communities, and small businesses rely on. The Osprey population has struggled in recent years, and it has become clear that a healthy menhaden population is critical to the health of the entire Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

As a concerned stakeholder, I want to thank you for the opportunity to comment on Draft Addendum II. I support the following management options:

3.1: Options C1e and C2a. I support a precautionary reduction in the Bay Cap by 50% of the current 51,000 metric tons for the reduction fishery. This will help increase the number of menhaden available in the Chesapeake Bay, an important nursery for Atlantic menhaden.

3.2: Option B2. I support the establishment of three quota periods for the Bay Cap at a 25/25/50% harvest distribution percentage per quota period. This will help reduce food competition for birds like osprey during the most vulnerable times of their life cycles.

3.3: Option B. I support reviewing the Chesapeake Bay Cap every 3 years. This gives the Commission the ability to plan and react to changing conditions and new information.

These options best support the Chesapeake Bay and ensure the health of our birds, peoplE, and planet.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 10:10 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Liz McDowell

Email

lmcd.mnps@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I am a retired environmental specialist and educator. I'm deeply concerned about the impact of the current industrial menhaden harvest not only on osprey but the entire Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. I urge you to reduce the Total Allowable Catch of Atlantic menhaden to no more than 100,000 metric tons for the next three years.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 10:10 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Erin Alvey

Email

nothanks@ggkskskksiwjejdjssssss.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I have personally witnessed the effects of menhaden fishing in the chesapeak bay on downstream (or rather, "up gulf stream?") ecosystems. Birds, marine life, and shoreline economies including tourism proliferated after the Covid-19 pandemic temporarily shut down commercial Menhaden fishing in the Chesapeak Bay; the impacts of that decreased take were immediate, profound, and even experienced all the way up in New England. After the pandemic regulations were lifed, the Menhaden populations crashed up north, and were once again profound and immediate but completely negative. Birds like osprey were starving, and nesting success plummeted. So too did recreational fishing, commercial fishing of other species, and tourism. It was amaxing to witness how quickly and broadly all these effects occurred, just by changing volume of Menhaden being fished in the Chesapeak Bay. Significantly decreasing the allowable volume of Mehaden fishing will have profound positive economic and ecological impacts.

Menhaden are are one of the most important fish on the Atlantic Coast. They are vital not just as a food source to the birds and fish that call the coast home, but also as a key forage fish species that many of our bait fisheries, coastal communities, and small businesses rely on. The Osprey population has struggled in recent years, and it has become clear that a healthy menhaden population is critical to the health of the entire Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

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3.1: Options C1e and C2a. I support a precautionary reduction in the Bay Cap by 50% of the current 51,000 metric tons for the reduction fishery. This will help increase the number of menhaden available in the Chesapeake Bay, an important nursery for Atlantic menhaden.

3.2: Option B2. I support the establishment of three quota periods for the Bay Cap at a 25/25/50% harvest distribution percentage per quota period. This will help reduce food competition for birds like osprey during the most vulnerable times of their life cycles.

3.3: Option B. I support reviewing the Chesapeake Bay Cap every 3 years. This gives the Commission the ability to plan and react to changing conditions and new information.

These options best support the Chesapeake Bay and ensure the health of our birds, people, and planet.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 9:55 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lisa Marek

Email

lisamarek65@gmail.com

State

Georgia

Comment

Please pay attention to our beautiful Osprey. Nature should not be affected by humans.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 9:52 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Marilyn Saulle

Email

mhsaulle@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

We live along the coast in CT and have observed the drastic reduction in the number of Osprey, gulls and other sea birds along our shoreline. Please pass the legislation to reduce the volume and timing of menhaden catch to give the menhaden time to rebound thus helping to save these important birds.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 9:49 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ellsworth Matthias

Email

ellsworthmatthias@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Menhaden are one of the most important fish on the Atlantic Coast. They are vital not just as a food source to the birds and fish that call the coast home, but also as a key forage fish species that many of our bait fisheries, coastal communities, and small businesses rely on. The Osprey population has struggled in recent years, and it has become clear that a healthy menhaden population is critical to the health of the entire Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

As a concerned stakeholder, I want to thank you for the opportunity to comment on Draft Addendum II. I support the following management options:

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 9:49 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Fed

Email

johncfed@yahoo.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please protect the menhaden for the sake of the osprey population. Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 9:44 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Nancy Booth

Email

Nancybraybooth@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Please restrict the catching of this all important fish.
And please make it a severe restriction.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 9:44 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jack Matthias

Email

jackmatthias@gmail.con

State

Connecticut

Comment

Menhaden are one of the most important fish on the Atlantic Coast. They are vital not just as a food source to the birds and fish that call the coast home, but also as a key forage fish species that many of our bait fisheries, coastal communities, and small businesses rely on. The Osprey population has struggled in recent years, and it has become clear that a healthy menhaden population is critical to the health of the entire Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

As a concerned stakeholder, I want to thank you for the opportunity to comment on Draft Addendum II. I support the following management options:

3.1: Options C1e and C2a. I support a precautionary reduction in the Bay Cap by 50% of the current 51,000 metric tons for the reduction fishery. This will help increase the number of menhaden available in the Chesapeake Bay, an important nursery for Atlantic menhaden.

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3.3: Option B. I support reviewing the Chesapeake Bay Cap every 3 years. This gives the Commission the ability to plan and react to changing conditions and new information.

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CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 9:08 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jo Chamberlain

Email

jochamberlain15@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

We must protect our Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. Species collapse is irreversible and the effects would be catastrophic. Not only do we need the catch restrictions enforced, but penalties imposed must be severe enough to prevent abuse.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:47 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

THOMAS ARMSTRONG

Email

tomann870@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Omega and their politicians in Richmond have been blocking meaningful studies regarding the health of all the Bay's species for decades.
Now Omega is asking us to allow them two more years to overfish the menhaden species.
Meanwhile, many of the species that allow on menhaden as their main food source are undernourished.
Fishermen have a long history of overfishing the animals that provide their livelihood.
Salmon, lobsters, cod to say a few in the US northeast and elsewhere have had to be restricted by regulation and have had varying degrees of recovery.
Ten years or so ago, Maryland and Virginia severely restrict Striped Bass fishing and that species has had a modest recovery.
The recovery of that fish would be stronger if there were more menhaden to eat.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:35 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Alicia Schirrmeister

Email

aliciaschirrmeister@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

Each summer I watch the ospreys roost at a neighbors next. They are a powerful marking of time for me. Children watch through binoculars at the fledging. We watch the male osprey bring food back to the nest. It is absolutely heartbreaking to think there is not enough food for the male to feed the hatchlings forcing the female to leave her chicks and then the chicks to starve and remain vulnerable to predators. This summer the screams of the chicks were particularly bad and in reading the horror of the amount of hatchlings surviving this year I am urging you to please, please curb the fishing so that these birds may continue to exist with us. We are not the only ones deserving of food. We can share. These are a keystone species. If they suffer who knows the invisible suffering taking place between the waters.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:20 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Gindy Feeser

Email

gindy.feeser@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

The strictest possible limits on menhaden need to be adopted. ASMFC needs to:

- Make the amount of Bay harvest responsive to coastwide management on the Atlantic.
- Make the timing of harvest more precautionary to protect menhaden predators.
- Make those timing limits actually mean something, by not allowing overharvest in certain periods.
- Make the entire system adaptable, with regular intervals to review how management is working.

The science is clear: ospreys are dying, and the foundation of the Bay's food chain needs relief.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:07 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Dan Zivi

Email

dzivi02@aol.com

State

Maryland

Comment

1) I strongly recommend implementing a 50 % reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery.
2) I have lived on the Magothy River in Maryland for 70 yrs and have in the past worked as a waterman commercially. I have been a life long advice angler.
3) I have witnessed the return of the osprey after banning DDT and now I am witnessing the demise of the osprey because they are not getting enough Menhaden to eat. This is tragic!
4) The concentration of intensive harvesting in the lower Chesapeake Bay for a reduction fishery is unacceptable. Especially without any scientific understanding of the consequences.
5) I urge managers to implement strict quota periods that distribute the harvest evenly across the year, instead of an intense summer harvest.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 7:24 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Rachel Berg

Email

rkberg15@gmail.com

State

North Carolina

Comment

I support the limit on the menhaden fishery. Their diminishing population affects ecosystems and economy. They must be preserved, and the population needs to be able to recover.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 7:15 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michael Ferrara

Email

mjferr@optonline.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

In past years there were many visible schools of Menhaden to be found in waters off NJ. This year I noticed none. Yet you tell us the Striped Bass catch needs to be smaller and I read Ospreys are in decline along the coast due to starvation. Perhaps you need to restrict the Menhaden harvest which both species are known to feed on.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 7:10 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michelle Doiron

Email

ab13mdcd@gmail.com

State

Rhode Island

Comment

We need to protect the osprey and cut the amount of fish caught by 50% to help them recover.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 7:00 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Wayne Johnson

Email

wjohnson4747@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please act now. Our minds often struggle to see the big picture. However, scientists and researchers have clearly laid it out before our eyes. We are running out of time.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 10:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Dave Eby

Email

ebypod@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I support the 50% reduction in cap of menhaden catch. I have lived in the Chesapeake Bay area all of my 60 year life. I have seen the recovery of the bay since the 1970's. I see the current catch of menhaden unsustainable and reversing the huge progress that has been made in health of the bay ecosystem. That recovery is both measurable and visible. The menhaden is critical to the health of many keystone species such as Rockfish and Osprey. Please reduce the catch limit! Too many jobs depend on a healthy bay ecosystem and we don't want to go backwards to an unhealthy ecosystem.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 9:41 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Thomas Cowdrey

Email

tocowdrey3@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

The Menhaden rules in Virginia are very political with nothing to do with science of the health of the Bay. To begin with, Virginia is the only state from Maine to Texas that allows Menhaden harvesting in their state waters. Why? Politics. You guys are using data from offshore which has nothing to do with the data that might be available if a true test of the Menhaden population in the Chesapeake Bay were used as it should be.

Bills in the Virginia Legislature have been introduced for the past 3 or 4 years that would fund a study done by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), the College of William and Mary, and many other stakeholders in the Bay region as well as Omega Protein. The funding has been refused by then Governor Younkin because he is good friends with Rob Wittman whose District includes Reedville, Virginia where Omega Protein operates. They are the primary harvester of Menhaden in the Bay.

Wittman makes one call to Younkin, and the funding is off the table. The only people fighting this study is a Canadian based company, Omega Protein. Everyone else, the retail bait and gear shops, the charter boat fishermen, the recreational fishermen, and everyone else that has any interest in fishing in the Bay is solidly against the take from the Bay of what has been called the most important fish in the Bay.

15 or 20 years ago, we caught 10-to-15-pound rockfish and blue fish in the Bay on a regular basis. Today they are practically nonexistent. The reason is simple. Their primary food source, menhaden, is so scarce.

Now let's talk about the Ospreys. The last 3 years have been the worst year on record since DDT for chicks to survive. Same reason. Omega Protein! The Osprey's primary diet (about 80%) in Virginia's lower Bay is Menhaden. As they go, so go the Ospreys.

The only real way to save the Bay, the Ospreys, rockfish and bluefish is a total ban on menhaden harvesting in Virginia waters like all of the rest of the states boarding the east and gulf coasts. The professional crabbers will survive since there are enough small-time menhaden harvesters to supply them with the bait they need to support their industry.

Your committee has the opportunity to do the right thing, but based on your past year's history, you guys don't have the guts to do help us save the Bay, the wildlife, the fishermen and bird lovers in Virginia. Part of the problem is our fault by allowing Omega Protein in our waters. We need to fix that for sure. Hoping your committee with do your part in this fight.

Tom Cowdrey
804-296-6194

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 9:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Robert G. McDowell

Email

sisubob@hotmail.com

State

New York

Comment

ASMFC,

Menhaden is shared resource, and should be shared by all.

What happens in the Chesapeake Bay affects the entire coast. The Bay is the largest estuary on the Atlantic coast, and many fish begin their lives there, especially the striped bass.

I want to go on record that I support addendum 2 and support option B4, with a 50 percent reduction to 25,500 metric tons.
Please do not link the Bay Cap to the Coastwide TAC.
I oppose option C,
I support option B1, and
I support option B, revisiting the cap every three years.

Thank you for your time,

Robert McDowell

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 9:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Peggy Cantfil

Email

peggy.cantfil@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I am advocating for a reduction in the menhaden harvest. This precious food source needs to be preserved for the Marine life in the Chesapeake Bay.
They matter.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 8:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Deidre Martin

Email

m.deidre@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I read an article in the Sandpaper (a newspaper on LBI) that Osprey are starving to death. They need more Menhaden. Please act so that the Ospreys do not die out. Thank you.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 8:40 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Maureen Wilson

Email

molfrcan09@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Writing to you with the hope we can find a balance between protecting our natural wildlife systems and allowing our fisherman tomake a living.
We need to look at overfishing as a serious issue.
My hope is you will consider the consequences of the loss of our seabirds like osprey.
All our birds of prey are under stress due to in part lack of food.
Once these things get critical there is no coming back.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 8:25 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Donna DiMassa

Email

dm.dimassa@prodigy.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

Menhaden, a small, nutrient-dense fish, is the key prey species for Ospreys feeding their chicks. However, menhaden populations are shrinking, which scientists believe is contributing to Osprey nest failures. It is your moral imperative to ensure that the menhaden are readily available for Ospreys who are fishing to feed their young. Please cut the harvesting of menhaden by at least 50% so that we do not lose these precious birds to starvation. Thank you!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 8:14 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jeff Stonehill

Email

machodoccreekmarina@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I spoke at the last public comment but I want to reiterate my vote.

I SUPPORT:
3.1.....50% cut in Bay Cap. There should be NO fishing in the Bay.....PERIOD!
3.2...Even seasons
No pay back's....If you dont catch your quota, too bad.....leave the fish in the Bay
3.3...Revist every 3 years or sooner.

I have lived through this before, Long Island Sound back in the '70's-'80's.....purse sein boats came in and wiped out the bunker population in LIS for many years. All fisheries just tanked.

I have been a charter Capt. up and down the East Coast and have seen the decline in the menhaden population first hand. If you kick out the legs of the chair you are sitting on.....what happens? The chair falls, menhaden are the "legs" of the waters. You take out all the farmers.....what happens? We have no food and people die off. I now live on the Bay and work on the Bay.....we used to have acres of menhaden in the Bay and in the Potomac, now.....none!

Rockfish, Reds, Blues.....Ospreys, dolphin.....everything DEPENDS on the menhaden population. Why is this so hard for you all to grasp.

This is a Canadian company that is taking OUR resource for their own selfish profit. What goes on in the Bay effects the ENTIRE East Coast, how many people is that?

I was in the Law Enforcement arm of VMRC.....I used to check theses ships in port. What they do is criminal, the amount of fish they take is just absurd. When Omega went over their Bay cap a few years back.....they just thumbed their nose at the world and said....so what. Nothing was done to them.

There should be NO fishing in the Bay or in any part of VA state waters. All the other states ban this practice. How can Virginia be "right" to say sure.....fish in our state waters, when NO other sate on the East Coast allows this fishing in their waters. Oh.....except Louisiana....oh thats right, thats where Omegas other fleet operates. How coincidental!

Lobbyist money goes a LONG way. Richmond needs to stop this practice once and for all. BIG money certainly steers this ship for Omega. Just check and see how much money goes to Richmond politicians.

I could go on.....do the right thing and stop this practice.

Capt. Jeff Stonehill
King George, VA.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 7:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Reynoldo Rodriguez

Email

rrodrig396@aol.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Reduce menhaden harvest by 50%. Commercial fisheries have over harvested and caused significant damage to the food chain. Ospreys and larger fish the feed on the menhaden are under stress and starving

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 7:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Teralyn LaChance

Email

tlachance@ctwoodlands.org

State

Connecticut

Comment

Connecticut's Ospreys are sending a warning.

CT Audubon's Osprey Nation program ended its 2026 season with its worst breeding success ever.

With 99% of the season's data compiled, Osprey productivity stands at just 0.87 chicks per breeding pair, down sharply from the previous record low of 1.26 in 2025.

For the first time in Osprey Nation's 13-year history, the majority of successful nests produced only one fledgling rather than two — a troubling sign that food shortages may be playing a major role.

"This is an unmistakable warning sign," said Conservation Science Manager Matt Joyce. "This is probably the strongest evidence we have that there is an issue with prey provisioning."

That's why Connecticut Audubon is making one final push to protect Atlantic menhaden, an important food source for Ospreys.

We are urging the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to reduce the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery cap by 50% as a precautionary step to help ensure enough fish remain for Ospreys and other wildlife.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 7:30 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lucretia Flammang

Email

anniethesailor@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please take into consideration the effect of fisheries on the Osprey population. In particular, the cap on menhaden fished in the Chesapeake Bay should be reduced by no less than 50%.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

L.A. Flammang

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 7:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Michael Walker

Email

mfw@pinkmantis.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

PLEASE conserve menhaden and pass regulations curtailing factory ship harvesting of this vital forage species, so critical to healthy coastal and oceanic ecosystems. The scale of devastation wreaked by Omega Protein and like companies should be criminal and must be stopped.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 7:03 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Terry Walman

Email

terrywalman@comcast.net

State

Maryland

Comment

I am in strong favor of reducing the harvest of Menhaden in both the Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Waters by at least 50% and reducing the seasonal quota.
In fact, I am in favor of a total moratorium of the commercial harvesting of this fish for at several years in an attempt to preserve the species.

I live on the water, off the Severn River. Over the past several years, we have noticed a major decline in the ospreys, cormorants, and other predator species (all relying on Menhaden as food). I have noticed an increase in seasonal sitings of dolphins, as high north as the Bohemian River (looking for food). We have seen, first hand, the Osprey nest declines along Greenbury Point, and Mill Creek. This has been a dramatic change.

The over commercial harvesting has greatly created a decline in a major food-chain fish, the menhaden. These commercial companies need to be greatly limited in how much, and how, they harvest both in the Chesapeake and along the Coastal waters. Spotter planes, used to locate the schools of fish, should be outlawed!

Protect the Menhaden before it is too late!

Thank you for your consideration.
Terry Walman

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 7:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Linda Elliott

Email

elliottwalman@comcast.net

State

Maryland

Comment

I am in strong favor of reducing the harvest of Menhaden in both the Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Waters by at least 50% and reducing the seasonal quota.
In fact, I am in favor of a total moratorium of the commercial harvesting of this fish for at several years in an attempt to preserve the species.

I live on the water, off the Severn River. Over the past several years, we have noticed a major decline in the ospreys, cormorants, and other predator species (all relying on Menhaden as food). I have noticed an increase in seasonal sitings of dolphins, as high north as the Bohemian River (looking for food). We have seen, first hand, the Osprey nest declines along Greenbury Point, and Mill Creek. This has been a dramatic change.

The over commercial harvesting has greatly created a decline in a major food-chain fish, the menhaden. These commercial companies need to be greatly limited in how much, and how, they harvest both in the Chesapeake and along the Coastal waters. Spotter planes, used to locate the schools of fish, should be outlawed!

Protect the Menhaden before it is too late!

Thank you for your consideration.
Linda Elliott

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 6:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Eric Waytowich

Email

ericwayto@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

Reduce coast wide total allowable catch by 40% and the Chesapeake total allowable catch by 50%. To preserve the fishery and help our local waters.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 6:36 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Harry Porter

Email

harry.porter1260@gmail.com

State

District of Columbia

Comment

It is evident why all other states have limited menhaden fishing to a much more stringent degree than Virginia. It's abundantly clear that the Osprey population is critically impacted by the declining menhaden levels, and the additional ecological impacts, many of which are likely unseen as of now, will surely add up. The state of Virginia needs to recognize the overfishing and course correct by imposing safe limits akin to those in other central Atlantic states. Save our waters and save the ospreys.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 6:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Margie Dove

Email

margied01@comcast.net

State

Maryland

Comment

We need to STOP over fishing the Menhaden. Ospreys nests are in trouble. No food for the babies. Our striped bass are in trouble again foraging for food against the Blue catfish Omega protein regularly overfished their quota and their quota is too large to begin with. My suggestion would be to allow them to Only fish the ocean. Give the Osprey a chance.
I used to get baby strippers in my minnow traps. Haven't seen them in quite a few years

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 6:20 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Dyanna Caballero

Email

dyannamc@gmail.com

State

Florida

Comment

This isn't just an environmental issue. This is about basic survival.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 6:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Beth Mariotti

Email

bethlmariotti@yahoo.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please adopt a 50% quota cut on commercial menhaden harvest in the Chesapeake Bay.
As an Osprey steward for the Connecticut Audubon Society I am alarmed by the sudden and grave decrease in Osprey and nestlings that we have been monitoring.
I am horrified to know that the population decrease I am witnessing is due to starvation as a result of overfishing of menhaden in Chesapeake Bay. But, I am optimistic that Osprey can be saved by limiting the quota of menhaden harvest.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 6:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Amber Ewing

Email

amberewing791@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC):
I am writing as a Maryland resident who has lived in St. Mary's County since 2001 and has developed a deep personal connection to the Chesapeake Bay. I am an avid conservationist, angler, birder, and someone who spends considerable time on and around the Bay. I am also deeply interested in the wildlife that depends upon this remarkable ecosystem, particularly osprey, striped bass, sharks, whales, and other species whose survival is tied directly or indirectly to a healthy forage base.
I strongly support a 50 percent reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons annually. I also strongly support establishing seasonal quota periods for menhaden so that harvest is distributed throughout the year rather than concentrated in an intense summer fishing window.
The Chesapeake Bay is facing an ecological crisis that should not be minimized or postponed. Declining productivity, widespread osprey nest failures, and continued concerns about the condition of the striped bass population are warning signs that demand a precautionary approach to the management of one of the Bay's most important forage fish - menhaden.
Menhaden are not merely another commercial commodity. They are a foundational component of the Chesapeake Bay food web. They provide critical forage for striped bass, osprey, bluefish, weakfish, dolphins, and numerous other predators. Removing very large quantities of menhaden from the Bay during the period when they are most concentrated and most biologically important deserves particularly careful scrutiny.

The scale and timing of the reduction fishery are especially troubling. More than 100 million pounds of menhaden can be removed under the existing Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap. When that harvest is concentrated into a relatively short summer period, the ecological effect is not simply a matter of the annual tonnage. Where and when the fish are removed matters.

An intense summer harvest can create localized depletion at precisely the time when menhaden are serving as forage for other species. It also potentially deprives recreational anglers, commercial watermen, charter operators, and the broader coastal tourism economy of access to a shared public resource. These competing interests deserve meaningful consideration in the management process.

I am particularly concerned about allowing an annual quota to be treated as though the timing of harvest is irrelevant. It is not. A fish removed from the Bay in June is not ecologically equivalent to that same fish being harvested months later. The Bay's predators have seasonal feeding requirements, and the availability of forage during critical periods can matter greatly to their survival and reproductive success.

For that reason, I urge the Commission to establish strict seasonal quota periods that distribute the allowable harvest more evenly throughout the year and prevent the reduction fishery from concentrating an extraordinary volume of harvest into the summer months. Seasonal management would provide a more precautionary approach and would better recognize the fact that Chesapeake Bay is a dynamic ecosystem rather than simply another geographic allocation within a coastwide fishery.

There is also an important management issue that deserves attention. The Commission's coastwide menhaden assessment does not provide the same level of quantitative information about menhaden abundance and availability specifically within Chesapeake Bay. That uncertainty argues for caution—not for assuming that the Bay can safely sustain the maximum allowable harvest.

The Chesapeake Bay belongs to all of us. It belongs to the watermen who have made their living here, the recreational fishermen who pursue its species, the sailors and boaters who enjoy its waters, the communities whose economies depend upon it, and the wildlife that has no voice in these proceedings. Menhaden management should reflect that broader public interest.

I respectfully urge the Commission to:

1. Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons per year.
2. Establish firm seasonal quota periods for menhaden.
3. **Prevent excessive concentration of reduction harvest during the summer months.
4. Apply a precautionary approach in light of ecological uncertainty and the importance of menhaden as forage.
5. Give meaningful consideration to the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the Bay's broader tourism economy.

I have spent years watching, enjoying, and caring about the Chesapeake Bay. I have seen firsthand what makes this ecosystem extraordinary, and I am increasingly concerned about the signs that its productivity and resilience are being strained.

We should not wait until the consequences are unmistakable before acting.

The prudent course is to reduce the intensity of the reduction fishery now, protect menhaden as a critical forage resource, and distribute harvest in a manner that gives the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem a better opportunity to sustain the wildlife and fisheries that depend upon it.

Thank you for your consideration and for your responsibility to future generations of Chesapeake Bay users and stewards.

Sincerely,

Amber Ewing
St. Mary’s County, Maryland

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 6:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Salvatore Girardo

Email

spg117@comcast.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

Beyond the early spring of this year, I have seen no schools of Bunker or Manhattan swimming along the coast. I have a beachfront house in Long Beach Island. And I am able to observe what goes on in the water on a daily basis. The lack of Manhattan schools is alarming and this has caused a severe reduction in the fledgling of osprey chicks. Therefore it is necessary to significantly reduce the commercial harvesting of Manhattan along the eastern seaboard, including New Jersey and the Chesapeake Bay to restore these schools of this very important fish.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 6:03 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

William Johnson

Email

bjohnson090@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Please vote to restrict the menhaden harvest in the Chesapeake Bay. It is time to replace the old simplistic population management model with a more nuanced community based approach that can recognize specific areas for separate management if needed.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 5:50 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

William Wade Sr

Email

bwadesr@msn.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I am a retired charter boat captain, and I have seen, firsthand, the reduced population of two very popular fish species, namely Striped bass and Bluefish.

Please consider severely reducing the amount of menhaden that are currently being caught in the Virginia portion of the Chesapeake Bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 5:42 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Streit

Email

johnwstreit@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Responsible management of the menhaden fishery in Virginia is long overdue. It's time to restore this keystone species before it's too late.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 5:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Brian Williams

Email

millnemc@aol.com

State

District of Columbia

Comment

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC):
I, and as many of my friends as I can muster, strongly support reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent—from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons per year—and establishing strict seasonal quota periods for menhaden. The Chesapeake Bay is too important, and the ecological warning signs are too serious, to continue managing this critical forage fish as though the timing and location of harvest do not matter.

We have lived in District of Columbia and St. Mary's County since for well over 30 years and have developed a deep personal connection to the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River and the associated watersheds. We spend considerable time on and around the Bay. We live on the water in the Potomac watershed and have seen the decimation of the Osprey population and its impact on the overall ecosystem. We care deeply about the wildlife that depends upon it, particularly osprey, striped bass, and other species whose survival is tied to a healthy and abundant forage base.

We are seeing warning signs that should demand a precautionary response. Declining productivity, widespread osprey nest failures, and continuing concerns regarding the Chesapeake Bay striped bass population are not isolated issues. They are reasons to examine carefully whether we are removing too much forage from the Bay at the wrong time.

Menhaden are a foundational forage species. They feed an extraordinary range of predators, including striped bass and osprey. Yet the reduction fishery can remove more than 100 million pounds of menhaden from Chesapeake Bay under the existing annual cap. When a substantial portion of that harvest is concentrated into an intense summer fishing window, the issue is not simply how many fish are removed annually. It is when and where those fish are removed.
A menhaden harvested from a concentrated school in the Bay during the summer is no longer available to the predators that depend upon that school. Concentrated removal can create localized depletion during a biologically important period and can affect the availability of forage to other users of this shared public resource.
The consequences extend beyond the reduction fishery. Menhaden support the Bay's recreational fishing economy, commercial and charter fishermen, watermen, wildlife, and coastal tourism. One user group (Canadian or otherwise) should not be permitted to concentrate an enormous harvest of a shared forage resource during the period when that resource is most important to the rest of the ecosystem and to other Bay users.

For that reason, I urge the Commission to take the following actions:
• Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent to 25,500 metric tons annually.
• Establish strict seasonal quota periods that distribute harvest throughout the year rather than permitting an intense summer harvest.
• Apply a precautionary management approach in light of uncertainty regarding localized menhaden abundance and the ecological condition of the Chesapeake Bay.
• Give greater consideration to the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the broader Chesapeake Bay economy.
The Chesapeake Bay is not simply a location on a fisheries-management map. It is a complex and interconnected ecosystem, and menhaden are one of its essential links.
We can not wait for further deterioration before taking action. A later solution will come at extreme cost.
As someone who lives here, sails these waters, dives in them, and cares deeply about the wildlife that depends upon them, I believe the Commission has an obligation to manage menhaden conservatively and to recognize that the health of the Bay must take precedence over maximizing a concentrated industrial harvest.
Reduce the cap. Establish meaningful seasonal quotas. Protect the forage base. Give the Chesapeake Bay—and the people and wildlife that depend upon it—a greater margin for recovery.
Living here I would like to be remembered for sustaining what has made the Chesapeake “the land of pleasant living. Not decimating it for myopic corporate greed. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Brian L. Williams
District of Columbia and St. Mary’s County, Maryland

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 5:37 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Steven Welder

Email

WELDERSA@HOTMAIL.COM

State

Maryland

Comment

Menhaden are the "Keystone" prey fish species in our coastal and bay waters.
Menhaden are also filter feeders and clean vast amounts of water...averaging 4 gallons per minute. That is how they eat, filtering tiny phytoplankton, algae, and zooplankton from the water.
This is something that needs to be done.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 5:21 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Deborah Campbell

Email

DebbieSCampbell@comcast.net

State

Maryland

Comment

I strongly support the most protective alternatives in Draft Addendum II, including the maximum 50 percent reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap. I believe these protections are necessary now, but should be viewed as an interim step toward removing industrial reduction fishing from Virginia state waters.
I have a direct and longstanding interest in this issue. I am a Maryland property owner and also own Bay-adjacent property in Northampton County, Virginia. I am the Editor and a founder of Menhaden Little Fish - Big Deal!, a member of SMRFO and the Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association (VSSA), a recreational angler, and a conservation advocate.
The central scientific question is not whether Atlantic menhaden are healthy coastwide. It is whether there are enough menhaden within Chesapeake Bay, in the right places and at the right times, to meet the needs of predators and the broader ecosystem while a concentrated industrial reduction fishery operates there. ASMFC itself has acknowledged that the coastwide stock assessment cannot answer that Chesapeake-specific question.
Recent osprey research documenting food stress and poor reproductive performance, unresolved questions about localized depletion and concentrated fishing near the Bay entrance, and the continuing lack of adequate Bay-specific abundance and movement data all argue for precaution. These studies do not prove that the reduction fishery alone is responsible for the ecological problems being observed. But the absence of conclusive proof of harm should not be treated as proof that harm is not occurring.

Economic considerations should also extend beyond the reduction fishery. Menhaden left in the water support predator fisheries, recreational and commercial fishing, wildlife, tourism, and other ecosystem values. The January 9, 2024 Northampton County Board of Supervisors resolution demonstrates that concerns about industrial menhaden fishing are also shared by a Virginia locality directly affected by this fishery.

My concern is personal as well. I have seen the effects associated with this fishery along the Chesapeake shoreline, including images of fish kills that have stayed with me, while birds I have loved watching have diminished or disappeared from familiar places. Those observations are not substitutes for scientific evidence, but they explain why the unresolved scientific questions matter so much to me.

When I fish with children, I teach them that conservation means taking responsibility for what we remove from the water and leaving enough behind for the ecosystem and for those who come after us. I believe our fisheries-management institutions should follow the same principle.

Please adopt the strongest protections available under Draft Addendum II, continue and accelerate Chesapeake-specific science, and begin developing a long-term framework to move the industrial reduction fishery out of Virginia state waters.

Debbie Campbell
Editor and a Founder, Menhaden Little Fish - Big Deal!
Member, SMRFO
Member, Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association (VSSA)
Maryland Property Owner
Bay-Adjacent Property Owner, Northampton County, Virginia
Recreational Angler and Conservation Advocate

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 5:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Martha Johnstonn

Email

marthakjohnston@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I am writing to strongly support the adoption of the following options under Draft Addendum II. These measures will reduce the Chesapeake Bay's menhaden harvest, time the harvest more sensitively, build a smarter management system, protect menhaden especially at critical points of their life cycle, keep Bay harvest limits tied to coastwide management, and ensure that management can adapt as new science becomes available.

Specifically,
3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount: - I support option C1e, which would reduce the Bay Cap by 50 percent and limit it to 13.6 percent of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC). I also support option C2a, which sets an upper limit of 51,000mt for the Bay Cap — which is the current level.

3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution: I support option B2, which establishes three equal-length quota periods for the Bay Cap, but distributes harvest as follows: 25 percent in period 1, 25 percent in period 2, and 50 percent into period 3. I also support option B, which establishes quota-period overage payback and rollover of unused quota within a fishing year.

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision: I support option B Revisit Provision, which would reassess the

efficacy of these new management tools every 3 years.

I write this as a birder, volunteer naturalist and nearly lifelong Maryland resident, who, growing up on the Bay, has known about menhaden since childhood. I have witnessed the resurgence of Osprey in the Chesapeake Bay -- the nation's leading nesting population -- and the recent devastating decline in nesting success due to nestling starvation. Let's do the one thing that we know will help Ospreys by adopting the options specified above in Draft Addendum II to better manage the tonnage and timing of menhaden harvests in the Chesapeake Bay. Thank you.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 4:56 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ed Walker

Email

walker.ed@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I recommend that the current cap take into account that Virginia has approved a study of the impact of the menhaden fishery on rockfish and osprey populations. If that study benefits from either the status quo or a reduction of the cap, I would support that.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 4:04 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Peter Snieckus

Email

docbluefin@verizon.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

In addition to Chesapeake Bay, the Delaware Bay and Barnegat Bay (NJ) areas are being affected by the Menhaden shortage. We have had dramatic decreases in Osprey fecundity due to starvation of the chicks, and our striped bass fishery is dramatically being affected by the paucity of Menhaden.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 4:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jacqueline Daigle

Email

hugsfromjd@hotmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please help save the osprey by protecting their nesting, breeding and hunting sites.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 3:12 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

NY & CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/ny-ct-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Melissa Ziobron

Email

mziobron2026@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

We must act swiftly to limit the commercial catch in Virginia of menhaden. As a former CT legislator, board proxy and active saltwater sportsmen I can attest to the growing concern over a telltale sign in the CT River Valley—-abysmal Osprey nesting success. I fought in 2015 to install an Osprey platform on the East Haddam Swingbridge and have marveled at the growing nesting pairs along our river and Long Island Sound. This year was heartbreaking to watch failure and yet failure.

Please re-examine the catch size and I fully support the most aggressive reductions possible. We must do more to acknowledge the importance of this critical species to our ecosystem.

Best Regards,
Melissa Ziobron
East Haddam

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James Boyle

From: Info (ASMFC)
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 11:31 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Menhaden Draft Addendum II

From: info@asmfc.org <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 7:18 PM
To: Info (ASMFC) <info@ASMFC.ORG>
Subject: [External] New website contact submission from Contact Us

Name

Anne Betz

Email

anne.r.betz@gmail.com

Get in Touch

I'm concerned with the lack of data on menhaden population and the status showing they are not being "over fished". Evidence of a declining osprey population points to issues with overfishing.

Draft Addendum II addresses actions to be taken now that will allow for the rebuilding of the menhaden numbers and benefiting the Chesapeake community at large. Failure to do so will shorten the future of the menhaden industry along with a dire impact on our bay.

Thank you for your support of The Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

Sincerely,
Anne Betz
703 Mary Ball St
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
Anne.r.betz@gmail

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 11:16 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/va-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

alan lott

Email

alantomorgan@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Please put a 50% or more cap on menhaden fishing. Make Omega move further out into the ocean. Put fishing and birds, particularly Ospreys first. It's hard to understand how The Tyson Foods poultry processing plant in hanover va closure in May 2023 eliminating 692 jobs wasn't a big deal to the State, but the Omega processing plant with less than half the number of employees is carrying so much political weight unless the State is being paid off. The science has always been there. Lets be honest.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 10:08 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Julia Mallalieu

Email

juliamallalieu@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I strongly support reducing the Menhaden fishery cap by a full 50%.

As concerned citizen and lifelong resident of the Lynnhaven River watershed, I feel a strong connection to the waters upon which both people and wildlife depend. The Chesapeake Bay and the broader Atlantic ecosystem are extraordinary resources, but they are also fragile and must be managed responsibly.

Modern fishing techniques, including the use of spotter aircraft and purse seines, have made it possible to harvest Menhaden with extraordinary efficiency. While these methods support a commercial fishery, that efficiency also means we must be particularly careful not to remove so much Menhaden from the ecosystem that insufficient numbers remain for the many species that depend upon them.

Menhaden are a critical part of the marine food web. They provide an important food source for Osprey, striped bass, bluefish, dolphins, whales, and numerous other species. Protecting adequate Menhaden populations is therefore not simply about protecting one fishery, it is about protecting the broader ecosystem and the communities, recreational opportunities, and commercial fisheries that depend upon it.

A 50% reduction in the harvest cap would be an important step toward ensuring that Menhaden remain abundant enough to support both a sustainable fishery and the wildlife that depend upon them. Responsible management today will help ensure that fishermen, boaters, anglers, and future generations can continue to benefit from the bounty of the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic coast for years to come.

I am particularly concerned about the health of Osprey populations and the challenges facing Osprey fledglings. We have an obligation to do a better job of sharing these waters with the wildlife that depend upon them. Maintaining a healthy and abundant Menhaden population is an important part of that responsibility.

I respectfully ask that you take action to protect Menhaden, Osprey, and the many other species that rely upon this vital food source by reducing the Menhaden harvest cap by 50%.

Thank you for your attention to this critically important matter and for your efforts to protect the Chesapeake Bay, the Atlantic ecosystem, and the communities that depend upon them. I would welcome the opportunity to support additional efforts to protect this vital resource.

With hope,

Julia Mallalieu

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 9:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

ME, NH, MA & RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/me-nh-ma-ri-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Caroline Ianniello

Email

caroline.ianniello@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

Hello,
My name is Caroline Ianniello and I am a fisheries scientist with a PhD from Boston University. I am in favor of the following actions:

-Reducing the initial Chesapeake Bay Cap by 50%, from 51,000 to 25,500 metric tons.
-Establishing the Bay Cap at 13.6% of the coastwide total allowable catch so it can adjust when the coastwide quota changes.
-Maintaining 51,000 metric tons as the maximum Bay Cap, with no fixed lower limit.
-Allocating 25% of the Bay Cap during the first quota period, 25% during the second period, and 50% during the final period.
-Requiring early-season quota-period overages to be deducted from the corresponding period during the following year.
-Requiring ASMFC to revisit the Chesapeake Bay Cap and related management measures every three years.

I have done extensive research on the interaction between menhaden and water quality variables (see https://academic.oup.com/icesjms/article/83/7/fsag117/8725438), and recognize that this valuable resource is under pressure not only from the commercial industry, but also water quality habitats such as decreased oxygen and variable chlorophyll

levels that will cause it physiological stress. Please take strong actions to ensure that this fishery lasts into the future, as well as the fisheries that it supports.

Thank you,
Caroline Ianniello, PhD

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 6:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

General Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Paul Mallalieu

Email

mallalieupaul@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I strongly endorse the reduction in the Menhaden fishery cap to a full 50% reduction.

As a USCG licensed mariner and environmentalist, I am deeply connected to the waters which we humans, along with most all other species rely upon to sustain life. Modern fishing techniques such as the use of spotter planes and purse seines make collection by humas simply too efficient, leaving little for the rest of our wildlife who depend upon the Menhaden as a vital resource, just as we do.
Modern fishing techniques, including the use of spotter aircraft and purse seines, have made it possible to harvest Menhaden with extraordinary efficiency. While these methods support a commercial fishery, that efficiency also means we must be particularly careful not to remove so much Menhaden from the ecosystem that insufficient numbers remain for the many species that depend upon them.

Menhaden are a critical part of the marine food web. They provide an important food source for Osprey, striped bass, bluefish, dolphins, whales, and numerous other species. Protecting adequate Menhaden populations is therefore not simply about protecting one fishery, it is about protecting the broader ecosystem and the communities, recreational opportunities, and commercial fisheries that depend upon it.

A 50% reduction in the harvest cap would be an important step toward ensuring that Menhaden remain abundant enough to support both a sustainable fishery and the wildlife that depend upon them. Responsible management today will help ensure that fishermen, boaters, anglers, and future generations can continue to benefit from the bounty of the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic coast for years to come.

I am particularly concerned about the health of Osprey populations and the challenges facing Osprey fledglings. We have an obligation to do a better job of sharing these waters with the wildlife that depend upon them. Maintaining a healthy and abundant Menhaden population is an important part of that responsibility.

I respectfully ask that you take action to protect Menhaden, Osprey, and the many other species that rely upon this vital food source by reducing the Menhaden harvest cap by 50%.

Thank you for your attention to this critically important matter and for your efforts to protect the Chesapeake Bay, the Atlantic ecosystem, and the communities that depend upon them. I would welcome the opportunity to support additional efforts to protect this vital resource.

With hope,

Paul Mallalieu

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:58 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Cooper Swyer

Email

swyerco@rfhstudent.org

State

New Jersey

Comment

Stop overfishing our bunker just for some fish oil pills, its taking away the food for the stripers and its harming the environment and throwing off the food chain

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:58 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Danny Forrest

Email

wendana24@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Please vote for a 50% reduction in menhaden!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:54 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Susan Twidle

Email

suetwi7@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I am writing to express my concern over declining rates of osprey fledging along the Jersey Shore this year. According to the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ and Stockton University biologists, this was the worst breeding season for osprey in 30 years. In 2023 there were 800 nests in NJ , now in 2026 there are only slightly more than 500 with activity. 57% of those failed to produce any young. Those that did, saw many fledglings starve and die. Something needs to be done to stabilize the population of this great predator.

My family enjoys watching the osprey fish off the Ocean Grove beaches, using the pier as a vantage point before their dramatic plunge! We look forward to their annual return, seeing the nest platforms built by the Belmar Rte 35 bridge, the Bradley Beach gas station, Asbury Park High School and Loch Arbor areas get occupied by nesting pairs. We can hear their distinctive from our back porch as they head home or to the oven.
NJ took these birds off their Endangered Species list in 2025. Something has changed.

Atlantic Menhaden are their primary food source. I am asking you to rein in the menhaden catch limits to bring these magnificent birds back and stabilize the ecosystem before it is too late. The Neptune NJ Public Library is having a program on Osprey on January 23rd to make the public aware of their decline and to encourage citizen science. Ben Wurst will be the

speaker. We will not sit by and see a bird that came back from the brink once, disappear without a fight. Please help the osprey by limiting the menhaden catch now!

Atlantic Menhaden are their primary food source. Something must be done to limit

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:50 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Paul Serino

Email

paul.serino@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I'm a Maryland resident and recreational angler who fishes the Chesapeake Bay out of Solomons Island for rockfish and bluefish. I urge the Board to adopt the strongest options in Draft Addendum II: a 50% reduction to the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap, a Bay Cap linked to the coastwide TAC, and three quota periods so harvest can't concentrate in the spring and summer.

The Bay is the most important nursery on the coast for menhaden and for the predators that depend on them. Striped bass have had years of poor spawning success, ospreys in parts of the lower Bay are struggling to raise chicks, and the Board itself started this addendum because of concerns about impacts on the Bay's bait fisheries. Menhaden are the foundation all of that rests on. Allowing up to 51,000 metric tons a year to be pulled out of the Bay by industrial purse seines works against everything Maryland and Virginia are doing to rebuild striped bass.

The Bay Cap hasn't changed since 2018, even though the Board cut the coastwide TAC by 20% for 2026. The Bay Cap is now a larger share of the coastwide limit than before, which is the wrong direction. Linking the cap to the TAC fixes that going forward, and a 50% cut corrects where we are today.

The Board's own Work Group could not determine whether there are enough menhaden in the Bay to meet predator demand. When the science can't answer that question, the precautionary choice is to leave more fish in the water, not to keep harvesting at the same level and wait for proof of harm.

A 50% reduction is the most this addendum allows, and I support it. I also urge the Board to begin work on moving reduction fishing out of the Chesapeake Bay entirely. The Bay is a nursery and should be managed like one.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Paul Serino
Gaithersburg, Maryland

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:50 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Robert Beskin

Email

robertbeskin@hotmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Please encourage and find money for scientific studies of this extremely important resource.
Also, until the facts are know, caution is best.
RRB

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:49 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Katherine Railey

Email

klrails@me.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I support reducing the cap by 50%.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:48 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Tony Levinson

Email

tonyelevinson@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Quit raping the bay.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:40 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

rebecca currin

Email

rcurrin1@mindspring.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I support the CBF position on protection of menhaden and the bay and its inhabitants. Key points are:

Section 3.1 Bay Cap Amount: Options C1e (reduces the Bay Cap by 50% and then links it to the Coastwide catch limit at a 13.6% proportion) AND option C2a (Upper Cap limit of 51,000mt and no lower limit)

Section 3.2 Bay Cap Distribution: Options B2 (3 even length/uneven harvest quota periods 25%-25%-50%) AND Option B (establishes quota period overage and underage provisions)

Section 3.3 Bay Cap Revisit Provision: Option B (revisit the Bay Cap every 3 years)

Thank you

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:40 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Nancy Schott

Email

nfschott@cox.net

State

Virginia

Comment

50% Reduction

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:39 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Tefankjian

Email

jtefankjia@aol.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Please consider the draft with 50% cut coastwide , a moratorium is what is really needed till stocks rebound.. Many of us fishermen and Osprey lovers support Menhaden Defenders!
Thank you John Tefankjian

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:39 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Matthew Rehder

Email

jimrehder@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Subject: Public Comment: Protect Chesapeake Ospreys by Capping Menhaden Harvests
Dear Commissioners,
I am writing to express grave concern over the alarming decline of Chesapeake Bay Ospreys and to urge immediate action to reduce industrial menhaden harvests in the Bay.
Recent scientific studies show Osprey breeding success in the lower Bay has fallen to record lows, driven primarily by chick starvation. Menhaden are the foundational forage fish for our ecosystem, yet delivery rates to nests have dropped over 80% in key breeding grounds like Mobjack Bay.
While coastwide stock estimates look stable, industrial purse-seine fishing causes severe localized depletion during critical nesting months. Ospreys are the "canary in the coal mine" warning us that the food web is failing.
I urge the Commission to:
1. Significantly lower the Chesapeake Bay industrial harvest cap.
2. Establish seasonal closures in sensitive nursery areas from April through July.
Please act today to safeguard our forage fish and protect the Bay’s iconic wildlife.

Thank you a concerned citizen of the Chesapeake Bay Area. Please feel free to reach out to me @ 443-872-2846

Matthew Rehder

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:39 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

John Tefankjian

Email

jtefankjia@aol.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Please consider the draft with 50% cut coastwide , a moratorium is what is really needed till stocks rebound.. Many of us fishermen and Osprey lovers support Menhaden Defenders!
Thank you John Tefankjian

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:39 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Steven Schott

Email

nfschott@cox.net

State

Virginia

Comment

50% Reduction

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:38 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Alan Herod

Email

herodah@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC):

I am writing as a Maryland resident who has lived in St. Mary's County since 1990 and has developed a deep personal connection to the Chesapeake Bay. I am an avid nature lover, angler, kayaker, snorkeler and scuba diver, a conservationist, and someone who spends considerable time on and around the Bay. I have personally seen a sharp decline in the number of occupied Osprey nests visible from my house. Last year's occupancy was down to one of three occupied and this year none were occupied. I am also deeply interested in the wildlife that depends upon this remarkable ecosystem, particularly osprey, striped bass, sharks, whales, and other species whose survival is tied directly or indirectly to a healthy forage base.
I strongly support a 50 percent reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons annually. I also strongly support establishing seasonal quota periods for menhaden so that harvest is distributed throughout the year rather than concentrated in an intense summer fishing window.

The Chesapeake Bay is facing an ecological crisis that should not be minimized or postponed. Declining productivity, widespread osprey nest failures, and continued concerns about the condition of the striped bass population are warning signs that demand a precautionary approach to the management of one of the Bay's most important forage fish - menhaden.

Menhaden are not merely another commercial commodity. They are a foundational component of the Chesapeake Bay food web. They provide critical forage for striped bass, osprey, bluefish, weakfish, dolphins, and numerous other predators. Removing very large quantities of menhaden from the Bay during the period when they are most concentrated and most biologically important deserves particularly careful scrutiny.

The scale and timing of the reduction fishery are especially troubling. More than 100 million pounds of menhaden can be removed under the existing Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap. When that harvest is concentrated into a relatively short summer period, the ecological effect is not simply a matter of the annual tonnage. Where and when the fish are removed matters.

An intense summer harvest can create localized depletion at precisely the time when menhaden are serving as forage for other species. It also potentially deprives recreational anglers, commercial watermen, charter operators, and the broader coastal tourism economy of access to a shared public resource. These competing interests deserve meaningful consideration in the management process.
I am particularly concerned about allowing an annual quota to be treated as though the timing of harvest is irrelevant. It is not. A fish removed from the Bay in June is not ecologically equivalent to that same fish being harvested months later. The Bay's predators have seasonal feeding requirements, and the availability of forage during critical periods can matter greatly to their survival and reproductive success.
For that reason, I urge the Commission to establish strict seasonal quota periods that distribute the allowable harvest more evenly throughout the year and prevent the reduction fishery from concentrating an extraordinary volume of harvest into the summer months. Seasonal management would provide a more precautionary approach and would better recognize the fact that Chesapeake Bay is a dynamic ecosystem rather than simply another geographic allocation within a coastwide fishery.
There is also an important management issue that deserves attention. The Commission's coastwide menhaden assessment does not provide the same level of quantitative information about menhaden abundance and availability specifically within Chesapeake Bay. That uncertainty argues for caution—not for assuming that the Bay can safely sustain the maximum allowable harvest.

The Chesapeake Bay belongs to all of us. It belongs to the watermen who have made their living here, the recreational fishermen who pursue its species, the sailors and boaters who enjoy its waters, the communities whose economies depend upon it, and the wildlife that has no voice in these proceedings. Menhaden management should reflect that broader public interest.
I respectfully urge the Commission to:
1. Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons per year.
2. Establish firm seasonal quota periods for menhaden.
3. **Prevent excessive concentration of reduction harvest during the summer months.
4. Apply a precautionary approach in light of ecological uncertainty and the importance of menhaden as forage.
5. Give meaningful consideration to the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the Bay's broader tourism economy.
I have spent years watching, enjoying, and caring about the Chesapeake Bay. I have seen firsthand what makes this ecosystem extraordinary, and I am increasingly concerned about the signs that its productivity and resilience are being strained.

We should not wait until the consequences are unmistakable before acting. The prudent course is to reduce the intensity of the reduction fishery now, protect menhaden as a critical forage resource, and distribute harvest in a manner that gives the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem a better opportunity to sustain the wildlife and fisheries that depend upon it.

Thank you for your consideration and for your responsibility to future generations of Chesapeake Bay users and stewards.

Sincerely,
Alan Herod
St. Mary’s County, Maryland

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:34 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Justin Milledge

Email

jmilledge@gillespieprecast.com

State

Maryland

Comment

3.1 Option C1e – Reduce Bay cap by 50%

3.2 Option B2 – Distributes harvest over the season

3.3 Option B – Allows reassessment of management every three years

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:31 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Chris Penniman

Email

chrisepenniman@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

With osprey populations crashing from starvation, please help support osprey as well as the fish populations that depend upon menhaden. Please decrease the levels of menhaden that can be harvested by fisherman. You have opportunity to turn this negative situation around. Menhaden is the primary food source of osprey chicks and the current menhaden population is no longer available in the quantities needed to support them. Menhaden are one of the most important fish on the Atlantic Coast to other species to fish as well.

As a concerned stakeholder, I want to thank you for the opportunity to comment on Draft Addendum II. I support the following management options:

3.1: Options C1e and C2a. I support a precautionary reduction in the Bay Cap by 50% of the current 51,000 metric tons for the reduction fishery. This will help increase the number of menhaden available in the Chesapeake Bay, an important nursery for Atlantic menhaden.

3.2: Option B2. I support the establishment of three quota periods for the Bay Cap at a 25/25/50% harvest distribution percentage per quota period. This will help reduce food competition for birds like osprey during the most vulnerable times of

their life cycles.

3.3: Option B. I support reviewing the Chesapeake Bay Cap every 3 years. This gives the Commission the ability to plan and react to changing conditions and new information.

These options best support the Chesapeake Bay and ensure the health of our birds, people, and planet.

Sincerely,

Chris Penniman
Old Lyme, CT

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:27 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Stephen King

Email

stephenking4747@hotmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Hello my name is Stephen King; I have lived on the Northern Neck all my life and have fished the bay since I could walk. My boat is actually docked in Reedville, and I have family who work for Omega. Me and some of my family members have talked about the menhaden issues and the lack of fish, and I can tell you firsthand, they don't care, they are in it for the money and at the end of the season they are on unemployment and still get paid. PLEASE SAVE THE BAY AND VOTE FOR OPTION C1e reducing the bay cap 50%. If Omega can't live off making 1million dollars a year instead of 2million and we know this is just a throwing numbers out there, maybe VA needs to shut them down like other states did to save the bay and the small people who make a living.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:15 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lisa Barker

Email

lbarker30@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I am very concerned about the overfishing of Menhaden in the bay. We need to protect our bay for the welfare of all the fishermen long-term, as well as the wildlife that lives here.

The following are the important points I believe should be included:

Section 3.1 - Option C1e - Reduce Bay Cap 50% and limit it to 13.6% of the total coast-wide catch. This seems like a fair solution to start the bay on the way to recovery and can be looked at again in 3 years (see below).
Section 3.2 - Option B2 - Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution. This distributes the allowed harvest over the season as opposed to concentrating it during the most sensitive time for osprey reproduction.
Section 3.3 - Option B - Allows reassessment of management practices every 3 years. As the science progresses, these policies would get regularly reviewed.

Thank you.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:13 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

James Talbott

Email

jtalbott@gillespieprecast.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I am a avid fisherman and love the bay an we need to save it!

I am in support of the following:

3.1 Option C1e
3.2 Option B2
3.3 Option B

Thank you,

Jim Talbott

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:02 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kathleen S Maynard

Email

ksmaynard1654@icloud.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

As a long-time visitor to the New Jersey shore, the reduction of the Osprey Population is obvious and startling and discouraging. Please make sure to encourage and support the retrieval of data regarding this escalating issue and reduce the quota of the Menhaden catch accordingly…before it's too late!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:01 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kathryn Mattingly

Email

kassym@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

RE: Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Hello,

Please support options that cut the Bay cap by up to 50% and establish strict seasonal blocks for menhaden harvest. Caps should be tied dynamically to a fixed percentage (e.g., 13.6%) of the coastwide Total Allowable Catch (TAC), and fishing mortality spread out to protect juvenile nurseries during peak vulnerability. This keystone species is vital forage for osprey and striped bass; industrial harvest must NOT starve local predators and endanger the entire ecosytem.

I am a lifelong resident of the Chesapeake Bay watershed who is alarmed by the collapse of osprey populations, and I request that my comment be entered into the official record.

Thank you.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:58 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Allyson Gleason

Email

allyson.gleason@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Growing up in Old Lyme, where I still reside, and spending summers on our island off the coast near Rocky Neck State Park, I have witnessed firsthand the incredible abundance of wildlife that once defined this area, particularly our osprey populations. In recent years, however, I have seen a devastating decline in menhaden, commonly known as bunker, which are a critical food source for ospreys and other marine wildlife.

As commercial fishing pressure has increased, the impact on our local ecosystem has become increasingly difficult to ignore. I have personally witnessed ospreys struggling to find food and, heartbreakingly, dying of starvation. An area that once supported thriving wildlife now feels like a shadow of what it used to be. These changes are not just numbers on a chart or statistics in a report; they are happening in the waters, marshes, and shorelines that I have called home my entire life.

We need stronger, science-based fishing regulations and meaningful protections for menhaden populations before the damage becomes irreversible. These fish are a fundamental link in our coastal food chain, and when they disappear, the consequences ripple throughout the entire ecosystem. Ospreys cannot survive without an adequate food supply, and neither can the countless other species that depend on these waters.

At what point do we recognize that our desire to harvest natural resources does not give us the right to destroy the ecosystems that sustain other living beings? We have a responsibility to be stewards of these waters, not simply to exploit them for short-term gain. Wildlife has an inherent value beyond its economic usefulness, and we have an obligation to protect the species with which we share this planet.

I fear that if we continue down this path without stronger safeguards and accountability, we will lose the very wildlife that makes this place so special. We cannot keep taking from nature without giving it the opportunity to recover. Protecting menhaden means protecting ospreys, our coastal ecosystem, and the future of the place we call home. We must act now, before what was once abundant becomes something our children and grandchildren only hear stories about.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:56 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ana Maciel

Email

leicamea@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Please put reasonable restrictions once we can prove this is impacting birdlife.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:55 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kalpana Kotagal

Email

kkotagal@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Please limit menhaden catch quotas by 50% to protect osprey.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:43 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Carmina Posthumus

Email

hcposty42@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

For the sake of the Osprey population, I request that the allowable Menhaden harvest be reduced.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:41 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Charles Ellis

Email

djcharlabeast@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

It is critical to the health of the Chesapeake bay that a reduction in Menhaden harvesting takes place.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:38 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Karen Fales

Email

kpf6631@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

3.1 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount
Support option C1e: that reduces the CAP by at least 50 percent in 2027 and limits the future Bay Cap to 13.6% of the Coastwide Catch Limit (TAC).
Also, support option C2a, which sets an upper limit of 51,000mt for the Bay Cap (the current level).
3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution
Support option B2, which establishes three even length quota periods for the Bay Cap, but distributes harvest 25% in period 1, 25% in period 2, and 50% into period 3.
Also, support, option B, which establishes quota period overage and underage provisions within a fishing year.
3.3 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Revisit Provision
Support Option B to revisit the Bay Cap every 3 years.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:37 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jay Gnanasekaran

Email

jgnanas1@jh.edu

State

Virginia

Comment

We need to reduce commercial and industrial fishing

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:27 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Tom OBrien

Email

tjo716@msn.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Reducing the Chesapeake Bay cap is a commonsense, ecosystem-based management decision that prioritizes the long-term health of the Bay over concentrated commercial extraction. We need to look at the Science and not the money and political aspects.

Industrial harvesting from over-concentrating in this critical nursery habitat has to be mitigated.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:24 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Marsha Kirchhoff

Email

marshakirch@yahoo.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Please do whatever is necessary to protect the menhaden fish from fisheries. It is the cycle of nature for them to feed other animals in the wild. Man should not interfere with these cycles.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:24 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Dory Broeckaert

Email

steveanddory@cox.net

State

Virginia

Comment

I do NOT support lowering the cap on commercial menhaden harvests by commercial fishermen in the Chesapeake Bay. The current reduced menhaden population has created widespread nesting failure to the Chesapeake Bay Osprey population. Any further reduction in the menhaden harvest cap would severely harm the largest Osprey breeding population in the world. Due to the current conditions researches at the Center for Conservation Biology at William & Mary expect the Osprey population to decline by 50% in the next ten years. The Osprey population needs to recover before any cap reduction is considered. In fact, a moratorium should be implemented on commercial menhaden harvests for a set period.

As a resident of Virginia and a supporter of responsible conservation management of the Chesapeake Bay I DO NOT SUPPORT lowering the cap on the commercial menhaden harvests.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:22 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Amy Law

Email

alaw.design@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I understand this decision pits conservation of this ecosystem against people's jobs, but I still think it's necessary to curtail the fishing further. It is one of the few levers we can control to help preserve our Osprey population as well as the general health of the bay. If we prioritize unsustainable fishing jobs now, we will likely lose both the ecosystem AND the jobs in the long run.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:18 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

James Baker

Email

addisonesq@gmail.com

State

Florida

Comment

Please institute the contemplated catch quota reduction immediately. Doing so is not an irreversible decision, but resource depletion beyond recovery is irreversible. Don't study the issue while the fish continue to be harvested; study it when they commence recovery. This debate has gone on long enough. Take strong action now.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:17 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Kirsten Chapman

Email

kirstenlchapman@yahoo.com

State

Maryland

Comment

As a concerned resident of Maryland, I fully support limiting the Menhaden catch by commercial boats by 50%. Our Bay and other Atlantic Coast estuaries will not thrive without this fish. Please think of the longer view instead of the bottom line of corporate entities who could seek alternative options like farming fish, or vegetarian alternatives.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:15 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jason Meczkowski

Email

jmecz001@hotmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Anytime a species that can affect the entire ecosystem is in a compromising situation. We should be looking after what is right for our waters.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 8:59 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Barbara Cox

Email

barbaralcox@hotmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

They are destroying our ecosystem please make them stop abusing the system!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 8:41 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Ross Baker

Email

rvbaker15@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I'm a Virginia Beach resident and long time recreational fisherman and boater. Regardless of what Omega Protein keeps telling your commission, the menhaden schools of the lower Chesapeake bay are nonexistent compared to 25 years ago. Omega took millions and continues to take millions. We're the only state on the east coast that allows the reduction fishery. Why is that? Currupt politics. No other explanation comes close to making sense. We have no striped bass fishery, where it was once the best in the world. Why? No bait, no menhaden.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 8:39 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Pamela Jones

Email

pamela@pamelajonesesq.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please protect the Chesapeake Bay menhaden! Please adopt restrictive caps on the trawling that captures huge numbers of the menhaden. The Osprey have become a beloved symbol of maritime America.

The Osprey courageously endeavor to return to the east coast every year against all odds! The Osprey have become a national symbol beloved by all who know their story!

The Osprey need the manhaden so please do the right thing and protect the manhaden for the Osprey!

Thank you

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 8:38 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Amy O'Sullivan

Email

amyosullivan77@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I am writing in support of draft addendum II. Menhaden are a crucial forage fish that many other species depend on. The health of our Atlantic ecosystem depends on a balance of predator and prey species and disrupting this balance can lead to dire consequences.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 8:25 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Amos BARKAI

Email

abarkai@olsps.com

State

Maine

Comment

Although OLSPS is not involved in the management of the menhaden fishery in the USA, we felt it would be relevant to note that a new fishing data collection technology, developed by OLSPS, is now used by the entire menhaden fishery. We believe that the steps the menhaden fishing industry has taken over the last few years have significantly improved data collection, quality, credibility and management in this fishery. By taking these steps, the industry has voluntarily addressed a key issue the Commission raised: "the Commission acknowledges that data are currently insufficient to comprehensively measure Bay-wide abundance or isolate the exact contribution of fishing pressure versus environmental conditions." As a result, the uncertainty caused by insufficient data has been considerably reduced. Given the major social and economic impact of introducing such drastic measures, perhaps less radical steps could be taken instead. Of course, the menhaden resource should still be monitored for trends, with stepwise action taken where the much-improved data collection process supports it.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 8:17 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Brian Berman

Email

berman1904@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I fully support reducing menhaden catches by 50% on the Chesapeake Bay and creating quota periods to distribute harvest under the cap more evenly throughout the fishing season. I live on Langford Creek off of the Chester River and have seen a frightening reduction in ospreys nesting on platforms on our creek. This past summer, all but one of the 10 or so platforms on our creek were empty and the nest on the one platform produced no chicks. This is a deeply troubling change from 15 years ago when most of these platforms were bustling with life, and has been one that has been particularly noticeable over the past 5 years. No industry or business should be allowed to wipe out the ecology of the Bay and in this case the menhaden fishery in Virginia is benefitting only itself and a very few jobs.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 7:15 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Tim Riley

Email

rileytimothy323@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Please reduce the take of Menhaden for all the marine life that depends on them.
There doesn't seem like there is any common sense when it comes to protecting wildlife and marine life.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 6:37 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Cliff Dean

Email

annapolis_outboard@yahoo.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I have seen my fishing stock decline since the 80's, Used to be schooling fish everywhere, now bay is pretty much dead, no menhaden to feed on!! This overfishing has got to stop.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 6:09 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Soenke Brandt

Email

soenke301@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Option 1
Please stop the industrial harvesting of this important fish in the Chesapeake Bay.
Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 3:53 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Keith Jacobs

Email

longfinz3@icloud.com

State

Delaware

Comment

As a previous resident of Maryland for 60 years, and USCG master Captain, I personally witnessed the effects of Menhaden depletion on the Chesapeake Bay Striped Bass fishery. The fact that the factory ships have continued to operate unbridled for years is a complete failure, and goes against all common sense for the fishery and ecosystem of the Bay. It is lomg past time the politics support this stop. In addition, it is long past time that the commercial Striped Bass fishery in the Chesapeake be shut down, and only a managed recreational fishery exist. Stop the Omega fishery!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 3:11 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Janet Riese

Email

janriese@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I live on the Chesapeake Bay. We have always noticed the osprey flying over and frequently landing on our dock. As an admirer of Audubon's prints of birds, the osprey carrying its menhaden fish with the classic forward direction is truly an emblem of CHESAPEAKE BAY HERITAGE! How could anyone want to lose that. I have photos and videos of the osprey landing on our dock and eating or flying over our house to a protected creek to feed it's young on their nests. Last year we put up a tall perch on our dock and also a very small feeding platform for them (never big enough to build a nest which wouldn't last with the Bay winds). This year there have been very few to land on our dock.

When there are other sources of fish oil, etc. for the commercial industry overfishing MY MENHADEN that supports the fish we love in not only inhumane it is illogical! MicroAlgae Farming is just one alternative. Insect protein another and there are so many more. PROFITS! Virginia is the only state left that doesn't prohibit this inhumane fishery industry. Please stop it now! Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 12:39 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Sierra Duca

Email

si.kr.du@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

Ospreys are crucial indicators of ecological health, and their declining reproductive success signals massive ecological disruption linked to menhaden overfishing. Immediate government action is essential to restore menhaden populations and protect the entire Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 11:43 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Nicholas Edwards

Email

njwards24@snet.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

I would encourage the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to strongly consider reducing the cap how many menhaden can be fished out of the Chesapeake Bay. We have seen significant declines in the osprey population in Connecticut, with greatly reduced number of successful nests and fledglings, due to lack of food. Connecticut had made great strides in improving the osprey population in recent years, and that success is being undone. I myself have seen the impact; since last year, the large schools of menhaden that I would normally see in the harbor in Milford, CT every year have been absent. This gap in the food supply chain is having harmful impacts on the other animals that depend on those fish for food.

Please consider reducing the menhaden cap, to help reduce the impact it is having on other parts of the ecosystem.

Thank you,

Nicholas Edwards
Milford, CT

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 11:27 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

jennifer Frank

Email

jennifergfrank@cox.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please consider reducing the Menhaden fishing cap in the Chesapeake Bay by 50% as strongly recommended by the CT Audubon Society and other environmental groups. And consider other measures that might result in a bigger supply of Menhaden as food for birds and other wildlife. As is clearly demonstrated by the significant reduction in number and survival rate of osprey chicks over the last few years, and especially in 2026, the careless overfishing is causing starvation and reduced fertility in the birds that depend on Menhaden.

We don't have to wait for the bird populations to completely crash, as happened with the bald eagles and peregrine falcons (and others) caused by the pesticide DDT.

The evidence is clear and compelling. Please DO SOMETHING to help restore the balance and food supply needed by the osprey and similar wildlife.

Thank you very much.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 11:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

andrew trauth

Email

trauth22@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Reduce the menhaden harvest

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 5:04 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

S Campbell

Email

scampbell.lw@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Atlantic menhaden are a vital forage fish serving as the foundation of the marine food web along the U.S. Atlantic coast.

For any group, much less one company, to take ~70% of this vital foundational resource for their own profit, is unsustainable, which is obvious, even to a non-expert. The total percent of menhaden taken by ALL types of fishing in any year should be no more than half that, or 35% due to the enormous downward pressures and losses of other necessary wildlife, like Ospreys.

In another year or two at current levels, Ospreys are not the only bird or wildlife that will be near extinction levels.

We need only use common sense to set catch limits, but by all means please use well done, highly valid studies and work to return to what has been normal for Ospreys and other affected species and limit human menhaden catches to allow the Chesapeake Bay to flourish in all ways.

Thank you.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 5:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Jane Jacobson

Email

jjacobson434@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I live right beside Long Island Sound in Woodmont CT and actively support the Osprey Nation. My comment asks the Fishery Commission to reduce the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery cap by 50%. This reduction will support the population of Osprey that mainly feed on fish and so depend on an abundance of prey species like menhaden.

Once, the restoration of the Osprey was a success story in such strongholds as Old Lyme's Great Island. This year, only five chicks fledged there. As a participant in community science, I have also seen evidence of increased Osprey nest failures. Our observations and reports for August 2025 showed that about 1 in 6 nests failed; for this year, 2026, roughly 1 in 4 nests failed.

Please reduce the fishery cap for Chesapeake Bay menhaden by 50% and ensure that the Osprey can again be a successful presence along our Atlantic shores.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 4:14 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Angier Brock

Email

abrock@duck.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Please protect the menhaden, a primary source of food for our local Osprey and also Bald Eagles. Without the protein from the menhaden, the shells of the female Osprey's eggs are not strong enough to survive hatching. We need to keep our ecosystems as much in balance as possible, and the overfishing of menhaden has had deleterious effect on our birds. Ideally, it would be paused for several years. And at the very least, it should be limited/restricted. Thank you for your serious consideration of this matter.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 4:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Charles Beers

Email

beerscharles5@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Close the harvest of menhaden on the Chesapeake Bay. The benefits of closure will accrue to not only the ospreys who are being devastated, but watermen, fisheries, and various other species. Just like the rockfish, takers were warned of a crash. They ignored it, and the species crashed. The same was true of cod in the Atlantic and other species. Unless you close the fishery for menhaden, just like the crabbers, the clammers, the lobster men, and the oyster men, the harvest was their livelihood so they would attempt to take them until there weren't any more.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 3:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lisa Colangelo

Email

lcolangelo@verizon.net

State

Maryland

Comment

It's shocking and so sad to me that such disregard for the osprey population has been allowed to continue. At this point the only solution that will allow the osprey population to recover is a complete ban of harvesting for rendering of the Atlantic Menhaden. Cooke Inc. of Canada should be held responsible for this terrible ecological state of affairs.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 3:41 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Emily Lange

Email

mlelange@yahoo.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I am writing as a Maryland resident and someone who cares deeply about the Chesapeake Bay and the wildlife that makes this place so special.

Every summer, I look forward to seeing ospreys along the Bay. Their return, their nests, and the sight of parents carrying fish back to their chicks are part of what makes the Chesapeake feel alive. That is why reports of ospreys struggling to find enough food and declining reproductive success are so deeply troubling to me.

Menhaden may be small, but they are enormously important. They are a foundational part of the Chesapeake Bay food web and an important source of food for ospreys and many other fish, birds, and wildlife. Removing large quantities of menhaden for industrial reduction has consequences that reach far beyond the fishery itself.

We should be asking a basic question: How many menhaden does the Chesapeake Bay need to remain a healthy, functioning ecosystem?

Until we can answer that question with confidence, I believe we should err on the side of protecting this essential forage fish

rather than continuing intensive industrial harvest.

I urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to adopt the strongest reduction under consideration in Draft Addendum II: a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap. I also support better distribution of harvest throughout the season, while recognizing that this alone will not address the need for sufficient menhaden during the critical osprey breeding season.

If the science ultimately shows that the Bay can sustainably support a larger harvest, we can adjust management accordingly. But if we wait until osprey populations, fisheries, and other wildlife have suffered significant and potentially irreversible declines, it may be too late.

The Chesapeake Bay belongs to all of us, and so does the responsibility to protect it. Menhaden are part of the Bay's living infrastructure. Protecting them means protecting the ospreys I love watching, the fish and birds that depend on them, and the health of the Bay itself.

Please put the health of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem first and substantially reduce the industrial menhaden harvest.

Thank you for considering my comment.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 3:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Thomas Versichelli

Email

hrafn221@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I strongly support the 50% reduction in current Menhaden harvests in Virginia.

Chesapeake Bay watermen are seeing Menhaden catches plummet, blue crab fishermen are spending more on bait, and Osprey chicks are starving to death.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 12:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Elizabeth Varga

Email

lizvarga@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I strongly favor thoughtful, major restrictions and quotas on farming Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay. Commercial fishing is greatly disrupting the ecosystem and threatening the survival of Osprey as well as other birds including Bald Eagle, Brown Pelican, Common Loon, and Royal Tern, and fish that consume Menhaden.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 12:04 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Elaine Scribner

Email

authorelainescribner@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

When the fish disappear, the Ospreys starve

I am the current president of the Harford Bird Club in Maryland. On behalf of my 175+ members, I urge you to stop & regulate this unconscionable practice.

The numbers show just how serious the crisis has become. In the 1980s, Chesapeake Ospreys were producing enough young to sustain their populations, averaging about 1.15 fledglings per nesting pair; today, in the most affected areas, production has fallen to just 0.25 fledglings per pair—less than one-quarter of the level needed for replacement. ([AP News][1]) Menhaden, which historically made up roughly 75% of the Osprey diet in the 1980s, now account for less than 30% in the mainstem waters where much of the Bay's Osprey population breeds.

The consequences are heartbreaking: chicks are starving, nest failures are increasing, and many adult pairs are no longer attempting to breed. Recent peer-reviewed research has documented widespread reproductive deficits in Chesapeake Bay Ospreys, while other research has also identified factors such as salinity that contribute to the decline, underscoring the need for careful, science-based management. ([Frontiers][2]) Menhaden are a critical forage fish for Ospreys and many other

species, and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is already considering reductions in the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap. ([ASMFC][3])

I urge Maryland fisheries officials to act now: protect enough Menhaden in the Chesapeake to ensure that Ospreys and the broader Bay ecosystem have the food they need to survive and recover. We have watched the numbers fall from levels that sustained healthy Osprey reproduction to levels that cannot sustain the population. We should not wait until this conservation success story becomes another crisis.

[1]: https://apnews.com/article/5ae89afbbac47630180c1784a38c185f?utm_source=chatgpt.com "Osprey came back from the brink once. Now chicks are dying in nests, and some blame overfishing"
[2]: https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/marine-science/articles/10.3389/fmars.2026.1685158/full?utm_source=chatgpt.com "Widespread reproductive deficits in Chesapeake Bay ..."
[3]: https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/?utm_source=chatgpt.com "Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II"

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 11:58 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Gail Fisher

Email

gailfisher@resourcesforchange.com

State

Maryland

Comment

It is so hard to imagine how we all too easily ignore just how much we are despoiling our environment - and to what end?? Not only are we losing humans to climate change, we are ignoring our fellow creatures who depend on our actions for their lives. Menhaden is vital for our Osprey - might we really not be reasonable about how to share the bounty (if one might call it that) of fish by supporting the Menhaden Draft Addendum II. Lets work to find ourselves doing positive actions to demonstrate our recognition of the value of saving our environment.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 11:41 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

James Speicher

Email

jugornought@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

The commercial menhaden harvest is unsustainable and a moratorium is now essentially to allow the fishery and the species that depend on it, most especially Osprey, to recover.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 11:32 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Mary Mann

Email

marymann29@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Please do whatever it takes to help Osprey chick's to survive

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 9:47 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Claudette Henderson

Email

claudette1.henderson@dss.virginia.gov

State

Virginia

Comment

Greetings,

The history of human interaction with natural resources shows that we have often been highly effective at driving species toward depletion. Unfortunately, current trends suggest that Atlantic Menhaden—and the many species that depend on them—are once again on a troubling trajectory.

Although commercial quotas are established to manage Menhaden harvests, enforcement remains insufficient. When quotas are exceeded, violations frequently go unaddressed, undermining both the intent and credibility of the management process. Science based stewardship should guide decisions that affect our coastal ecosystems. Yet too often, political influence and financial interests overshadow ecological concerns. We must place greater value on conserving and protecting our natural resources rather than prioritizing the production of cat food, cosmetics, and fish oil at the expense of Menhaden and the interconnected species that rely on them.

I am hopeful that the Commission will implement strong, forward-looking measures to rebuild Menhaden populations. However, it is important to acknowledge that such actions will affect local employment, particularly within Virginia's Northern

Neck. To ensure fairness, the development of a program to support workers who experience economic hardship as a result of needed conservation measures should be a priority. The Tobacco Transition Payment Program offers a successful model of how such assistance can be structured without relying on taxpayer dollars.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Claudette Carter Henderson

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 9:36 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Bruce Hulse

Email

brucemhulse@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

The importance of menhaden to the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem can't be overstated. So many other species depend on a healthy menhaden population that a serious decline in that population would have a devastating impact on the bay.

It is past time to take steps to place more effective limits on the menhaden fishery. Tying the bay harvest to the TAC value would be a logical step, and having a schedule to revisit the caps on a regular basis is also necessary. I think it's important to set catch limits at a low enough level to ensure this keystone species is able to maintain itself. Enforcement of those limits is also a requirement.

It's time to look past short term economic impacts and consider the much larger impact a collapse of the menhaden population would have on the bay's ecosystem and its surrounding communities.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 9:33 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Wendy Perry

Email

wrwrperry@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

As a resident of the Chesapeake Bay region I am very concerned about the health of the bay and its wildlife. I strongly support the proposal to limit the annual menhaden catch by 50%. I also support a higher percentage spread to cover the osprey nesting season.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 9:30 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Steven Wilson

Email

swilson95713@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Dear Commissioner, September 14, 2026
I am writing to share my experience with the effects of Menhaden overfishing on our local wildlife. It has been 2 years since I was walking along the Gunpowder River near my home in Monkton, Maryland and had an experience that has had an important impact on me and my understanding of the environment. I live fairly close to the headwaters of this important local tributary to the Chesapeake Bay. During a morning hike with my dog, I encountered an Osprey lying nearly motionless in the grass surrounding the river. I called the nearby Phoenix Wildlife Rehabilitation Center for advice and they recommended bringing the bird in.
When we inspected the Osprey there was no visible injury, except for a noticeable loss of muscle mass. Despite an attempt to rehydrate and feed the bird it died within the next day. The assessment was that it had starved to death. With further consideration of the Ospreys last days, it had expended it's final energy trying to find food by following a tributary to the end of the river, where it collapsed and died of starvation. Although there was nothing that I could do for this bird I was motivated to volunteer at the wildlife center and try to help other wildlife in need of care and rehabilitation.
Although most of the animals brought to our center have been injured or are too young to survive after separation from their nests, many are suffering from malnutrition or starvation. It has made me very aware of the effects of loss of habitat or resources that are contributing to a loss of wildlife.

I believe that improper resource management, like overfishing of essential food sources, is something that needs to be corrected. Although I understand that this impacts jobs in the the important fishing industry; logically overfishing will ultimately result in the loss of these jobs unless they can be directed to sustainable fisheries. The use of this important food source as an inexpensive protein and supplement source also seems wasteful to me.
In closing I hope that this issue can be resolved in a way that is satisfactory to both fishing and larger environmental concerns. I believe that with some planning and thoughtful consideration of other alternatives that this process will be beneficial to everyone.
Sincerely,
Steven Wilson
17509 Wesley Chapel Rd
Monkton, MD 21111
Swilson95713@gmail.com (443-864-2950)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 9:04 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Steven Wilson

Email

swilson95713@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Dear Commissioner, September 14, 2026
I am writing to share my experience with the effects of Menhaden overfishing on our local wildlife. It has been 2 years since I was walking along the Gunpowder River near my home in Monkton, Maryland and had an experience that has had an important impact on me and my understanding of the environment. I live fairly close to the headwaters of this important local tributary to the Chesapeake Bay. During a morning hike with my dog I encountered an Osprey lying nearly motionless in the grass surrounding the river. I called the nearby Phoenix Wildlife Rehabilitation Center for advice and they recommended bringing the bird in.
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Although most of the animals brought to our center have been injured or are too young to survive after separation from their nests, many are suffering from malnutrition or starvation. It has made me very aware of the effects of loss of habitat or resources that are contributing to a loss of wildlife.

I believe that improper resource management, like overfishing of essential food sources, is something that needs to be corrected. Although I understand that this impacts jobs in the the important fishing industry; logically overfishing will ultimately result in the loss of these jobs unless they can be directed to sustainable fisheries. The use of this important food source as an inexpensive protein and supplement source also seems wasteful to me.
In closing I hope that this issue can be resolved in a way that is satisfactory to both fishing and larger environmental concerns. I believe that with some planning and thoughtful consideration of other alternatives that this process will be beneficial to everyone.
Sincerely,
Steven Wilson
17509 Wesley Chapel Rd
Monkton, MD 21111
Swilson95713@gmail.com (443-864-2950)

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 8:22 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Troy Jean

Email

thjean2@aol.com

State

Virginia

Comment

It's all BS.. Anyone that can throw a cast net can see that there is no shortage of anything in the bay except shoreline and clean water as every inch of land surrounding it is being drained into it … All this crying about menhaden has been going on my whole life by anti fishermen that have now brainwashed recreational fishermen along with the foundations calling for and allowing violent conversations about shooting and destroying watermen and gear that needs to stop… They all need to be held accountable for inciting of violence and the only laws that need to be made are laws against that inciting of violence against watermen… If this commission or public comment section does anything at all, it needs to address this attack on watermen and these foundations held accountable for that inciting of violence and nothing more.. Protect the watermen of this Country and our seafood industry and stop the catering to the anti groups collecting grant money to ruin the live of our watermen and this countries seafood industry… You can't go anywhere in the bay and throw a cast net and ever come to any conclusion of sanity that anything is starving …. It's BS..

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 7:37 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Robert Hodson

Email

robert.f.hodson@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I strongly urge you to lower and tighten the Chesapeake Bay cap on industrial menhaden harvesting.

Menhaden are essential to the health of the Chesapeake Bay. When they thrive, everything else thrives—striped bass, bluefish, crabs, osprey, and our coastal communities. But when an industrial fleet is allowed to harvest millions of these vital fish out of our sensitive nursery waters, the damage multiplies straight into Virginia's working waterfronts.

Local watermen, family-owned seafood docks, and packing houses depend on a healthy, balanced marine food web. So do charter boat captains, tackle shops, marinas, and the thousands of everyday fishermen who feed tourism. Together, Virginia's commercial seafood industry and recreational saltwater fishing generate nearly two billion dollars in economic vitality and hundreds of millions in state and local tax revenue. That revenue paves our roads, funds our public schools, and keeps working coastal towns alive.

We should not sacrifice the livelihoods of thousands of watermen, small business owners, and fishing families to enrich a single industrial operation. These waters and these fish belong to all of us. Please stand up for the Chesapeake Bay, defend our coastal heritage, and enact meaningful caps to protect Virginia's fisheries for generations to come.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 3:52 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Beverly Veit

Email

beveit@verizon.net

State

Maryland

Comment

I support the FULL 50% reduction in menhaden harvest. The fishing in Maryland has noticeably declined and something needs to be done to stop Omega !

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 12:08 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Peter Carlin

Email

ptrcarlin@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Cut the Bay cap by the full 50%. Spread the harvest out. Stop letting one company's balance sheet dictate the health of the Chesapeake.
Hands off our menhaden.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2026 7:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Nicholas Weinhold

Email

nickw625@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I strongly agree with a significant quota reduction, and moving the harvest out of the Chesapeake Bay with a 12 mile limit. I strongly believe that the reduction fishery is decimating the Chesapeake Bay. Virginia will never act on it due to money and politicians.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2026 6:20 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Cindy Sigmon

Email

cindywmsig@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I support the reduction in the amount of menhaden taken from the bay. We have lived on Crab Alley Bay for 12 years. When we first moved here, I always looked forward to the arrival of the many osprey in our area. I loved watching them. We now have hardly any come to the area. From everything I've read, they are starving to death. We need to stop this from happening and make sure we don't depleted their food source.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2026 4:21 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Barbara Kamicker

Email

barbkamicker@aol.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please ensure that there are enough menhaden migrating to Long Island Sound to sustain and even enhance the populations of osprey, eagles, striped bass, and other keystone predators in the Connecticut and northern Long Island, NY areas.

Connecticut has had a huge success in the osprey and eagle populations rebounding since the 1970s, after DDT was banned. The osprey population increased from 12 to over 1500 adults recently. Their main food is menhaden. Unfortunately, Connecticut has experienced a decline in fledglings per nest, with many long-time observers reporting starving osprey chicks.

Please help the iconic predators along our shoreline and in our waters.
Thank you,
Barb Kamicker, a birder and nature lover for >50 years and member of several birding organizations

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2026 4:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

stephen rudow

Email

stephenrudow@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I strongly support these actions, ASAP:

* Reducing the initial Chesapeake Bay Cap by 50%, from 51,000 to 25,500 metric tons.
* Establishing the Bay Cap at 13.6% of the coastwide total allowable catch so it can adjust when the coastwide quota changes.
* Maintaining 51,000 metric tons as the maximum Bay Cap, with no fixed lower limit.
* Allocating 25% of the Bay Cap during the first quota period, 25% during the second period, and 50% during the final period.
* Requiring early-season quota-period overages to be deducted from the corresponding period during the following year.
* Requiring ASMFC to revisit the Chesapeake Bay Cap and related management measures every three years.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2026 3:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Scott Anderson

Email

scottlouisanderson@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I'm not a scientist or really that smart but it's been obvious for a very long time that our stewardship regarding the bay and our waterways needs to be overhauled. Raiding our menhaden for Canadas salmon farms or Omega proteins shareholder value is negligent at best. Let's treat the bay and its inhabitants right.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2026 2:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Mary TESLA

Email

marytesla48@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

It's important to protect our osprey population and that includes their habitat and food supply. Menhaden are the main food sources and should not be depleted by fishermen as bait fish. We need to learn to share and respect our environment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2026 1:50 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Mary Giglio

Email

denalimc@comcast.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

Please reduce the fishery cap by 50% to help ensure enough menhaden remain available for Ospreys and other wildlife.

Osprey population numbers are down and scientists have proven it is due to the lack of food available to the birds.

Please reduce the amount of menhaden that can be harvested so that there is enough for osprey populations to survive.

Thank You

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2026 12:16 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

James Tollefson

Email

raggpt12@gmail.com

State

Rhode Island

Comment

This affects the whole eastern seaboard. I fully support even the complete end to menhaden harvest. This little fish is too important. Thank you

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2026 10:34 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Robin Mazzola

Email

pagan.dream@yahoo.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Connecticut Audubon is urging the commission to reduce the fishery cap by 50% to help ensure enough menhaden remain available for Ospreys and other wildlife. I am in support of their recommendation.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2026 10:04 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

larry robbins

Email

larryeric06@iclound.com

State

Maine

Comment

Menhaden is a crucial part to Maine's coastal fishers. As herring quotas not nearly what they were menhaden has offered an affordable, and locally available bait in summer months one busiest time for Maine lobster fisheries. Therefore without it our younger and smaller lobster boat like mine will struggle. Especially sense the price lobster has stayed same at the doc for past 20+ years, but every single thing else had doubled. If the cuts to quota continue put a lot of pressure on a already overly pressured fishery and make it that much harder to make a living on the coast.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2026 8:08 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Bruce Julian

Email

bruce_julian@hotmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

We humans have been very successful and efficient in decimating and wiping out entire species. Again, we are on a downward spiral to ensure the Menhaden, along with collateral damage of other species are in jeopardy.

Quotas are established on commercial fishing, but they are not enforced and the violators are not fined when they exceed their quota.

Political contributions and greed drive the decision-making/enforcement process, not science.

Certainly, we can place higher priorities to conserve and protect natural resources than manufacturing cat food, cosmetics and fish oil at the expense Menhaden and the interlinked species.

Presumably, the Commission will take bold steps to rebuild Menhaden populations. However, in doing so, local jobs will be lost resulting in severe impacts to the economy of Virginia's Northern Neck. It is only fair and reasonable that a program be

developed to compensate and assist employees who are adversely impacted. A good example of such program is the Tobacco Transition Payment Program, entirely funded without tax dollars.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2026 6:21 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Scott Perkins

Email

sperkins@nvskb.com

State

Virginia

Comment

We live near Lewisetta and have seen a decline in Ospreys drastically over the past 15 years. We need to protect them.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2026 5:18 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

sarah motycka

Email

sgmotycka@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Thank you for your serious consideration. Connecticut Audubon is urging the commission to reduce the fishery cap by 50% to help ensure enough menhaden remain available for Ospreys and other wildlife. I support this reduction. In my lifetime, living on the Connecticut coastline, I have watched the decline of Osprey and then a resurgence due to conservation efforts. This year there was a noticeable decline in the pattern of Osprey chicks learning to fly and hunt in the cove near my home. The male Osprey were less frequently at the nest, and and more frequently circling the water. Menhaden schools are smaller, and less visible than I have witnessed in past years. I believe Osprey are a pretty good indicator of the ecosystem. I think it's time to revisit fishery cap and err on the side of maintaining a healthy marine ecosystem.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2026 12:59 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lynda Downey

Email

lyndardowney@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

The amount of fish taken out of the bay by commercial fisheries is disgraceful! Spotter drones and commercial fishing boats with nets are raping the bay! No food for birds, no food for larger fish etc. Stop now before the entire ecosystem of the bay is destroyed!

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2026 6:20 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

David N

Email

therckclimber@yahoo.com

State

Virginia

Comment

This isn't nearly enough! The limit should be reduced 50% next year, and the year after that and the year after that!

At no point EVER should we prioritize a business's ability to function over the health of our bay. Full stop. This business should be banned from operating due to the corruption and gross negligence in regards to the health of our Chesapeake Bay.

We should follow Florida's example and this type of fishing from our waters. While I feel for the few employees this company employs, if they want to continue to work the water, they can obtain captains licenses and become fishing guides.

Screw Omega protein for all the damage they've done and all the lying about the environment they've done. They are not welcome here.

Signed, a concerned angler who has witnessed the rape of our Bay since the late '80's.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2026 5:14 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Douglas McLennan

Email

lobstarz@hotmail.com

State

Maine

Comment

Members of the Atlantic States Commission, Thank You for hearing my comments on the menhaden addendum 2. I would like to say that the menhaden TAC for the East Coast needs to be put into a more regionalized management schedule. I understand the main reason for this addendum is the displeasure with Omega having such a huge quota of the TAC, and the sport fishing , and conservation groups are blaming the Canadien Company for many changes happening in the Chesapeake. Meanwhile way up here in Maine , and other parts of the NorthEast, including the Maratimes of Canada, we are experiencing high numbers of menhaden, not seen in the last 20 years or so. This will be the third cycle I have seen in my 62 years.These fish may stay forever, or cycle thru as they have in the past, hard to say. I can say that the scientists always tell us as fishermen in Maine that climate change will bring new species for harvest, but will also drive the current ones further north, out of our grasp, so be prepared. Right now we are seeing very large numbers of large schools of menhaden, as we did the past 6 or 7 years, many offshore in deeper water. I know that the biomass north of Rhode Island is unknown to the regulators, as it was admitted in the hearing I sat in on this spring with the ASMFC board. There is zero science in Maine. We have large fish that will die off this winter, yet we are forced to buy product from southern states that is tiny , peanut bunker. This fish is all in the same TAC quota, tasing of local caught large fish, for small imported fish from the same TAC.This makes no sense at all, especially with the logistics cost of shipping a fresh product up to Maine. We lost at least 6 weeks of fishing this season with the 20% reduction implemented for the TAC this year, and another 30% will be devastating to the Maine lobster Industry.We

will be forced into using frozen product from foreign countries, when we have a large biomass capable of keeping the fleet supplied with bait, and also another entire fleet of seiners , separate from the lobster fleet, working till well into the fall. This means many jobs in a struggling economy on a coast where tourism is taking over. Many coastal families rely on commercial fishing to survive where we have lived for many generations, mine being the tenth generation, and I have kids and grandkids coming along behind me. If the Chesapeake is in as bad of shape as I read about by a couple pages on the internet, there should be regional management to alleviate the problem, without have a ripple effect to us here in Maine.I do not know the numbers exactly, but the 400 permitted boats in Maine do not catch 1/4 of the quota that Virginia has. We also start our season to early, but we are told by the ASMFC , that we will not qualify for additional quota If we do not fill our state quota by a certain date. This is really unfortunate because we really need the bait later in the summer into early fall, before the fish leave for offshore. I do not feel we are well represented on the Commission, and a more common sense approach would serve the fisherman of Maine better. When this cycle passes by, we will want to import fish from southern states, but while the fish are here, we need to utilize the resource. Times are rough in our business with the cost of operation outpacing the cost of the product. The low, competitive price of the menhaden has been a Godsend to the fishermen of Maine. I personally fished menhaden into November last year, with large schools of fish still around, but just in to deep of water for our relatively small and shallow nets. We have a vessel length size restriction, and other conservation methods to keep the overfishing threat to a minimum. I wouldn't mind a net restriction if 100 fathoms long, if it meant we could retain a sizable quota. We are about done this season because of the 20% reduction, and this will be a hardship for the lobstermen , as they see the large amounts of menahaden still here well into the fall, but un accessible.These are just a few of my thoughts, Thank You for your consideration Douglas McLennan F/V Nora June, Speuce Head Maine

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2026 4:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Albert Foxwell

Email

1afox@verizon.net

State

Virginia

Comment

I support reducing the menhaden quota by at least 50 percent.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2026 3:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Beth Sandbach

Email

bethsandbach@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

I would encourage those in charge to not only reduce the amount of menhaden that can be taken by reduction fishing companies (Omega), but to completely stop that type of fishing for a period of at least 2 years, to allow the species to recover. All other Chesapeake Bay states have made reduction fishing illegal; what is wrong with Virginia? Are our representatives in cahoots with the lobbyists? Year after year, a proposal is made to study the number and health of the menhaden population, and those in charge have consistently refused to even vote on a study!

Finally, our new governor has put aside funding for a study. Again, I would like to see a complete stop to reduction fishing in the Bay, and especially in the Rappahannock River! It is obscene that those net fishers are allowed in the river. It's not only menhaden that they catch, it's anything that gets caught in the nets.

Residents have confirmed that the osprey population has dwindled in the past few years, likely due to reduction in menhaden. Striped bass are also suffering.

Wittman seems to care more about the handful of jobs in Reedville than the livelihood of watermen across the Bay. I recommend the state of Virginia support the Reedville staff of Omega for one year, giving them a chance to find other work

while reduction fishing is stopped to let the species recover. If and when it is reopened, they should be confined to only Atlantic fishing, NOT in the Chesapeake Bay.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2026 2:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Emma Paynter

Email

emmapaynter7@icloud.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I am writing in support of Draft Addendum II and the proposed reduction of the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by up to 50%, as well as the establishment of quota periods to better distribute harvest throughout the fishing season as brought to my attention by the advocacy work of the Connecticut Audubon Society.

Atlantic menhaden are one of the most important forage species in the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. They serve as a critical food source for a wide variety of fish, birds, and marine mammals, including striped bass, bluefish, ospreys, bald eagles, and other species that depend on healthy menhaden populations. The Chesapeake Bay is also a vital nursery area for many commercially and recreationally important species, making the availability of forage fish especially important within the Bay.

The Chesapeake Bay cap was originally implemented as a precautionary measure in response to concerns about localized depletion. Since its adoption, fisheries managers have repeatedly recognized the ecological significance of the Bay and have adjusted management measures accordingly. The cap was reduced by 20% through Amendment 2 in 2012 and further reduced to 51,000 metric tons through Amendment 3 in 2018 to better reflect historical harvest levels and the Bay's importance as essential habitat.

Recent concerns regarding the concentration of fishing effort and its potential impacts on other fisheries, wildlife, and ecosystem health warrant additional precautionary action. A further reduction in the cap would help ensure that sufficient menhaden remain available to support predators and maintain ecosystem function. Establishing quota periods would also help spread harvest pressure more evenly throughout the season, reducing the risk of localized depletion and providing more consistent ecological benefits.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has an opportunity to strengthen ecosystem-based management by prioritizing the role of menhaden as a forage species and protecting the ecological integrity of the Chesapeake Bay. Reducing the reduction fishery cap and implementing seasonal quota periods are prudent, science-based measures that will help safeguard the Bay's resources for future generations.

In my area, where there have normally been around 18 offspring of osprey each year, there were only 2 this year.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your continued commitment to sustainable fisheries management.

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2026 10:00 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Cynthia Leitzel

Email

cdpeach17@comcast.net

State

Maryland

Comment

As a resident of Drum Point in Calvert County living on Mill Creek for the past 10 years, we have enjoyed having the Osprey come back every year and fish here. raise their young here and have plenty to eat throughout their stay.

This year we may be had two occupied nests with perhaps two surviving young. How can anyone think that it's OK to knowingly remove the food source from these beautiful raptors to the point of starvation? Especially when there are other means for producing what the Menhaden are used for.

The Osprey just like any other force of nature is in serious danger and extremely vulnerable because of greed and useless power.

Please pass this reduction and ensure the LAW is enforced because there will be those who cannot see past the dollar sign.

The Osprey are magnificent creatures and we need them to plentiful again with healthy young and strength for their migration!

Very concerned Calvert Countian,

Cynthia Leitzel
Cdpeach17@comcast.net

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James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 8:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Lee Triolo

Email

sandylee@duck.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Please stop raping the Chesapeake for Canadian salmon. Save the Bay!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 8:23 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Nathan Pranger

Email

nathanpranger@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I support the addendum to reduce menhaden harvests.

The Chesapeake bay fishery has been in steady decline and the high menhaden harvest clearly has an impact. There is less bait and less reproducing fish and its affects can be seen rockfish numbers all along the mid-Atlantic.

The new study linking menhaden harvest to low osprey reproduction is concerning and shows the impact is more then just fish populations.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 5:52 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Molly TANIS

Email

maff6s211@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

As a volunteer who monitors nesting ospreys, ospreys and fish are inextricably linked! If the fish population isn't stable, ospreys will not survive either.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 5:36 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Sorted by chris noreply

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Laura Lasley

Email

bajinaji38@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

My husband and I have been sailing the Chesapeake Bay for nearly 20 years. This year we noticed there were virtually NO osprey south of Herring Bay. The nests are empty or absent. Even mid-bay we noticed smaller and fewer osprey. I understand the need to catch menhaden, but it would be lovely if we could share some with the native wildlife. Thank you for considering either decreasing the total catch, or spacing the catch out so that there are menhaden available for osprey and other fish that depend on them. Please adopt Draft Addendum II
Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 12:56 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] New public comment for VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action Title

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/va-public-hearing-on-atlantic-menhaden-draft-addendum-ii/

Name

Capt. Chris Dollar

Email

salestacklecove@gmail.com

State

Virginia

Comment

Commissioners - DO YOUR JOB! Protect and conserve menhaden and other marine species per your Congressionally mandated charter. It really is as simple as that. You can have Happy Hours and free 4-Course dinners afterward.
Regards,
Capt. C. Dollar
Tackle Cove Outfitters

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James Boyle

From: Sandra L <sandyloether@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 3:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Please help save osprey by limiting menhaden fishing out of Chesapeake Bay by reducing the fishing cap by 50%.

I am a member of Connecticut Audubon.

Thank you,
Sandy

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James Boyle

From: Oliver Nettere <olivernettere@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 3:04 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Support Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I support the provisions in the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II.

Specifically, I support cutting the Chesapeake Bay Cap by the full 50%, linking the Bay Cap to the total coastwide limit, establishing quota periods, and reducing the overall coastal catch limit.

Respectfully,
Oliver Nettere
North Carolina Resident

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James Boyle

From: nick webb <nwebb62@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 3:03 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Fishery Cap for Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Commission:

My name is Nick Webb, and I am Chairman of the Clinton (CT) Conservation Commission.

I am writing today to ask you to make a very difficult decision and reduce the menhaden cap by 50%. As I am sure that you are aware, the Osprey breeding season in Connecticut was a complete flop. I saw it here in Clinton first hand. Nest after nest were empty of chicks. The number of ospreys flying overhead with a fish in their talons was greatly reduced.

We have seen this story before, and the resurgence of the Osprey has been a miracle. Please help them be making a decision that you know is right, but also tough.

Thanks for your attention.

Nick Webb
Chairman of the Clinton Conservation Commission

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James Boyle

From: Willard Morris <willardkmorris@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 2:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I support the ban on rendition harvesting of Menhaden fish before they become extinct, losing forever the vital role they play in maintaining the ecological balance of the Chesapeake Bay.

If a total ban can't be implemented, I would support a 50 percent reduction of the harvest.

Have we forgotten that our population of ospreys was earlier rescued from the ravages of DDT? Now the ospreys must be rescued from the loss of food they need to survive, lay eggs, and feed their young. It would be a shame to lose them and their contribution to the Chesapeake ecology.

As a canoeist among Chesapeake estuaries, I would also miss watching those wonderful birds plunge from the sky into the water to catch their fishy menhaden prey. I pray for the prey of the osprey!

Willard K. Morris
6013 Armaan Drive
Glenn Dale, Maryland

.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: bbfan58 <bbfan58@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 2:42 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I support:

Cutting the Chesapeake Bay Cap by the full 50%

Linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide catch limit, so when one drops, the other does too

Spreading Bay harvest across quota periods so the Bay isn't stripped in spring and summer

Reducing the coastwide catch limit by 40% to meet the science for 2027 and beyond

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Boyle

From: Tom Serwold <tserwold@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 2:25 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II and 2027–2029 Catch Limits

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear ASMFC,

I am a sports fly fisherman, from Massachusetts, and there are few things I love more than flyfishing for striped bass from the shore. The last few years, in Massachusetts North Shore, where I fish, I have noticed an alarming and steady decrease in the numbers of schoolie sized stripers. This year, I saw none...None! Just 5 years ago, every morning, the water was practically boiling with the schoolies. While I did catch some keeper sized fish this year, there is no doubt that the current lack of schoolies is going to translate into fewer keeper sized fish in the coming years. Other fishermen in Massachusetts and Maine who I spoke to have seen the same decrease. I strongly believe this is due to the lack of spawning successes in the Chesapeake Bay rivers, and I further believe the lack of spawning success is due to scarcity of menhaden for the spawners. Sure, there are other possible causes of the disappearance of the young stripers, but the menhaden fishery is the most likely cause, and this fishery can and should be more strictly regulated. Please, do the right thing, and stand up strong to the industrial lobby representing the reduction fisheries. They will say over and over that there is no proof, but it is literally a red-herring argument. It is obvious to anyone that the industrial annual removal of 50,000 metric tons of menhaden will have a major trickle down effect on every predator in the local environment. This amount of reduction must be reduced substantially. Not 10%, not 20%. It must be reduced to as low as possible (zero is preferable) until menhaden are abundant again in Chesapeake bay and easily findable by the all the key predators : osprey, stripers, other fish, whales, dolphins, and humans as well). A moratorium on menhaden harvest should be in place until the menhaden are back in force, and then the reduction fishery should be gradually re-introduced, and scaled so that it has no observable impact on the menhaden abundance. This will be tough on the reduction fishing industry, but make no mistake, the status quo is going to lead to even bigger losses for many other industries as the predators of menhaden also disappear. And not just monetary losses, but the loss of family and cultural traditions all up and down the east coast.

Thank you,
Tom Serwold
Boston, MA

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James Boyle

From: Pete Abdu <remotecaptures@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 1:23 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden 2027-2028 TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

ASMFC reports that recreational harvest accounts for only about 1% of Atlantic menhaden landings, meaning that virtually all menhaden harvested are taken by commercial fisheries. Menhaden are a public fishery resource and I believe their management should place greater emphasis on the benefits they provide to the broader public and the marine ecosystem, rather than primarily on their value after commercial harvest.

As a saltwater fisherman, underwater photographer, and biologist, I would like to see more menhaden remain in the ocean. Menhaden are a critical forage species that transfer energy from plankton to larger predators and provide an important food source for species including striped bass, bluefish, tuna, marine mammals, and seabirds. Their value therefore extends far beyond the value of the fish that are commercially harvested.

More abundant menhaden can benefit recreational fisheries, wildlife viewing, marine predators, coastal ecosystems, and the people and businesses that depend on those resources. I would like to see menhaden managed first and foremost for their ecological role as forage and for the broad public benefits that result from healthy and abundant menhaden populations.

A healthy marine food web requires a strong forage base. Menhaden are an important part of that base, and removing them from the ecosystem has an opportunity cost: every fish harvested for reduction or bait is a fish that is no longer available to support predators and the surrounding ecosystem.

Please manage Atlantic menhaden as the important public resource they are, with greater consideration for the anglers, wildlife, coastal communities, and marine ecosystems that benefit from abundant menhaden, and not primarily for the commercial interests that harvest them for products such as fish meal and fish oil.

Thanks for your time,

Peter Abdu

Peter Abdu
603-667-7077

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James Boyle

From: M Bowes <mollybowes8@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 1:17 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC):

I am writing as a Maryland resident who has lived in and/or maintained family ties to St. Mary's County since 1973 and has developed a deep personal connection to the Chesapeake Bay. I grew up on the water and someone who spends considerable time on and around the Bay. I am also deeply interested in the wildlife that depends upon this remarkable ecosystem, particularly osprey, striped bass, sharks, whales, and other species whose survival is tied directly or indirectly to a healthy forage base. Each year around St Patrick's Day, my family watch for the arrival of the ospreys who return to their same nest and give birth to and raise their young. This year the parents arrived but no chicks were ever hatched.

I strongly support a 50 percent reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons annually. I also strongly support establishing seasonal quota periods for menhaden so that harvest is distributed throughout the year rather than concentrated in an intense summer fishing window.

The Chesapeake Bay is facing an ecological crisis that should not be minimized or postponed. Declining productivity, widespread osprey nest failures, and continued concerns about the condition of the striped bass population are warning signs that demand a precautionary approach to the management of one of the Bay's most important forage fish - **menhaden.**

Menhaden are not merely another commercial commodity. They are a foundational component of the Chesapeake Bay food web. They provide critical forage for striped bass, osprey, bluefish, weakfish, dolphins, and numerous other predators. Removing very large quantities of menhaden from the Bay during the period when they are most concentrated and most biologically important deserves particularly careful scrutiny.

The scale and timing of the reduction fishery are especially troubling. More than 100 million pounds of menhaden can be removed under the existing Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap. When that harvest is concentrated into a relatively short summer period, the ecological effect is not simply a matter of the annual tonnage. **Where and when the fish are removed matters.**

An intense summer harvest can create localized depletion at precisely the time when menhaden are serving as forage for other species. It also potentially deprives recreational anglers, commercial watermen, charter operators, and the broader coastal tourism economy of access to a shared public resource. These competing interests deserve meaningful consideration in the management process.

I am particularly concerned about allowing an annual quota to be treated as though the timing of harvest is irrelevant. It is not. A fish removed from the Bay in June is not ecologically equivalent to that same fish being harvested months later. The Bay's predators have seasonal feeding requirements, and the availability of forage during critical periods can matter greatly to their survival and reproductive success.

For that reason, I urge the Commission to establish **strict seasonal quota periods that distribute the allowable harvest more evenly throughout the year and prevent the reduction fishery from concentrating an extraordinary volume of harvest into the summer months**. Seasonal management would provide a more precautionary approach and would better recognize the fact that Chesapeake Bay is a dynamic ecosystem rather than simply another geographic allocation within a coastwide fishery.

There is also an important management issue that deserves attention. The Commission's coastwide menhaden assessment does not provide the same level of quantitative information about menhaden abundance and availability specifically within Chesapeake Bay. That uncertainty argues for caution—not for assuming that the Bay can safely sustain the maximum allowable harvest.

The Chesapeake Bay belongs to all of us. It belongs to the watermen who have made their living here, the recreational fishermen who pursue its species, the sailors and boaters who enjoy its waters, the communities whose economies depend upon it, and the wildlife that has no voice in these proceedings. Menhaden management should reflect that broader public interest.

I respectfully urge the Commission to:

1. Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons per year.

2. Establish firm seasonal quota periods for menhaden.

3. **Prevent excessive concentration of reduction harvest during the summer months.

4. Apply a precautionary approach in light of ecological uncertainty and the importance of menhaden as forage.

5. Give meaningful consideration to the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the Bay's broader tourism economy.

I have spent years watching, enjoying, and caring about the Chesapeake Bay. I have seen firsthand what makes this ecosystem extraordinary, and I am increasingly concerned about the signs that its productivity and resilience are being strained.

We should not wait until the consequences are unmistakable before acting.

The prudent course is to reduce the intensity of the reduction fishery now, protect menhaden as a critical forage resource, and distribute harvest in a manner that gives the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem a better opportunity to sustain the wildlife and fisheries that depend upon it.

Thank you for your consideration and for your responsibility to future generations of Chesapeake Bay users and stewards.

Sincerely,

Mary Bowes

St. Mary's County, Maryland

Sent from my iPhone

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James Boyle

From: Susan McGuirk <susemcguirk@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 1:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To Whomever Menhaden Concerns,
I have owned waterfront property on the Honga River in Dorchester County, Maryland for almost 20 years. The Menhaden schools used to team here. Beneath them were hundreds of Rockfish and Blues, and above them were countless gulls, Osprey, and Eagles. The everyday fishing was a sportsman's dream.
I have witnessed an alarming steady decline in all of the aforementioned species, particularly in the last 5 years. I watch low-flying spotter planes hone in on Menhaden schools and the not too far behind lighted trawlers come eradicate them. Meanwhile, my resident Osprey pair hasn't successfully hatched any young in 3 consecutive years. The number of Eagles has dwindled from dozens to just a few. And the fishing? I haven't landed a legal fish OF ANY SPECIES since the fall of 2025. I am sickened by the loss and lack of regulation causing it. Anyone that denies a connection to the Menhaden fishery assault and the consequential habitat losses across the entire Chesapeake Bay ecosystem is a fool. Action to stop the Menhaden annihilation needs to be immediate if we hope to save the food chain.
Thank you for caring,
Susan McGuirk

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James Boyle

From: Colin Dowd <colintdowd@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 12:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addedndum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I'm writing to support the most conservative options in Draft Addendum II for Atlantic Menhaden management.

Specifically, I support:
Cutting the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap by the full 50% to align with the 2025 stock assessment findings
Linking the Chesapeake Bay Cap to the coastwide total allowable catch so both adjust together
Spreading the Bay harvest across quota periods to prevent the Bay from being stripped in spring and summer
Reducing the coastwide catch limit by 40% to meet the ecological reference point target for 2027 and beyond

The 2025 assessment showed the menhaden population is significantly smaller than previously estimated, and science indicates a 50%+ reduction is needed to protect striped bass, whales, ospreys, and the broader saltwater ecosystem that depends on menhaden as a keystone forage species.

Thank you for considering my comments and for taking action to protect this critical resource.

Colin Dowd
Kingston, MA 02364

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James Boyle

From: Suellen T. Keiner <suellen.keiner@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 12:37 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

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James Boyle

From: Jacob Jaskiel <jacobjaskiel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 12:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Coastwide TAC 2027-2028 - Public Comment

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To the Board,

I write today with grave concern yet again as we must submit 2 separate comments to voice our opinions on the proposed Menhaden harvest. My previous comment held my frustration at the Board's inaction and lack of precautionary management more broadly, so I will keep this comment relating to coastwide TAC brief.

I support the maximum cut currently proposed to the coastwide TAC (50%), but would like to state my support for a full harvest moratorium on Atlantic Menhaden until they are no longer overfished, nor are any of the species the ASMFC manages. This would mean no harvest of Menhaden until their populations and the ones they support are recovered, such as striped bass which the ASMFC has mismanaged to the brink of stock collapse. This is the ASMFC's most effective avenue to manage all other fisheries in their jurisdiction for abundance. Why they support commercial interests extracting this resource and selling it for the lowest cost possible, neglecting the ecosystem services and true economic value in other sectors is unknown to me. We manage whales, dolphins, seals, sharks, and other predators to their historical abundance, but overfish their food resources and wonder why interactions with humans and depredation are increasing as problems. Manage the base of the ecosystem for abundance, and you may have abundant fisheries again.

Jacob Jaskiel, PhD

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James Boyle

From: JOSEPH MUSTARI <mazman4@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 12:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum ll

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Support:
Cutting the Chesapeake Bay Cap by the full 50%
Linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide catch limit, so when one drops, the other does too
Spreading Bay harvest across quota periods so the Bay isn't stripped in spring and summer
Reducing the coastwide catch limit by 40% to meet the science for 2027 and beyond

Joseph Mustari
Hazlet, NJ

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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James Boyle

From: Debbie Gritt <debbg44@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 12:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Comments menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Reduce TAC in bay by 50 per cent.
Please. Before it's too late for health of the Bay.
Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Evan <eangelo55@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 12:04 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden comment

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I am 18 years old, and this year is the first year I have gotten truly into surfcasting. I love It and have been lucky enough to both meet and fish with some people who have been doing it much longer than I have. It is clear to see that the fishery isn't healthy. One major thing that both I and those more experienced than me notice is the lack of menhaden. I am writing to urge you to reduce the Chesapeake bay TAC of Atlantic Menhaden by 50 percent, and the coast wide TAC by at least 40 percent in order to protect not just striped bass, but whales, sharks, other fish and simply every aspect of our amazing and crucial ocean ecosystem. Additionally this would protect thousands of livelihoods up and down the Atlantic coast that rely on this important resource.
Thank you.
-Evan Angelo

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James Boyle

From: Devon Foulke <foulkedevon@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 11:40 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic menhaden draft addendum ll

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Expressing my support to:

1: Cut the Chesapeake bay bay cap by the full 50%

2: Linking the bay cap with the coastwise catch limit

3: Spreading bay harvest across quota periods

4: Reducing the coastwide catch limit by 40%
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James Boyle

From: shelley sherbondy <shelleyd@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 10:51 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Ocean TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Board members,

I am an Osprey Steward in CT of 5 years, located along the shoreline. I have witnessed a significant downward turn this year in the viability of the osprey population, especially their young, which in large part I feel is related to a lack of an available food source.

I support a 40% reduction to approximately 112,100 metric tons for years 2027 and 2028.

Thank you for your time and consideration into this matter.

Respectfully,
Shelley

shelley sherbondy
shelleyd@me.com

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James Boyle

From: Jack Bussey <jackbussey7@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 10:39 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum I|

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Support:
Cutting the Chesapeake Bay Cap by the full 50%
Linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide catch limit, so when one drops, the other does too
Spreading Bay harvest across quota periods so the Bay isn't stripped in spring and summer
Reducing the coastwide catch limit by 40% to meet the science for 2027 and beyond

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James Boyle

From: Patti Stueckler <patriciastueckler@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 10:36 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Amendment II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission:

I live on the Chesapeake Bay in North Beach, Maryland. I'm extremely concerned with the drastically declining population of osprey we are now experiencing. Residents care about the fragile ecosystem of the bay and we are very concerned with what is occurring.

I strongly support the 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap (Option B4/reducing the cap to 25,500 metric tons) and I support seasonal quota periods.

Nest failures for ospreys are occurring everywhere along the bay. We are also seeing population distress among striped bass. This signals an urgent need for precautionary conservation measures before this situation gets even worse.

We need strict quota periods that distribute harvest evenly across the year rather than allowing an intense summer harvest of over 100 million pounds of fish. This harms not only the wildlife populations, but watermen, anglers and coastal tourism economies too.

Kindly understand the urgent need for this conservation effort before it's too late.

Very Respectfully,

Patti Stueckler
8832 Bay Ave
North Beach, MD 20714
301-908-2540

--

Patti Stueckler
Associate Broker, Keller Williams Flagship

(301) 908-2540

www.TeamStueckler.com

8832 Bay Ave North Beach, MD 20714

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James Boyle

From: Walt Nilsson <walt.nilsson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 10:34 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC):

I am writing as a Maryland resident who has lived in St. Mary's County since 1996 and has developed a deep personal connection to the Chesapeake Bay. I am an avid kayaker and citizen scientist and someone who spends considerable time on and around the Bay. I am also deeply interested in the wildlife that depends upon this remarkable ecosystem, particularly osprey, striped bass, sharks, whales, and other species whose survival is tied directly or indirectly to a healthy forage base.

I strongly support a 50 percent reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons annually. I also strongly support establishing seasonal quota periods for menhaden so that harvest is distributed throughout the year rather than concentrated in an intense summer fishing window.

The Chesapeake Bay is facing an ecological crisis that should not be minimized or postponed. Declining productivity, widespread osprey nest failures, and continued concerns about the condition of the striped bass population are warning signs that demand a precautionary approach to the management of one of the Bay's most important forage fish - menhaden.

Menhaden are not merely another commercial commodity. They are a foundational component of the Chesapeake Bay food web. They provide critical forage for striped bass, osprey, bluefish, weakfish, dolphins, and numerous other predators. Removing very large quantities of menhaden from the Bay during the period when they are most concentrated and most biologically important deserves particularly careful scrutiny.
The scale and timing of the reduction fishery are especially troubling. More than 100 million pounds of menhaden can be removed under the existing Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap. When that harvest is concentrated into a relatively short summer period, the ecological effect is not simply a matter of the annual tonnage. Where and when the fish are removed matters.

An intense summer harvest can create localized depletion at precisely the time when menhaden are serving as forage for other species. It also potentially deprives recreational anglers, commercial watermen, charter operators, and the broader coastal tourism economy of access to a shared public resource. These competing interests deserve meaningful consideration in the management process.
I am particularly concerned about allowing an annual quota to be treated as though the timing of harvest is irrelevant. It is not. A fish removed from the Bay in June is not ecologically equivalent to that same fish being harvested months later. The Bay's predators have seasonal feeding requirements, and the availability of forage during critical periods can matter greatly to their survival and reproductive success.

For that reason, I urge the Commission to establish strict seasonal quota periods that distribute the allowable harvest more evenly throughout the year and prevent the reduction fishery from concentrating an extraordinary volume of harvest into the summer months. Seasonal management would provide a more precautionary approach and would better recognize the fact that Chesapeake Bay is a dynamic ecosystem rather than simply another geographic allocation within a coastwide fishery.

There is also an important management issue that deserves attention. The Commission's coastwide menhaden assessment does not provide the same level of quantitative information about menhaden abundance and availability specifically within Chesapeake Bay. That uncertainty argues for caution—not for assuming that the Bay can safely sustain the maximum allowable harvest.
The Chesapeake Bay belongs to all of us. It belongs to the watermen who have made their living here, the recreational fishermen who pursue its species, the sailors and boaters who enjoy its waters, the communities whose economies depend upon it, and the wildlife that has no voice in these proceedings. Menhaden management should reflect that broader public interest.
I respectfully urge the Commission to:

1. **Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons per year.**

2. **Establish firm seasonal quota periods for menhaden.**

3. **Prevent excessive concentration of reduction harvest during the summer months.**

4. **Apply a precautionary approach in light of ecological uncertainty and the importance of menhaden as forage.**

5. **Give meaningful consideration to the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the Bay's broader tourism economy.**

I have spent years watching, enjoying, and caring about the Chesapeake Bay. I have seen firsthand what makes this ecosystem extraordinary, and I am increasingly concerned about the signs that its productivity and resilience are being strained.
We should not wait until the consequences are unmistakable before acting.
The prudent course is to reduce the intensity of the reduction fishery now, protect menhaden as a critical forage resource, and distribute harvest in a manner that gives the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem a better opportunity to sustain the wildlife and fisheries that depend upon it.
Thank you for your consideration and for your responsibility to future generations of Chesapeake Bay users and stewards.
Sincerely,
Walt Nilsson
St. Mary’s County, Maryland

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James Boyle

From: Todd DiNoia <todddinoia@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 10:19 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Members of the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

As an avid recreational angler and conservationist, I am writing to express my strong support for increased protections for Atlantic menhaden under Draft Addendum II. Menhaden are arguably the most important fish in the sea, serving as the foundational forage base for striped bass, bluefish, bluefin tuna, osprey, and whales.

I urge the Board to support the following science-based management measures:

- **Reduce the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap by 50%:** A substantial cut to the current industrial harvest cap is necessary to address declining pound net harvests and relieve localized depletion in the Bay, which serves as a critical nursery ground.
- **Establish Seasonal Harvest Periods:** Distributing the industrial catch more evenly across the fishing season will mitigate heavy summer fishing pressure when nesting ospreys and other vulnerable predators need these forage fish the most.
- **Revisit the Bay Cap Every Three Years:** Mandatory, regular reviews will allow managers to actively integrate new Chesapeake Bay-specific data and ensure management goals align with the ecological needs of the ecosystem.

We cannot manage menhaden purely as an isolated commercial commodity without accounting for their invaluable role in the food web. Thank you for your time and your dedication to protecting our coastal resources.

Sincerely,

Todd DiNoia
Massachusetts Resident
todddinoia@comcast.net

978-614-5528

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James Boyle

From: Jacob Goldstein <jacob.goldstein0305@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 10:17 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I support

- Cutting the Chesapeake Bay Cap by the full 50%
- Linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide catch limit, so when one drops, the other does too
- Spreading Bay harvest across quota periods so the Bay isn't stripped in spring and summer
  Reducing the coastwide catch limit by 40%.

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James Boyle

From: Amanda Abrams <abrams.ac@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 10:02 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

I am writing in support of Draft Addendum II and the strongest possible reduction in the Chesapeake Bay menhaden catch limit, along with seasonal quota periods.

Menhaden are an essential food source for osprey, striped bass, and many other species that depend on a healthy Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. With osprey productivity declining so dramatically, I believe reducing the amount of menhaden removed from the Bay is an important step toward protecting these species and the health of the Bay.

Please support the strongest reduction in the Chesapeake Bay menhaden catch cap and seasonal harvest limits.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Amanda Abrams
Edgewater, Maryland

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James Boyle

From: Jana Cornelius <jc34cornelius@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 9:52 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom it may concern,

I live in Huntingtown, MD. I'm a frequent visitor of the bay. I also look for Osprey driving around Calvert. I look forward to see think return to the same nest every season. I've been watching some of the same birds for 11 years now, when we moved to Calvert. The situation noted below was brought to my attention and I find it incredibly sad and disturbing.

Researchers monitoring 937 osprey pairs across the Bay in 2026 found the worst breeding year on record. In the saltier portions of the Bay—where osprey depend heavily on menhaden for food—productivity fell to just 0.25 young per pair, far below the level needed to sustain the population. Researchers are documenting food stress and chicks starving in their nests.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) is considering Draft Addendum II, which could reduce the Chesapeake Bay industrial menhaden catch cap by as much as 50%—from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons—and spread the harvest more evenly throughout the fishing season.

I am begging you to please implement this draft addendum II. SAVE OUR OSPREY!!

Best Regards,
Jana Cornelius

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James Boyle

From: Erick Fisco <erickfisco@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 9:50 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I support cutting the Chesapeake Bay Cap by the full 50%

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James Boyle

From: Jack burns <jlburnzy@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 9:43 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I support

- Cutting the Chesapeake Bay Cap by the full 50%
- Linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide catch limit, so when one drops, the other does too
- Spreading Bay harvest across quota periods so the Bay isn't stripped in spring and summer
- Reducing the coastwide catch limit by 40% to meet the science for 2027 and beyond

Jackson Burns
Surfcaster

Sent from my iPhone

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James Boyle

From: Craig Cantelmo <cantelmocraig@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 9:42 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello,

My name is Capt. Craig Cantelmo and I'm both a Fishing Tackle Industry Professional and a light tackle Charter Captain and have been affected negatively by the Menhaden Reduction fishery on Long Island thru the Chesapeake Bay. If and when we find schools of bunker the fish are dramatically smaller and (50% the size of historic fish) and much smaller then historically. This has kept game fish from being accessible to surf fisherman and inshore anglers.

I would like to choose:

- Support Option B4, cutting the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap in half, from 51,000 to 25,500 metric tons.
- Oppose Option C, which ties the cap to the coastwide quota. It would let the cap rise automatically, with no addendum and no hearings.
- Support Option B1, three evenly split quota periods, with Underage Sub-Option 1.
- Support Option B, revisiting the cap every three years.
- A cut to the Bay Cap is conservation. It is not quota to be moved to another state.

We're overestimated the number of Menhaden in the water, we have overfished the population and there's never any accountability! This is a public resource that's being plundered by a small number of commercial fishermen that is having a dramatic effect on the recreational angler that contributes to far more jobs and income for local communities that include but not limited to: Tackle Shops, Tackle Manufacturers, Charter Boat Captains, Surf Fisherman, and the businesses that rely on the fishermen to sustain their businesses.

Please end the madness,

Craig Cantelmo

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James Boyle

From: Abrielle Remick <abrielle.remick@maine.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 9:11 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden 2027-2028 Ocean TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hi,

I am writing to urge the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board to implement at least a 40% reduction to the coastwide ocean TAC for the 2027 and 2028 season, setting a fixed cap at approximately 114,000 metric tons. As a UMaine graduate student performing a striped bass foraging ecology study in Maine waters, **menhaden comprise more than 30% of striped bass diets** in 2025-2026 (and even more during certain seasons and for larger fish).

Having the ability to manage menhaden with the current ecological model is exceptional, however preliminary data from the TC meeting shows that maintaining the current quota carries a 99.5% chance of exceeding ERP fishing targets. I strongly think that in lieu of this, **a 40% cut is the minimum precautionary action required to give our already overfished and struggling to rebuild striped bass stock at least a 50% chance of staying within safe ecological limits**. Striped bass rely heavily on menhaden in addition to Atlantic bluefin tuna who have drastically shifted their diets from Atlantic herring to Atlantic menhaden in the last several years, further reinforcing their importance as a forage fish (Nadeau et al. 2025).

I understand this is a large cut and the socioeconomic impacts will be difficult, but I believe that the alternative indirect and direct socioeconomic impacts for striped bass and other marine predators that rely on menhaden may outweigh this specific cut. I watch the commercial purse seine boats in Maine rivers absolutely wipe out the menhaden from places like the New Meadows River each year, and the striped bass then need to find alternative and less nutritious prey, decreasing their overall condition and putting their spawning success at additional risk.

Please consider taking a more significant cut than proposed for the menhaden ocean TAC before it is too late to salvage this forage fish that fuels our iconic predatory fish.

Thank you,
Abby

Abrielle Remick
Graduate Research Assistant
University of Maine-School of Marine Sciences
Darling Marine Center
(401) 651-1034; abrielle.remick@maine.edu

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James Boyle

From: Marco Seandel <mseandel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 8:54 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Sir or Madam,

As you well know, the health of an ecosystem depends on all its constituents. The Atlantic menhaden are crucial for our coastal ecosystem which supports tens of thousands of jobs and billions in revenue.

I implore you to consider reducing the menhaden cap in the Chesapeake by 50% and the total coastwide catch limit by 40%. Honestly, it would be even better to include a moratorium on reduction fishing, since the latter benefits mainly corporate interests and relatively small number of jobs, while putting the entire ecosystem in harms way.

It is clear that the science has limitations. Given that, the only wise approach is to err on the side of caution or else we risk the health of many, many fisheries on the East coast. We have been down the road of overfishing before. We cannot afford to make the same mistakes again.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Marco Seandel, MD, PhD
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James Boyle

From: Colin Fitzgerald <fitzy794@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 8:53 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

-Colin

To the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am writing to support the most conservative options being considered in Draft Addendum II.

I strongly urge the Board to reduce the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap by the full 50%. I also support linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide total allowable catch, so that when one is reduced, the other is reduced as well.

Additionally, I support dividing the Bay Cap into quota periods throughout the year so that the harvest is not concentrated during the spring and summer months.

I also urge the Board to establish a coastwide TAC for 2027 and beyond that is consistent with the ecological reference point target. The 2025 stock assessment showed that the Atlantic menhaden stock is smaller than previously estimated, and the Board's own projections indicate that a reduction of 50% or more is necessary to meet the ecological reference point target.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my comments and for your continued efforts to properly manage this important resource.

Sincerely,

Colin Fitzgerald

Selden, NY 11784

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James Boyle

From: Ben Sacco <benjaminsacco13@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 8:40 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom it may concern,

Please consider cutting the Chesapeake Bay cap for menhaden by the full 50%. Please consider linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide catch limit so when one drops, the other drops too. Please consider spreading the Bay harvest across quota periods so the Bay isn't stripped in spring and summer. Please consider reducing the coastwide catch limit by 40% to meet the science for 2027 and beyond.

The entire Atlantic coastal ecosystem depends on this bait fish. We cannot afford for it to crash. It would be detrimental to everything from predator fish, to ospreys, to whales. Everything is reliant on the atlantic menhaden and we should not and cannot continue the over harvest of the species.

Do what is right.

Thank you.

Ben

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James Boyle

From: Peter Nosal <nosal.petera@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 8:34 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am writing to support the most conservation-focused measures in Draft Addendum II and urge the Board to take meaningful action to protect Atlantic menhaden and the broader coastal ecosystem that depends on them.

Specifically, I support:

• Cutting the Chesapeake Bay Cap by the full 50%.

• Linking the Chesapeake Bay Cap to the coastwide catch limit so that reductions in the coastwide limit result in corresponding reductions within the Bay.

• Spreading Chesapeake Bay harvest across quota periods to prevent excessive removals during the ecologically important spring and summer months.

• Reducing the coastwide catch limit by 40% to better align management with the science for 2027 and beyond.

Menhaden are a critical forage species supporting striped bass, bluefish, marine mammals, seabirds, and many other predators. Their value should be measured not only by how many fish can be harvested, but also by the ecological role they play when they remain in the water.

I urge the Board to take a precautionary, ecosystem-based approach and adopt the strongest conservation measures available in Draft Addendum II. Protecting adequate menhaden abundance, particularly in Chesapeake Bay, is an investment in the health and resilience of the entire Atlantic coastal ecosystem.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Peter Nosal

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James Boyle

From: Zachary Hintz <zahsbaitandtackle@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 8:23 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I would like to see the Chesapeake Bay cap cut by 50%. I would also like to see the bay cap linked to the coastwide catch limit so when one drops, the other does too. I would like to see the bay harvest spread across quota periods so the bay isn't stripped in spring and summer. And lastly I'd like to see the coastwide catch limit reduced by 40% to meet the science for 2027 and beyond.

Zachary P Hintz

Zah's Bait and Tackle / Zah's Grateful Guide Service

204 B Main Street, Portland, CT 06480

860-331-3684

860-316-7539

Zahsbaitandtackle@gmail.com

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James Boyle

From: Steve Wolf <stevewolf84@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 8:15 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello,

Please pass this addendum to reduce commercial Menhaden catch. I live on the north shore of Long Island, I have seen nearly zero adult Menhaden schools in my region in 2026. I am a recreational fisherman. We need to save the Menhaden for the marine life and birds that rely on this vital resource.

Thank you,
Steve Wolf

Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Albano, Albert <Albert.Albano@mtacd.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 8:10 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello ASMFC,

I am a lifelong recreational fisherman who spends most of his time surfcasting. I live and fish on Long Island in NY. Over the past handful of years, I am seeing far less adult bunker than ever in my lifetime (I am 50 years old). And less juvenile bunker schools as well. Its is scary how much fewer adult bunker there is.

Based on what I've read about menhaden, I learned that menhaden being harvested in the Chesapeake would have a negative affect on the amount of bunker seen at other areas of the Atlantic coast. Having seen such a drastic and sustained drop in the amount I am seeing on Long Island, I can't help but suggest that drastic action be taken by ASMFC.

Towards that end, I would like to see Option C1E selected for the Reduction Fishery Cap. I also would like to see B1 Selected for the quota periods (spread evenly during the year). Lastly, I would like the ASMFC to be mandated to revisit this status Menhaden a minimum of every 3 years (Option B).

Thank you for taking my comments.

Albert Albano
601 Chester Rd.
Sayville, NY 11782

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James Boyle

From: Logan Reynolds <lrreynolds1017@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 7:58 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hi there,
I am emailing in response to the social media post this morning. The purpose of this email is to support cutting the Chesapeake Bay Cap by full 50% and reducing coast wide catch limit by 40%. Also in support of linking the Bay Cap to the coast wide catch limit and spreading bay harvest across quota periods.

Thank you,
Logan Reynolds

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James Boyle

From: Richie Schlentz <richieschlentz@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 7:53 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I'm an angler and Chesapeake Bay resident writing to comment on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II. I support the following measures:

1. Cutting the Chesapeake Bay Cap by the full 50%.

2. Linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide catch limit, so that when one drops, the other does too.

3. Spreading Bay harvest across quota periods so the Bay isn't stripped in spring and summer.

4. Reducing the coastwide catch limit by 40% to meet the science for 2027 and beyond.

Menhaden are the foundation of the Bay's food web, and the striped bass, bluefish, and other species that depend on them need a healthy forage base. Please adopt these measures.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Rich Schlentz

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James Boyle

From: John Skogerboe <jskoggs@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 7:37 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom it may concern,

I support the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II objective to:

Cutting the Chesapeake Bay Cap by the full 50%

Linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide catch limit, so when one drops, the other does too

Spreading Bay harvest across quota periods so the Bay isn't stripped in spring and summer

Reducing the coastwide catch limit by 40% to meet the science for 2027 and beyond

Thanks,
John

Sent from Gmail Mobile

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James Boyle

From: mike0altieri@aim.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 6:42 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Cut the Chesapeake Bay cap by the full 50%
Link the Bay cap to the coastwide catch limit so when one drops the other does too.
Reduce the coastwide catch limit by 40%.

Help us out, the menhaden fishing is wiping out the menhaden WAY faster than they can recover. Schools are way down EVERYWHERE. Every striped bass I've seen this year is emaciated. PLEASE HELP!

Mike Altieri

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James Boyle

From: steve cnote <stevecnote@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 4:40 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Bunker are one of if not the most important source of food for Striped bass ,bluefish and many other fish on outlet fishery here on Long Island.
We Must stop Giant companies from being allowed to harvest vast amounts of these important species.

Steven Corrigan
11 Pearsall street Babylon NY

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James Boyle

From: Kathleen p White <kpwhitect@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 12:22 AM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Please provide for maximal mahaden on the Eastern seacoast. I spend summers on the CT shore and I have myself seen the absence of Osprey this year with empty nests after hatching ! After years of restoring this species we are now starving them!
Please allow their main food source to continue
Thx
Kathleen White MD

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James Boyle

From: Joelyn Durgin <champagnemorgan@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 10:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic menhaden draft addendum ll

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Please pass the proposal to cut the Chesapeake bay cap of menhaden catch by the full 50% Link the bay cap to the coastwide catch limit, so that when one drops , the other does too.
Spread the bay harvest across quota periods so the bay isn't stripped from in spring and summer.
Reduce the coastwise catch limit by 40% to meet the science for 2027 and beyond.
Thank you
Joelyn Durgin
Concerned citizen.

Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Alex Espo <aespo285@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 10:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] "Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II"

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Save the ecosystem

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James Boyle

From: Alexander Esposito <alexcesposito@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 10:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Cut the coast wide catch limit

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James Boyle

From: Russ White <russwhite321@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 10:13 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic menhaden draft addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I support cutting the Bay cap and reducing the coast wide catch limits to save the bunker and help save our striped bass population

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James Boyle

From: Kieran Coen <kieran.coen@maritime.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 10:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] IMPORTANT!! Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

It is vital to cut the harvest of Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay by FULL 50% and reduce the coastwide catch limit by at least 40%. It is vital to the fisheries and marine life stretching the east coast. It is the most important fishery we have and it will be the downfall of many industries that rely on these fish to thrive. When the Menhaden population drops, so does everything in the northeast. Striped Bass, Whales, Tuna, Bluefish, False Albacore, and many more spices rely on these fish as forage and cutting the harvest will ensure a healthy balance in the ecosystem. Nothing is more important on the east coast waters currently. Cut the Chesapeake Bay cap and save the east coast fishery so it can be passed down generations to come.

Thank you for your time.

Very Respectfully,

Kieran Coen

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James Boyle

From: Marshall Roy <marshallroy22@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 9:41 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Support:
Cutting the Chesapeake Bay Cap by the full 50%
Linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide catch limit, so when one drops, the other does too Spreading Bay harvest across quota periods so the Bay isn't stripped in spring and summer
Reducing the coastwide catch limit by 40% to meet the science for 2027 and beyond

Marshall Roy
Hull, Ma

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James Boyle

From: Jeremy Buckler <jbuckler814@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 9:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing as a Maryland resident and recreational angler who fishes for striped bass on Chesapeake Bay and it's tributaries.

Menhaden are the foundation of the Bay's food web, and the health of the fish I pursue depends directly on how this forage fish is managed. I urge the Commission to adopt the following measures in Draft Addendum II:

1. Reduce the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap by the full 50%. The Bay is a critical nursery and feeding ground, and a partial cut does not go far enough to protect the predators that rely on menhaden there.

2. Link the Bay Cap to the coastwide total allowable catch, so that when the coastwide limit drops, the Bay Cap drops with it. Managing the two separately allows harvest pressure to concentrate in the Bay even as the stock declines.

3. Spread Bay harvest across quota periods. Concentrating removals in spring and summer strips the Bay of forage at exactly the time striped bass, osprey, and other predators need it most.

4. Reduce the coastwide catch limit by 40% for 2027 and beyond, consistent with the science and the ecological reference points the Commission has adopted.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your work to protect this resource.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Buckler
Severna Park, MD 21146

Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Jim Rocco <tennjed130@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 8:31 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Jim Rocco
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am writing to support the most conservative options in Draft Addendum II.

Please reduce the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap by the full 50%, link the Bay Cap to the coastwise total allowable catch (TAC), and divide the Bay Cap into quota periods so harvest isn't concentrated in the spring and summer.

I also urge the Board to set a coastwise TAC for 2027 and beyond that meets the ecological reference point target. The 2025 assessment showed the stock is smaller than previously estimated, and the Board's own projections found a cut of 50% or more was needed to meet that target.

Thank you for considering my comments.

James J. Rocco
Maryville, Tennessee

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James Boyle

From: Evan Richter <evan.richter1217@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 8:30 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello, I am writing in support of
-Cutting the Chesapeake Bay Cap by the full 50% -Linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide catch limit, so when one drops, the other does too -Spreading Bay harvest across quota periods so the Bay isn't stripped in spring and summer -Reducing the coastwide catch limit by 40% to meet the science for 2027 and beyond

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Bob Pellegrino <rvpell@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 8:14 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden 2027-2028 TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear ASMFC Commissioners,

I am writing to provide comments on the Atlantic Menhaden 2027–2028 TAC. The Commission must act immediately to prevent continued unsustainable harvest levels.

The coastwide TAC should be cut by 40% to approximately 112,100 metric tons for both 2027 and 2028. According to the ASMFC's own projections, even this reduced TAC still carries a 40% and 50% chance of over-harvest in those respective years. Maintaining the current TAC of 186,840 metric tons for 2027—simply due to delay—would allow another season of excessive and damaging commercial harvest.

The TAC must be set as a fixed tonnage for 2027 and 2028. It should not be tied to an automatic formula, nor deferred pending further analysis. The stock cannot afford additional years of inaction.

The Commission must implement meaningful management measures now.

Sincerely,

Robert Pellegrino

Massachusetts Recreational Angler

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James Boyle

From: Bob Pellegrino <rvpell@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 8:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear ASMFC Commissioners,

I am writing to submit my comments on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II. The Commission must take decisive action to protect the Chesapeake Bay and the broader ecosystem that depends on a sustainable menhaden population.

First, the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap should be fixed at 25,500 metric tons. With a coastwide quota near 112,000 metric tons, maintaining the current 51,000-ton Bay Cap would allow roughly 45% of the entire coastwide harvest to come from inside the Bay. A 25,500-ton cap represents about 23%—consistent with the 24% average since 2018—and is far more appropriate for the Bay's ecological needs.

Second, every option linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC must be rejected. Reductions to the Bay Cap are conservation measures for the Bay itself and should be treated as such. Linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC invites geographic reallocations of unused quota and creates a pathway for increased harvest in the future, undermining the very purpose of the cap.

The Bay's forage base, predators, and overall ecological stability depend on meaningful limits. The Commission must act now.

Sincerely,

Robert Pellegrino

Massachusetts Recreational Angler

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James Boyle

From: george frazier <reizarfg@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 8:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic menhaden draft addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Change the regulations to protect them

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James Boyle

From: Peter <peter.gareiss@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 7:50 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

comments@asmfc.org

Subject line: Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

I'm a fisherman from Milford CT and the bunker have been absent from our shoreline. The ospreys used to be fishing the harbor constantly, they are scarcely seen. The fishing for striped bass and bluefish is suffering.

We need to protect Atlantic menhaden to protect our fishery before it's decimated from lack of bait. I support efforts to Reduce the industrial commercial harvesting of menhaden, the most important fish in the sea.

-Pete Gareiss

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James Boyle

From: Scot Calitri <smcalitri@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 7:50 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To Whom it May Concern,

I'm now a recreational fisherman that previously spent time in the commercial fishing industry and hold a commercial USCG Captains License.

Our fisheries are in a free fall, water quality is deteriorating in ways we don't understand and we are seeing increased variability in species recruitment rates.

Our fisheries are worth much more recreationally than commercially. When smaller operators are favored more than industrial fisheries, more Americans benefit too.

For Addendum II

- Set the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap at 25,500 metric tons.
- There should be no linkage between the Bay Cap the Coastwide TAC.

We know that the statistics used for decades were seriously flawed and for once, please manage conservatively. For the fish…

- Scot Calitri
Durham, NH
970-390-4997
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James Boyle

From: Jim Piva <jimpiva@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 7:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I have fished for striped bass for 30 years and each year I throw a cast net for menhaden and catch and release Stripers.

This year there were no pogies in my areas (Dartmouth and New Bedford, MA).

Something must be done to restrict the amount of Menhaden commercially taken.

Thank you.

Jim Piva
Sent from my iPhone
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James Boyle

From: Tom Fuda <tom.fuda@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 7:21 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Shanna Madsen; William Hyatt; Rep. Joseph P Gresko; Matthew Gates; Robert Lafrance; Sen. Craig A. Miner
Subject: [External] Menhaden Total Allowable Catch

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear ASMFC Commissioners,

My name is Thomas Fuda. I am an avid recreational angler from the state of CT. I fish the waters of the northeast, but primarily focus on the waters of west central Long Island Sound from both boat and shore. I would like to state for the record that I would like the ASFMC Menhaden board adopt a reduction of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the 2027 and 2028 seasons that will result in at least a 50% probability of being at or below the fishing mortality target. Based on what I heard at a recent meeting, this requires approximately a 40% cut to the TAC from 186000 metric tons to about 115000 metric tons.

I make this comment because my own personal observations tell me we are overfishing this vital forage species. I have been on the water 60+ times a season for the past 10+ years. For the past several seasons, I have been seeing fewer and fewer schools of adult bunker in my part of Long Island Sound. I used to frequently see schools of adult bunker swimming on the surface in harbors and open waters off the CT shore. This past season, they were non-existent. And I heard this same story from all of my fishing friends that fish the same waters. This lack of bunker was matched by a corresponding lack of bluefish and striped bass this season. West central Long Island Sound is becoming a fishing dead zone.

I believe my observations are backed by recent science, produced by Gerald Ault, et al, that suggests that the natural mortality figure used in deriving the most recent stock assessments and resulting TAC, was far too high. This resulted in overly optimistic stock assessments and a coast-wide TAC that was far too high. The true “stakeholders” in this fishery are the many predator species that depend on bunker for survival. On their behalf, please make this much needed cut to the TAC in your upcoming meeting in November. Thank you for your time.

Regards,
Thomas Fuda

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James Boyle

From: sam parker <samparkersf@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 7:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am writing in support of stronger protections for Atlantic menhaden. Keeping more menhaden in the water means more food for striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, ospreys and whales.

Please adopt the full 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap, link the Bay Cap to the coastwide catch limit so it falls when that limit falls, and spread the Bay harvest across quota periods rather than concentrating it in spring and summer.

I also support reducing the coastwide catch limit by 40% for 2027 and beyond. Please put the long-term health of the ecosystem first and leave enough forage in the water for the species that depend on it.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards,
Sam Parker

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James Boyle

From: Susan Barile <suesealiny@optonline.net>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 6:56 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

I support helping increase the menhaden aka Bunker. They are probably the most important food source for marine life.

- Cutting the Chesapeake Bay Cap by the full 50%
- Linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide catch limit, so when one drops, the other does too
- Spreading Bay harvest across quota periods so the Bay isn't stripped in spring and summer
- Reducing the coastwide catch limit by 40% to meet the science for 2027 and beyond
-

Thank you
Sue Barile
2 bates lane
Shoreham, NY 11786.

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James Boyle

From: Sam Denious <sdenious@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 6:23 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Hello,

I am writing today to advocate for the reduction of the harvest limit for menhaden by at least 50% in the Chesapeake Bay. We are losing the resource.

Sam Denious
Arlington, MA

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James Boyle

From: Matt McAndris <mattmcandris14@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 6:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Menhaden Management Crisis

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for the most protective conservation measures outlined in Draft Addendum II.
Specifically, **I ask that you cut the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap by a full 50%,** tie this Bay Cap directly to the coastwide total allowable catch, and split the cap into seasonal quotas to prevent heavily concentrated harvesting during the spring and summer months.
Additionally, I strongly encourage the Board to **establish a coastwide TAC for 2027** and beyond that successfully meets the ecological reference point target.
The 2025 stock assessment demonstrated that the population is lower than previous estimates, and the Board's own forecasting indicates that a reduction of at least 50% is necessary to achieve this goal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Matthew McAndris
Eatontown, New Jersey

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James Boyle

From: Carl DiRocco <carldl14@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 5:20 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] "Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Please support the following items to keep the Menhaden population strong,

1. Cutting the Chesapeake Bay Cap by a FULL 50%

2. Linking the Bay Cap to the coastwise catch limit, so when one drops, the other does too.

3. Spreading Bay harvest across quota periods so the Bay isn't stripped in spring and summer.

4. REDUCING THE COASTWIDE CATCH LIMIT BY 40% to meet the science for 2027 and beyond.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Carl DiRocco
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James Boyle

From: Scott Bowes <bowesscott@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 5:18 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden draft addendum II...

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom it may concern-

Please protect this keystone species.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.
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James Boyle

From: Arthur Anthony <arthur.anthony@theagencyre.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 4:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

This email is in support of the following:

- Cutting the Chesapeake Bay Cap by the full 50%.
- Linking Bay Cap to the coastwide catch limit, so when one drops, the other does too.
- Spreading Bay harvest across quota periods so the Bay isn't stripped in spring and summer.
- Reducing the coastwide catch limit by 40% to meet the science for 2027 and beyond.

ARTHUR ANTHONY
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson
M: 845.242.2512
E: arthur.anthony@theagencyre.com
THE **AGENCY | The Mike Fabbri Team**
A Global Marketing and Sales Organization
TheAgencyRE.com

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James Boyle

From: Arthur Anthony <awanthony22@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 4:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

This email is in support of the following:

- Cutting the Chesapeake Bay Cap by the full 50%
- Linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide catch limit, so when one drops, the other does too.
- Spreading Bay harvest across quota periods so the bay isn't stripped in spring and summer
- Reducing the coastwide catch limit by 40% to meet the science for 2027 and beyond.

Arthur Anthony
845-242-2512

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James Boyle

From: Joe Gray <joegray83@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 4:23 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic menhaden draft addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Cutting the Chesapeake Bay Cap by the full 50% Linking the Bay Cap to the coastwide catch limit, so when one drops, the other does too

Spreading Bay harvest across quota periods so the Bay isn't stripped in spring and summer
Reducing the coastwide catch limit by 40% to meet the science for 2027 and beyond

Sent from my iPhone

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James Boyle

From: Eric Bocchino <ebocchino26@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 4:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Save the Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for the most protective conservation measures outlined in Draft Addendum II.
Specifically, **I ask that you cut the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap by a full 50%,** tie this Bay Cap directly to the coastwide total allowable catch, and split the cap into seasonal quotas to prevent heavily concentrated harvesting during the spring and summer months.
Additionally, I strongly encourage the Board to **establish a coastwide TAC for 2027** and beyond that successfully meets the ecological reference point target.
The 2025 stock assessment demonstrated that the population is lower than previous estimates, and the Board's own forecasting indicates that a reduction of at least 50% is necessary to achieve this goal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Eric Bocchino
Lavallette, New Jersey

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James Boyle

From: Eric Bocchino <ebocchino26@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 4:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Save the Menhaden

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for the most protective conservation measures outlined in Draft Addendum II.
Specifically, **I ask that you cut the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap by a full 50%,** tie this Bay Cap directly to the coastwide total allowable catch, and split the cap into seasonal quotas to prevent heavily concentrated harvesting during the spring and summer months.
Additionally, I strongly encourage the Board to **establish a coastwide TAC for 2027** and beyond that successfully meets the ecological reference point target.
The 2025 stock assessment demonstrated that the population is lower than previous estimates, and the Board's own forecasting indicates that a reduction of at least 50% is necessary to achieve this goal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Eric Bocchino
Lavallette, New Jersey

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James Boyle

From: Mike Marino <mjm200712@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 3:59 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden 2026 Regulations

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for the most protective conservation measures outlined in Draft Addendum II.

Specifically, **I ask that you cut the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap by a full 50%,** tie this Bay Cap directly to the coastwide total allowable catch, and split the cap into seasonal quotas to prevent heavily concentrated harvesting during the spring and summer months.

Additionally, I strongly encourage the Board to **establish a coastwide TAC for 2027** and beyond that successfully meets the ecological reference point target.

The 2025 stock assessment demonstrated that the population is lower than previous estimates, and the Board's own forecasting indicates that a reduction of at least 50% is necessary to achieve this goal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Michael Marino

Lavallette, New Jersey

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James Boyle

From: Christopher Gonzalez <chris@captgonzo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 3:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden 2027-2028 TAC

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

I am Christopher Gonzalez, owner and captain of Capt Gonzo Charters in Brick, New Jersey. This comment is only on the 2027–2028 coastwide total allowable catch. I am submitting it separately from my Draft Addendum II comment.

Please cut the coastwide TAC by 40 percent, to about 112,100 metric tons, and set it as a fixed tonnage for 2027 and 2028. Do not defer the cut, and do not use a formula that can float the quota back up.

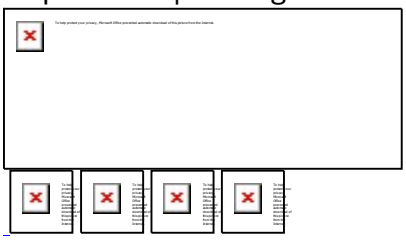
ASMFC's own projections show the current 186,840 metric ton TAC has about a 99.5 percent chance of exceeding the ecological reference point fishing-mortality target each year from 2027 through 2029. The last 20 percent cut was mostly unused quota. It did not leave more fish in the water. This one has to be real.

Menhaden are the forage base for the stripers, bluefish, tuna, and whales my charters depend on from Barnegat Bay to the offshore grounds. Please manage them for the ecosystem, not just for reduction in harvest.

Respectfully,

--
Tight Lines 🎣,

Chris Gonzalez *(917)974-0704*
Fishing Enthusiast & Brand Ambassador
chris@captgonzo.com | www.captgonzo.com
Capt Gonzo | Fishing is a Life Skill.....



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James Boyle

From: Christopher Gonzalez <chris@captgonzo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 3:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear Atlantic Menhaden Management Board,

My name is Christopher Gonzalez. I run Capt Gonzo Charters out of Brick, New Jersey, on Barnegat Bay and out of Manasquan Inlet. I hold a Merchant Mariner Credential and fish these waters personally, inshore and offshore, on a 2021 Sailfish 320CC. I have been fishing since I was six and worked charter and party boats out of City Island and Sheepshead Bay from the time I was twelve.

I am writing in support of leaving more Atlantic menhaden in the ocean for striped bass, bluefish, tuna, whales, osprey, and everything else that depends on them.

Bunker are the engine of the fishery I make a living on. When the schools are thick, the bay and the inlet come alive. When they are thin, the striper bite fades, the bluefish scatter, and the birds and whales move on. My clients come to New Jersey to see that food chain working. A day of watching whales on bunker, then catching the fish that are eating them, is what keeps a small charter business booked.

Please adopt the strongest reduction on the table for the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap: Option B4, a one-time 50 percent cut from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons. Set that as a fixed cap. Do not link it to the coastwide TAC in a way that lets the Bay harvest rise again if the coastwide quota is later increased. A Bay reduction should stay a Bay reduction.

I also support splitting the cap into seasonal quota periods so the reduction fleet cannot stack the harvest into the spring and summer, when predators, pound-net watermen, and the nursery are using the same fish.

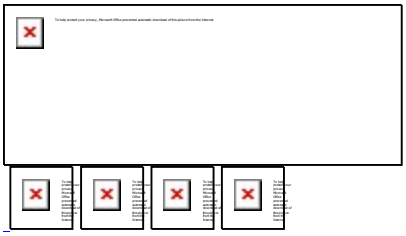
The coastwide stock may not be declared overfished, but localized availability is what my season runs on. Concentrating industrial reduction harvest in the Chesapeake during the warm months is the wrong place to keep pulling the base of the food web. Striped bass are still rebuilding. Osprey productivity in the Bay has been a concern. Whales and tuna follow the same bait. Leaving more menhaden in the water is the practical move.

Thank you for taking comment from a working captain, not just the reduction industry.

Respectfully,

--
Tight Lines 🎣,

Chris Gonzalez *(917)974-0704*
Fishing Enthusiast & Brand Ambassador
chris@captgonzo.com | www.captgonzo.com
Capt Gonzo | Fishing is a Life Skill.....



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James Boyle

From: Brayden Greenway <braydengreenway4@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 3:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

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James Boyle

From: Kevin Kelly <kevkell11946@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 3:40 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Cut the cap by the full 50%!!!!

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James Boyle

From: andrew dzenis <adzenis13@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 3:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

To whom it may concern.

Please meaningfully reduce commercial menhaden harvesting. Without Menhaden, we have no future of striped bass, tuna, etc. they are a keystone species.

I agree with all measures below: REDUCE CATCH MEANINGFULLY, 40% across the coast.

Thank you

Andrew Dzenis

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James Boyle

From: Theunissen, Nico <nicolas.theunissen@yale.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 3:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II

Categories: Menhaden 2 Auto Replied

Dear ASMFC,

My name is Nicolas Theunissen and I am a PhD candidate at Yale University as well as a passionate recreational fisherman here in the northeast. I am writing to support the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II cut the Chesapeake Bay Cap by 50%, link the Bay Cap to the coastwide catch limit, spread the bay harvest over quota periods, and reduce the coastwide catch limit by 40% to meet with the results of stock assessments.

As a passionate angler I have noticed a significant decline in the number of both adult and juvenile menhaden in recent years, which are critical to the stocks of game fish that I target such as bluefin tuna, striped bass, bluefish, weakfish and many more. I believe this resource needs to be managed with the best interest of the whole fishing community in mind, including commercial and recreational anglers who target species that predate on menhaden.

Thank you!
Best,
Nicolas Theunissen

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ASMFC Draft letter #1

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC):

I am writing as a Maryland resident who has lived in St. Mary's County since 2005 and has developed a deep personal connection to the Chesapeake Bay. I am an avid conservationist, experienced environmental litigator and someone who spends considerable time on and around the Bay. I am also deeply interested in the wildlife that depends upon this remarkable ecosystem, particularly osprey, striped bass, sharks, whales, and other species whose survival is tied directly or indirectly to a healthy forage base.

I strongly support a 50 percent reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons annually. I also strongly support establishing seasonal quota periods for menhaden so that harvest is distributed throughout the year rather than concentrated in an intense summer fishing window.

The Chesapeake Bay is facing an ecological crisis that should not be minimized or postponed. Declining productivity, widespread osprey nest failures, and continued concerns about the condition of the striped bass population are warning signs that demand a precautionary approach to the management of one of the Bay's most important forage fish - **menhaden.**

Menhaden are not merely another commercial commodity. They are a foundational component of the Chesapeake Bay food web. They provide critical forage for striped bass, osprey, bluefish, weakfish, dolphins, and numerous other predators. Removing very large quantities of menhaden from the Bay during the period when they are most concentrated and most biologically important deserves particularly careful scrutiny.

The scale and timing of the reduction fishery are especially troubling. More than 100 million pounds of menhaden can be removed under the existing Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap. When that harvest is concentrated into a relatively short summer period, the ecological effect is not simply a matter of the annual tonnage. **Where and when the fish are removed matters.**

An intense summer harvest can create localized depletion at precisely the time when menhaden are serving as forage for other species. It also potentially deprives recreational anglers, commercial watermen, charter operators, and the broader coastal tourism economy of access to a shared public resource. These competing interests deserve meaningful consideration in the management process.

I am particularly concerned about allowing an annual quota to be treated as though the timing of harvest is irrelevant. It is not. A fish removed from the Bay in June is not ecologically equivalent to that same fish being harvested months later. The Bay's predators have seasonal feeding requirements, and the availability of forage during critical periods can matter greatly to their survival and reproductive success.

For that reason, I urge the Commission to establish **strict seasonal quota periods that distribute the allowable harvest more evenly throughout the year and prevent the reduction fishery from concentrating an extraordinary volume of harvest into the summer months**.

Seasonal management would provide a more precautionary approach and would better recognize the fact that Chesapeake Bay is a dynamic ecosystem rather than simply another geographic allocation within a coast-wide fishery.

There is also an important management issue that deserves attention. The Commission's coast-wide menhaden assessment does not provide the same level of quantitative information about menhaden abundance and availability specifically within Chesapeake Bay. That uncertainty argues for caution—not for assuming that the Bay can safely sustain the maximum allowable harvest.

The Chesapeake Bay belongs to all of us. It belongs to the watermen who have made their living here, the recreational fishermen who pursue its species, the sailors and boaters who enjoy its waters, the communities whose economies depend upon it, and the wildlife that has no voice in these proceedings. Menhaden management should reflect that broader public interest.

I respectfully urge the Commission to:

1. Reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50 percent, from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons per year.

2. Establish firm seasonal quota periods for menhaden.

3. **Prevent excessive concentration of reduction harvest during the summer months.

4. Apply a precautionary approach in light of ecological uncertainty and the importance of menhaden as forage.

5. Give meaningful consideration to the needs of striped bass, osprey, other predators, recreational anglers, watermen, charter operators, and the Bay's broader tourism economy.

I have spent years watching, enjoying, and caring about the Chesapeake Bay. I have seen firsthand what makes this ecosystem extraordinary, and I am increasingly concerned about the signs that its productivity and resilience are being strained.

We should not wait until the consequences are unmistakable before acting.

The prudent course is to reduce the intensity of the reduction fishery now, protect menhaden as a critical forage resource, and distribute harvest in a manner that gives the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem a better opportunity to sustain the wildlife and fisheries that depend upon it.

Thank you for your consideration and for your responsibility to future generations of Chesapeake Bay users and stewards.

Sincerely,

Suellen Keiner
St. Mary’s County, Maryland

Public Comment in Strong Support of a 50% Chesapeake Bay Cap Reduction and Seasonal Quota Distribution in Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3

Commenter: Jeremy Schreifels, PhD

I am writing in strong support of the most protective measures under consideration in Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. I urge the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board to cut the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50% and to spread that harvest across the season with seasonal quota periods.

I also urge the Board to go further: require real monitoring and public reporting of the reduction fishery, restrict purse-seine fishing in sensitive areas and at sensitive times, and limit the use of spotter aircraft that help the fleet find and empty out schools of fish.

As a homeowner on the Severn River, I've watched the Bay's fish and bird life change from my own backyard. My observations aren't a substitute for scientific monitoring, but they line up with a growing body of research documenting real food-web and reproductive problems in parts of the Chesapeake Bay.

Requested management actions

I respectfully ask the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board to adopt the following:

1. Cut the Chesapeake Bay cap by 50%

Reduce the current 51,000-metric-ton cap to 25,500 metric tons a year (or lower). This is the most protective option in Draft Addendum II, and it's the level ASMFC's own 2025 assessment says is needed to meaningfully reduce the odds that fishing mortality stays too high. [1,2]

2. Split the cap into three seasonal quota periods

Spread the reduced cap across three periods so the fleet can't take it all in one spring-and-summer push — exactly when Bay predators need menhaden most. This option is already on the table in Draft Addendum II and directly addresses ASMFC's own concern about concentrated fishing effort. [1]

3. Require real electronic monitoring and public reporting

Every reduction-fishery vessel operating in the Bay should report electronically, not just through weekly landings totals. At minimum, the system should include:

- electronic, trip-level reporting of catch, effort, date, time, location, and vessel identification for every landing in the Bay

- vessel monitoring systems (VMS) or equivalent electronic location tracking on all reduction-fishery vessels
- real-time or near-real-time quota accounting as the Bay cap is approached, with automatic closure before it's exceeded
- independent auditing of landings and compliance
- public reporting, both ongoing aggregate data and a public annual report on compliance, quota use, fishing locations, effort, and bycatch

The 2019 cap violation, discussed below, shows why this matters: a cap nobody can verify in real time isn't a real limit.

4. Add stronger time and area protections

Establish closures or other protections for menhaden during critical periods and in areas important for spawning, nursery habitat, and predator feeding. This is consistent with the precautionary options the Chesapeake Bay Work Group has already considered. [3]

5. Restrict purse-seine fishing in ecologically sensitive areas

Limit purse-seine operations in tributaries and other areas where concentrated harvest could strip a local area of menhaden or interfere with predators feeding there.

6. Restrict or prohibit spotter aircraft and drones in the Bay

Spotter planes and drones make it far easier for the fleet to find and quickly harvest concentrated schools of fish. That capability deserves real limits inside a confined system like the Chesapeake Bay.

7. Improve location-specific monitoring and assessment

Fund and require better data on menhaden abundance, catch, effort, and predator interactions at the Bay and tributary scale. ASMFC already identifies better fine-scale data and models as a research priority. [1]

Why these measures are needed

Based on the scientific literature, ASMFC's analyses, and what I've observed, the following evidence supports my requested management actions:

1. Menhaden are a key foundation for the Chesapeake Bay food web

Atlantic menhaden aren't just another commercially caught fish, they're a forage species, meaning much of what they eat gets passed up the food chain when bigger fish, birds, and other

predators eat them. NOAA Fisheries describes menhaden as an important prey species and highlights their role in the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. [1]

Menhaden also link the Atlantic Ocean to the Bay through their life cycle: they spawn offshore, their larvae drift into estuaries like the Chesapeake to grow up, and the juveniles eventually head back out to coastal waters. [1] The Bay has long been an important nursery for menhaden, and research shows it contributes substantially to the coastwide population. [2,3]

Because menhaden are such important prey here, removing large numbers from one area of the Bay during the season when predators depend on them has consequences that go well beyond the fish that were caught.

2. Menhaden abundance has remained low compared with historical levels

The long-term record backs up the case for greater caution. A peer-reviewed analysis of six decades of Atlantic menhaden data found that abundance remains well below the highs of the 1970s and '80s, and that recruitment (i.e., the number of young fish surviving to join the population) has stayed unusually low in the Bay. The study flagged that persistent low recruitment as a real concern for managers trying to sustain both the fishery and menhaden's role as forage for other species. [4]

3. The osprey population is suffering

Recent research led by Bryan Watts and colleagues at the Center for Conservation Biology at William & Mary, working with the U.S. Geological Survey and other institutions, provides strong evidence of widespread reproductive problems in Chesapeake Bay ospreys.

A 2026 peer-reviewed study monitored 571 osprey nests across the Bay during the 2024 breeding season. Nests in high-salinity areas produced far fewer surviving young than nests in low-salinity areas. The produced so few, in fact, that every high-salinity area studied was losing ospreys faster than it was producing them, while low-salinity areas were producing a surplus. The researchers concluded that reduced menhaden availability is a primary driver of the poor reproduction in high-salinity waters. [5]

Earlier research in the lower Bay documented a long-term decline in how much food ospreys were bringing to their nests and in their reproductive success, tied to swings in menhaden availability. [6] The long-term numbers are troubling: in Mobjack Bay, the rate at which menhaden were delivered to osprey nests dropped by more than 80% over the study period. Because menhaden are unusually calorie-dense compared to other fish, that shift cut the overall energy value of the osprey diet by roughly half. [6]

We're seeing reduced food availability and reproductive failure right now, in a highly visible, fish-dependent predator. I've tracked osprey nests along the Severn River near my home. In 2024, two of four monitored nests failed. In 2025, two of three failed. In 2026, only two pairs returned to these sites. I know this is a small sample that can't establish cause on its own. I offer

it as a local observation consistent with the much broader scientific evidence of food stress and reproductive problems now being documented across parts of the Bay.

The Commission shouldn't wait until local populations have declined past the point of recovery before acting.

4. A coastwide "healthy" stock does not resolve the problem in the Chesapeake Bay

ASMFC's current assessment doesn't classify Atlantic menhaden as overfished or experiencing overfishing coastwide. [7] But that doesn't answer the question in front of the Board. ASMFC itself acknowledges that its current models can't produce a stock status or harvest advice for a smaller region like the Chesapeake Bay separately from the ocean as a whole. [1]

The real question for the Bay is: is there enough menhaden in the Bay to support the Bay's ecology? ASMFC's own Chesapeake Bay Work Group couldn't answer that question. It still identified changes in menhaden availability, predator needs, and the timing of the Bay fishery as reasons to consider additional precautionary management. [3]

That uncertainty is a strong argument for caution, not for leaning on a coastwide average that wasn't designed to answer this question.

5. The 2019 cap violation demonstrates the need for stronger monitoring and enforcement

The history of the Bay cap itself shows why stronger monitoring and public reporting matter. ASMFC established the current 51,000-metric-ton Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap under Amendment 3 in 2017. [1] Virginia hadn't yet written the new cap into its own regulations when, in September 2019, Omega Protein notified ASMFC that it intended to exceed it. ASMFC records show Virginia had been monitoring landings and had already told Omega Protein to stay under the cap. [8]

Omega Protein exceeded it anyway. At its October 2019 meeting, the ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Management Board reported that the reduction fishery had blown past the 51,000-metric-ton cap on September 6, with Bay landings about 27% over the limit (reaching roughly 65,000 metric tons). [8]

This episode matters for two reasons. First, a cap nobody is actually watching isn't much of a conservation measure. Second, the public still has very little access to the location and operational data needed to independently check how the reduction fishery is affecting the Bay.

ASMFC reports that it currently relies on state and federal partners for monitoring and that Bay landings are reported weekly. [1] Weekly landing totals are a poor substitute for the real electronic monitoring described above.

6. ASMFC's Ecological Reference Points (ERPs) support a substantial reduction

There's another reason to support a 50% reduction: it's what ASMFC's own numbers point to. The Commission's 2025 assessment found that Atlantic menhaden fishing mortality was above the Ecological Reference Point (ERP) target and that fecundity (i.e., the population's egg-producing capacity) was below its ERP target. [9]

In response, the Board cut the 2026 coastwide Total Allowable Catch from 233,550 metric tons to 186,840 metric tons, a 20% reduction. That gets fishing mortality to a zero percent chance of exceeding the ERP threshold, but it still leaves a 100% chance that fishing mortality stays somewhere between the ERP target and the threshold, rather than getting back down to the target itself. [2, 9] Most importantly, ASMFC's own analysis states plainly: "[t]o have a lower probability of being at or above the ERP F target, a 50% or more reduction in the TAC would be required." [2]

A 50% reduction isn't an arbitrary ask. It's the number ASMFC's own technical analysis says is needed to meaningfully reduce the odds that fishing mortality stays at or above a target the stock is not currently meeting.

7. Concentrated harvest is a different problem from coastwide harvest

Fishing pressure isn't spread evenly across a species' range, and its effects aren't either. The Chesapeake Bay cap exists in the first place because of concerns about localized depletion. ASMFC set the original cap in 2006 as a precaution against exactly that. [1] Draft Addendum II raises the same concern again: the Board is looking at cutting the cap by up to 50% and spreading it across three quota periods because reduction-fishery effort has been concentrating in spring and summer, with knock-on effects for other fisheries and the ecosystem. [1]

A school of menhaden pulled out of one tributary isn't available to the osprey, striped bass, or bluefish hunting in that tributary just because plenty of menhaden exist somewhere else, hundreds of miles away. Menhaden's value to the ecosystem depends on where and when they are, not just how many exist coastwide.

Spring and summer matter more than other seasons for this reason. That's when fish and birds need extra energy for growth, migration, breeding, and raising young. Osprey research shows what happens when enough high-energy forage isn't there during the breeding season. [5-6, 11] A single annual quota gives the fleet every incentive to harvest heavily whenever menhaden are most concentrated and easiest to catch, which is often exactly when localized depletion does the most ecological damage. Splitting the cap across three periods spreads that pressure out over the year, so predators aren't left short during the months they need menhaden most.

That's why I support both the 50% cap reduction and the seasonal quota periods.

8. Purse-seine fishing creates additional ecosystem concerns

The Board should also weigh how menhaden are caught, not just how many. Purse seines are extremely efficient at capturing schooling fish, and when paired with spotter aircraft that can locate schools from the air, they let a fleet remove large quantities of fish very quickly from a small area. I'm not arguing purse seines are inherently wrong for catching menhaden, I'm arguing that using them in a confined, ecologically complex estuary like the Chesapeake Bay calls for more caution than using them far offshore.

9. Environmental conditions can concentrate fishing effort

How environmental conditions interact with purse-seine fishing also matters. Langseth and colleagues studied the Gulf menhaden fishery and found that as dissolved oxygen dropped, both menhaden and the fishing fleet shifted toward particular areas, changing where fish could be caught and how easily. [12]

Environmental conditions can change where menhaden gather and where fishing effort follows them. The Bay already sees real variation in oxygen levels, salinity, and temperature across its waters and through the year. Combine that with highly efficient fishing gear, and it's worth watching closely where and when industrial harvest is actually happening.

10. Spotter aircraft and drones should be addressed

I also urge ASMFC and the states to look at restricting spotter aircraft and drones in the Bay. Aircraft dramatically improve the reduction fleet's ability to find dense schools of menhaden, and in a confined system like the Chesapeake, that makes rapid, highly localized removal much easier. Restricting or banning aircraft-assisted purse-seine fishing in the Bay would blunt the fleet's ability to quickly find and empty out isolated concentrations of fish. It also fits the same precautionary logic that led ASMFC to set the Bay cap in the first place.

11. The Commission has already recognized the need for precaution

The strongest argument for precaution is that the Commission has already recognized the problem itself. The Bay cap exists because of concerns about localized depletion. [1] In 2024, ASMFC responded to concerns about menhaden fishing's effects on ospreys by asking USGS scientists for data on osprey abundance, distribution, and diet, and then formed a Work Group to evaluate precautionary options. [3] That Work Group went on to consider time and area restrictions meant to protect fish-eating birds and fish during critical parts of their life cycles. [3] Draft Addendum II now proposes cutting the Bay cap by up to 50% and spreading it across quota periods. [1]

None of this means the Commission has failed to see the problem. It means the opposite: the Commission recognizes that current management may not adequately protect against localized harm. The right response is to act on that recognition.

Conclusion

None of this depends on claiming the entire Atlantic menhaden population is collapsing, or that menhaden are endangered. The case is narrower than that. Menhaden are a foundational forage species, the Chesapeake Bay is one of their most important nurseries, and multiple independent lines of evidence, including juvenile abundance, osprey reproduction, ASMFC's own uncertainty about Bay-specific stock status, the 2019 cap violation, and the Commission's own ERP analysis, all point the same direction.

The question in front of the Board isn't whether we can prove continued harvest will cause ecological collapse. It's whether we have enough information to justify continuing to remove large quantities of a foundational forage species from a confined, ecologically important estuary, when the Commission itself acknowledges real uncertainty about the Bay's local stock status and ecological needs. The short and clear answer is: we don't.

The cost of precaution is a smaller industrial harvest. The cost of not being precautious could be a depleted forage base, struggling predator populations, and a Chesapeake Bay food web in worse shape than the one we have now. I urge the Board to choose precaution:

- cut the Bay cap by 50%,
- spread it across three seasonal quota periods,
- require real monitoring and public reporting, and
- move forward on the additional time, area, and gear restrictions described above.

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Open-Ended Comments from the Survey

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Pamela Dorgan	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		I support Connecticut Audubon supporters and request a 50 percent reduction in the Bay Cap, with option B2 for how the catch is distributed in amounts across time.
Tripp Dixon	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		It is both unconscionable and unsustainable to allow the continued overfishing of the Chesapeake Bay. We need to be much better stewards of our waters — protecting ospreys, coastal wildlife, and the future of recreational fishing.
Sandy Newton	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Osprey monitor for CT Audubon	50% reduction in the Bay Cap would be preferred as recommended by CT Audubon
Ashley Kishorn	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Coastal resident	A 50% reduction in Bay Cap is necessary to ensure healthy populations of Osprey in our future.
Renee Sonnenblick	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		A cap on mehadrin needs to be set to save the osprey.
Tim Carey	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		A large reduction coastwide should be implemented. The reduction fishery is especially harmful because they take such a large number of fish out of the ecosystem all at once. A large reduction should help the biomass rebound faster and could then lead to raising quotas sooner. Being aggressive now will only help the future situation, why slowly make changes to growing such an important forage species that effects almost every animal near the ocean. Be aggressive and stand up to these giant corporations. Don't let their profit hurt the tax paying people and future generations of people that enjoy all aspects of the oceans

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Thomas Fuda	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		A recently released study by Jeralt Ault and Jiangang Luo (https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0165783626002183) indicates that recent menhaden stock assessments used what looks like an erroneously high estimate of natural mortality, which subsequently led to overly optimistic estimates of the menhaden biomass and the level of fishing mortality it could sustain. That being said, I believe the findings of this study warrant precautionary management of both the bay cap, and the coast-wide TAC. I think this new information justifies the 50% cut in the bay cap as well as an additional 30% cut to the TAC on top of the 20% cut that was already taken in 2026. Lobbyists from the reduction fishery argue that we should wait for the results of the VIMS study to determine whether or not localized depletion is occurring in the Chesapeake. I would argue the opposite. Absent science that tells us the bay can tolerate removal of 51000 metric tons of menhaden, I think more precautionary management is required. The ecological and economic impact of removing too many menhaden is far more significant than the economic impact to the reduction fishery if we constrain harvests in the Chesapeake.
Whitney Gutgsell	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		According to the data collected by the CT Audubon this year there is "growing concern that Osprey populations along the Eastern seaboard are declining due to a lack of food, Connecticut Audubon is urging the ASMFC to reduce the fishery cap by 50%, a precautionary measure to ensure that menhaden, a key foundation fish and a prime food source for Connecticut's Osprey, are not put in even greater jeopardy". Osprey are an indicator species of the health of our coastal ecosystems and fish stocks. We must protect our stocks, our osprey populations, and our fisheries with careful stewardship. Thank you.
Barbara Harman	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		Act now while remaining open to stricter measures.
Robert	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		All the predatory species of fish up in the New England area have been smaller size because of the loss of menhaden in our areas. The fish have nothing to feed on as far as bait species.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Douglas Van Tornhout	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Advocate for Osprey and other wildlife	Annual review would be appropriate with changes made as necessary recognizing changes in menhaden population
William Root	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		Apart from our primary concern about protecting menhaden populations and other aquatic species that are dependent upon them. I am extremely worried about the recent downward trend in population of osprey along the New England coastline. This is a bird that all of us worked very hard to aid in its recovery from earlier pesticide pollution problems, and now it is threatened once again. I strongly favor protecting and encouraging the growth of the Menhaden population as it is the primary fish source in our area for the osprey. Thanks for your consideration and protecting our Native wildlife species.
Stephen Marsi	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		As a concerned citizen of Connecticut, I strongly recommend the full 50 percent Bay cap reduction, tied to the coastwide limit and split across three seasons under Option B2's 25/25/50 allocation, so that the fewest menhaden would be removed during Osprey nesting season. Thank you.
Thomas Mariconda	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		As a person of faith and I am a sincere person of faith, a retired ordained Deacon in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut and a member of the Third Order of Saint Francis (Episcopal). I believe that we all are called to be care for creation. It is my understanding that the The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is considering changes to the amount of menhaden that can be harvested from the Chesapeake Bay. As a person of faith, I am urging the commission to reduce the fishery cap by 50 percent, a precautionary measure to ensure that menhaden, a key foundation fish and a prime food source for Ospreys, are not put in even greater jeopardy.Last year Connecticut Audubon's Osprey Nation recorded its lowest breeding success since the statewide community science program launched in 2014 to monitor the birds. This year is looking even worse. Osprey and other species that rely on menhaden do not have years longer to wait. Decisive action is needed now. I ask you to support this change in order to protect creation.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
CJ Stelzel	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Osprey Steward with CT Audubon Society's Osprey Nation	As a steward with CT Audubon Society's Osprey Nation, I am a strong supporter of drastically reducing the menhaden harvest. This year I witnessed several previously very productive nesting osprey pairs abandon their nests, and had the gut-wrenching experience of watching chicks starve to death or just completely disappear between visits. From my main nests, there was just one single fledgling, whereas during the prior three years the nests produced 4-5 fledglings total each year. The data from CT Audubon and up and down the Atlantic seaboard is clear - there is a crisis and that crisis requires action. It is my hope that the ASMFC heads these warning signs and chooses to curtail the menhaden harvest. Not just for benefit of the osprey, but for all of the other species in the chain that we don't have the data for. Please don't wait until it's too late to turn things around just to help corporations make more money now.
Denese Deeds	Connecticut			As a supporter of wildlife and the Ospreys particularly, I urge you to reduce the fishery cap by 50% to assure that menhaden, which are essential for the health of the Osprey are not put in further jeopardy.
William C Chantrell	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		As a volunteer Osprey Nation volunteer for the Audubon Society in Connecticut, I have personally witnessed a dramatic reduction in successful osprey nests over the past two years. It seems this is a direct result of the reduction of their primary food source, Menhaden. I urge the Commission to do everything it can to reduce fishing pressure on Menhaden before it is too late! Thank you.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Jessica L. Esposito-Halka	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Wildlife Ecologist	As a wildlife ecologist with more than a decade of experience in wildlife conservation, including work as a shorebird biologist with Audubon Connecticut and as a wildlife ecologist contracted with CT DEEP, I have witnessed firsthand concerning declines in menhaden availability and coastal bird reproductive productivity over the past few years. Research in the Chesapeake Bay has demonstrated that food limitation directly affects Osprey reproductive success, with supplemental menhaden significantly improving nesting productivity (Academia & Watts, 2023). Subsequent research identified reduced menhaden availability as a likely primary driver of widespread reproductive declines (Watts et al., 2026). Here in Connecticut, the 2026 Osprey Nation monitoring program documented its lowest reproductive productivity in 13 years, with growing concerns about inadequate prey (menhaden) availability (Connecticut Audubon Society, 2026). Atlantic menhaden are a foundational forage species whose ecological importance extends far beyond their commercial value. Coastwide stock sustainability does not necessarily ensure adequate local prey availability, particularly during critical nesting and chick-rearing periods. These findings underscore the need for precautionary, ecosystem-based fisheries management that recognizes the importance of menhaden to dependent wildlife and the health of our coastal ecosystems. I strongly support meaningful reductions in menhaden harvest and the adoption of the most protective measures under Draft Addendum II. References: Academia, M.H., & Watts, B.D. (2023). Food supplementation increases reproductive performance of ospreys in the lower Chesapeake Bay. Frontiers in Marine Science. [https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2023.1172787] Watts, B.D., et al. (2026). Widespread reproductive deficits in Chesapeake Bay ospreys. Frontiers in Marine Science. [https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2026.1685158] Connecticut Audubon Society (2026). Osprey Nation Sees Worst Breeding Success and More Record Lows in 2026. [https://ctaudubon.org/news/an-unmistakable-warning-sign-osprey-nation-sees-worst-breeding-success-and-more-record-lows-in-2026/]

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
KENNETH A MIKE	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		As you know the bunker has almost been eliminated in the CT area. For the first time in 33 years no striped bass were weighed in at a tournament that I attend. Many of our fishermen usually catch a few bunker keep them alive then use them for bait. Those fisherman have not caught ANY bunker this year. I feel that the commercial harvest of bunker should be stopped until the fishery recovers. This is killing the charter fishermen and the recreational fishing in our area.
Sue Wennerberg	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Concerned citizen	Concerned that exacting new measures are put into place to increase the menhaden , thus bettering the chances of survival for the osprey . The preceding info was hard to follow.
Stephen C Mayo	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		Current policies are damaging Osprey populations. Osprey nestlings starved during the 2026 breeding season. Objective evidence is available from breeding census data, Osprey Nation, HawkCount, and other sources
Mark Olesnevich	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		Cut
Irene Scheibner	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		Decisive action is needed now - osprey and other species should not STARVE due to our encroachment. Thank you
Donna Summers	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	marine scientist and birder	Examine other potential contributors to reduced osprey breeding success where they winter, on their migration routes etc to ascertain different biological and other stressors that may contribute other than AM alleged overfishing. Implement balanced strategies to improve breeding success with these data and adjust AM fishing as needed so that not fixing osprey problem on backs of fishermen.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Scott Burns	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		First, I would like to congratulate the ASMFC for soliciting public input on this issue, but more importantly acknowledging its existence and seeking genuine solutions to the problem. As a lifelong Connecticut resident, with a majority of my time spent within direct view of Long Island Sound, it is heartbreaking not to see the annual boils of bunker (as I learned the name growing up). Bluefish are virtually non-existent in the Sound now, a situation with multiple underlying factors, but the decrease in bunker is among them. The ecological but also economic impact is significant. The WICC annual bluefish contest was celebrated across the Sound, and bait shops and others profited from the activity. More recently, we have learned of the struggles of osprey, particularly those along the Sound. The loss of menhaden is a direct factor in the struggles of the osprey to reproduce. Considering the time and effort spent to help restore the species, it would be tragic (and a waste of funds) to allow that progress to recede because of the loss of menhaden. While porgy (aka scup or sea bream) have seemingly replaced the bunker, the loss of biodiversity among fish cannot be overlooked, and the osprey struggle without the presence of menhaden. Fisheries are obviously a difficult industry. Connecticut has very few lobstermen at all any more, in contrast to thriving, local industry a generation ago. But if these constraints can allow the menhaden to rebound in the Chesapeake Bay and those same fisheries to acclimate economically, then this could be a win-win for both the economy and nature.
Travis	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		Fish need are help

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Sally A Ferris	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		For years, I have observed ospreys fishing off the Connecticut coastline. Five or six years ago, it was normal to see 6 or more ospreys diving, successfully fishing, and carrying their catch back to their nests on a daily basis. I naively thought that "ospreys always get their fish". In recent years, I have noticed a significant fall-off in successful osprey fishing activity. The summer of 2026 was particularly troubling. Throughout this past season, I saw fewer than a dozen ospreys (in total) successfully fish and carry their catch back to the nest. My anecdotal observations are confirmed by the Connecticut Audubon Society's findings that the 2026 season was the worst breeding season ever for ospreys. They confirmed for the first time that starvation may be a major factor. I urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to enact a 50 percent reduction in the Bay Cap on Menhaden. Thank you for your consideration.
George Finley	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		Get your act together!
Christina Schoen	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Former scientist who appreciates biodiversity	Human consumption and habitat destruction are slowly killing off specie numbers and diversity. A long term plan for preservation is needed.
Robin Hogen	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		I am a "nest observer" for the CT Audubon Society and have been alarmed by the declining population of these incredible birds along Long Island Sound. Please reduce the commercial fishing of their primary source of food so they can thrive once again.
Jonathan Comerford	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		I am a fisherman who has been seeing this decline and how it's impacting or fishery's and wildlife. We need to protect the ecosystem.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Colleen Lord	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		I am an osprey nest monitor in CT with 5 nests and financially support the Audubon's osprey decline study. Only in 2 out of 30 observation visits was an osprey seen with a fish in 2026. Of 5 nests, 3 were active and only 1 fledgling total. Last year there were fish brought to these same nests observed at least 25 out of 30 visits. There were 7 fledged. It is heartbreaking to see the hatchlings apparently starving and dying. Osprey have been the canary in the coal mine regarding DDT in the past. I worry that they are now pointing us to another possible environmental disaster. I live on Long Island Sound and all the recreational fisherman I know have complained all summer that the bunker population appears greatly declined.
Patricia Brune	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		I am an osprey steward for the Connecticut Audubon Society. I and other stewards observe osprey nests throughout the summer. I have firsthand knowledge that the Connecticut shoreline suffered an inordinate amount of failed nests and nestling mortalities this summer. We volunteers have observed chicks starving to death, being culled by their parents, and in many cases parents abandoning the nests due to lack of Atlantic menhaden, their primary food source. We have learned that the osprey crisis along the entire eastern seaboard is due to commercial overharvesting in the Chesapeake Bay. I, and other stewards, implore the Commission to take steps to curtail these practices. Levels of human-caused osprey death have not been seen at these levels since the era before DDT was banned.
Jane Kinkead	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		I am concerned about the decline in the Osprey population and the nest failures this past breeding season. We need to manage the Menhaden population to sustain their population and to help other species who depend on them for survival.
Sandy Tosi	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		I am concerned about the decline in the osprey population. It has been shown that their reproductive failure is due, in part, to the lack of food. We need to ensure the survival of this species by leaving enough fish for them.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Lauren Gorham	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		I am not a commercial fisherman so I cannot speak to the specifics of how much or when to harvest menhaden. I can, however, see with horror dead Osprey chicks. The birds do not have the food they need to feed their babies and so they die. Menhaden are being overfished and it is crucial to the survival of Osprey, Whales and other wildlife that limits be implemented immediately. Please limit the menhaden catch along the Atlantic seaboard to 50% of the current amounts, permanently for all states. Thank you!
Michael Burns	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		I am on the water in Long Island and Block Island Sound quite often. It has been years since I have seen menhaden. They sed to be plentyfull. All to make food for salmon farming and pet food.
Jessica F.	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		I am perhaps a more active and more educated fisherman. Still I find that the amount of expertise required to answer some of these public questions leaves me thinking the point of public questions is only to be used as a shield for decisions you want to make. Assuming that is not your goal, please try to make the goals/priorities of each option more apparent for public questions.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
			fishes here in Ct and we know lots of boat captains worried about the drop in menhaden numbers. We live on the CT River and have also noticed a dramatic drop in numbers of ospreys. Where we used to get between 20 and 30 fledgelings from our 24 or so nesting pairs, this year the number is 5.	
Claire Griffin	Connecticut	Other (please specify)		I answered the questions where I felt qualified to give an opinion. for the rest, I defer to the hardworking fishing captains who depend on the sea and enthusiastic sport fishermen for their livelihoods. Once again, I'm grateful to the fisheries commission for considering this important question that affects so many wildlife species.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Hope Ropke	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		I believe a 50% reduction is needed to allow the menhaden population to recover. Revisit in 3 years and increase or decrease the restrictions depending on the data.
Elizabeth Coolidge	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		I do not know how to address the overages and underages, or how often to revisit the Bay Cap. However, I do know that ospreys need help NOW, and they desperately need more menhaden available to them since that is their primary (if not only) food source. I have been monitoring osprey nests here in Connecticut for years -- this year I monitored four nests. Usually at least three of the nests produce at least two fledglings. This year only one nest produced two, while the other three produced none. Once a species has gone extinct, there is no going back. Please help them before it is too late. They have as much a right to live here as we do.
Maria Stockmal	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Osprey advocate	I endorse the National Audubon Society's recommendations in an effort to advocate a live and let live policy. The Osprey who are affected by this produced only one offspring out of five nests this 2026 season. This is wrong. We spend much time trying to keep species from becoming extinct. The Bald Eagle and the Osprey are two such species. Do we put the Osprey on the endangered list again?
Reed Cass	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		I fish in the mouth of the CT River and have noticed a steep decline in the osprey population on Great Island. Most of the nest stands were not used in 2026.
Glen Cummings	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		I have been a monitoring Osprey Steward since 2014 and reporting to CT Audubon Osprey Nation my observations up to 2026. These last 2 years have been abysmal in the loss of our Osprey fledglings! Of my 5 nests I monitored in 2025 - 2026 only 2 of those 5 nest had a result of 1 fledgling.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Karen Morley	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	An osprey steward for the Connecticut Audubon Society	I have been an Osprey Steward for CT Audubon for ten years (I'm responsible for watching two Osprey nests and reporting on them semi-monthly), and I've seen the effects from the over-fishing of menhaden first-hand. The last two years have been extremely difficult for the adult Ospreys to be able to keep their young nourished and alive. During the 2025 season, both of my nests had only 1 chick that survived and fledged, and during this recent 2026 season, neither nest had a surviving chick (both nests initially had 2 hatchlings). Compare these results with the 2024 season, when one nest had 3 fledglings and the other had 2. I urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to reduce the Chesapeake Bay fishery cap by 50% to ensure that menhaden, a key foundation fish and a prime food source for Connecticut's Ospreys, are not put in even greater jeopardy. Thank you for your time and for considering public input in this vital decision for our wildlife. Sincerely, Karen Morley
Peter Russell	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		I have lived on the CT shore for most of my 64 years. I can't remember a time when there have been fewer Bunker. The fact that one company in a small region of one state can go against the interests of the most densely populated multi state region in the US and thousands of small businesses that depend on recreational angling, summer tourist trade and bird watching is a affront to democracy.
Jessica Snajder	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		I live along the Housatonic River in Stratford, Connecticut. The osprey have become a welcome sight in my neighborhood and I would love their primary food source to be protected so that these birds can thrive in our coastal communities.
Winifred Gordon	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		I live in Connecticut and have observed the poor breeding success of ospreys in our state. I urge the commission to follow the Audubon's recommendations toward strengthening the osprey population.
Val Koif	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		I live next to and can directly observe many osprey nests at the mouth of the Connecticut River. This years fledgling count was far less than previous years, and I saw far fewer fish being fed to nestlings; plus, the size of the menhaden was far smaller than I saw in previous years. While this isn't a formal study, it is direct observation of many nest. Please reduce the fishery cap! Thank you.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Jane Kolodgy	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		I live on a salt marsh with 2 active Osprey nests. In previous years, one mating couple would fledge 3 chicks. In 2025 I saw a decline in activity and this year chicks were lost; nests were then abandoned. We've fought too hard to bring them back - let's not let it slip away now. Thank you
susan mcnamara	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	lover of ospreys	I missed the osprey and their fishing this year, Ct has great efforts to provide platforms and support of the osprey. What happened this year was greedy fishing.
Terry shaw	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Concerned about a major shortage of Menhaden, Osprey are starving/ dying	I really believe you should stop fishing altogether for Menhaden, you have lowered the stock of this valuable fish so low that they need several years to catch up.
Gianna Mascola	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		I strongly urge the ASMFC to reduce the cap by 50%, with option B2 for catch distribution, to ensure greater menhaden availability during critical periods of the Osprey breeding season. The unprecedented decline in Osprey populations across the eastern seaboard, including record-low results in Connecticut this year, should serve as a serious warning. Osprey and countless other wildlife species depend on menhaden as a vital food source and will continue to be impacted without immediate action. Thank you for your consideration.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Madeline Oberempt	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		I strongly urge the ASMFC to reduce the cap by 50%, with option B2 for catch distribution. Through my work with the Connecticut Audubon Society's Osprey Nation program this season, I received and compiled data from more than 400 volunteers monitoring Osprey nests across Connecticut. The results were alarming. Productivity fell to just 0.87 chicks per breeding pair, the lowest in the program's 14-year history. A total of 261 nests experienced a reproductive failure, more than double last year's figure. Even among successful nests, nearly 100 chicks were lost. For the first time since the program began, the majority of successful nests produced just one fledgling rather than two. Anecdotal reports from Osprey Nation stewards echo these concerns- fish deliveries to nests were smaller and far less frequent than in previous years, and in many cases, both adult Ospreys had to leave their young unattended in the nest, presumably to hunt. This season's unprecedented decline in breeding success should serve as a serious warning. Osprey and countless other wildlife species will continue to be impacted if action is not taken immediately. Again, I strongly urge the cap be reduced by 50% and that option B2 be adopted to help ensure greater menhaden availability during critical periods of the Osprey breeding season. Thank you.
Kate Paster	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	general public	I support reduction by 50%. Adult fish are not making their way north. Osprey and other populations are suffering.
Patricia Hurley	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		I urge the commission to reduce the fishery cap by 50% to help ensure enough menhaden remain available for Ospreys and other wildlife.
Bill Rankin	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Friend of the Osprey	I volunteer for the State of Connecticut monitoring endangered shorebirds, and I am actively concerned about the viability of our Osprey population.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Calvin Hansen	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		I'm on the ocean over 300 days a year in Fishers Island Sound. Every year since I can remember I have seen fewer and fewer adult menhaden in our local waters, and as of three three years ago I haven't seen a single one in both the Pawcatuck and Mystic rivers, let alone Fishers island sound. Something needs to be done to help their population rebound. With a lack of menhaden we have seen negative effects across many species, mainly striped bass, brown sharks, Sand tiger sharks, and bluefish, and those are just the ones I come in contact with.
Joseph Lederer	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		I'm thankful to this body for your work and dedication in managing our fisheries. Myself and my peers who fish regularly appreciate the attention to the Menhaden harvest as we all believe that reducing it is the most critical element in supporting multiple species of fish on our coast. Thank you.
Kerry Hart	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Rec boating on ct river	I've seen the decline in Osprey.
Cristelle Bandzes	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		I'm here on behalf of Connecticut Audobon. The Osprey reproductive numbers are incredibly concerning. Whatever this body decides to do, I hope they continue to keep the entire ecosystem in mind, not just the anglers. The osprey need our help, desperately, and there is no clearer warning sign than what's happened this summer.
Nathan Sheff	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	CT resident, no financial interest	I'm submitting my comment as a member of the Connecticut Audubon Society. Osprey populations are in decline due to a lack of food, and limiting the menhaden catch will help them recover.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Zachary Schwartz	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Concerned citizen	I'm submitting this public comment due to serious concerns raised about the impact of overfishing of menhaden on osprey populations, as detailed in this article: https://www.audubon.org/magazine/ospreys-chesapeake-bay-are-starving-death-disastrous-rates-what-will-it-take-save-them Ocean Harvesters fishing of menhaden accounts for 70% of the entire atlantic population of the species, leaving nowhere near enough for the Osprey that rely on them as a food source. Because of this, Osprey populations are declining at a staggering rate, worse than at the height of DDT. But instead of dying in their eggs, the young are starving to death in the nest, for want of their primary food source: Menhaden. The population of live osprey chicks surveyed in the Chesapeake bay is less than half of the required rate for the survival of the species. The current allowances for fishing of menhaden in the watershed is completely unsustainable. If no action is taken, this magnificent species will go extinct.
Caroline K Tighe	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		I'm very concerned about declining Osprey numbers throughout the ecosystem. I feel this is an indicator for future problems with other species.
eileen kopec	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Volunteer St. of CT. Audubon Osprey Monitor	I'm very concerned about over consumption by those of us in wealthy nations. We take too much of everything. We use too much of everything. Planet earth cannot sustain this increasing demand by people. The natural world suffers from our selfishness. Our contamination & exploitation of the environment is sin against the natural world.
Brian Anisimov	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		In an abundance of caution, the menhaden fishery should be closed to all industrial parties like Omega. Small vessels operated by local fishermen should be the only exception.
Lynn Fortin	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		It is critical that the food source (Menhaden) of the Ospreys be regulated in order to conserve the species.
Cathy Kashanski	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Osprey & other bird and wildlife viewer	It seems a tragedy that overharvesting of menhaden is likely leading to osprey reproduction declines (and who knows what other species are negatively impacted) and that Omega Protein and others just grind up the menhaden for cosmetics, pet food and other unnecessary uses. The Total Allowable Catch for these selfish and superficial uses should be reduced so that other species can live and thrive.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Melinda Hill	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		JUST SAVE OUR OSPREYS.
Dianne Saunders	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Conservation Commissioner Town of Fairfield	Last year, Connecticut Audubon's Osprey Nation recorded its lowest osprey breeding success since the statewide community science program launched in 2014. Because Ospreys feed almost exclusively on fish, Osprey Nation serves as an early-warning system for the health of Connecticut's waters and the abundance of prey species like Atlantic menhaden. By Aug. 1, 2025, out of 706 nests with up-to-date reports, 113 had failed — about 1 in 6. In the same timeframe this year, of 691 nests with up-to-date reports, 171 have failed — roughly 1 in 4. For decades, abundant menhaden at the mouth of the Connecticut River helped sustain the largest concentration of nesting Ospreys on the Connecticut coast at Great Island in Old Lyme. As observers notice menhaden becoming increasingly scarce, Osprey reproductive success has sharply declined. At Great Island — what was once a former Osprey stronghold — only 27 Osprey chicks fledged in 2025, which decreased from 37 in 2024. So far this year, just five chicks have fledged. Osprey chicks are starving. Please do everything you can to preserve their food supply.
David E Shellenberger	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Advocate for wildlife conservation, including ospreys.	Let's protect ospreys, which are dependent on the fish.
Taylor Perry	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		LIMIT THE BUNKER HARVEST AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE
Joyce Leiz	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		Menhaden declines are impacting Osprey populations as well as marine mammals, sea birds, and game fish populations. Allowing the menhaden population to become sustainable will have great impacts for the environment.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Robert Braunfield	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Conservation ist / Naturalist	Menhaden is an important prey species for at risk Osprey, whose numbers have dramatically declined due to lack of food. Please lower the cap for the Menhaden harvest to assure that these birds, as well as many other marine animals dependent upon Menhaden , will have heathy population numbers into the future.
Catie Resor	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		My concern is the health of the area osprey population which is failing to reproduce likely because of lack of preferred food resources (menhaden)
Debra Bologna	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Concern for osprey well being	My primary concern is that the osprey population has enough food. Currently they do not. I am asking that this issue be addressed and modified to sufficiently allow for enough food for osprey populations to thrive.
George Roberts	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		My primary reason for advocating for a reducing the bay cap is to increase available food sources for Ospreys.
Ross Bourdeau	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		No
Alicia Tillinghast	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		No
Stephanie Kollet	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		No comment
Paul Caouette	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		None at this time. P
Arnold Pritchard	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Avid Birder and user of outdoor recreation	Not sure about the last few questions so I left them blank.
Joe Dalsey	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		Nothing matters more than having a strong Bunker population. There is no place for over extending the comercial harvest in one specific area.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Jeff Woodring	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		OH MY - please make future surveys less complicated. I am in favor of making the most drastic reductions in commercial menhaden harvest. We are at epidemic stage and need real reductions.
Heidi Brierley	Connecticut			Osprey and other birds are being harmed. Reducing menhaden harvesting is critical to the birds' survival.
Christina Gruppuso	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		Osprey populations need to be protected. Menhaden overfishing needs to stop.
Janet Booth	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		Ospreys are a vital constituent in the natural world of the East Coast. All species play vital roles in the ecosystems of our world, and that only benefits humans, which is why we need to make sure Ospreys have enough food. Let's go for balance when we take from our resources. Ospreys are an iconic presence in our skies. They need their food source.
Jill Notar-Francesco	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Osprey steward registered through CT Audubon Osprey Nation	Our last two seasons as an Osprey steward were shockingly disappointing. This year, the pair produced three chicks. Two were later observed, then one, then none. No fledgling occurred.
Amy Haynes	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Citizen who treasures marine animals	Our osprey population is starving because of human greed and carelessness. These birds belong to all of us and we must protect them for our and our children’s future. If we fail to be good stewards of our planet, we all will pay the price
George Baldwin	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		Our stripers are disappearing, our osprey chicks are starving and we’re not seeing menhaden the past few years in harbors that are normally loaded with them every year. This is a big problem. I work on New Haven Harbor every day, and this is my 27th year doing that. I know what I’m seeing.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Dale Dubina	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Concerned citizen	Overfishing is damaging to the food chain of many species. Please consider this urgent issue and its impact on the many life forms in the Atlantic seaboard area.
Arielle A Franklin	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Private citizen concerned about the continued welfare and procreation of local osprey populations.	Overfishing is killing our local ospreys. We need to stop it now.
Christine Krumperman	Connecticut			Perhaps a synthetic replacement for menhaden in the drugs they are creating .
Deborah Rowe	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	I have volunteered as a nest monitor	Please advocate to ensure Osprey population protection for now and in the future for our planet and for our children!!!
Elizabeth N Horrigan	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Involved with CT Audubon Society - CT resident concerned about osprey	Please consider and protect this key food source for the osprey

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Leslie Lofthouse	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Concerned citizen	Please consider the environmental “Big Picture” impact. Dolphins, Whales, Osprey, Eagles, etc…. You know best what will harm & what will help this dying world. Consider your legacy, consider the future please. May God be in your heart to care and do the right thing.
Erin Murphy	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		Please consider the other species that rely on these fish. Thank you.
Shirley Lasch	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		Please consider the value of both wildlife and resources in these decisions.
Nicholas Hutchinson	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		Please do the right thing. These decisions impact so many fisheries and ecosystems and it's in your hands to do the right thing.
Sandra Loether	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		Please help save our Osprey. Thank you.
Abby Hausberg	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		Please implement measures to protect ospreys.
jennifer G Frank	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		Please implement these reduced Menhaden harvest quotas, to assure the adequate supply of Menhaden for fisheries and wildlife further up the coast in New England. The Gloucester, MA and Rhode Island fisheries have all been impacted by the shrinking supply of Menhayden. Also sea birds such as Osprey here in CT. Please take these steps to assure adequate food supply in the future.
Evan lang	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		Please just do the right thing and allow menhaden stocks to rebuild to a sustainable amount before it gets to a point of complete collapse if it isn’t already there. I know that’s a hard ask because it’s a billion dollar industry but for once please just consider the impact on all marine life on the east coast including multiple federally protected species.
Mary Giglio	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		Please leave enough fish to support a thriving population of osprey.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Cynthia Kuzman	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		Please let's save the Ospreys. Once they are gone.. they are gone. Americans have multitudes of things to eat. Honor the birds!!!! They have no one but us to protect them.
Richard V Kollet	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		Please restrict over fishing of menhaden to save the ospreys! Focus must be on protecting wild life over the glamor and glitz of over fertilized green lawns. We will regret not doing this!
Christina DiPalermo	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Concerned Osprey lover	Please stop the over fishing. It's taken 30 years to get the osprey population to recover. You're starving them to death.
Randy boyer	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		Please stop them from harvesting all these fish, inhave watched them decimate the long island sound, it is so sad to see this happening not only effecting the fishing but many wild life species as well. I used to see acres of bunker and haven't seen them in 3 years. No bunker, no fish no wild life there killing everything. Please stop it
Janice Ross	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Birder and Audubon vounteer	Please strengthen fishing limits on menhaden so the species can continue to meet the needs of people, birds and other fish and wildlife. Thank you.
Stephanie Mastri	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		Please support reducing the fishery catch for menhaden to allow for Osprey to continue to survive
Nancy Morris	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		Please take action to protect the menhaden for the osprey .
Justin Quigley	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		Politicians and board members need to be held accountable! They aren't following the science and running this fishery into the ground. More menhaden need to be left in the water. Canada is profiting off this fishery and ruining the fisheries of the entire east coast.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Dyann Hathaway	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Lifelong CT resident concerned about osprey and other shore birds	Protection of osprey and other marine life is my primary concern and need to be protected from overfishing!
Matthew Brescia	Connecticut			Reduce by 50% please
Jim Roberts	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		Restrict commercial harvesting within 5 miles of coastline.
Christofor Tella Jr.	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		Save our freakin bunker and cut the quota drastically. I fish in CT and there are hardly any bunker anymore.
Frank Mantlik	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Naturalist	Scaling back Menhaden catch is crucial to the welfare of the whole marine food cycle, and especially Ospreys.
Linda Thomas	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	concerned citizen environmentalist and osprey observer	Science and observation programs being conducted by CT Audubon and others have discovered a direct link between eastern seaboard osprey nest failures (and their declining population) to declines in the menhaden population. Ospreys are a top predator, living almost exclusively on fish and raising their chicks on menhaden diets. When the menhaden declines, osprey populations plummet, and that is what the evidence is showing over the past 2 years. Ospreys are like the canary in the coal mine. What happens to them offers a more accurate window on what is happening with the menhaden population, which is obviously crashing too. There needs to be very strict limits on the menhaden catch, or we will have neither menhaden nor ospreys in our future.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Michael Dwyer	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		Since I have had a commercial lobster license in the 90s I have watched bunker disappear from southeast Ct waters… never see any schools…
Sandra W Soule	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		Sorry, these questions are much too technical for me. I fully support all measures to help the osprey survive and thrive!
Micky Komara	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		Speak up for the ospreys, who cannot speak up for themselves. Save this magnificent bird.
Jeremy Clapp	Connecticut	For-hire vessel owner/operator/crew		Stop OMEGA PROTEIN INC. !!!!!!!
Jack Egan	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Beach goer	Stop overthinking it and stop overfishing
Josh Rayner	Connecticut	For-hire vessel owner/operator/crew		Stop the overfishing of menhaden, get the numbers right, the science and observations of anglers doesn't lie
Greg	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		Take action to preserve Manheden as a food source for predators like Osprey.
Evan S. Griswold	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		The Board should assure that the reduction catch protects other species in the menhaden food web.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Kristofer Rowe	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Wildlife conservation ist concerned about species that prey on menhaden	The collapse of Menhaden is catastrophic to the eastern seaboard. End the reduction fishery now. Save the smaller commercial operations and more importantly save the food chain that depend on menhaden. Osprey are the most important biomonitor we have and their decline in nesting populations from Virginia North to NJ, NY, CT etc it cataclysmic. Save the menhaden and save the world
Barbara Kami	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		The Commission must be very mindful of the harmful impacts of commercial menhaden fishing on many ecosystems that extend hundreds of miles from the commercial fishing grounds.
Lisa Wahle	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		The Commission needs to set limits in the most precautionary manner that ensures all ecosystem players thrive.
clarence hayes	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		The council should be more involved in the development of better measurements of the status of menhaden populations. The 'there is no settled science' argument from Omega needs to be settled with science. Precaution until then, but getting the data is important for the long term
Devan Krishnan	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	I am with the Audibon	The fish in the Chesapeake are very important for the Marine ecosystem and must be protected at all costs.
Bill	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		the fishery is non existent in LIS the last two years. it needs help. please do so
Eleanor Ferguson	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		The magnificent osprey has survived and thrived with conservation efforts before now that eliminated DDT and the crisis of fragile eggs. Now the osprey are threatened again and need immediate help which can be given by a 50% reduction in the Bay Cap. Please consider carefully that the Commission has the power and hopefully the will to do the right thing and reduce the menhaden catch so the osprey can thrive and grace our shores with their beautiful presence.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Jerry porter	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		The menhaden have been pushed to the breaking point. It has affected the Osprey and the broader fishery in LI Sound. Please limit the catch now before it's too late for the menhaden and the osprey
Virginia Lyons	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		The osprey made an astounding recovery after DDT was banned in 1972, and the addition of encouraging nesting platforms along the shore and its wetlands, so it is regrettable that there is strong data of a recent decline in numbers and in chick survival rates. Since osprey feed almost exclusively on fish, menhaden being a major source, it was logical to investigate the contribution of overfishing. A 50% reduction in annual allowable menhaden harvest should begin to increase numbers of osprey within the 3 year reevaluation period, and the annual data accumulation could be adjusted accordingly. 1 year would be insufficient to make a judgment as to the effectiveness of this approach, and allow continued investigation of possible other contributing factors. The proper distribution of the reductions over the harvesting period requires information about menhaden fish, and menhaden fisher habits that I do not possess.
Kim Hoehn	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		The Osprey population is in serious decline; potential species extinction is inevitable if their primary food source is not available. Reductions in commercial menhaden catch is needed. Thank-you for your consideration of this very important matter.
Sarah Middeleer	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		The osprey population is tanking. Chicks are starving because of overfishing. Please limit allowable catches by at least 50% of what is allowed currently. Thank you.
Noel Abbott	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		The ospreys along Long Island Sound and its tributaries are all like family to us. Please ensure that their offspring will not starve by keeping a healthy population of menhaden in our waters. Thank you
Johann Heupel	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		The ospreys depend on a healthy menhaden population. Regular revisitation of quota caps, less harvest, more focused on later in the year, is the only way to ensure their survival.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Michael Loughney	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Avid naturalist and birder	The over fishing and exploitation of the Chesapeake Bay is greedy and despicable. There are estimates of over 80% nesting failure for ospreys (and devastating outcomes for numerous other fish species) on the East Coast, particularly in Connecticut. I am astonished that an industry (the fisheries) would undertake action that not only destroys our natural world but also has as its logical conclusion the collapse of its own livelihood alongside our ecosystem. Enough with the greed and the stupidity. Set the quotas for menhaden caught at the lowest possible level and ensure the highest, economically painful accountability for non-compliance.
Jeffrey Champion	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Recreational angler and Manager of the Borough of Fenwick	The overfishing of menhaden not only is adversely affecting the fishing in the area but it is also affecting the food supply for Ospreys, Eagles, and other birds species. It is becoming extremely noticeable on our Osprey stands - thank you.
MARY TESLA	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		The reduction of menhaden greatly impacts our osprey population
Candi Calcandy	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Audubon osprey steward Beacon fall Ct #4	the strongest option on the table — the full 50 percent Bay cap reduction, tied to the coastwide limit and split across three seasons under Option B2's 25/25/50 allocation, meaning the fewest menhaden would be removed during Osprey nesting season — really don't understand all the previous questions, all I know is that my osprey nest had no birds or babies this year due to lack of fish
larry lavender	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		the well-being of the osprey is an important marker of the overall well-being of the ecosystem. Officials need to think long term ecological well-being, not short term profit.
Matthew Greger	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		Things are changing, season, temperatures, patterns. Let's do our due diligence here.
Perry Montrose	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		This is a key species for the birds in the area, who have been struggling to find food sources and seeing their populations reduced. It is imperative that we reduce the harvest to protect this food source for a multitude of birds.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Dawn handschuh	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		This is way too complicated for me to complete on a cell phone. If I don't get back to this on my desktop computer, please know that I am strongly in favor of a menhaden cap and or other restrictions that give Osprey a chance to recover from a very poor reproduction year
Mary Howard	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		This survey does not address commercial menhaden fishing. Why not?
Stopka Lori	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		This survey is overcomplicated for a recreational fisherman to fill out. Keep the question simple and you'll get more accurate responses. Bottom line reduce the number of the harvest. Whatever it takes.
Letitia Burton	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		Up until recently, ospreys represented one of the few success stories in nature that we could use to teach children how when humans care, they can help nature bounce back. Now just like in the 1970s, their numbers are dwindling again. Once again, we need to step in and do the right thing.
Lauren Curran	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Concerned about the impact Osprey	urging the ASMFC to reduce the fishery cap by 50%, a precautionary measure to ensure that menhaden, a key foundation fish and a prime food source for Connecticut's Osprey, are not put in even
Linda Gryckiewicz	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		Want a 50%reduction in the bay cap with option B2 for how the catch is distributed in amounts across time
Charla Spector	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Birdwatcher and Protector	We are extremely concerned about the STARVATION of Ospreys, which were previously brought back from EXTINCTION caused by DDT. Now they are facing large population drops because of over-fishing. We hope you will PROTECT the OSPREYS from STARVATION from over-fishing.
Nicholas L Webb	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		We need critical reduction now.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Jennifer	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Interested party	We should adjust the food source review to include the birds and animals that need this source to survive. If 50% reduction help to stabilize/increase the current needs it is important to give this effort a chance.
Brad Buffington	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		Western long island sound has had no adult size manhaden the last 2 years. I have never seen anything like it in my 40+years of fishing. something dramatic needs to be done. purse seiners have to be limited. It's changing the whole enviroment.
Adam Callaghan	Connecticut	Concerned stakeholder		We've seen this time and again, so we all know what's needed in a situation like this: short-term pain for long-term gain. Set proper limits now so that the fishery can be managed sustainably long-term for everyone's benefit, not extracted en masse until its collapse for the short-term economic gain of one corporation.
Toby Lapinski	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		While I completely support reduction of the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery, simply redistributing it to the coastal fishery does little to nothing to conserve the coastwide stock. Any reduction in the Bay fishery should also be reflected in the coastal fishery.
Joseph Majesky	Connecticut	Private recreational angler		Why not just ban this fishery. The consequences are dire. Striped bass are plummeting. Bluefish are thinning out. Ospreys are dying. The Atlantic cannot sustain the removal of the lower rungs of the food chain.
K. Smolkis	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	concerned citizen	Wildlife, especially osprey, are dying because they need a bigger supply of menhaden. The Connecticut Audubon Society has research data to back that up. Please reduce the Bay Cap as much as possible. Thank you.
Elizabeth Hanahan	Connecticut	Other (please specify)	Osprey nest monitor	With critical nest failures of osprey occurring in Chesapeake Bay and now being seen all along the Atlantic coast due to lack of menhaden, their primary food source, it is important to limit fishing during nesting season to reduce the numbers of nestling starvation. Limiting the overall catch would also help the men harsh population rebound which would be beneficial to osprey and the fishery industry as well in the long term.
Mary Graham	Connecticut	Other (please specify)		Concerned with overfishing starving Osprey

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Carol E Skog	Connecticut	Other (please specify)		Birder Want to save Osprey that eat Menhaden fishermen are taking
Robley Curtice	Connecticut	Other (please specify)		Concerned citizen who follows the Osprey population
diana Evans	Connecticut	Other (please specify)		Citizen concerned about osprey.
Marcia Machuga	Connecticut	Other (please specify)		Concerned about the decrease in the Osprey population in CT
Lisa Peterson	Connecticut	Other (please specify)		Citizen concerned with the significant decrease in numbers of fledged ospreys that rely on menhaden as their primary food source
Kim Westcott	Connecticut	Other (please specify)		Avid birder with concern for declining osprey breeding success.
Bryana Hill	Connecticut	Other (please specify)		Citizen concerned with CT wildlife populations
Lynn Dorsey	Connecticut	Other (please specify)		Food source for osprey
Merry Lisa Thomas	Connecticut	Other (please specify)		Supporter of the Ospreys

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Tom Wilkas	Connecticut	Other (please specify)		Concern for wildlife species who depend upon manhaden to survive.
Kathleen	Connecticut	Other (please specify)		Concerned about the ospreys.
Margaret Dobbins	Connecticut	Other (please specify)		My desire to protect Osprey
Susan A Kayeum	Connecticut	Other (please specify)		worried about the ospreys
P	Connecticut	Other (please specify)		Love the osprey and horseshoe crabs and concerned on their futures
Sharon Huber	Connecticut	Other (please specify)		A citizen concerned about the plight of the osprey.
Julie Isidro	Connecticut	Other (please specify)		Someone who cares about ospreys
Kathleen Z Lepak	Connecticut	Other (please specify)		species preservation
Sally Bovino	Connecticut	Other (please specify)		Concerned citizen regarding menhaden limits

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Eve Burhenne	Connecticut	Other (please specify)		Concerned for ospreys
Kathleen Riley	Connecticut	Other (please specify)		osprey steward Old Saybrook,CT
Judith Fisher	Connecticut	Other (please specify)		Have osprey box on my marsh
Donna Rae Caporaso	Connecticut	Other (please specify)		Abide birders who recently brought malnutritished osprey to rehab
lindsay Baron	CT and RI	Concerned stakeholder		Osprey Nation findings show the worst breeding success in its 13-year history, along with other troubling signs: • 0.87 chicks per breeding pair, down from the previous record low of 1.26 in 2025. • For the first time, the majority of successful nests only produced a single fledged chick, adding to concerns that Ospreys are struggling to find enough food. Action needs to be taken by fisheries to preserve the food chain now.
Will Sternberg	CT, MD, VA, NC, and Washington D.C.	Private recreational angler		Menhaden are the life blood of the Atlantic coast and need to be protected more than they are currently. Long Island sound stopped the menhaden harvest and has seen striper numbers rebound significantly.
Seth Price	Delaware	For-hire vessel owner/operator/crew		As a fore-hire kayak fishing guide operating in the mid Atlantic region I have seen the effects of over harvest of menhaden including the starvation of our local osprey population and urge ASMFC to enact a quota reduction.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Jodi McLaughlin	Delaware	Other (please specify)	I monitor ospreys for Delaware Fish and Wildlife/osprey-watch.org	For the past 14 years I have volunteered with DE Fish and Wildlife, Tri-State Bird Rescue and DE Center for the Inland Bays with a focus on Osprey conservation and nest reproductive monitoring of over 100 nest sites primarily in Sussex County. In the past 3 years, I have personally observed osprey nesting success plummet, held emaciated adult and young ospreys in my hands and watched osprey chicks starve in abandoned nests because the adults spent long periods of time away from the nest attempting to save themselves. And the ospreys are the showy species we can see and study. In the 2026 season, I confirmed 162 active nesting pairs produced only 60 young. .37% chicks per nest is similar to the DDT era. 55 years passed and here we are again in 2026. Ospreys represent: they are not isolated in the environment. Industrial Reduction Fishing is depleting not just the critically important Chesapeake Bay, but our Atlantic Coastal waters. Menhaden not only feed our ospreys and other marine birds and animals but they uniquely filter the algae and phytoplankton that few other saltwater animals clean from our warming and increasingly vulnerable waters. The warning signs are flashing! Healthy bays, coastal waters and the many Atlantic coastal states socioeconomic systems require the ASMFC to vote for the strongest conservation options in November. 50% Bay Cap, 3-year review is the beginning of a necessary environmental coast wide correction.
Jason Russell	Delaware	Private recreational angler		I would like to see this implementation last for a period of time where results can be quantified. Short periods lead to skewed results.
Edward J Dobbins	Delaware	Private recreational angler		It is an absolute disgrace that Omega protein, a foreign company in the pockets of Virginia politicians, is allowed to literally decimate this fishery. Do something and do it right!!
Andy	Delaware	Private recreational angler		Make it easy, keep the bunker fleet out of the Ches Bay period and keep them at least three miles offshore. Too many bass and other species are caught and killed as by catch by the bunker fleet. Stand up to Omega and do what’s right for the bay not Omega. Thanks.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Patricia Evans	Delaware	Concerned stakeholder		None
Patricia Ashmead	Delaware	Concerned stakeholder		Osprey nest on my dock for past 10 years - noticeable decline in chicks (number born, survival/fledge rate) and quantity of fish provided by parents in past 3 years
Tara Schmitt	Delaware	Other (please specify)	Wildlife Enthusiast	Please protect our Ospreys and other wildlife.
Brandon Hamilton	Delaware	Private recreational angler		Public Comment in Support of Closing the Chesapeake Bay Menhaden Reduction Fishery Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, I strongly support a complete closure of the menhaden reduction fishery in the Chesapeake Bay. Over the past ten years, I have personally observed a dramatic decline in menhaden along the Delaware coast. Areas where menhaden once seemed abundant now appear to have very few. I recognize that the reduction fishery may not be the only factor responsible for this decline, but the apparent depletion is concerning enough that continuing to remove large quantities of this important forage fish is an unnecessary risk. Until an appropriate study can determine the causes of the decline and establish that the population can support the reduction fishery without harming the broader ecosystem, I believe the precautionary approach is to close the reduction fishery in the Chesapeake Bay. Menhaden are a critical food source for many species and an important part of the coastal ecosystem. We should not wait until their decline becomes irreversible before taking action. Please support a complete closure of the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery until sufficient science demonstrates that continued reduction fishing is sustainable. Thank you for considering my comments.
John hazzard	Delaware	Private recreational angler		Stop ruining the fishing. All you have to do is take a boat ride in August and you will see there are no bunker to be found.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Christophe Tulou	Delaware	Other (please specify)	Represent the DE Center for the Inland Bays - a national estuary program	These policy choices reflect growing concern throughout a large swath of the near-coastal Atlantic region over significant reduction of osprey reproductive success affecting an apex predator heavily reliant on menhaden as a food source. This comment also presumes the Commission's understanding of the food value and thus the foundational importance of these fish to other predators in our coastal Atlantic region. From the work of the Center for Conservation Biology at William and Mary, we recognize that osprey food stress is is very real in the Chesapeake. We see it in coastal Delaware, as well. Quick and effective response to reduce overall menhaden catch and avoid most reduction-fishery harvest during osprey breeding and fledging seasons is a prudent response to clear evidence of widespread and significant reductions in osprey reproductive success. If not addressed, this will lead to rapid reductions in coastal osprey populations. Given this data and its implications for osprey and likely other species dependent on or affected by the presence of sufficient menhaden populations--including those who catch, process and use menhaden-sourced products--it behooves all the ASMFC states to undertake and coordinate on full and credible assessment of menhaden stocks throughout the ASFMC region. Needless to say, these rapidly changing circumstances affecting osprey and likely other species compels a careful review and appropriate adjustment of the coastwide menhaden TAC, as well.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Jamieson Martin	Delaware	Other (please specify)	Concerned citizen with passion for fisheries conservation	This draft proposes a solution crucial to maintaining the Chesapeake bay ecosystems. Reducing the menhaden fishing limits would allow for necessary revitalization of the menhaden population. Menhaden are a very important piece to the fragile chesepeake bay ecosystem, being a food source for various trophic dynamics. Menhaden serve as a food source for osprey, other marine birds, predatory fish like striped bass, bluefish, cobia, mackerel, and more. This drop in population will not only hurt the populations of these fish and marine birds, but will also hurt the renowned fishing industry within the bay. Sport fisheries like striped bass and cobia rely on menhaden, and will eventually start to decline with the menhaden population. These sport fisheries are a huge piece to the larger economy of the chedpeake bay area. So not only will protecting menhaden help stabalize their population, but will allow for consistent stabalization of fisheries that contribute to the local economy. Menhaden populations have been proven to have much lower biomass than originally anticipated. All in all, updating these limits will create a necessary shift in these crucial populations that hold together the fragile ecosystem of the chesepeake. I am in full support of this update.
Nicholas Wittkofski	District of Columbia	Concerned stakeholder		Be as strict as possible on industrial fishing that uses purse seine fishing. We should protect the bay over industry. Support local businesses/fishermen and wildlife, not national and international corporations. Make fines so high it's prohibitive to break the rules. Better yet, revoke licenses to corporations that don't abide by the rules. PROTECT THE BAY
Lisa Landsverk	District of Columbia	Concerned stakeholder		Given the importance of menhaden in the food chain, I believe no take of menhaden should be allowed. Decreases in populations of other fishes reliant on menhaden suggests overfishing.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Evan Kinnevan	District of Columbia	Other (please specify)	Biologist studying osprey nesting in the Chesapeake Bay	Having spent the summer monitoring osprey nests on the Chesapeake, I saw firsthand how the lack of menhaden is stressing the wildlife of The Bay. I came across too many nests that had dead emaciated nestlings and even more nests where the nestlings that survived were in such poor health I didn't know how long they would live after leaving the nest. During my trips monitoring nests, I was lucky enough to talk with people who have been around The Bay for decades. Their stories of "mile long" schools of menhaden reminded me of the stories of Passenger Pigeons flying overhead "blocking out the sky". I fear the short-term gains menhaden provide are overshadowing their importance as a foundation for the Chesapeake food web. They should be left in the water for the entire bay to enjoy and profit from, not for the benefit of a single corporation. The menhaden industry along the east-coast is a remnant of the past, with areas that have banned the practice experiencing rebounds in seabird, fish, and large marine mammal populations. The areas where Omega Protein harvest menhaden are experienced steep declines and the damage only grows. Osprey's nesting in New Jersey had their worst year on record as well. Just because the fishing occurs in The Bay, doesn't mean it's impacts aren't felt elsewhere. That's why cap of 50% of current harvests isn't enough to stop the stresses observed in The Bay. A moratorium should be in place to stop harvesting until there's a better idea of exactly how the menhaden are responding to the pressure of industrial fishing.
Peiyao Zhao	Florida	Concerned stakeholder		All signs are pointing towards severe overfishing of Atlantic Menhaden. I feel a 50% reduction in the bay cap is absolutely paramount while other mitigation measures are being surveyed.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
James A. Baker IV	Florida	Private recreational angler		Although I live in Florida, I have owned a home on the Chesapeake Bay for almost 20 years, just north of the Bay Bridge, and, until recently, I fished there throughout that time, primarily for Striped Bass and Bluefish. For most of that time I have observed large pods of baitfish in the water from the late spring through the early fall. However in recent years, there appear to be substantially fewer and smaller such instances. Correspondingly, Bluefish have disappeared from the Upper Bay, and now, Stripers are relatively infrequent. Additionally, in the past few years I've observed porpoises swimming through the Upper Bay, which I surmise are in search of food. Why else would marine fish venture into the relatively fresher water regions of the Bay? The Chesapeake Bay is an American treasure. Restoration of its traditional, historic marine population dynamics serves the interests of a wide range of stakeholders beyond those of a single company and a relatively small segment of human Bayside populations.
Christopher Doggett	Florida	Private recreational angler		Based on both quantitative data (i.e., data from scientific studies) and qualitative assessments (i.e., observations from the recreational fishing community), I firmly believe that we are at a critical point and are risking the collapse of the striped bass fishery, other key recreational species, and the east coast ecosystem writ large, if we don't take substantial measures to bring the menhaden stock into better balance. I strongly encourage the ASMFC to take the most substantial changes possible now; waiting and taking a smaller step approach over a longer period will likely fail to achieve the desired results.
Susan Kapela	Florida	Other (please specify)	Consumer	Definitely set limits
Valerie Howell	Florida	Other (please specify)	general public	Encourage consideration of opinions of those of us who aren't anglers but are interested in marine populations and environment. I would like to see a total pause on fishing of menhadens so that the population can recover. Thank you.
Brad Wolpert	Florida	Concerned stakeholder		No

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
M C Loch	Florida	Concerned stakeholder		No
Lauren Johnson	Florida	Concerned stakeholder		Overfishing of menhaden jeopardizes critical food chains both in the sea and on land (e.g., ospreys). This important fish needs time to recover, and a plan to prevent future overfishing.
Carol Colucci	Florida	Other (please specify)	Concerned citizen	Please support Chesapeake Bay Ospreys by strengthening menhaden fishing limits. Thank you
Eric Draper	Florida	Concerned stakeholder		Provide enough food for abundant osprey populations.
John Gioulis	Florida	Private recreational angler		Reduce commercial harvesting.
Michael Dixon	Florida	Private recreational angler		Support science-based Chesapeake Bay menhaden management that recognizes the importance of this resource to healthy fisheries and the recreational fishing economy
Diane Augustus	Florida	Concerned stakeholder		Thank you again for allowing me to be included in the survey as actions are being considered
Anthony	Florida	Concerned stakeholder		Thanks for the opportunity to provide this input.
ROB VAN METER	Florida	Private recreational angler		The human factor in nature has upended her life balance. We are obligated not to destroy the treasures of all life.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Ed Malin	Florida	Private recreational angler		There are not enough options in the questions above. Quit managing the fisheries from top down. Start at the bottom and manage up. Zero commercial harvest of menhaden, shrimp, mullet. Let the bottom of the food chain max out without commercial pressure and the middle and top of the chain will need less management. So simple. The largest waste of the entire resource comes from shrimp trawl bycatch. Not only do we kill an inordinate amount of non target species, we destroy the bottom where the food chain starts. It is so stupid. All this bullshit about percentages and total allowable catch. Zero allowable commercial catch at the bottom. Simple as shit.
Barbara Chancey	Florida	Other (please specify)	Concerned for Conservation	There doesn't have to be an either/ or regarding the fishing. Both humans and other species can share the fish. Humans do have access to multiple food sources, but other species depend on the fish to raise their families. Sharing makes it possible for humans and other living species to both survive.
Tom farrell	Florida	Private recreational angler		This is a very in depth science approach needed by biology professionals. We need a lot more exposure and input from the experts on this issue!
Cathie Wenderoth	Florida	Other (please specify)		I am a birder,vist Cape May to watch the Horsecrabs mate and see their migration
Penny Peek	Florida	Other (please specify)		Friend of Ospreys
Richard David Champion	Florida	Other (please specify)		concerned Human who knows we need to make room for all life on Earth.
M LeonardTyson	Georgia	Concerned stakeholder		Nothing short of a 30% reduction in overall harvest will be enough to significantly bolster the long-term sustainability of the menhaden fish population...

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Harvey Langberg	Georgia	Private recreational angler		Osprey populations rely on you to survive. Please make decisions with this in mind.
Jacqueline StJames	Georgia	Concerned stakeholder		Please protect our wildlife and natural habitats!
Delilah Kirby	Georgia	Private recreational angler		We cannot afford to treat the decline of the Chesapeake Bay osprey population as acceptable collateral damage for industrial fishing profits [ASMFC]. Ospreys are a vital sentinel species; their health directly reflects the health of the entire marine ecosystem [ASMFC]. Watching parent birds return to empty nests, unable to find the foundational menhaden required to keep their chicks from starving, is an ecological tragedy that demands immediate intervention [ASMFC]. Forage fish like menhaden belong to the public trust and the wildlife that depend on them, not to a single industry [ASMFC]. Implementing strict quota periods, overage paybacks, and a 50% cap reduction is not just a regulatory choice—it is a moral imperative to restore the balance of the Bay, protect a deeply cherished species, and ensure that future generations do not inherit an empty, broken ecosystem [ASMFC].
J. English	Hawaii	Other (please specify)	Biologist by training/Science Educator	Capitalism is impacting the ecosystem. From what I read today in multiple sources, the fish are not breeding/ living in the same spaces that they once did. There's a limiting factor in this equation that needs more research. Overfishing is an easy explanation, but one that needs more investigating.
Kevin Klatt	Hawaii	Private recreational angler		Reduce quota should reduce 50 % . How it is done . I don't care. If you made this survey easier ! More people would respond .
Celesta von Chamier	I fish in Maryland but live elsewhere	Private recreational angler		Our natural heritage is a finite resource. I hope the commission understands usage should be sustainable for the entire ecosystem involved.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Phil Shaw	I used to live in Virginia and visit the Chesapeake Bay and enjoy the wildlife and natural habitat there.	Other (please specify)	Wildlife and Nature appreciation	Maintain or enhance wastewater treatment and water quality treatment for surface runoff and maintain or enhance natural habitat restoration including riparian shoreline conservation iniciatives.
Alice McGrath	Illinois	Concerned stakeholder		I am a concerned stakeholder in that the health of the environment in the U.S. is vial to all our lives as Americans. Please end the overharvesting of fish so the Chesapeake ecosystem has a chance to recover.
Aiden West	Illinois	Concerned stakeholder		Menhaden taking caps effect more than just industry, private fishermen and local wildlife are highly effected by the collapse of these fishery populations. Ospreys especially, an iconic keystone species of the region, are facing local extinction.
Cheryl Henley	Illinois	Other (please specify)	Osprey Advocate	Need complete moratorium on overfishing until menhaden recover and Osprey recover to.Tbeir you g must survive Humans do not need Menhaden,Osprey depend on it for survival!!
Ruth Farmer	Kentucky	Concerned stakeholder		"I am writing to express my strong support for the maximum proposed reductions to the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap and the immediate implementation of strict seasonal quota spacing. Atlantic menhaden serve as a critical foundation for the entire Chesapeake Bay food web. Their ongoing localized depletion by large-scale industrial purse-seine fishing directly threatens vital predator species. In particular, this food shortage has contributed to severe osprey nesting failures across the region, as adult birds struggle to find enough menhaden to feed their chicks. Other key species, including striped bass and marine mammals, are also suffering from this localized depletion. The ecological health, wildlife success, and long-term biodiversity of the Chesapeake Bay must take priority over industrial harvest volumes. I urge the ASMFC to adopt the most conservative options available in Draft Addendum II to prevent overfishing in these sensitive nursery waters and to ensure ecosystem stability."

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Jared	Kentucky	Private recreational angler		Protect the Osprey
Stephen Dongo	Maine	Private recreational angler		I have been fishing for years and have noticed a major difference in the amount of baitfish. It takes a significant amount of time to locate bait now if you can find any at all. The striper fishery is going downhill fast because of it. Thank you for your time
Chuck Radis	Maine	Concerned stakeholder		In Maine, we still have successful osprey nesting, in part, because of our low quota of menhaden. I think it's a tragedy that the Chesepeak Bay quota has been so high, enabling large harvesters to decimate this important indicator species. Please, Please, pull drastically back onthe quotas so that we can have more feedfish for our ocean to remain healthy. Dr. Chuck Radis
Peter Mohlin	Maine	Private recreational angler		Please do the right thing and enact the most protective measures on this resource.
Rocco Risbara IV	Maine	Private recreational angler		Reduce the quotas, give menhaden a break. We see less and less in our area every year
Jean Burnett	Maine	Concerned stakeholder		There need to be limits on corporate gain when it is clearly in excess. Thank you for considering reasonable measures to ensure the future health of the fishery and all who benefit from it.
Germain	Maine	Private recreational angler		There needs to be reduction bigtime in the Bay. And it needs to happen sooner then later
David	Maine	Private recreational angler		There’s been a drastic reduction in striped bass populations in Maine due to our lack of baitfish

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
James Conley	Maine	Private recreational angler		angler who cares deeply about the future of striped bass and the entire Atlantic coastal ecosystem. I spend hundreds of hours on the water every year fishing the New England coast. Over the years, I have become increasingly concerned by how difficult it has become to find Atlantic menhaden, commonly known as bunker. I rarely see the large, abundant schools of bunker that I remember seeing in the past. When I do find bunker, it is extremely difficult to find one over four inches. That concerns me greatly because larger menhaden are an important source of forage for striped bass and countless other predators. Bunker are not just another commercial fishery. They are a critical part of the marine food web and provide food for striped bass, bluefish, tuna, sharks, whales, seabirds, and many other species. Removing large quantities of bunker from the ecosystem removes an important food source from the animals that depend on them. As someone who spends hundreds of hours on the water, I see firsthand what is happening in our coastal waters. I am not asking for stronger management because I want to see commercial fishermen lose their livelihoods. I am asking because I want there to be enough bunker left in the ecosystem to support all of our fisheries and marine life for generations to come. I strongly support taking a precautionary approach to Atlantic menhaden management. We need abundant bunker in the water not simply enough bunker remaining to support continued commercial harvest. The health of the entire ecosystem should come before maximizing how many menhaden can be removed. I urge the ASMFC to support the strongest conservation measures available under Draft Addendum II and to seriously consider additional reductions in menhaden harvest if the science indicates that current removals are putting predators and the broader ecosystem at risk. If stronger restrictions, including a temporary moratorium on menhaden reduction fishing, are necessary to rebuild bunker abundance and protect the ecosystem, I believe those measures should be seriously considered. I care deeply about striped bass and the future of recreational fishing. Striped bass anglers should not have to wait until forage populations are depleted before action is taken. We have an opportunity to be proactive now rather than waiting for another fishery to decline and then imposing emergency restrictions or closures on recreational and commercial fishermen. We need to act now.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Catherine Haslam	Maryland	Private recreational angler		It is important to ACT now. While there may be some job losses in fishing fleet you also have to consider job losses to recreational fishing ,bird tourism , crab fishermen and multiple other supporting tourism industries if we lose ospreys and severely impact other fish species. Plus there are so many other threats we have little power over -- THIS one we can address. Please do so but reducing harvests as much as possible
Jeremy Mau	Maryland	Private recreational angler		I'm writing in support of the proposed reduction to the Chesapeake. Sustaining a healthy Atlantic menhaden population is critical to protecting the Chesapeake Bay's ecosystem and ensuring the vital food supply that predator species depend on. While a harvest cut may present short-term challenges for those in the fishing industry, securing a balanced marine environment ultimately provides more long term stability to jobs that rely on menhaden harvest.
Joseph Meadows	Maryland	Private recreational angler		8 Generations of my Family have been living and working off of the Chesapeake Bay. My future son is on the way and I want him to enjoy the Bay as much as I did and even more. I dream of never going out on the boat and seeing sludge floating on top and millions of fish swimming around.
Charles L. Ross, III	Maryland	Private recreational angler		A healthy bunker population supports the entire Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. The recommendations that I have chosen above will support this effort by requiring the following: A 50% initial reduction in the Chesapeake Bay Cap A Bay Cap linked to the coastwide quota Less concentrated harvest during critical spring and summer periods Accountability for seasonal quota overages A required review of the Bay Cap every three years
Freeman Jones	Maryland	Private recreational angler		A healthy Chesapeake Bay is essential to all wildlife and our children.
Gregory Hupka Jr	Maryland	Private recreational angler		A healthy sustainable Bay makes for a healthy sustainable state. Maryland waters have paid the price too long for the over harvest of this important fish species.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Paul Davey	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Allowing harvesting of Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is Disgraceful and any harvest if allowed should be a minimum of 3 miles off shore The fishery is being destroyed by Omega industrialized Menhaden extraction & it is causing immense damage to Maryland, Virginia & the entire Atlantic Coast
Jerry Dewese	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Any foreign companies should be taxed for any fisheries harvested. License fees should increase for all international companies that's harvesting in the Chesapeake Bay
Nathan Villiger	Maryland	Private recreational angler		As a Chesapeake Bay fisherman and hunter, I understand how deeply connected Menhaden is to the health of our recreational and commercial fisheries in the Bay. I want to see Menhaden return to numbers that allow for sustainable harvest to meet the needs of industry, and provide a food source for striped bass, redfish, cobia, bluefish and osprey that also call the Bay home. Menhaden are the basic producers of energy for larger migratory fish species that enter the bay to spawn and feed. Cutting the menhaden harvest is the fastest way to ensure that these species can recover and remain sustainable in the future.
Andrew Iserson	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		As a concerned Maryland Chesapeake Bay Area citizen, I urge you to approve the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum as soon as possible. Any delay in restraining the fishery's exploitation of a key natural resource will add to the harm and possibly preclude future restoration of the osprey and rockfish population that thrived here for centuries. Thank you.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Wendy Dinova-Wimmer	Maryland	Other (please specify)	Photographer/Concerned citizen	As a photographer and concerned citizen for the welfare of the Chesapeake Bay region, I have seen many osprey nests fail in recent years and I understand that the population in the area has fallen below the point of sustainability. This is heartbreaking to see after witnessing their recovery since the elimination of DDT. Scientists and naturalists that I know personally are seeing an alarming number of osprey chicks simply starving to death. It is long past time to reduce the annual menhaden catch to help reverse this troubling trend. The birds and local fishermen simply cannot compete with mass scale commercial fishing using large destructive purse seine nets, which is another reason to limit the scale of the catch. Therefore, I support the proposal to reduce the annual catch by 50% and also support the 25%/25%/50% spread to push a higher percentage of the catch beyond the osprey nesting period. In addition, it makes no sense that ~ 75% of the entire east coast quota goes to one state: Virginia. Why? Especially considering that a foreign company is largely the one profiting from the menhaden caught in this area! It seems that a re-allocation of the entire east cost limit is also in order. Let's do the right thing as humans and take care of our osprey and the Chesapeake Bay for generations to come.
Gary Laubach	Maryland	Private recreational angler		As a recreational fisherman in the upper Chesapeake Bay for the last 30 years, I've seen a dramatic decrease in menhaden over the last 10 years. You can see this with all the antidotal evidence of the main schools of rockfish transitioning up into the northern Chesapeake Bay above the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, and hanging out there all year because that's where the little remaining bait lives. Due to the over fishing in the lower Chesapeake Bay. We no longer see the large schools of bait. The Bay is being depleted of menhaden, which is a critical source of food for many of the resident species who live there.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Michael Kedda	Maryland	Private recreational angler		enough to see the Bay in all of it's glory. I caught my first rockfish in 1958 of a dock in the South river, 13" long. I was very proud. My folks were avid fishermen and we spent many hours fising from the Bay Bridge to south o Thomas point Light and what struck me most was the schools of fish breaking the surface, gulls working the water and the rock fish we caught. Ther schools of fish were the infamous Menhaden. the bay was in a balance, fish plentiful. As time went on thingss changed waters went from crystal clear to brown , sea grasses disappeared, crabs dwindled, as well as rockfish and the schools of Manhaden disappeared to the extent that they had once been. It took many years for the bay to recover and has been getting better the osprey came back and started to flourish. there was food / fish for everyone. but with the last 5 years or so a visible impact is occuring again and the bait fish that so drove the revitalization fo our beautiful bay is reversing direction. Osprey have ben effected greatly with the lack of bait fish. alowing the bay's resources to be taken before they reach the residents tht rely on their nourishment to sustain our a healthy stock is wrong. parking the large factory ships are ruining Marylander's natural resources, for all fish, birds, humans that depend on it. Regulate these factory ships and limit their catch by 50% and save the bay for future generations of animals & humans that depend on it. Attached is a note regarding our friend the Ospreys, who are taken on the chin. Recovering from the days of lost chicks due to DDT, they were starting to flourish and have their recover has dramatically reversed due to the lack of Menhaden. As a resident of the Chesapeake Bay region, I understand that the total menhaden population, a keystone species for the ecosystem of the bay, has likely been significantly overestimated (35-40%), and their numbers have actually been declining at quite an alarming rate. The upcoming studies that have been granted funding are great, but I fear the fish cannot wait for studies to be completed since they have been put off for far too long. In fact, I'm not sure why a temporary moratorium isn't on the table. Additionally, I have seen many osprey nests fail in recent years and I understand that the population in the bay area has fallen below the point of sustainability. This is heartbreaking to see after witnessing their recovery since the elimination of DDT. Scientists and naturalists that I know personally are seeing an alarming

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Thomas Statas	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		As a resident of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, I have seen a decline in sport fishing catch and have seen many osprey nests fail in recent years to the point that the osprey population at the mouth of the Patuxent River is losing sustainability. This is heartbreaking to see after witnessing their recovery since the elimination of DDT. This time, scientists and naturalists working in the bay area that I know personally are seeing an alarming number of osprey chicks simply starving to death. It is long past time to reduce the annual menhaden catch to reverse this troubling trend. The birds and local fishermen simply cannot compete with mass scale commercial fishing using large destructive purse seine nets, which is another reason to limit the scale of the catch. In addition, it makes no sense that ~ 75% of the east coast quota goes to one state, Virginia. Why? Especially considering that a foreign company is largely the one who is profiting? It seems that a re-allocation of the entire east cost limit is also in order. Thank you for your consideration
Ed Palaszynski	Maryland	Other (please specify)	Very concerned citizen that realizes "everything is connected" and over fishing is disastrous for multiple reasons.	As mentioned already, over fishing in any area can be devastating for numerous populations that include humans and not just our wildlife. We are all connected and disruption and any ecological system can wreak havoc and lead to unintended consequences. While I appreciate the fishing industry and using our natural resources there is only so much to go around. It seems that we have entered another era of "everyone be damned and let us make our money". I would appreciate if the ASMFC seriously consider limits and save everyone involved and be smart in making this decision to limit harvests of the menhaden in the bay.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Charles Huber	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		Atlantic menhaden are a keystone species for the entire Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. Over harvesting of menhaden has serious implications to the health of multiple species including Osprey and multiple fish species. Osprey are currently known to be struggling with reproduction issues due to lack of adequate food sources. Now is the time to act to protect Osprey populations and the overall health of the ecosystem.
Kevin McMenamin	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Atlantic Menhaden are the most important fish in the sea. Not only is it a primary forage species for many species and is also a significant filter feeder helping to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. I believe that there is a localized depletion of Menhaden Biomass in the Chesapeake due the Hugh allocation of 51,000 MT to the VA portion of the Chesapeake. Please correct this long standing mistake. Thank You!
Eric Goodrich	Maryland	For-hire vessel owner/operator/crew		Atlantic menhaden should no longer be overfished in Virginia because they are a vital part of the marine ecosystem and support the health of the Chesapeake Bay. These small fish provide essential food for striped bass, ospreys, dolphins, whales, and other wildlife, while also helping sustain local fisheries and tourism. Reducing overfishing would protect the food chain, preserve biodiversity, and ensure that menhaden remain available for future generations. Virginia should promote responsible catch limits and sustainable fishing practices to protect this important resource.
Kevin Williams	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Business as usual is not an option but I do not want to see the Mehaden fishing industry decimated without incremental controls.
Stephen Brown	Maryland	Private recreational angler		But the Harvest by 50 percent

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Paul Wolfe	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Climate change, i.e. warming water in the Bay is having the biggest impact but since that is beyond the scope of this comment the best we can do is address the problems within your control. The overfished nature of the menhaden is the biggest thing that can be done in fisheries management for stripped and bay stock red drum. One company, one town, one type of fisher, nor one state own these fisheries, they belong to all of us. Everyone should have the opportunity to catch striped bass and that is just not happening in significant part because of one fishery is taking to much of the feeder fish population.
James Robbins	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Commercial fishing of Menhaden should be 100% banned permanently!
kevin m hoffman	Maryland	Private recreational angler		cut it by 50% or more

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PAUL SAMUEL EMMART	Maryland	Private recreational angler		DATE: October 9, 2026 FROM: Paul Emmart RE: Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II -- As a recreational fisherman, with 40 years in the Bay watershed, the exploitation of the menhaden is a serious concern of mine. I absolutely believe a Chesapeake Bay Cap Reduction of 50% cut is necessary for the industrial reduction fishery cap to prevent the loss of supporting fisheries for other fauna. I also support the Maryland Tidal and Recreational Fisheries Committee recommendation to restrict the reduction fishery to federal waters (outside 3 nautical miles). I completely support the theses presented by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, and the Coastal Conservation Association Maryland which advocate that menhaden are a foundational forage fish vital for striped bass, osprey, cobia, and marine mammals. They point to alarming osprey nest failures and starving chicks in the Bay as proof that industrial reduction harvesting is over-concentrated. When watermen themselves state that harvests are dropping from up to 10 million pounds down to about 1 million annually, it is time to cease the ravaging of the Bay. While Omega Protein / Ocean Harvesters has been primarily responsible for the mass casualty and over fishing, there must be a limit and strictly oppose any "roll over" of remaining capacity under the quota system. No roll over either in the season or the three piece cut of the season should be allowed. period. I appreciate the opportunity to comment and all of the important work that the Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II represents. This has been a long time in coming and I hope that each person's input will be seriously considered. Best regards.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Greg kearns	Maryland	Other (please specify)	Non fishing biologist	strong support for Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. Specifically, I urge the Commission to implement a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay menhaden reduction fishery harvest cap. As "the most important fish in the sea," Atlantic menhaden serve as the ecological foundation of the Chesapeake Bay. Allowing high-volume, industrial-scale reduction purse-seining to continue at current levels threatens the balance of the entire mid-Atlantic marine ecosystem. A 50% reduction in the Bay cap is an essential, science-based step forward for the following critical reasons: • Avian Predator Starvation & Osprey Population Crashes: The crisis facing the Bay's avian predators has reached a tipping point. Striking scientific evidence and widespread monitoring highlight unprecedented osprey nest failures across the Chesapeake Bay due to chick starvation. Ospreys rely heavily on menhaden to feed their young. The localized depletion of these fish by industrial vessels directly correlates with the heartbreaking crash of osprey reproductive success. • Protection of Critical Food Webs: Menhaden are a vital keystone species that funnel energy through the marine food web. They are a primary forage source not just for ospreys, but also for marine mammals like whales and dolphins, and economically vital finfish like striped bass (rockfish). We cannot rebuild struggling predator stocks without ensuring an abundant, localized supply of their primary food. • True Ecosystem-Based Management: While coastwide assessments may show the overall Atlantic menhaden stock is not officially overfished, coastwide data masks the localized depletion happening inside the nursery grounds of the Chesapeake Bay. The ASMFC must transition from managing menhaden solely as a commercial commodity to practicing true ecosystem-based management that accounts for localized ecological demand. • Support for Coastal and Recreational Communities: The Chesapeake Bay supports vibrant recreational fishing, charter boat, and ecotourism economies that depend entirely on a healthy, biodiverse ecosystem. Prioritizing a single, industrial reduction operation over the shared public resource of the Bay damages local communities and the broader multi-billion-dollar recreational economy. The warning signs are clear and mounting. The current harvest cap leaves the delicate food web of the Chesapeake Bay vulnerable to collapse. Cutting the

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Chris Wright	Maryland	Private recreational angler		For Issue 1 (Seasonal Allocation Text Box):"I support Option B3 paired with Option B for strict overage paybacks. However, I explicitly demand that the ASMFC prohibit the rollover of unused quota between seasonal periods. Allowing unused quota to carry over creates a loophole that permits industrial vessels to heavily concentrate fishing pressure later in the season." For Issue 2 (Chesapeake Bay Cap Text Box):"I support Option C1e for a 50% reduction to 25,500 mt. I strongly oppose Option C2a. A proportional, two-way linked cap acts as a Trojan horse that would automatically increase industrial netting in the fragile Chesapeake Bay whenever coastwide quotas rise. The Bay cap must be a hard, fixed maximum ceiling independent of coastwide model increases."

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Barbara Ripp Statas	Maryland	Other (please specify)	DelMarVa environmental photographer	Hello, As a Maryland resident, I am deeply concerned about the overfishing of menhaden, a keystone species, in the Chesapeake Bay region. I support both an overall reduction in the annual cap by 50% as well as a reallocation of the quota among east coast states. It is troubling that reports indicate the entire east coast population of menhaden has been significantly over estimated (up to 37%). With approx. 75% of the total catch currently going to Virginia, it's only logical that this has had an outsized impact on the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. I have seen many osprey nests along the Patuxent River fail in recent years and the fledgling rate in the area around the Bay has fallen below the point of sustainability – while there are numerous factors, naturalists are reporting that the osprey chicks who have historically relied on their parents bringing in menhaden are starving. This is a tragedy after so many years of successful rebound. So, I also support the option for 3 equal length quota periods with a 25%/25%/50% spread to push a higher percentage of the catch beyond the osprey nesting period and to allow menhaden more time to work their way further up the Bay into Maryland. Sport and commercial fisherman also report a decline in the big fish that rely on the little fish for food. The birds and local fishermen simply cannot compete with mass scale commercial fishing using aircraft to locate schools of menhaden and large destructive purse seine nets, which is yet another reason to limit the scale of the catch in the Chesapeake Bay – not to mention that the majority of the profits are going to a foreign company! It is long past time to reduce the annual menhaden quota to help reverse these troubling trends! Thank you for your consideration! Barbara Statas
Penelope	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		How about no overages? I tried reading the examples in the addendum a few times but they're all just "say the fishery goes over by 2000 pounds" but like, after the quota numbers are set, just don't do that? Going over should be impossible if the numbers are known, and punished if someone is taking too much intentionally. Having it roll over indefinitely doesn't seem as helpful.
James Manley	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		Humans are #1 but we can do better than this carnage

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Nikki Gamer	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		I am a Maryland resident and bird-lover and have followed the Osprey decline in the Chesapeake Bay through my local birding group. These birds are regal and magnificent to see populating our coastline. Every time I see one during my walks at Baltimore's Fort McHenry Park I'm reminded how lucky we are that these animals live among us. But if we don't do something urgently to reign in the harvesting of their primary food source--these birds will disappear under our watch. Please do the right thing for the birds and for the environment by reigning in the big businesses that prey on our natural resources for profit.
Fredric (Ric) Buckley	Maryland	Private recreational angler		I am also concerned about the by catch of the menhaden harvest. Is there any information or data regarding that. It seems that there must be a high mortality of other species, particularly game fish that feed on menhaden. I support any measure to reduce the menhaden harvest coast wide.
John Scheinman	Maryland	Other (please specify)	member of the Maryland Attorney General's environmental advisory counsel	I am not an expert, but I have followed this issue for years, and strongly support the reductions in take being advocated for.
Broc W Bowers	Maryland	Private recreational angler		I am strongly in favor of greatly decreasing the pressure of harvest on the menhaden. Especially with the main harvester of menhaden being a foreign company that has no regard for the effects of the harvest and its bycatch. I am strongly in favor of decreasing it as much as possible, and during revisits it being decreased more. The striped bass fishery is a staple of Maryland culture, and should be protected from something as obvious as over harvest from a foreign company, this should’ve been done very long ago.

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Kurt Long	Maryland	Private recreational angler		I am strongly opposed to Option C or any attempt to link the Bay Cap to the Coastwide TAC. Thank you for considering my preferences.
R. Loftus	Maryland	Other (please specify)	Former Oceanographic Research Scientest	I am totally against the over harveating or any harvesting of Alwife or Alwives in the Chesapeake bay. There should be a 'No Take' law imposed by MD. & VA. immediately !
Sara Szczurko	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		I am very concerned about our ospreys and fish
Jeanette Louise Spangle	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		I am very concerned about the effect of industrial reduction fishing of menhaden fish which is greatly affecting the survival of osprey in the Chesapeake Bay. Their reproductive rates have greatly decreased both due to fewer osprey eggs being laid and starving osprey chicks. The decline in menhaden fish is also adversely affecting the survival of other fish-eating birds in the Chesapeake Bay as well as other Bay wildlife (including other fish & marine mammals. These animals do not need to be endangered just to produce fish meal and dietary supplements.
John Erwin	Maryland	Private recreational angler		I am very upset that VA has decimated the fish population adversely affecting the Maryland economy and recreational fishing. Frankly, I think both the VA state AND the fishery should be sued by Maryland to recoup significant damages.
Peter Barren	Maryland	Private recreational angler		I am writing to highlight the critical role that abundant menhaden play in the Chesapeake Bay. Their presence is vital to the overall health and stability of the Chesapeake watershed and its broader ecosystem.

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Megan Salerno	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		Chesapeake Bay and its menhaden by supporting strong, conservation-minded reform through Draft Addendum II. Specifically, I ask the Commission to reduce the Chesapeake Bay Cap by 50 percent starting in 2027 (Section 3.1 Option C1e & Option C2a) and implement quota periods (Section 3.2.1, Option B2) to spread industrial harvesting effort across seasonal timeframes. Atlantic Menhaden are the backbone of the Chesapeake Bay. From an ecosystem perspective, menhaden are an indispensable, energy-dense food source for fish, birds, and marine mammals. They are the critical bridge connecting microscopic marine life to the striped bass on an angler's line, the osprey in their nests, and the mammals in our waters. From an economic perspective, menhaden provide essential bait for blue crab and lobster watermen across the Mid-Atlantic and power a $1.5 billion recreational fishing and marine tourism economy that sustains thousands of small businesses, charter captains, marinas, and hospitality jobs across the Bay. Research from the Center for Conservation Biology (CCB) delivers unequivocal proof that localized menhaden populations are severely depleted. This demands immediate regulatory action under Draft Addendum II. CCB studies demonstrate that osprey reproduction in the Chesapeake Bay has collapsed far below sustainable levels due to widespread chick starvation, specifically concentrated in high-salinity breeding areas where adult osprey rely heavily on menhaden for their diet. Controlled feeding experiments established a direct causal link: when starving nests in these high-salinity zones were manually supplemented with menhaden, chick survival was immediately restored to healthy levels. These findings prove beyond doubt that local menhaden stocks are being dangerously overharvested, and this overharvesting is putting the stability of the coastal food web, ecosystem, and economy at risk. Industrial menhaden harvesting profits a single, highly consolidated processing operation at the expense of the Bay's ecological health and the widespread economic well-being of our coastal communities. Establishing harvest caps and protecting menhaden populations is an essential investment in the financial stability and resilience of working waterfronts and in protecting the health of the wildlife that call the Bay home. The Bay can't wait any longer. Safeguarding the long-term health of the Bay requires fishery management decisions that prioritize ecosystem

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Patrick Crump	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		I attended the Sept 15 hearing in Annapolis, and agreed with the vast majority of attendees who preferred a moratorium on menhaden reduction harvesting, to avoid further collapse of this keystone species.
Patrick Turri	Maryland	Private recreational angler		I believe the menhaden in the chesapeake bay and surrounding waters are being extremely overfished and is affecting the rockfish and other fish . I have fished the chesapeake bay for over 40 years and have noticed a dramatic change for the worse .
Mary dunlavey	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		I don't know enough to answer most of the questions that deal with specific variables concerned with fishing limits or timing. I'm participating only to say that we have done something wrong to cause the Osprey to starve or vacate the eastern shore. We should know how to fix the problem we caused and do it.
Darin Crew	Maryland	Private recreational angler		I fish in Baltimore Harbor and work to improve water quality, I have seen the Menhaden fishery decline and with that the Striped Bass population. Harvesting Menhaden for pet food is outdated and needs to stop, instead of stopping ASMFC should apply a cull down of the menhaden reduction fishery. Thanks for your leadership on ecosystem management of this keystone fishery. My 2 children look forward to more menhaden and a healthier fishery
Philip Anderson	Maryland	Private recreational angler		I fish the chesapeake. I saw how we overfished the rockfish when I was young. I have watched the commercial vessels decimating the lower bay with their menhaden depletion. They must be stopped before the eco system collapses. SAVE THE BAY.
Jennie Bentz	Maryland			I grew up sailing and fishing on the Chesapeake Bay and continue to do so to this day. The only thing is in recent years - the fish are not plentiful, my recreational fishing hook remains empty, and the channel makers I pass along the way are empty of osprey. Please bring this Addendum II to fruition and make real efforts to implement commercial overharvesting and provide protection to Chesapeake Bay wildlife in and above its waters. Please do so for the wildlife and future generations who should know what its like to catch a fish in the Bay or see an Osprey capture its prey.

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Charles Andrews	Maryland	Other (please specify)	recreational angler and wildlife observer	actively fishing and observing osprey and other wildlife for the 40 years that I have had this home. In addition, as my son resides in New York City, I frequently fish in New York harbor. I have not conducted a detailed rigorous scientific investigation, but my observations are such that I strongly recommend as a precautionary measure that the ASMFC significantly curtail menhaden take from the Chesapeake Bay and set seasonal limits on the allowed harvest to provide for abundant menhaden in time of critical need for ospreys. My empirical observations that support my opinion/conclusion regarding the options offered in Addendum II to Amendment 3 are the following: 1) My wife and I have been monitoring osprey nests and hatching success on Mill Creek for the past 7 years. We monitor approximately 30 nest sites. In the early years of our survey, almost all of the nest sites had young osprey's hatch and fledge, with over 40 fledging osprey in some years. For the past 4 years, the trend has been significantly downward with only 5 chicks hatching and 2 fledging this year. The maximum number of chicks at any nest was only one, when in past years several nests had three chicks. 2) In years past in the mid-summer and fall the creek in front of our home was full of menhaden schools and we frequently caught the fish with a throw out net for bait. The past three years, very few schools of menhaden, and this year only very small infrequent schools. Not able to catch any for bait. 3) I monitor the work of Greg Kearns at Patuxent River Park (Jug Bay), who has been observing and counting Osprey in the Patuxent River system for 40 years. He has recorded the amazing recovery of osprey following the phase out of DDT and now in the lower saline reaches of the river a significant decline in fledging chicks in the past four years. Intestinally, the decline in osprey in the freshwater portion of the Patuxent, where menhaden are not a component of the diet, has been significantly less than in the lower reach of the Patuxent River. As weather conditions in the upper and lower Patuxent are similar, this strongly suggests that weather/climate is not a dominant factor in the decline of osprey in the lower reaches of the river. 4) My fishing in New York harbor suggests that there has been a remarkable recovery in the fishery since purse seining for menhaden was curtailed in 2019. In the past two summers I have noted a amazing abundance of marine mammals and excellent fishing. This was not the

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David Reeves	Maryland	Private recreational angler		was a boy and a teenager growing up in the Maryland Chesapeake Bay region in the 1960s and 1970s, I enjoyed fishing, boating, and water skiing in places near Annapolis, Deale, Saint Michaels, Easton, Oxford, and Cambridge. (I still do.) The bunker (menhaden) were plentiful in the open Bay, as well as the mouths of the Potomac River, Patuxent River, Choptank and other rivers, and along with them the schools of predator bluefish, rockfish. You could see the diving birds from a mile away and knew where the large schools of baitfish were being attacked under the surface by predator fish, roiling the waters. The ospreys had plenty of food to feed chicks, and dolphins had ample forage fish supplies to survive, too. The Chesapeake Bay ecosystem was robust and plentiful and healthy. Those were the days! Those days are no more. In the past several decades, I have witnessed a steep decline in the presence of schools of menhaden, and consequently in the predator bluefish, rockfish, and weakfish available for recreational anglers, in the Chesapeake Bay. The statistics support my anecdotal evidence, with continuously declining catch rates and landings in metric tons. While coastwide the Atlantic menhaden stock has been assessed as sustainable, for the past several decades the local mismanagement and local overfishing of the menhaden fishery in the Chesapeake Bay, a critical nursery habitat for many species, has been tragic. I would like for my children and grandchildren to be able to experience the Bay as it was when I was young. We cannot allow a foreign company such as Omega Protein to industrially mine and extract the Bay's menhaden as if they were a commodity. Menhaden are a natural resource and if managed properly and sustainably, a renewable resource for many multiple uses to enjoy as well as profit from, into the future. The single use, industrial extraction of menhaden by reduction fishery purse seiners, excludes all other uses of the Bay's menhaden fisheries: for pound-net fishers and recreational anglers, as well as for predator fish such as bluefish, weakfish, and rockfish, and also for healthy ecosystems supporting wildlife such as ospreys, dolphins, and whales. Please manage the Atlantic menhaden fishery, and the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery in particular, properly to rebalance the ecosystem and provide a healthy, abundant fishery to recreational, sport, and commercial reduction fishers, as well as predator fish such as bluefish and rockfish, and also for healthy ecosystems

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Michael Wissel	Maryland	Private recreational angler		I have fished the Chesapeake Bay from the mouth of the Bay in Virginia to the upper bay for many years and there is absolutely no doubt that Menhaden aka the most important fish in the sea is lacking in abundance. Please take action, it's not just fish that depend on menhaden it's the entire ecosystem.
James Granahan	Maryland	Private recreational angler		I have fished the middle chesapeake bay since the 197Os and I have never experienced such a lack of gamefish than I have in the past few years. Spot, Croaker, Perch, Rockfish, Bluefish, etc just aren't here. I believe this is directly attributed to the virtually unchecked menhaden reduction fishery allowed in the bay and so close to the east coast shorelines. Something has to been done and if Virgina won't stop it than ASMFC needs to.
Amy Battaglia	Maryland	Private recreational angler		I have lived on the water on the Chesapeake for +22 yrs and pay close attention to the entire Bay ecosystem and the people who recreate & make a living utilizing Bay resources. To my knowledge no credible Scientific-based organization disputes the fact that the Bay resources are under severe pressure. Private citizens have voiced their concern over the repeated drop in fish take, osprey reproduction, and all acknowledge the keystone species role of the menhaden to the Bay. The mismanagement and the lack of political will stand in the way of meaningful steps to conserve and protect the Bay menhaden. Pushing a keystone fish to unsustainable levels is not justified based on needs of for profit entities. Taking action now to protect more of the menhaden population in the Bay is critical and long overdue. Yes, fund key research and set up reviews to assess the actions taken and whether they are effective. But further dithering in the face of overwhelming data demonstrating the harm to the Bay ecosystem is not in anyone’s interests.
Carl Tegen	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		I have seen the Striped Bass fishery decline steadily over the past 13 years. I am told that insufficient Menhaden make into the Bay because of overharvesting.
Judy Stiles	Maryland	Other (please specify)	Osprey supporter	I have toured Jug Bay to learn about osprey a few times. Each year there are fewer chicks hatching and surviving. As osprey eat menhaden there need to be enough available to feed them. Allowing industrial fishing to deplete the fish population starves the osprey.

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BAYARD E GALEY	Maryland	Private recreational angler		I live and boat on the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. Compared with when I was a kid, fishing in the Bay has become a complete joke. Cut the Bay reduction cap in half to 25,500 metric tons. Do not tie it to the coastwide quota. Spread the catch evenly through the season, make them pay back overages, and review the cap at least every three years.
Julia Alanen	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		I live in a waterfront property on the Chesapeake Bay. My family and community watched the Osprey population dwindle and cease to thrive/reproduce in a startlingly short time frame.
James Anderson	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		I live on the western shore of the Chesapeake in MD, and enjoy seeing the ospreys fishing while out on the patuxent, or other tributary rivers. I don't care if commercial fishing is cut to 0 in the Chesapeake, we need to protect the ecosystem and the creatures that depend on it.
H. Lars McCarter	Maryland	Private recreational angler		I live right next to the bay and spend several days a month on it recreationally. I've noticed a considerable reduction in the number of peanut bunker schools over the years and a drastic reduction in the number of adult bunker schools over the same period. Given the changes to natural mortality flagged in recent peer reviewed studies, I request ASMFC take appropriate action to address this apparent reduction in the stock to ensure long-term sustainment of menhaden throughout the bay. I want my children and future grandchildren the opportunity to experience a Chesapeake Bay full of natural life. It is our duty to protect and preserve it as well as the species within it. Let's not let politics, financial contributions, or the well-being of a few who profit from increased harvest of this species outweigh the well-being of the many. Moreover, it is in the best interest of local, state, and the federal economy to ensure long-term sustainment of the resource vs near-term reduction.
Emily Hansroth	Maryland	Private recreational angler		I strongly urge you to enforce strict limits on menhaden and other critical bay fish species. As a waterfront resident and recreational fisher, I have observed sharp declines in successful osprey nests and diversity of fish species over the past 5-6 years. More needs to be done to protect the diversity and health of this critical ecosystem.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Jesse Howe	Maryland	Private recreational angler		I support taking meaningful precautionary action to reduce and better manage the industrial reduction harvest of Atlantic menhaden within Chesapeake Bay. Menhaden are an essential component of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and an important forage resource for recreationally and ecologically important predators. Given the concerns that prompted Draft Addendum II, I support the maximum 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap. I also support measures that distribute harvest more evenly throughout the fishing season rather than allowing intensive harvest to be concentrated during the spring and summer. The Chesapeake Bay deserves a management approach that recognizes its unique importance as nursery and feeding habitat and prioritizes a healthy, abundant forage base. When uncertainty exists about localized ecological impacts, precaution should favor the long-term health of the Bay and the many fisheries and species that depend upon menhaden. Please adopt the strongest conservation options available under Draft Addendum II. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
June Bourdat	Maryland	Other (please specify)	Bird population, osprey, dying	I understand you are concentrating on fishing, but there are other environmental repercussions. Such as the birds have been dying of starvation.
Jennifer L. Boyer	Maryland	Private recreational angler		I urge the Commission to adopt the conservation-minded management measures outlined in Draft Addendum II to protect Atlantic menhaden and the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem that depends on them. Menhaden are a vital link in the Chesapeake Bay food web, providing essential nourishment for ospreys and other wildlife while supporting the ecological health of the Bay, the livelihoods of local watermen, and the joy of all of those who live near and spend time on the Bay. Concerns about osprey chick survival, declining bait catches, and inadequate Chesapeake Bay-specific menhaden science highlight the need for a precautionary approach to management. Thank you for considering my comments. Respectfully, Jennifer Boyer

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Jerome Ries	Maryland	Private recreational angler		I would even like to see a ban of 3 miles off the coast
Dr. Earl Chambers	Maryland	Other (please specify)	Biologist and life time supporter of data driven environmental causes.	I would say the the best solution is to work with Virginia and allow for the slow transition of this industry to offshore purse seining. The delicate nature of the bays ecosystem should be taken into account and seasonal closure of the reduction industry during May and June allows for a very sincere effort to reverse the cause and effect of this industry. The negative findings are many and can be considered data driven enough to make a revision to the Addendum. Earl Chambers
Warren A Meny	Maryland	Private recreational angler		I would stop harvest completely till game fish stock is on the mend.
Robert	Maryland	Other (please specify)	Nature enthousiast	I've selected these options for the least fishing but in actuality want no fishing, for the sake of the menhadens. You can also note that the Commission should consider the interests of all and not solely those who fish.
chris vassallo	Maryland	Private recreational angler		If reallocation becomes an option. I choose no reallocation. The bottom line is that menhaden are overfished and the cut should be made. Moving it to another area does not solve the problem.
Joal Barbehenn	Maryland	Private recreational angler		I'm a long time boater and fisher in the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic region. I have seen a large decline in Menhaden populations and believe we owe a duty to the environment and future generations to drastically reduce harvest levels immediately.
Tim Tinker	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		I'm glad that Menhaden overfishing is being addressed!
Blake Freeman	Maryland	Private recreational angler		I'm hoping to see an increase in the wildlife that depend on this food source.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Peter Thornton	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		I'm sorry for the folk in Reedville, but they saw this coming - it's been debated for years. Some will have to relocate and find a different job.
Dave Boyden	Maryland	Private recreational angler		In actuality menhaden commercial fishing I. The Chesapeake bay should be eliminated. Improving recreational opportunities and sport fishing will generate more income to the local economies than commercial menhaden fishing.
Thomas Clinch	Maryland	Private recreational angler		In my mind, the entire industry should be SHUT DOWN
Brian Shumel	Maryland	Private recreational angler		It has been an outrage to take so much of the Menhaden quota from one part of the area. This is overdue
Samantha	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		It is fairly obvious to anyone who is a birder that the osprey population is in danger. In the past three years there has been a sharp decline in breeding pair success. For years scientists have been saying its from the menhaden. Please let's fix it before the osprey in the chesapeake bay are extinct!
Nancy Suniewick	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		It is imperative that industrial harvesters significantly reduce the amount of menhaden they take. Imperative!
Julia Hoyt	Maryland	Other (please specify)	concerned citizen who lives near and deeply cares about the Chesapeake Bay	It is very clear that Menhaden have declined and Chesapeake wildlife is suffering from this. It is our responsibility to assure that the Chesapeake and the wildlife that relies on it be kept healthy and available for all, human and wildlife. Thank you to all who have worked so diligently and passionately in striving to accomplish this goal.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
John Conolly	Maryland	Private recreational angler		It's time for Omega Protein to cease menhaden operations in the Chesapeake Bay and along the Atlantic coast within 3 miles. I realize it is a couple hundred jobs in Reedville VA but the health of the bay and the economic value of protecting these fish far exceeds the Reedville operation. It's in the hundreds of millions annually when you consider all of the recreational aspects associated with the bay. When will Virginia realize that Omega has the VA politicians in their pocket and do something to protect the environment? These fish promote a cleaner bay and are the primary food source for healthy fish and bird populations. Scientific studies have shown serious decline in osprey recruitment and the main contributor is a lack of menhaden. Omega already cannot catch their cap so least realize what is going on in the environment. Also, any leftover cap should not roll over to subsequent periods.
Mark Louzon	Maryland	Private recreational angler		It's understood only VA allows commercial harvesting of menhaden. With the drop in rockfish and osprey numbers, why would VA allow this? In my opinion, shut down commercial menhaden harvesting in the Chesapeake Bay completely over the next 3-5 years. Maybe even more quickly.
Joseph McGurrin	Maryland	Private recreational angler		It's ridiculous that an industrial scale fishery of this size is allowed at all. My comments above reflect that there is no option to eliminate the Bay industrial fishery at this time. The idle threats of Omega Protein and it's owner about leaving Reedville are a bluff that shouldn't be taken seriously. There will be no loss of local jobs if the Bay portion of their huge harvest is eliminated. They're making a fortune now and there is no other Atlantic state thtthat would allow their processing facilities within their borders. Shame on the state of VA for allowing this archaic and destructive Chesapeake Bay fishery to continue to exist!
Scott Sebastian	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Leave the fish alone !! No harvesting. Other species need them to survive.
Peter Arrabal	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Limiting menhaden harvesting is essential to overall Bay environmental health

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Alex	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		Make everyone have to follow this law and actually ensure that these regulations are being enforced
Robert Cannon	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Men Haden filter the Bay and provide food for many species of fish; both of which seem to be needed.
Bird Cord	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Menhaden are a important part of Chesapeake bay and we need to protect it for the future
Thomas Guarino	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Menhaden are being overfished and the entire ecosystem is being harmed from that. The fish reduction industry is destroying the resource and everyone is being negatively impacted. Please reduce the TAC and also distribute it to waterman as well.
Gabriela Wikar	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		Menhaden are the base of our entire aquatic fishery. Without their biomass as a food scource our fisheries are failing. The combination of overharvesting and warming oceans is impacting fish migration and spawning behaviors. Limiting menhaden harvest has been under discussion for decades, detrimental impacts have become unavoidable. We must take action before it is too late.
mark cascia	Maryland	Private recreational angler		menhaden have all but disappeared in the upper Chesapeake
Wayne Bierbaum	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Menhaden have almost vanished in the upper Chesapeake and strict restrictions are needed to improve the health of the bay.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Tobias Pessoa Gingerich	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		Menhaden populations in the Bay are becoming critically low, and watermen, predatory fish, and ospreys that rely on them are all struggling. The prospect of more extensive study to confirm links between these circumstances and the reduction fishery in Virginia is encouraging, but should not be used as an excuse for inaction. We're experiencing problems from low menhaden populations now, and even without before we get further research, there's good reason to believe that the massive harvests by the reduction fishery are at least one major cause. There's no reason to believe that reducing them will make the problem worse. I strongly encourage the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to reduce the Bay Cap on menhaden harvest by at least 50%. The status quo is not acceptable. Without meaningful action, we risk lasting, possibly irreversible damage to other fishing and outdoor recreation industries in the Bay, and to the health of the Bay ecosystem itself.
John Wick	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Menhaden populations must be strictly maintained for the sustainability of our fisheries. A smaller harvest amount will allow for watermen to still keep themselves afloat while keeping our fisheries healthy.
Milford H. Marchant Jr.	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Menhaden serve as a keystone species for the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. Their health and abundance affects everything from fish and Osprey to water quality. Implementing responsible fishing practices will help to preserve their presence and prosperity within the Chesapeake Bay, so that the ecosystem as a whole can thrive and flourish.
Jimmy Deriu	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Menhaden support the entire bay ecosystem and reduced harvest is a very sustainable choice to support the future economy of the bay as well as its nature beauty.
Brad Ruby	Maryland	Private recreational angler		My family has fished the Chesapeake for years. We've watched large commercial companies strip the baitfish that rockfish feed on. Fishing the southern Bay, we simply watch the Omega vessels take and take. A healthy balance is needed so commercial and recreational users can both succeed. The ecosystem is being harmed, and every angler — commercial or recreational — will tell you the same.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Robert Frantz	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		My first preference is not among the options: I support a 100% reduction of the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap — full elimination of the industrial reduction fishery inside Chesapeake Bay. Because that is not offered, I have selected Option B4 (50% reduction, 25,500 mt) as the deepest available cut, and I ask that it be implemented in a single step rather than phased in, and that the Board initiate the amendment or adaptive-management process needed to phase the Bay reduction fishery out completely on a defined schedule. If the Board instead links the Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC, my preference is Option C1E (13.6%) paired with Option C2B, the lowest upper limit offered. I oppose Options C2C, C2D, and C2E, which would permit a Bay Cap of 75,000-87,216 mt — far above current harvest — at the very moment the Bay's predators are failing. Reasons: menhaden are a keystone forage species and filter feeders that improve the Bay's clarity and water quality. The Center for Conservation Biology reports 2026 was the worst osprey breeding season ever recorded in the Chesapeake, 0.25 young per pair in waters above 5 ppt against roughly 0.8 needed for stability, with 81% of pairs fledging nothing, and menhaden delivery to nests down more than 80% since the 1980s. Striped bass remain overfished with a 2029 rebuilding deadline. The Bay Cap is 27.3% of the entire coastwide TAC and was never set from any ecological assessment, only from 2012-2016 landings. On timing, I selected quota period Option B2 because ospreys need abundant fish in April through June and cannot shift their breeding chronology; overage payback should be mandatory so the periods actually bind. I also support coastwide reductions of at least 50% from current levels. A detailed letter with sources has been submitted separately by email to comments@asmfc.org.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Kennon Smith, J.D.	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		menhaden as well as the species and communities dependent on a healthy menhaden population. The Chesapeake Bay is changing and showing increasing signs of stress—protecting menhaden is one of the few ways we can help this struggling estuary. I would greatly appreciate you considering my additional comments on Draft Addendum II. I am a federally licensed bird bander, and I have been banding birds of prey in MD, VA, and WV since 2004, and osprey nestlings in the Chesapeake Bay watershed since 2016. In past years, I have banded as many as 39 osprey nestlings in a season, at nest sites on MD and VA tributaries. In recent years, those numbers have steadily declined and many nestlings have perished from starvation while in the nests and prior to fledging. In 2026, I banded only 5 nestlings and 1 of those perished prior to fledging while in rehab care because of low body weight. I have also observed a trending change in the diet of the osprey, that is, a change in the prey fish species brought to one nest in particular that is monitored by a live camera. In 2026, 55% of the prey fish brought to the nest were non-native species, with 35% being goldfish, 16.7% blue catfish, and 3.3% Common Carp. Only 6.7% were Atlantic Menhaden. The new dietary "normal" caused by industrial overfishing and reduction fishing of Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay has reduced the reproductive success of the Chesapeake Bay ospreys below sustainable population numbers. With respect to the Chesapeake Bay ospreys, we are already at a tipping point, or beyond. While I support the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's comment letter, especially with respect to reduced take during fish spawning migrations and osprey nesting seasons, I believe an IMMEDIATE BAN on industrial and reduction fishing of Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is fully warranted. The Total Acceptable Catch of Menhaden should be filled from Atlantic coastal waters and NOT from the Chesapeake Bay and it's watershed tributaries! Reductions on industrial and reduction fishing in the Chesapeake Bay are at least 3 years overdue. The Commonwealth of Virginia has extensive Atlantic coastal waters from which to take Menhaden. An immediate ban or pause will just be the beginning of a long healing process for many Chesapeake Bay species and for waterman, sportfishing charter boat owners and anglers, and restaurateurs who have seen the funded testing and regulatory protections can kicked down the road for far

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Robert mcconnell	Maryland	Private recreational angler		N/a
Mary Yancey	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		Natural resources are no match for human ingenuity and technology unless we pair our harvesting with sound and wise limits.
Simeon Lee	Maryland	Private recreational angler		No short term resource collection and therefore benefits are worth the depletion of a fully functioning and diverse Chesapeake system. This bay is one of the aquatic wonders of this country - how little would future generations regard it if we continue to reduce its species?
Darren Stimpfle	Maryland	Private recreational angler		No thank you
Maria Briggs	Maryland	Other (please specify)	Just enjoy walking on the beaches near the Chesapeake Bay!	No thank you!
Philip Lienesch	Maryland	Private recreational angler		none
Brett Schrader	Maryland	Private recreational angler		OMEGA needs to leave inside the CBBT, they are ruining our Eco system in the upper Bay. Follow the money trail to VA politicians for the pay offs.
Stephen Fredrick	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Osprey and Rockfish populations have experienced significant reductions. The Menhaden harvest needs to be drastically reduced

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Carole Engels	Maryland	Other (please specify)	Concerned citizen of the Chesapeake	Osprey need menhaden to feed their young. They are dying.
Ashley Westbrook	Maryland	Other (please specify)	Environmentalist, boater	Our family has been boating and living along the Chesapeake Bay for more than 20 years and we have a deep connection to the waters and ecosystems of this area. As the largest estuary in the United States, the Chesapeake Bay is a critical breeding and nesting ground for many land and water species along the entire eastern seaboard. While I understand there are many environmental stressors the Bay must endure, the massive harvests of menhaden is a contributing factor to the decline in critical species such as the osprey and striped bass. We have an osprey nest at the end of our dock and this summer was the first time in more than ten years the osprey offspring did not survive. While this is anecdotal, it is consistent with other data which shows widespread osprey productivity declines. I believe it's in part due to a lack of small menhaden in the late spring when they are needed by the osprey to feed their hatchlings. The osprey are starving. In the late spring/early summer, we used to see large schools of menhaden in the waters off our dock, but this year they did not come until late in the summer, after the osprey chick(s) had died. These declines signal an URGENT need for precautionary conservation practices NOW. Industrial reduction fishing extracts over 100 million pounds of fish in a concentrated summer window, harming the local food web and depriving other groups, especially watermen and anglers, of fair access. We urge fishery managers to implement strict quota periods that will distribute the harvest evenly across the year rather than allowing an intense summer harvest. While I agree with the need for a broader study that has been funded by the state of Virginia, we cannot wait for the results to take action. We must limit the menhaden harvesting as much as possible NOW and once the results of the study are available, a more permanent plan can be determined.
Bri	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		Our osprey are relying on your action

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Jocelyn Tuttle	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Our ospreys, marine mammals, and other Bay species need a healthy menhaden population. Water quality and loss of habitat are already an issue for menhaden so please take action to protect this keystone species for ALL.
Jamie Wu	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Over the past few years we have noticed a significant decrease in the menhaden found in the middle and upper Chesapeake Bay, and it has affected the fisheries for Rockfish, Cobia, Redfish, and crabs. I am tired of seeing the fishing boats harvesting the menhaden, and disrupting the Bay's ecosystem.
Tom Ripp	Maryland	Other (please specify)	Maryland resident who wants to protect the environment and other species	Overfishing is adversely impacting wildlife around the Bay. We need to adopt restrictions that limit our adverse impact on the environment and other species. Why should there be any rollover of underages at all? Let the fish population recover. A healthy environment and protection of wildlife is more important that healthy profits of a few businesses/corporations/foreign corporations.
HENRY LILLY	Maryland	Private recreational angler		overfishing of menhaden appears to be a continual issue with menhaden not adequately reaching maryland section of pay leading to lack of adequate food for fish and osprey in region

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Susan Palaszynski	Maryland	Other (please specify)	concerned citizen alarmed at the higher and higher number of osprey chicks that die due to reduced menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay	Overfishing of menhaden is taking a very destructive toll on the birds and other species in the Bay that rely on this rich food.
Marty Stipe	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Please be proactive to save the ecosystme before it gets any worse. Thank you
Wayne	Maryland	Shore-side support industry (e.g., bait and tackle shop owner, boat retailer)		Please do something before it is too late.
Randy Deltuva	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Please do something for real this time.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Dan Murphy	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Please do whatever it takes to protect this vital resource from commercial exploitation. The menhaden are a crucial forage fish for many of the game species in the Bay and they will not survive without them.
Daniel S Tang	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		Please give the osprey a chance. We are losing our precious wildlife at an alarming rate. We want to see the birds and we want to see wildlife thriving.
Andrew Shaffer	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Please help the bay and the wildlife!
Paula Williams	Maryland	Other (please specify)	Concerned bird lover	Please help the birds. Time is running out. Do it now before it is too late.
David Felber	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		Please protect our natural resources. Thank you.
Anslie Baxter	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		Please put the Health of the entire Chesapeake Bay above corporate profits
Larry Hooper	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Please save the bay!! The lack of Menhaden is destroying the whole ecosystem. DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!
Kris N Higdon	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		Please take all measures to save the Osprey and conserve their food source.
Carey Rowsom	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		Please take the necessary measures to protect the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. Massive harvesting of menhaden doesn't just affect osprey- they are the "canary in the coal mine". There has to be a better way to keep jobs, but, also keep a healthy supply of feeder fish. We are looking at devastation of the food chain within the bay for many organisms. Humans won't escape the end result if we ignore the problem.
Bob Atlas	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		PLEASE tighten the rules as much as possible. What's happening now is a perfect example of privatizing gain and socializing loss. Though in this case the burden of the loss is borne by helpless creatures.

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Anthony Feurer	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Please top over fishing the fish that the rest of the Chesapeake Bay needs to exist.
Lawrence Hooper	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Please, please, please lower the catch limit on menhaden. The drastic reduction in their numbers due primarily to overharvesting is crippling the species that need them to thrive. Plus, the bycatch too often kills shad, whose numbers have plummeted over the past 40 years and need to be carefully protected if they ever are to return in numbers.
Ron Stierstorfer	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Protect the bay please.
Rosa Hance	Maryland	Other (please specify)	Bird-watcher, occasional recreational fishing	Question 8 seemed to be suggesting that the caps/quotas were all around 33% which was not the 50% that I would want year round. There is a critical imbalance of the ecosystem happening now and a slight reduction in harvesting is not going to cut it for resolution.
Helen Griffith	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Reduce the mehanden harvest to preserve the environment.
Stuart S Rienhoff	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Reduced menhaden populations due to the rendering industry impacts the Bay recreational and charter boat industry as well as water quality and conservation efforts. Not as easy to measure as the reduction industries economic impacts but significant.
JEFFREY STEVENSON	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Request that all in-Bay VA harvest be put on a stop now and through 2027, to enable full stock study and scientific review.
Tim Campbell	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Save the bay.

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Anthony Yakubovich	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		Save the birds
Frederick C. Menage	Maryland	Private recreational angler		SAVE THE CHESAPEAKE BAY! Stop the menhaden netting and let Mother Nature's filter feeders help to clean up the water by straining plankton and converting the sun's energy into fat and protein to fuel predators up and down the bay.
Scott Sadler	Maryland	For-hire vessel owner/operator/crew		Shut all menhaden fishing out of the bay!
William Sistrunk	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Shut the whole thing down. Foreign companies are damaging the bay and ocean ecosystem. End all harvesting until a real recovery is proven.
Richie	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Something needs to be done quickly to bring back the bay's ecology balance.
Paul Serino	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Spreading harvest more evenly across the season directly addresses the concentration of effort concerns the Draft Addendum identifies. Even setting aside the overall cap level, distributing effort reduces the risk of short term forage gaps that can affect feeding predators and the anglers who depend on healthy predator populations.
Matthew Clark	Maryland	Private recreational angler		State and federal agencies need to drastically cut or entirely eliminate the harvest. The commercial fishing operations are quite literally going to collapse the bay ecosystem. Weird how Ospreys are starving. It's quite clear the over harvest is destroying everything. Government's job is to check and prevent ecological destruction. Please take on that role.
Ryan Gormley	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Stop taking the bottom of the food chain away from the bay

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Donald E. Wilhide	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Stop the harvest of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay
Giovanni Coratolo	Maryland	For-hire vessel owner/operator/crew		Stop the industrial harvest of menhaden 100% within the 3 mile limit in the ocean and the bay. I have fished the bay for over 65years and the my personal experience indicates that the decline of menhaden has been dramatic over the last 20 years destroying the ecosystem of the bay and surrounding areas.
Tommie Powley	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Stop the over harvesting of menhaden by a single corporation. Commercial Watermen's livelihood have been ruined. The recreational fishinging industry has been adversely effected and heading in the wrong direction.
Don Reithlingshoefer	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Stop the useless slaughter for the health of the striper bass !
Patricia A. Hansen	Maryland	Other (please specify)	Citizen scientist - ornithology, ecology	Suggest a phased-in approach to achieving 50% reduction of Bay Cap: TAC (sub-option C1e) to mitigate/soften possible negative impact on fishery employment figures. No specific suggestions on overall length of the phase-in or intermediate targets/timeframes, just that there be an immediate lowering to 10% in Bay Cap: TAC and that the time to achieve 50% not exceed three cycles of revisiting the Bay Cap.
Scott Coleman	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		Thank you for listening!
Brian Scharle	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Thank you for the opportunity to comment and I hope future menhaden management decisions are based on ecological factors and, when in doubt, quota caps are set on the conservative side as a precaution.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Mary Finelli	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		Thank you for your attention to this grave issue. This response is submitted on behalf of Fish Feel's many supporters in the mid-Atlantic and those beyond it. What happens in the Chesapeake Bay affects us all. This is especially true considering the migratory nature of menhadens and many of the animals who depend on them. The options chosen in this response were selected only because they are believed to be the best ones the survey offers. In actuality, all fishing for menhaden should be disallowed. In addition to the immense cruelty of fishing -science has shown fishes to be sentient animals who can suffer fear and pain- menhaden is a keystone species, and the Chesapeake Bay is a nursery for many species that rely on these fish. Scientific evidence indicates several of these species are experiencing serious population declines which are believed to be caused by the decline in menhadens. Allowing these fish to be caught for use -by a foreign company, no less- as food for farmed fishes (fish farming being grossly inefficient, inhumane, and environmentally detrimental), as fish oil supplements (omega fatty acids can easily be obtained from sources other than fish), as fertilizer, or for "recreation," is a great disservice to menhadens, to the animals who depend on them, to the ecosystem(s), and to the vast majority of people who do not benefit from such cruel and wasteful exploitation but instead want wildlife protected. The Commission should take into consideration the interests of all and not solely those who want to catch/kill wildlife. While other factors may be deleteriously impacting the menhaden population, reducing fishing -ideally to zero- is the sole way the Commission can help it. The precautionary principle is key to good management. Thank you again for your attention, please give our concerns due consideration. Mary Finelli, President, Fish Feel www.FishFeel.org
Hal Ivey	Maryland	Private recreational angler		The "available" options offered here don't begin to address the REAL decline in bunker. Reduction fishing should be cut by 90% or more in the Chesapeake. You clowns need to come live on the water and see just how barren it is of the forage that all predators need to thrive. The Bay is the Bunker nursery just as it is for predator species. Current decimation of the Bunker schools in the Bay is destroying their ability to recruit properly.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Evan Dintaman	Maryland	Private recreational angler		The ASMFC has demonstrated over the years (in many species) that is values private, commercial profits ahead of environmental concerns and species conservation. The ASMFC board needs to stand up for our natural resources and be bold in the face of strong lobbying and private, for-profit industries. The ASMFC has a chance to make or break public trust with this decision and it is important to listen to the overwhelming public comment and act in the best interest of our environment and fisheries.
Ryan Kozel	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		The Atlantic Menhaden is as pivotal to the health of the entire bay, and therefore the entire watershed, as any individual species. More than just osprey have suffered from the massive overharvesting allowed to happen in Virginia, and even worse will happen if immediate measures aren't taken. 50% should be just the beginning of the conversation, this company pillages the most important natural resource in the bay and make a fortune on it. Meanwhile everyone who lives on and around the Bay suffers for it. I strongly urge enacting the cap
jack Meyerhoff	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		The biggest problem is not so much the Bay (yet a cut back will determine the future of Menhaden) catch limits; but the absurd giant catch limits that the largest net hauling company and it's one subsidiary currently have. Omega Oils should NOT be permitted to lobby for greater sized catches and the Menhaden catch and bycatch should be reduced by more than 100 metric tons for a positive rebound to occur in the fish (rockfish) and birds (osprey)
Hans Vandenbosch	Maryland	Private recreational angler		The Canadian company is strip mining our waters of a valuable food supply for most other species which are depleting like striped bass
Dylan Taillie	Maryland	Private recreational angler		The Chesapeake Bay Cap should be revisited to insure other species that depend on menhaden for their livelihoods have the access to menhaden they need to thrive. Menhaden are far more important to the ecosystem than to humans as dog food and omega 3 capsules. Menhaden should be valued according to their impact on game fish and anglers, which outsizes their value as it is currently calculated as a reduction fishery.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Martin J Etzel	Maryland	Private recreational angler		The commercial harvesting of menhaden does little for the citizens of MD & VA compared to the massive benefits of allowing the menhaden to thrive in a much less aggressive catch
Andy Myers	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		The current over harvesting hurts everyone using the bay and needs to be reduced.
Daniel Somes	Maryland	Private recreational angler		The decimated population is destroying the ecosystem and the fishery. Do you actually care about the bay or the money you get from commercial fisherman?
Jay Butler	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		The ecology of the bay is in crisis, and has been for years. Harvesting of menhaden to provide food for fish farms (or sny other use) should not be allowed. The few people employed in this work can find other work. Transitional benefits can be provided, but that's beyond the scope of this regulation.
Steve Doctor	Maryland	Private recreational angler		The harvest is being monitored as weight of landings. The size of the fish being harvested in the bait fishery has diminished greatly. A large percentage of the fish being caught in the bait fishery in Maryland are less than 200 mm (I don't know if size is being monitored in the reduction fishery) and are age one with a much smaller size than in historical times. While the weight of fish harvested hasn't declined substantially, the number of fish being harvested has increased substantially. A much greater biomass of fish could be harvested if the fish were allowed to develop to maturity, which could be accomplished by not harvesting them in the nursery area- specifically the Chesapeake Bay. This would also have the benefit of increasing the spawning stock biomass. My recommendation would be to eliminate reduction harvest in the Chesapeake bay entirely and allow the reduction fishery to operate only outside of three miles allowing the juvenile menhaden more time to develop into adults.
Lisa Kuennen-Asfaw	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		The health of the menhaden population in the Bay affects every Marylander, not just those in fishing related occupations. We cannot control every impact on our bay but we can control how much we harvest. Thank you for allowing my input.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Kurt Schwarz	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		The impact of the current limits on the Osprey population in the main stem and lower Chesapeake Bay is evident. Ospreys cannot maintain breeding in the area, as they depend on menhaden, which are clearly not abundant enough to support nesting Ospreys. Stripe Bass are also down in the Bay and also depend on menhaden. Maryland closed the Striped Bass fishing season for the month of August, to hopefully boost their population. Clearly the lack of menhaden is impacting that fishery.
Stephen Aubrey	Maryland	Private recreational angler		The industrial menhaden harvest in the Chesapeake Bay must be cut in half to protect the foundational forage base of the coastal food web. Localized depletion of menhaden in the Bay is having severe downstream ecosystem effects, including the starvation of osprey chicks and declining catches for local charter captains and watermen. Strict, enforceable seasonal quotas are critical to prevent industrial fleets from concentrating their extraction during the sensitive spring and summer months when predators rely on menhaden the most. The ASMFC must prioritize leaving more menhaden in the water to sustain healthy populations of gamefish, marine mammals, and birds over maximizing industrial reduction yields.
Chloe Herman	Maryland	Other (please specify)	Concerned citizen	The language of this survey is unnecessarily opaque and discourages regular people from weighing in on matters that affect our ecosystem.
Dennis G Burton	Maryland	Private recreational angler		The menhaden catch should be reduced by at least 50%, the lack of bait fish is destroying the fishery in the Chesapeake bay, thanks for your assistance, Dennis Burton
Sean George	Maryland	Private recreational angler		The Menhaden population is extremely important to the local ecosystem of the Bay and it has become abundantly clear that without stricter limits and rules, the fisheries and business sector will happily hunt them to disastrously low population levels.
Michael Pochettino	Maryland	Private recreational angler		The Menhaden Reduction fishery provides benefit to the few at the expense of the many when it comes to the economic and quality of life benefits provided to the Maryland and Virginia by the Chesapeake Bay. It is time to start managing it as such.
Carolyn Troiano	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		The Osprey population in my area has decreased dramatically. I don't want to hurt the fishermen nor harm their livelihoods but something has to change. Save the Bay.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
David M Butler	Maryland	Private recreational angler		The overfishing has drastically reduced the forge. Fish menhaden much to the detriment of the entire Chesapeake Bay: rockfish, osprey , all manner of species please, if I were king, I would cut out the reduction fishery. And while I'm talking stop the commercial harvest of rockfish.
Freddi Weiner	Maryland	Other (please specify)	concerned citizen	The overfishing you have allowed is throwing the ecosystem into disarray and killing other species. It is incomprehensible that you have allowed this situation to occur Please rectify this
David L. May, Sr.	Maryland	For-hire vessel owner/operator/crew		The Reduction Fishery has taken its toll on the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay over the past 4 decades I have been fishing it. Please either reduce or ban the Menhaden harvest in the entire Chesapeake Bay. A foreign owned company should not be able to rape this valuable resource.
Thomas Simpson	Maryland	Other (please specify)	Recreational angler with fisheries concerns but current major concern is rapid decline in Osprey nesting success that may be linked to menhaden decline.	The reduction in menhaden stock clearly has impacts on important fish species. The recent decline in osprey nesting success appears to correlate with the decline in menhaden numbers and menhaden is a major (primary?) food source during their summer nesting season in the Chesapeake Bay region. While more data/research would improve understanding of the menhaden-osprey decline relationship, there is enough knowledge to know the importance of menhaden to osprey to protect osprey while also protecting key fishery stocks.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Daniel Raymond Weber	Maryland	Private recreational angler		The resource of Menhaden in the bay has been overharvested for decades to the detriment of the entire region!!!
Christian Melendez	Maryland			There are multiple stresses on these fish. So taking action on one of the factors that we can actually control is worthwhile.
Dr. Michael Lewis	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		There is ample evidence that (1) Menhaden are cornerstone prey species in the Bay; (2) there are population concerns with predator species that rely upon menhaden; (3) reduction in fishery pressure - up to outright bans - have been shown to work AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN in restoring fisheries. If we think of a fishery as something that we want to last for generations, we must control our harvest. If we maximize harvest and profits today, we will destroy the fishery as a generational asset. And if we want a vibrant and healthy Chesapeake Bay, we need a vibrant and healthy menhaden population.
Jill Fredrick	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		There is clearly an over harvesting problem currently AND a need to drastically reduce the harvest to allow the ecosystem to recover
Brady Richardson	Maryland	Private recreational angler		There needs to be regulation imposed on this limited resource. The regulations support other jobs and other industries outside of those, by a specific group.
Richard Perrin	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		These are complex issues affecting our environment. Overfishing of menhaden has certainly affected other species in the Chesapeake Bay environs and likely outside. There has been a reduction in osprey, eagles, crabs, rockfish, etc., and legislative efforts should be focused on both short term as well as long term initiatives.
Mark Gould	Maryland	Private recreational angler		These recommendations support: A 50% initial reduction in the Chesapeake Bay Cap A Bay Cap linked to the coastwide quota Less concentrated harvest during critical spring and summer periods Accountability for seasonal quota overages A required review of the Bay Cap every three years

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Michael vaughan	Maryland	For-hire vessel owner/operator/crew		These recommendations support: ◇ A 50% initial reduction in the Chesapeake Bay Cap ◇ A Bay Cap linked to the coastwide quota ◇ Less concentrated harvest during critical spring and summer periods ◇ Accountability for seasonal quota overages ◇ A required review of the Bay Cap every three years
Bob Flynn	Maryland	For-hire vessel owner/operator/crew		They should stop the harvest in Bay waters all together or how about they are able to catch one fish a day per person between 19 and 24 inches. Because the mass harvesting has led to these regulations for my buisness.
Robin Zimmerman	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		This is an issue that must be approached conservatively. Applying high limits can be reversed, but irreparable harm will result if limits aren't applied immediately.
Michael Cavey	Maryland	Private recreational angler		This is extremely important for the ongoing health of the bay and all its habitat
James	Maryland	Private recreational angler		This survey is terrible - you need to be a statistics major to understand it. Also, stop letting foreigners come rape a pillage or local resources...Haven't we learned by now?
Garland P. Lowery	Maryland	Private recreational angler		This trend has long needed correction. Let’s make the responsible changes.
Kyle Decker	Maryland	Other (please specify)	Maryland resident concerned about ospreys	To protect and bolster the osprey population you must approve conservation-minded reforms that better protect menhaden and support a healthy Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Michael Pepin	Maryland	Private recreational angler		To the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board: I am writing to urge the Commission to end menhaden reduction fishing in Chesapeake Bay. Virginia is the only Atlantic coast state that still allows reduction fishing in its waters. The Bay is a critical nursery area for menhaden and should not be the exception. I recognize that a full ban is outside the range of options in this addendum, I encourage the Commission to adopt the most stringent options available at this time. I am a lifelong recreational angler and boat owner. Every season I spend money at local marinas, tackle shops, and gas stations, and I pay boat registration and fishing license fees to be on the water. I accept that conservation requires sacrifice. Anglers like me now live with a one-fish-per-day limit on striped bass. But recreational fishermen have carried much of the burden of rebuilding striped bass, while the reduction fishery continues to remove the forage those fish depend on, in the very waters where they feed. Conservation in the Bay will not work if it is asked only of the people with a rod and reel. The reduction fishery must share in it. The draft addendum itself makes the case for strong action. Pound net harvests, the Choptank River survey, and striped bass reproduction numbers are all down. Because the TAC was cut in 2026 while the Bay Cap stayed the same, a larger share of the reduction harvest can now come from the Bay than at any time since 2017. That is the opposite of precaution. The Commission has managed this fishery under uncertainty since 2006 by using precaution. The evidence of declining menhaden availability in the Bay is now strong enough to justify the strongest precaution available. Thank you for considering my comments.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Douglas Harbold	Maryland	Other (please specify)	Maryland Master Naturalist and local resident	support for Option B4 in Draft Addendum II, which proposes a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay industrial menhaden reduction fishery cap, lowering it from 51,000 metric tons to 25,500 metric tons. I also strongly advocate for the implementation of strict seasonal quota periods to prevent concentrated industrial harvesting. As a local resident living on Mill Creek in Lusby, Maryland, and a certified Maryland Master Naturalist, I am deeply connected to the health of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. Through my active volunteer work with local land trusts, I dedicate my time to conserving our watershed. Because I live on the water, I am uniquely positioned to observe the direct health of our local wildlife populations, and what I am seeing is deeply alarming. The Chesapeake Bay is currently facing a severe ecological crisis, driven heavily by the localized depletion of Atlantic menhaden. Over the past two years alone, I have personally witnessed a sharp, devastating decline in the number of nesting osprey pairs along Mill Creek and the surrounding waters. Active nests that once successfully fledged young are now empty, failing, or abandoned entirely. This widespread nest failure is a direct result of food insecurity. As the ecological foundation of the Chesapeake Bay, menhaden serve as a critical forage fish that sustains the entire marine food web. Ospreys rely heavily on this nutrient-rich resource to successfully feed and fledge their young. However, the current concentrated industrial reduction fishing practices are starving them out. Allowing an industrial fleet to extract over 100 million pounds of fish during a narrow summer window causes severe, localized depletion at the exact moment nesting ospreys and stressed striped bass need this forage fish most. This intense summer harvest breaks the local food chain, depriving predatory wildlife of survival essentials while simultaneously undercutting the livelihoods of local watermen, recreational anglers, and coastal tourism economies who depend on a balanced ecosystem To protect the long-term survival of the Bay's ospreys, managers must implement strict quota periods that distribute any permitted harvest evenly across the year rather than allowing an intense summer extraction. Thank you for your time, leadership, and consideration of these comments. I urge the Commission to vote in favor of Option B4 to protect our iconic osprey populations and ensure a resilient future for the Chesapeake Bay. Sincerely, Douglas

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Dianne O'Leary	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		To those of us who are familiar with the portion of the Chesapeake Bay in Calvert County, Maryland, the evidence is clear: 1. The charter fishing boat industry has tanked. 2. For several years, ospreys have struggled to fledge chicks, signalling that the ecosystem of the Bay is in danger. 3. The rockfish (striped bass) population has dropped precipitously because they depend on menhaden. Rockfish was an important food source for those of us who live here and a source of income for professional fishermen. 3. The attraction of the area for tourism has dropped. It is very sad to contemplate any kind of job losses. But when you consider the losses in employment across the Bay due to the loss of menhaden in the Bay, it is clear that more than 176 jobs have been lost in the fishing and tourism industries, which is more than the losses would be due to cuts in the reduction fishery. The livelihood of people in the tourism industry, the beauty of the Bay, and the health of its ecosystem must take priority over the insatiable demands of the reduction fishery industry. Small business owners in tourism and fishing should not be shut down by the reduction fishery industry. The evidence is clear and the situation is dire. Use the results of the study later, but don't wait for it.
Jane Andraka	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		virginia overfishes the menhaden. they need to reduce their fishing to protect ospreys and other birds' food supply
Richard Clarke	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Virginia should immediately stop the fishing of Manhaden in the Chesapeake Bay. They should also change the law for harvesting Manhaden to outside of the 3 mile coastal limit similar to all of the Atlantic Coast states. Either the Virginia legislature or the federal government and or both should close the tax free loophole that the Omega Corporation is receiving for Overfishing

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Stephen L. Geckle	Maryland	Private recreational angler		We have witnessed a dramatic decline in the species that depend on Menhaden to reproduce and repopulate the Bay and Ocean. All in the name of a company that has NO interest in being told they must repespect the other 95% of the population that also pays for conservation and protection our finite resources in the Chesapeake Bay. I believe if they continue unfettered, my children and grandchildren will never know the benefits of one of the most valuable resources in the country. All in the name of fertilizer and fish meal and cat food.
Robert Rhodes	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		WE must never lose sight of best case for the Osprey!!! Remember man's greed is usually the culprit that creates these scenarios!! Man is most often reluctant to do the RIGHT thing!
David Buck	Maryland	Private recreational angler		We must reduce overharvesting in the Chesapeake Bay by factory ships
Steve Chang	Maryland	Private recreational angler		We need to correctly manage our fisheries so that we do not destroy the ecosystem and cause unknown ripple effects and long term industry and food resource viability.
John M SternJR	Maryland	Private recreational angler		We need to protect our most valuable natural resource, the bay
Edward L Mayne	Maryland	Private recreational angler		We need to reduce the harvest as much as possibly. Foriegn countries should not be allowed to take our resourses.
Dan Hueter	Maryland	Private recreational angler		We need to remember that this fish is essential to the entire ecosystem and without it everything suffers including people and many businesses that are in the industry as a whole.
TIMOTHY DONNELLY	Maryland	Private recreational angler		What ever is decided to be done should be the same for The Whole East Coast

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Elie	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Whatever we can do to shift harvest focus to more sustainable/less harmful sources of protein. Bug farming?
James Schuster	Maryland	Private recreational angler		Yes these fish are very important to our marine ecosystem throughout the Chesapeake Bay this fishery should be shut down there's no place for it in today's society where they take our fish and grind them up
Jake Stern	Maryland	Concerned stakeholder		You must take action to reduce the Menhaden take from the Bay. You saw what happened with overfishing in the cod fisheries of the North Atlantic- that is the path we are on and without careful management we will repeat that shameful history. That fishery collapse caused significantly more economic damage than management of the catch over time would have.
Noah Shumway	Maryland	Other (please specify)		Concerned about the health of our waterways
Valerie Swan	Maryland	Other (please specify)		Bird watcher concerned for the decline of Ospreys
Bruce Serinis	Maryland	Other (please specify)		Impact on osprey populations
Roman Kastin	Maryland	Other (please specify)		Concerned for Chesapeake Bay Ospreys
Sara Broccolino	Maryland	Other (please specify)		Concerned Citizen/Bay Bird and Fish Supporter
Susan Berman	Maryland	Other (please specify)		Concerned resident and advocate for ospreys of Kent County

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Bobbie Wells	Maryland	Other (please specify)		I live on the Maryland Eastern and am concerned
Raymond Simmons	Maryland	Other (please specify)		wildlife rehabilitator directly seeing effects on Osprey
Helen D OConnor	Mass and Florida	Concerned stakeholder		Do the right thing act now to ensure the health of our birds, coast and people.
Kevin Blinkoff	Massachusetts	Other (please specify)	Private Recreational Angler, Work in Rec Fishing Industry	I also support a 40% reduction in the coastwide Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the 2027 and 2028 fishing years without any delay or phase-in periods.
Nathan Medeiros	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		I dont know jack about all the numbers, I fish constantly on cape cod, theres no peanut bunker this fall and barely any last year, the spring had no adult bunker as well!
Jill Silvia	Massachusetts	Other (please specify)	Massachusetts resident	:) let's keep it sustainable
Edward Baldwin	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		American scallopers aren't allowed in Canadian waters. Why is a Canadian owned company allowed to overfish ours?
Jacob Freeman	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		As a recreational angler in Massachusetts, fishing by boat 90% of the time, I was shocked at the distinct lack of menhaden showing up in our waters this year. The biomass has been steadily decreasing, and I think it is clear that the current level of commercial fishing for these critical baitfish is not sustainable. There should be significant reductions in harvest until the population recovers.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Jimmy Durney	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		As a recreational angler, I support the highest possible conservation measures for Atlantic menhaden. Even though I am a catch and release angler, I understand the importance of the fishery. Lobstermen, tuna fishermen, etc., up here in New England need them for bait. However, in my opinion, something in particular has to be done about Omega Protein and other companies harvesting pogies (menhaden). I believe these fish are too important to be turned into fish oil, animal feed and fertilizer. The Menhaden population is so important to not only the striped bass fishery which is what originally got me involved, but to many other fisheries, the health of the Chesapeake, bird populations, etc. Menhaden are the foundation of the food chain for so many game fish and commercial fish. Without pogies, we have no striped bass, bluefish, red fish, tuna, sharks, etc. Without pogies, whales and other marine mammals populations would be impacted. Eagles and Ospreys would also starve without pogies. I have spent many hours on the water this year and although I know pogies have been in the area to some level, I haven't seen them. Anecdotal, yes, but still not a good sign to not run into them all season. I want to save the fishery not only for me, but for my children and for generations to come.
Thomas Connors	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		As a recreational fisher, I have observed first hand the decline in menhaden and the devastating impact that has had on birds such as osprey and fish such as tipped bass that prey on menhaden. Given the significant impact of a thriving menhaden population on the well being of many species of wildlife, it is in public interest to lower for the Commission to lower the menhaden cap to 50% of the current 51,000 metric ton fishing limit, to break the fish season into three quota periods, with a review of the cap every three years.
Joe Pereira	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		Before it’s too late. We have to get ahead of this. We can not continue to be a death machine with every natural resource we touch.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Michael P. Dyer	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		Boat sizes and hours should be restricted to individuals and families who have demonstrated responsible harvest techniques for more than two generations of people. Large-scale commercial harvesting of menhaden should be forbidden. Small-scale "subsistence" menhaden fishing is good for people and families.
John Yemma	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		From my observation, compared to just a few of years ago, there are far less menhaden of all age classes in the areas I frequently fish, visit, or generally recreate in around New England. Please protect this important natural resource from the impacts of the narrow interests of the industrial reduction fleet. I also want to make it a point to join in support of public comments at meetings that believe more conservative, resource-friendly options should be available, and I would choose them if they were options in this survey. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and I appreciate your consideration for this important natural resource.
Steven Rogers	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		Have some balls for once in your lives and do the right thing!
Tim Jones	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		Honestly I'd like to see menhaden be left alone and not fished for at all by commercial netters. It takes away a VITAL food source for all inshore gamefish. Hence why the brown sharks are attacking them. Bc of a lack of menhaden
dawn	Massachusetts	Other (please specify)	concerned citizen	Humans need to decrease the amount of food resources that natural predators need to survive. We can make our own food sources, wild animals, like Osprey, have no choice. They can only feed their young what they can find. We have to cut back our "harvest".
Thomas	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		I am a 16 year old high school student who has been fishing all my life. I remember growing up and remembering seeing bunker everywhere and loved watching these vast schools of fish getting blown up on by schools of stripers. In the past few years I have not seen a single pod of bunker. I love the ocean and the fishers that come with the beautiful water we have. I am asking that you put a 50% cut on the fishery of bunker which science says we need. Please listen to the fisherman and Science I want to have the ability to go out and fish a healthy ecosystem throughout my life.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
James Reardon	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		I care about the health of my fishery (Massachusetts - Buzzards Bay and Vineyard Sound). I also care a lot about the health of our Osprey and sea bird population. Please do something to help!
Justin Hansen	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		I love fishing and care deeply about our ocean species. The menhaden population is vital to many different species and we need to make sure it is thriving. Thank you.
Kyle Jankowski	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		I strongly support more restrictive commercial menhaden harvest regulations, particularly within the Chesapeake Bay. Menhaden are a critical forage species for striped bass and numerous other predators, and their ecological importance should be prioritized when establishing harvest limits. I believe the Board should consider meaningful reductions to the Chesapeake Bay harvest cap, stronger seasonal restrictions, and greater accountability for quota overages. Simply redistributing unused quota between fishing periods does little to address the overall amount of menhaden being removed from the ecosystem. Striped bass populations are already facing significant challenges, and protecting their primary forage species should be an important part of rebuilding efforts. I encourage the Board to prioritize ecosystem-based fisheries management, consider the needs of predator species, and ensure that commercial harvest levels are sustainable for the entire marine ecosystem, not just the menhaden fishery. Healthy menhaden populations support healthy striped bass populations. We need to manage this resource with the entire ecosystem in mind.
Toshia McCabe	Massachusetts	Concerned stakeholder		I support stronger protections for menhaden in Chesapeake Bay to protect nesting Ospreys, which this draft addendum does not mention. Chesapeake Bay supports one of the largest breeding osprey populations in the world, and menhaden are a key food that adults bring to their chicks.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
colin mansfield	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		I support the most precautionary management options in Draft Addendum II. As a recreational striped bass angler and conservation-minded surfcaster, I believe Atlantic menhaden should be managed for abundance and their role as forage, rather than simply maximizing harvest up to a calculated sustainable yield. I support reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by 50% to 25,500 metric tons, or using the 13.6% of coastwide TAC approach that produces the same cap at current TAC levels. I also support the quota-period option that limits early-season harvest and allocates 50% of the quota to the final period (B2), requiring overages to be paid back, and establishing a three-year review of the Bay Cap. The draft acknowledges that menhaden abundance and distribution in the Chesapeake Bay are not fully characterized and that recent observations include concerning declines in some fishery-independent and recreationally relevant indicators. Given that uncertainty and menhaden's importance as forage for predators, I favor precautionary management that leaves more menhaden in the ecosystem rather than managing toward the maximum amount that can be harvested.
Ryan Cavanaugh	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		i vehemently do no support tying the coastwide tac to the bay cap
Erik Gura	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		I would like to see the entire just to speak big men Hayden Fishery completely closed down to large scale commercial harvesting.
Henry Streeter	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		I'm a recreational fisherman hoping to keep more menhaden in the ocean to feed the fish we target responsibly. Marine conservation is important to me and I'm concerned with all types of overfishing, not only menhaden.
Christian Finn	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		I've seen the decline in the water, we need to take measures to reduce the harvest

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Ronald Scharlack	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		In 2025 the economic contribution of Atlantic recreational fishing with menhaden to the GDP was $833 million, but beyond the GDP is the health of the Atlantic ecosystem including stripers (and other fish) and salt water Osprey (and other sea birds) all of which have been negatively affected by the collapse of the population of menhaden. I urge the Board to adopt the above options in Draft Addendum II and set the 2027–2029 TAC at a level with a 50% or less probability of exceeding the ERP fishing mortality target. These actions would move Chesapeake Bay menhaden management toward a more responsive and ecosystem-based approach that recognizes the interconnected importance of menhaden to the Bay, striped bass rebuilding, and the broader Atlantic ecosystem.
Sam Falkoff	Massachusetts	Concerned stakeholder		Menhaden are a critical part of the marine ecosystem, not just a commercial fish supply. They should be managed as such.
Steven Robichaud	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		Menhaden are a forage fish that is fundamental to the overall health of the ocean and multiple levels of fish that are above them in the food chain.
Emily Cosenza	Massachusetts	Concerned stakeholder		Menhaden are a very important food resource critical to the osprey population. We as Americans worked very hard in the 1970's to save them due to DDT and now we MUST HELP them Once again. They are not able to solve this but we are!
Anthony DeiCicchi	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		Menhaden are critical to ocean health, coastal business relying on healthy resources both inshore and offshore, and are simply worth more economically remaining an abundant forage fish in the ocean than a product to be over harvested.
Allison Argo	Massachusetts	Concerned stakeholder		Menhaden are fishes who serve as food for other animals ranging from birds to whales. Some of these species are showing population declines believed to be caused by a decrease in menhadens. This is deeply concerning.
Jim Smith	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		Na

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Noah Lamperti	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		No
Robert Stanton	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		No
Tara De Veau	Massachusetts	Other (please specify)	Citizen of the U.S.A	No harm should be inflicted on another living being.
Joan Angelosanto	Massachusetts	Concerned stakeholder		None
Duane A. Bailey	Massachusetts	Concerned stakeholder		Osprey in the US should not be sacrificed to support commercial needed ours, here or abroad.
M Jacobson	Massachusetts	Concerned stakeholder		Overfishing has devastated osprey populations in the bay. Commercial overfishing needs to be capped and further regulated
Julian	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		Place moratorium on commercial menhaden netting until they rebound and striped bass rebound. Or place the strictest rules enforcing the limits of the catch.
James Howard	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		Please - for the love of our oceans - do what is right.
Howard Davis Jr	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		Please consider bringing down the total allowable catch of menhaden coastwide ASAP.
Gage Gordon	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		Please correct the issues with over fishing of the most important bait fish on the East Coast so that our kids can continue to enjoy the outdoors as we do.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Ken Blanchard	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		Please move commercial netting menhaden out of the bay to 3 miles off shore
Jeffrey Cotto	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		Please protect these fish it is so important to the health of the ecosystem and action needs to be sooner than later before it's to late
Jennifer Herndon	Massachusetts	Other (please specify)	Concerned citizen	Please take action to reduce menhaden fishing to protect the environment for future generations
Craig Caldwell	Massachusetts	Concerned stakeholder		Reduce the harvest to sustainable population year tound
Jakob Wikar	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		Save the menhaden please
David	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		Something needs to happen all the way up coast and down the coast they're in the decline and something needs to be done because here in Massachusetts we're seeing less and less every year and this year is no joke there wasn't that many around
Derek Norcross	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		Stop the Canadian company from over harvesting inside the Chesapeake Bay
Captain Tom Delo0tto	Massachusetts	For-hire vessel owner/operator/crew		Stop the madness - pogy boats were pushed offshore in early 2000 and results were almost immediate - huge increase in game fish.
Tara Moberg	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		Thank you for considering the scope of impacts of this decision across the coast, species and food chain as well as the broader bio economy dependent

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Eric J. Las	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		Thanks for considering my feedback.
Craig Nelson	Massachusetts	Other (please specify)	Commercial tuna fisherman	The amount of menhaden that is being harvested in Virginia is absolutely disgusting and completely negligent on the governments part. U can't take that many baitfish out of the ecosystem and not expect it to have major negative impacts on everything else higher up in the food chain. The more menhaden that are left In the ocean the better off everything else will be. Menhaden are a major food source for whales tuna sharks stripers Osprey etc. It's time to act now before it's too late!
Robert Raucci	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		The Chesapeake bay should not be used for commercial harvesting of Menhaden. The fishery should be offshore beyond 5 miles.
Matt	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		The fishery is aggressively being depleted. Any and all action to reduce over fishing is a must. ASAP
Kevin	Massachusetts	Other (please specify)	Striped bass fisherman and birdwatcher	The overfishing of menhaden is apparent and impacting many other species across the Atlantic coast. These fish are crucial to sustaining the held of our coastal wildlife (ospreys) and fish. Drastic action is needed and needed now. Manage for abundance and do not cater to special interest groups profiting off of this resource. The correct decision is to increase their population at any cost. Commercial fisherman's priorities cannot continue to negatively impact our fisheries. This is just another species on a long list that is being harvested into decline. The time to do the right thing has already passed but fortunately there is another chance now.
Stephen Lombardo	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		The population is dramatically down and something needs to change to improve
Finn Sullivan	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		The well being of wildlife, ecology and the ecosystem itself need to be taken into consideration. Ocean birds and plenty of other creatures rely on fish levels for sustainability. Thank you.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Damon Sacco	Massachusetts	For-hire vessel owner/operator/crew		There is a problem with menhaden stocks that shouldn't be overlooked. Fishermen are concerned for a reason.
Jerry Audet	Massachusetts	Other (please specify)	Industry/Media; not charter or retail	These regulations need to mean meaningful changes ON THE WATER- not just on paper. Reductions in the last few years have made no difference, because the quotas could not be filled anyways. This is why the 50% reduction is so important.
Jenne Marie Sindoni	Massachusetts	Other (please specify)	ADVOCATE FOR THE REST OF THE PLANET	think about the rest of the planet and stop being GLUTTONS.
Leslie Kalinowski	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		We need stronger, science-based protections that support healthy fisheries and thriving ecosystems, including lower catch limits and immediate reductions in Chesapeake Bay limits.
Corey Goodwin	Massachusetts	Other (please specify)	Private recreational angler plus commercial striped bass and Bluefin Tuna	WE NEED THE POGIES. The pogies have been noticeably thinner in the last few years surrounding Cape Cod and the Islands. It's time we had some change in this barbaric fishery. Without Pogies, nothing feeds - they are crucial to gamefish all along the east coast. Less Pogies harvested will result in a completely different and significantly healthier east coast fishery.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Valquirio S. Mendonca	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		Will someone please use some common sense logic to the fishery ecosystem. Need a college degree in language tp understand this survey in full. Please just use common sense and stop over harvesting the fish. Let the suply and demand do its magic. Less fish on the market equals higher prices. Reduce the quotas by at least 50% now so we can have a sustainable fishery for our kids and grand kids. Change the harvesting techniques so that the fish is harvested with minimal or no discard of unwanted or undersized species.... and so on....USE COMMON SENSE. it will benefit all the in the long run.
Gabe Gries	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		You need to protect these fish that are the foundation of recreational fisheries and need to stop allowing them to be exploited
Margaret D. Lewis	Massachusetts	Other (please specify)		love to visit the coast and admire the wildlife, espcially ospreys.
susan bliven	Massachusetts	Other (please specify)		I am concerned about over fishing
Wendy Hayward	Massachusetts	Other (please specify)		birder concerned about declining osprey population
Sharon Rosenberg	Massachusetts	Other (please specify)		citizen concerned about the environment
Marilyn Conrad	Massachusetts	Other (please specify)		Concerned about all life and its quality.
Peter Starke	Massachusetts	Private recreational angler		

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Ann Massoth	Massachusetts	Other (please specify)		I am here to fight for ospreys and other marine species.
Paul Moss	Minnesota	Concerned stakeholder		The Commission should consider the interests of all and not solely those who fish. I've selected these options for the least fishing but in actuality want no fishing, for the sake of the menhadens and for the reasons mentioned above.
William Ash	Missouri	Other (please specify)	Ecological advocate	The impacts are already visible. The Bay's ecosystem is stressed. Small-scale watermen who target menhaden for blue crab bait report catches declining by more than 70% in recent years. Meanwhile, osprey chicks are starving at unprecedented rates in areas where menhaden were traditionally the primary food source. Please see the bigger picture for both animals and humans!

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Michael Morneault	New Hampshire	Concerned stakeholder		Dear Commissioners, I urge you to adopt a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay industrial menhaden harvest cap to help protect ospreys from food shortages and chick starvation. Menhaden are a critical food source for breeding ospreys. Their abundance, nutritional value, and availability during the nesting season help determine whether adults can successfully raise their young. When suitable prey becomes scarce, chicks can starve in their nests. The Center for Conservation Biology reports that 2026 was the worst osprey breeding season ever recorded in Chesapeake Bay. Its monitoring documented severe food stress and reproductive failure across areas where ospreys depend on menhaden. By contrast, birds in freshwater areas, where other fish dominate their diets, had substantially better breeding outcomes. These findings deserve an immediate management response. (ccbbirds.org) Researchers acknowledge that the precise contribution of commercial fishing to local menhaden shortages remains unresolved. But they also explain that coastwide stock assessments can obscure whether enough appropriately sized fish are available where and when nesting ospreys need them. A sustainable coastwide fish population does not necessarily mean an adequate local food supply for wildlife. (frontiersin.org) That uncertainty supports precautionary action. I ask you to reduce the industrial harvest cap, evaluate seasonal and geographic protections around important osprey feeding areas, and fund independent monitoring of adult menhaden abundance and osprey breeding success. Future harvest decisions should reflect whether these measures improve prey availability and chick survival. I recognize the importance of fishing livelihoods. Responsible management must also preserve the ecological role of the fish being harvested. Leaving more menhaden in the water is a practical precaution while research continues. Please act now to reduce the risk of further starvation and breeding failure. Protecting ospreys requires protecting the food supply on which they depend. Thank you for considering my comment. Michael Morneault Durham, New Hampshire

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Jim Eiffe	New Hampshire	Private recreational angler		Save the bunker
Chloe caban	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		#saveourospreys

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
B. Snyder	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		(I submitted the following comment through the American Bird Conservancy website, using the same email address, but am not sure that comment went through.) Thank you for considering my comments and for your commitment to responsible menhaden management. I live in New Jersey, and would ideally like for industrial fishing of Menhaden to be completely paused for some length of time in every part of the Atlantic Coast, if not totally eliminated, until stocks have time to recover. But since a 50% reduction is what is on offer in your Draft Addendum, I choose that. It is 100% clear that something is disastrously wrong on the East Coast, when Osprey chicks are starving in their nests because their parents cannot find fish to feed them. Ospreys are the best fisherman of all birds, and have been doing this for tens of thousands of years. Yet ospreys have been declining on the coast for a number of years now, and it's only happening in saline waters; osprey nests in freshwater areas are doing fine and in fact thriving. If Menhaden are the most important fish in the sea, and companies like Omega are literally sucking them all out of the waters, then Omega et al. are stealing our own resources from us for the sake of their profits and heedless of the effect it has on our communities and our wildlife. It is unconscionable to allow this to go on; we already know it's disastrous for ospreys, which are very visible. We DON'T know what other species are being hurt. And we DON'T know what effect that will have on the ecosystem as a whole. Ospreys have been canaries in the coal mine before, during the DDT crisis - and it looks like this is happening again. We MUST do whatever it takes to restore the health of the ocean and menhaden, for the sake of all the creatures that share the planet with us, and for our own sake as well. Corporations clearly cannot be trusted to manage themselves, so we must manage them. I beg you to consider further reductions in menhaden fishing (if that's what you call this industrial thing that is decimating an entire fish species). Other fish depend on menhaden, too; it's long past time to work under sustainable limits. The time to act is now, before even worse things happen and the entire ecosystem is decimated.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Robert	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		50% reduction on commercial
Sue Smith	New Jersey	Other (please specify)	Concerned citizen	A moratorium on all menhaden catch for 2 years
Edward Fuzer DC	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		A moratorium on Bunker fishing should be imposed just like the Regulation in the Delaware River for blue back Herring. The Survey questions are missing the big picture and very limited in scope by design . We have seen the reports from Stockton State college about the devastation of the Osprey chicks. The Osprey chicks mortality are the canaries in the coal mine. If we continue to allow profit over conservation to continue the entire ecology will collapse. A complete moratorium is the option of choice. Dr. Fuzer
Mike Skirka	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Action should be taken to drastically reduce reduction boat take of menhaden everywhere. Overquota should be penalized by deduction from subsequent periods. Two overquotas in the same year disqualifies from the next year.
Alan Swider	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Allowing harvest underages in periods 1 and 2 to passed on to period 3 would have greater impact on the most critical striped bass migration weeks. Pushing into the following year would have the same impact. I support a 50% total reduction spread evenly thoughout the year. This fisherry needs to rebuild as quickly as possible.
RICHARD P MELTON	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Although the quota is reduced in Cheseapeake bay may be reduced by 50% the remainder 50% should not be allowed to be harvested elseware.
Dan Shatrowsky	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Any harvest should only be allowed after spawning is done.
John W Goshen	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		As a eastern shore virginia landowner who is in the process of relocating to the Chesapeake Bay area, health menhaden populations and a health bay is very important to me and my family.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Ashlee Lloyd	New Jersey	Other (please specify)	Wildlife conservation advocate	As a wildlife lover and as an avian rescue/transporter, I'm urging the consideration to keep as many Atlantic Menhaden in the water to support multiple species relying heavily on their prey of fatty bunker. The evidence in NJ has shown sufficiently that one species in particular, Osprey, are struggling to produce viable fledglings as they are unable to locate their primary food source. Each year the data becomes more disturbing with fewer chicks surviving, some adults taking off for weeks at a time abandoning their nest obligations as they seek food, and some leaving their sites months prior to their usual migration patterns. This season has seen many emaciated chicks rescued and sadly I've personally witnessed their demise as a result of food stress. I thank anyone reading this for your consideration in making sure an abundant source of food stays in the water, especially at critical nesting times of the season.
Joe DiDario	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		As an angler in NJ, it is clear that our menhaden stocks are severely depleted from overfishing, and the lack of menhaden is having a clear impact on gamefish populations. We need action to be taken for the survival of our entire angling industry and community, as the health of our oceans depends on the health of menhaden stocks.
Renee	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		ASMFC commissioners and NJDEP need to support a 2027-2029 coastwide TAC projected to achieve the ERP F target. The ERP target is designed to rebuild striped bass — a core New Jersey fishery. NJ needs to vote for a quota that has a 60 or 75% chance of achieving this vital ERP target. End reduction fishing in the NJ/NY bight.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Joseph Albanese	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Based on my personal observations - ospreys with very small or no fish in their talons, swooping down into the surf zone at my feet to grab a 14" fluke I released, seeing very little sign of peanuts and/or adult bunker inshore (or offshore) all year-long, etc. - I would support a moratorium of reduction fishing by Omega Protein in any state waters on the east coast or Chesapeake Bay. Unfortunately, this is not even an option being considered. Since catch quotas are set by weight in metric tons, the actual numbers of fish being harvested now are much greater. Simply put, juveniles weigh less than adults. Duh! So, a 50% reduction will amount to little. Another downside is immature fish don't get the chance to reproduce. Combined this means the stock is becoming non-sustainable. The time to act is now, before it's too late. Local fisheries that net bunker as bait for tackle shops and lobstermen represents only a small fraction of commercial harvest and should not be further restricted.
Donna Marino	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		Because Menhaden are fish who serve as food for other animals ranging from birds to whales, I urge you to limit the amount they can be fished. Some of these species they feed are showing population declines believed to be caused by a decrease in menhadens.
Tom Kowalak	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Because these VA. boats have raped and pillaged the coast's bunker population over the years, there must be some punitive action. Make them suffer a drought in profits as we recreational guys have suffered a drought in sporting enjoyment, for multiple years since the 80's. Allow our grandkids enjoyment of striper fishery etc.....
Jeff Williams	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Board should enact optimum limits to sustain the fishery and our wildlife populations
Kieran S Golden	New Jersey			Bunker are the base of the food chain and when depleted suddenly in an area it causes large imbalance in the food chain. We had plenty of Bunker here in nj off sandy hook, Bunker boats came and took so much in one shoot its been a different ocean ever since.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Kathee Cousins	New Jersey	Other (please specify)	Someone who cares about Ospreys and their ability to feed their offspring.	Clearly there is an imbalance that needs to be addressed immediately!
John Rogalo	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Coastwide impacts from overharvesting are already obvious. The problem will not be easily solved as there is big money attached to the use of the resource. I find it ironic that the recreational quotas for our fisheries are cut at the drop of a hat but, when it comes to the commercial harvest of Menhaden, there appears to be little or no consideration for meeting of long term standing biomass goals.
ryan lippmann	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Commercial allowable catch limits for Atlantic menhaden should be reduced because menhaden serve as a critical foundation for the entire marine ecosystem. They are a primary food source for economically vital sportfish (like striped bass, bluefish, and weakfish), marine mammals, and seabirds (such as ospreys and eagles). The dolphin and whales and seals and all marine life need the abundance to survive and we can tell by spending a lot of time on the water that menhaden numbers are drastically down. Leaving more menhaden in the water directly supports the recovery and stabilization of these predator populations, which are currently facing severe pressures.
martin v smith	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Common sense tells us a year long moratorium is the first action to initiate.
john t. conyack	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Completely stop commercial reduction for three years and pass laws to remove Canada or any non American harvesting

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Lee Farnham	New Jersey	Other (please specify)	Dedicated environmentalist with 40 years experience supporting environmental concerns.	Consider revisiting the situation more frequently, either annually, or every other year.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Linda Ann Higgins	New Jersey	Other (please specify)	Concerned Ocean County resident and former moderator at Barnegat Light Live Osprey Nest Cam.	UNIFIED PUBLIC COMMENT PACKAGE Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II Submitted October 9, 2026 ——————————————————————————— To the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Draft Addendum II. My connection to coastal ecosystems began in childhood. I saw my first osprey at age five while fishing at Forge Pond in Brick, New Jersey, and I remember wondering why they suddenly disappeared during the same years our neighborhood in Birchwood Park was being sprayed for mosquitoes. It wasn't until my first Earth Science class that I learned about DDT and understood what had happened to the ospreys I grew up watching. I have been a shore girl with sand in my shoes ever since, and that lifelong connection to coastal wildlife is why the current concerns about forage availability resonate so strongly with me. The information presented in Draft Addendum II is deeply concerning. The document states: "Recent observations… suggest that availability of menhaden in Chesapeake Bay may be changing." This is not theoretical. In 2023 and 2024, we saw clear, measurable impacts: • Maryland pound net harvest declined 60% in 2024. • CPUE dropped sharply across Maryland, PRFC, and Virginia. • Independent surveys (Choptank River) show menhaden abundance collapsed in 2024 and remained low in 2025. • Predators such as striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, and osprey are already experiencing stress. These indicators point to a forage shortage with ecosystem wide consequences. ——————————————————————————— ★ Menhaden as Filter Feeders — Water Quality Matters ——————————————————————————— Atlantic menhaden also play a critical role in maintaining water quality. As filter feeders, they help remove excess nutrients and particulate matter from coastal waters, improving clarity and reducing the risk of harmful algal blooms. Protecting menhaden abundance is not only about supporting predators; it is also about preserving the water quality that sustains the broader Chesapeake and coastal environments. ——————————————————————————— ★ Documented Predator Impacts: Barnegat Light Osprey Nest (2023)

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Paul Kaster	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Data based management of Menhaden and the gamefish, seabirds, and whales that depend on them as a primary food source is essential. Gathering accurate data on how much protein these predator species need to survive and reproduce effectively is needed urgently. It is part of the ASMFC's responsibility to gather this kind of data. Menhaden reduction fishing primarily benefits a tiny number of corporations and employs relatively few people. It is hard to place a dollar value on the northeast Atlantic ocean's ecosystem in terms of what it means to fishing communities, recreational fishermen, crabbers, lobstermen and tourism-based businesses. But I'm sure it's in the billions of dollars. It is also part of our culture and as someone who has spent a lot of time on the water for his entire life, the damage commercial menhaden reduction fishing is doing to the ecosystem is tragically obvious.
Dennis DeMizio	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Due to severity of the situation, The Chesapeake Bay Cap should be revisited 1-1/2-to-2 years after implementation of this draft addendum. Police Omega in NJ waters!
Stewart	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Fishing has been terrible without the forage fish for them.
Elizabeth Thompson	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		From your own website: "Our History: ... the Atlantic coast states came together to form the Commission... acknowledged the necessity of the states joining forces to manage their shared migratory fishery resources... and promoting and protecting Atlantic coastal fishery resources." The Menhaden schools belong to all the states, wildlife predators, fishermen, citizens, etc. No one business monopoly and/or one state should be permitted to consume/take 80% of the entire coast population of menhaden. Please review your MISSION and "promote cooperative management of fisheries" for all. Thank you very much.
Steve Katrensky	New Jersey	Other (please specify)	Concerned citizen	Give the fish a chance, dude.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Larissa Smith	New Jersey	Other (please specify)	Wildlife Biologist, work with NJ osprey population	Hello, I am a wildlife biologist that has worked with ospreys in southern NJ for over 25 years. I have seen the results along the Atlantic Coast NJ osprey population and the past few nesting seasons has been very depressing, as the number of chicks is at the lowest ever. As a citizen, I find it very frustrating that certain people have access to the fishery "resource" when it's everyone's resource. I want my resource of menhaden to not be caught and to be used by wildlife.
Melanie Schroer	New Jersey	Other (please specify)	Biologist, osprey researcher	I advocate for maximally precautionary management options for menhaden. Our predators dependent on menhaden indicate a scarcity of this most valuable prey species. In my network, I have heard from fishermen, bait shop owners, and the owner of a whale-watching that they've seen hardly any of these fish schools this summer. Please don't wait until the fishery has collapsed to make conservative management decisions. There is too much at stake here. Let us significantly reduce the pressure of harvest, allowing the species to recover and scientists to further investigate the multifaceted explanations for their decline.
Joseph White	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		I also support that the coastal Total Allowable Catch be significantly lowered.
Esther James	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		I am a concerned citizen who would like the menheden harvest RESTRICTED as much as possible to protect the osprey population.
Brielle Jeffries	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		I am a concerned local resident. We have watched as the Osprey population has dwindled and watched as the fledglings starve to death. Although there is not sufficient evidence to support that reducing the cap would help, I think we need to do what we can do to make sure our wildlife survives around us. If the Ospreys disappear, we will have much bigger issues that fall like dominos. Please consider reducing the cap by 50%.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Michael Shanahan	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		I am a longtime bird surveyor and field naturalist in southern New Jersey, where I have observed troubling problems with osprey nesting success and apparent food availability. My observations have been most consistent at Stone Harbor Point, where I observe foraging ospreys weekly. I have also witnessed similar concerns in the Cape May area, though less frequently, and along Delaware Bay, primarily at PSEG's public-access Estuary Enhancement Sites. I have observed young ospreys apparently receiving inadequate food, raising concerns about adults' ability to find sufficient prey. Friends who regularly fish these waters have also reported a troubling scarcity of menhaden. These are personal observations and anecdotal reports, not proof of causation. However, they are especially concerning in light of recent research documenting serious reproductive problems among Chesapeake Bay ospreys. One important example is Watts et al. (2026), Widespread reproductive deficits in Chesapeake Bay ospreys, published in Frontiers in Marine Science (https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2026.1685158). Menhaden are a critical part of coastal food webs, supporting ospreys, other fish-eating birds, predatory fish, and marine wildlife. Their ecological importance extends far beyond their commercial value. I recognize that this addendum focuses on Chesapeake Bay, but concerns about forage-fish availability extend throughout the Mid-Atlantic. I urge the Commission to take a precautionary, science-based approach that recognizes the importance of menhaden to the predators that depend on them, while continuing to investigate the relationships among fishing pressure, prey availability, and reproductive success. Such an approach also supports the long-term sustainability of the menhaden fishery and the livelihoods that depend on it. Healthy fisheries and healthy wildlife populations are not mutually exclusive goals. For those of us who spend considerable time observing coastal wildlife, these concerns are not abstract. We are witnessing the struggles of nesting birds firsthand. Thank you very much for considering my comments.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Andrew Genovese	New Jersey	Other (please specify)	External researcher	I am asking the Board to manage menhaden for abundance. Striped bass, bluefish, osprey, whales, anglers, bait fishermen and coastal businesses depend on them. For Draft Addendum II, please reduce the Chesapeake Bay reduction-fishery cap by 50% to 25,500 metric tons and distribute that harvest evenly through the season. When the Board sets the 2027–2029 coastwide TAC in November, please use the updated Technical Committee projections and the newest available science to make a meaningful coastwide reduction at least 30% from the current TAC, and more if needed to reach the ecological target.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Frank Sanfilippo	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		I am writing as a New Jersey angler/fisherman to express concern about the impact that concentrated reduction fishery harvest of menhaden (bunker) in the Chesapeake Bay is having on menhaden availability and, in turn, on fishing here in New Jersey. Menhaden are the foundation of the bait fishery and forage base that New Jersey's recreational and commercial fisheries depend on — for striped bass, bluefish, tuna, weakfish, and other key species. When large volumes of bunker are pulled out of the Chesapeake Bay concentrated in the spring and summer months, it reduces the number of menhaden migrating north and available along the New Jersey coast during our peak season. I have personally seen [describe what you've observed — thinner bunker schools, fewer bait pods, harder time sourcing live/fresh bunker, slower striper/bluefish fishing, etc.]. This isn't just an ecological issue — it's an economic one. Menhaden-dependent recreational fishing generates hundreds of millions of dollars in angler spending and supports thousands of jobs coastwide, much of it flowing through tackle shops, marinas, charter boats, and bait dealers in New Jersey. When bunker becomes scarce or hard to find, that spending — and the businesses that depend on it — takes a direct hit. For these reasons, I support: Reducing the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap, to help rebuild bunker abundance along the coast. Tying the Bay Cap to the coastwide TAC so it scales down automatically if the coastwide quota is reduced, rather than staying static. Establishing quota periods to spread reduction fishery landings across the season instead of concentrating them early and mid-season, when NJ's bait and recreational fisheries need bunker the most. New Jersey's fishing economy relies on a healthy, well-distributed menhaden population. I urge the Board to adopt the more conservative options in this addendum to protect that resource. Thank you for considering my comments. Frank Sanfilippo Sewaren, New Jersey]
Jon Brunetti	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		I believe that the total allowable catch for menhaden should be significantly lower. I myself have seen a substantial decrease in the number of menhaden seen out in the ocean and bays.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Lizmary Nadal	New Jersey	Other (please specify)	None	I care about the environmental impact this has on the wildlife in NJ. I hope this is a step in the right direction to support our local osprey population and conservation efforts.
Anita Cronk	New Jersey	Other (please specify)	Bird watcher	I don’t have the expertise to recommend limits but I do know ospreys need to feed their young.
John Wachter	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		I don't understand all these options so I have left them blank. I live 1 block from the beach i9n Nj and fish almost everyday. The numbers of menhaden has continued to drop for the last 10 years and the impact is very noticable. The sophisticated methods used are causing serious declines with the use of planes and electronic equipment. The fish don't even reach spawning age. We do not see as many whales, porpoises, ospreys and all sealife because of the decline in food for them. If the food source is no longer available the entire food chain is in jeopardy. we need regulations that adjust the same as with other fish. these regulations should be implemented for the entire east coast!!
Hillary Leonard	New Jersey	Other (please specify)	Birdwatcher	I have been a birdwatcher for 3 decades. I am disgusted by the mass starvation of coastal Osprey young in my home state and in other states. I tried to select the most conservative option in your survey. A multi-year moratorium is needed to help the species recover is what we really need.
Stephen Foell	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		I have seen the predators of menhaden starving. I have heard from fishermen that menhaden are nowhere this year. I am concerned for the ecosystem. Please enact the most conservative measures to protect this species for the good of the whole foodweb and coastal economy!
Noelle Quanci	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		I hope we can, once again, do the right thing to preserve the biodiversity of our coast for our children...
daniel wiest	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		i just want to see the fishing to be good again try and get our waters back to steady fishing

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Michael Redpath	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		I noticed an alarming drop in successful osprey fledging on Barnegat Bay starting in 2025 and reached out to a number of environmental groups. We have to be careful that we don't just focus on osprey, but rather embrace that they are a rather large "canary in the coal mine" indicating an upheaval in our coastal ecoSYSTEM that needs immediate attention.
Katy simon	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		I strongly support taking a precautionary approach and pursuing the largest percentage reduction in quotation. This is a pillar species that sustains other significant fisheries, as well as iconic birds of prey like the osprey.
Michael B Day	New Jersey	Other (please specify)	Private crab fisherman and supporter of Osprey conservation efforts	I strongly support these changes and urge the Commission's adoption of them to help sustain multiple fisheries and marine related industries and to help preserve critical food stocks for Ospreys which have faced serious food shortages and reduced breeding success in the area where I live and fish.
Linda T	New Jersey	Other (please specify)	Concerned citizens	I support any option that would cut the bay cap by 50% and tie it into the TAC, establishing strict seasonal blocks to spread out Fish, mortality and to protect juvenile nurseries during peak periods. I support protecting predators throughout the marine ecosystems of both the bays and the ocean. Osprey are not successfully reproducing, which is an indicator of the health of the entire Marine ecosystem. Osprey may just be the first species to fall - if something is not done immediately many more species of birds, fish, and marine mammals will be affected. All of these depend on the food web for their survival. Thank you.
Robert Harris	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		I think these options will allow us to best support the Chesapeake Bay and ensure the health of our birds, people, and coasts. Thank you.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Karen Williams	New Jersey	Other (please specify)	biologist with a deep concern for the ecosystem	I urge the ASMFC to take strong action to reduce the Atlantic Coast catch of menhaden. While there are some data that show that the population of menhaden is healthy there are also a lot of observations showing that species that depend on menhaden are showing reproductive declines and /or changes in behavior. For example, osprey chick production has precipitously declined in NJ. Additionally, bottlenose dolphin have been observed in the back bays of Cape May County and up the Maurice River as far as Bivalve, behaviors that have only been observed in the last 2 years. This behavior suggests that there is little food in the areas where they usually occur. Strong actions to conserve the population of Atlantic Menhaden BEFORE a total crash will have many benefits, including: - a healthy, diverse ecosystem - economic benefits to local economies due to a strong ecotourism industry - a SUSTAINABLE menhaden fishery Thank you for your consideration.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Trish Daley	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		I was able to attend the 9/29/26 virtual meeting; however, I was unable to activate my microphone to participate in the comment period of the meeting. I submitted brief blurbs via the "Questions Chat Box" that evening. (I will not be redundant and repeat them here; thank you James Boyle and staff for recording my electronically submitted comments/ideas that evening.) I was also able to attend the slide show portion of the 10/1/26 virtual meeting; I am a high school Special Education teacher and that evening was back to school night for my school. I had to log off promptly at 6:25 PM EDT. Some of my students are currently learning about apex predators. One topic we have discussed is menhaden and how there are a vital food source for many apex predators. My students and I would like to see very strict limits for the next three years, allowing the fishery a reprieve from overfishing. A topic we have not had time to discuss is that many families depend on the fishery for their livelihood; however, it has been on my heart and mind. An out of the box idea has "bubbled up" and perhaps it could be considered in three years time (provided Option B in Q 11 is adopted). Out of Box Idea: Mega/large fishing corporations have an extremely restrictive limit as to what they can catch with their own vessels. However, they can choose to purchase catches from smaller family owned watermen companies; by doing so, their "harvest" limit is increased - because they are purchasing from watermen. The vision is to intentionally create a sustainble "middleman" culture with the fishery. I realize that this is a very crude and rudimentary idea - I have no idea if it is even feasible/worth while. It just feels like it could be a way to support: the menhaden, the apex predators, the waterman families, and large corporations, like Omega...while keeping in mind overall limits are necessary to protect recreational anglers and conservationists concerns. Again, my students and I would like to see very strict limits for the next three years, allowing the fishery a much needed reprieve from overfishing. Thank you so much for your time and efforts in gathering public opinion and keeping us informed.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Karen Arnheiter	New Jersey	Other (please specify)	Lover of wildlife.	I would like to see NJ ospreys thrive and increase. They need to recover from a bad breeding season due to the lack of Menhaden.
Robert mahnke	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		I would like to see the harvest of menhaden closed during the spring and fall striped bass migration.
Otto Munz	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		I would much prefer keeping the quotas to off shore waters .
Alec Fernandez	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		I'm a life long fisherman and have noticed a drastic change in our fishery the past few years. If we want to keep a healthy fishery it starts with keeping our bait healthy and sustainable. We need to see change ASAP it starts here!!
Victoria Percy	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		I'm in favor of the 50% reduction only due to it being the most conservative management plan being considered!
Darlene Kowalski	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		I'm very worried about the ospreys and the ecosystem in general. Please ban Canadian menhaden boats in the Chesapeake and elsewhere.
Anthony Sickinger	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		If no action is taken, the striped bass population will be gone, our grandchildren will never be able to fish for this amazing species!
Diana Cirillo	New Jersey	Other (please specify)	Concerned citizen	I'm not sure how big of a crisis is needed before a change is made, but we're there. Everyone can see it.
Bob McLynn	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		It is a crime that the menhaden population is being decimated this way. We need to protect them so the real predators have enough food and keep our waters thriving
Dana Eglinton	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		It is imperative that the harvest of menhaden be reduced as they are a critical component of the near shore fisheries and ecosystems.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
James Learn	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		It is so obvious to all that the reduction of the Menhaden catch is necessary to sustain and possibly improve the fishery.
Douglas A Taylor	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		It is well known, though the Atlantic Menhaden is not considered to be a game fish, but is a very important species for both the health of the water system (being filter feeders that help to control includes zooplankton, several species of phytoplankton including Pfiesteria, as well as suspended organic plant detritus and algae blooms) and as a feed source for fish further up the food chain, stricter harvest limits must be established. Taking the NOAA reported metric tonnage over a 66 year history covering 1950 thru 2006 for the Atlantic Menhaden and breaking this information down into different categories, trends did develop. It was noted that as the years progressed the Gulf total tonnage was starting to mimic the Total Metric Tonnage Landings (this trend starts approximately in1966); The Atlantic catch was diminishing and starting to follow the trend and mirror the Chesapeake landings (this trend is most noticeable starting in1983). Today, the total catch is set at a much lower amount than what was the total catch of 2006 without a real gain in the estimated population. One other thing to consider that due to the high concentration of netting just east of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, this boundary be redefined as of at least 5 miles east of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.
Gabrielle Kertz	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		Leave more fish for the Ospreys and other wildlife that depend on them in the ecosystem
Elizabeth	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		Let us conserve this precious environ...
Grace Miller	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		Limit Menhaden harvest, the osprey need them!
George McNamara	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Lower the coastal Total Allowable Catch to a level that ensures that striped bass can rebuild quickly.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Linda Haertel	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Lower the coastal total allowableccatch
Christina Smith	New Jersey			NA
Cole Kennedy	New Jersey	For-hire vessel owner/operator/crew		No
Kevin Markow	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		No
Gerry Zagorski	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Not sure why the reduction in Chesapeake Bay is even up for discussion. Its needs to get done since one foreign company is responsible and profits from what is a public resource. The absence of Bunker threatens the entire Striped Bass fishery that every state and many more fishermen rely on. The economic impact of recreational Striped bass is $7.8 billion annually and 104, 000 jobs coastwide, compared to $200 million and 500 jobs for Bunker reduction that is all in one small town in one state.
George Richard Horvath	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Ospreys are dying and not reproducing and surf fishing is not good because of the lack of menhaden.
capt. brian williams	New Jersey	For-hire vessel owner/operator/crew		our coastline is dying we need the bunker to be protected now! i selected the options presented. but i believe all bunker netting should be ended now!
David Giordano	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Our fisheries desperately need a revival. Let’s do our part and restore the east coast

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Jennifer Douglas	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Please also significantly lower the coastal total allowable catch.
Sam mancino	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Please also significantly lower the coastal Total Allowable Catch
Matt Rummler	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Please also significantly lower the coastal Total Allowable Catch
JOHN F ORLOWICZ	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Please also significantly lower the coastal Total Allowable Catch.
Adam solleder	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Please also significantly the total allowable catch
Ryan Catton	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Please be respectful of future generations and the desire to have a continuing fishery for all anglers to Enjoy..
Louis DeMarco	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Please consider expanding catch limits to include coastal waters along NY/NJ/DE/MD/VA and monitor the results of catch limits every 3 years.
Leah Korejko	New Jersey	Other (please specify)	Concerned citizen, non fisherman	Please consider revision so we don't loose such an important species to our coastline. It's glaringly obvious we need to take action to protect our Ospreys.
Cynthia Lamb	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		Please consider this measures for saving the health of our wildlife and the fishing industry, and the continuing to support the natural resources of our coast.
Emma Guest-Consales	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		Please do whatever you can to stop overfishing and to bring back menhaden to the bays.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Jake Lemcoe	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Please drastically reduce the amount of bunker commercially harvested as i personally have seen a huge reduction in then over the last few seasons. Striped bass as well as other marine life heavily rely on them to survive and keep reproduction strong. Also please try and limit the international boats commercially fishing for bunker in US waters.
TIMOTHY DOOLAN	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Please help save the Menhaden population.
Michael A Bukosky	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Please lower the allowable catch - I have been fishing for over 50 years and the bunker have disappeared. Please save our ocean
Arnold Ulrich	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Please lower the coast wide Total Allowable Catch to a level that ensures that the striped bass can rebuild quickly and, that the coastal ecosystem has a sufficient abundance of bunker for all marine life to thrive.
Douglas Itjen	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Please lower the coastal CAC
Bill Machotka	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Please lower the coastal Total Allowable Catch. If you just lower Chessapeak then more will be taken off where I live. BOTH are important. Thank you
Colette Liberatore	New Jersey	Other (please specify)	Concerned Citizen	Please lower the coastwide catch limits to support the ecosystem and its wildlife, and reduce the Chesapeake Bay harvest cap as research continues. Thank you.
Mary Lauko	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		Please protect the ecosystem, the ospreys, and prevent overfishing.
Joseph	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Please reduce the coastal TAC. The fact they need to use spotter planes to net the bunker should be be proof enough that the stocks are in trouble Many fish and most wildlife rely on bunker for food. Striped bass, Osprey et al. Thank you.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Constance J Malach	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Please Save the Osprey's food source !
Thomas	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Please significantly lower the coastal Total Allowable Catch (TAC) to a level that ensures that striped bass can rebuild quickly and so that the coastal ecosystem has a abundance of bunker for all creatures to thrive
Randall E Vieser	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Please significantly lower the coastal Total Allowable Catch (TAC) to a level that ensures that striped bass can rebuild quickly and so that the coastal ecosystem has a abundance of bunker for all creatures to thrive. Also basically please do the right thing to protect our marine ecosystems - Thanks
Louis Van Bergen	New Jersey	For-hire vessel owner/operator/crew		Please significantly lower the coastal Total Allowable Catch (TAC). Allow the bunker population to recover and the higher trophic levels of the food web will follow suit. This includes, but is not limited to, striped bass, bluefish and ospreys.
Kenneth Hollins	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Please significantly lower the coastal Total Allowable Catch, thank you
Bruce M Caporale	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Please significantly reduce the total allowable catch
Tyler G Menninger	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Please stop allowing this over fishing so the rest of the anglers and fish have a chance to survive
Shannon Jacobs	New Jersey	Other (please specify)	Birder	Please strengthen menhaden fishing limits so Ospreys can recover.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Avery Fletcher	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		Please take these reductions seriously and in the future consider setting the cap to zero. The Bay Cap on Menhaden impacts the entire ecosystem of the East Coast and the livelihoods of many. There is much more at risk here than the profits of one organization. If the ecosystem is not healthy, we will all be impacted.
Eileen Ferara	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		Please work to ensure the bunker fish population is increased to help the rest of the ecosystem such as osprey that rely on the food source
Paul Shafer	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Problems associated with overfishing are not created all within one year, and their resolution cannot be solved all within a year either. The regular and consistent assessment of such an important resource is critical. In addition, any reduction in the bay should not be "reassigned" to the ocean. Rather, it should be returned to the resource for maximum benefit not only of anglers, but to other fish, mammals, birds of prey, etc. Thank you.
William Rathjen	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Protect menhaden for the good and need for all marine life

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Margaret Flinner	New Jersey	Other (please specify)	Birder and property owner at Cape May Point	resident and steward of Cape May Point, New Jersey, a place where ospreys are not just something I occasionally see—they are an essential and beloved part of the landscape and of the coastal ecosystem I have watched and cared about for many years. I care deeply about the health of the Atlantic coast and the Chesapeake Bay, and I am especially concerned about the availability of menhaden, a foundational forage fish on which ospreys and many other predators depend. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is considering important changes to the Chesapeake Bay menhaden reduction-fishery cap, including reductions of up to 50% and measures that would spread harvest more evenly throughout the fishing season. The Commission itself has recognized concerns about the increasing concentration of reduction harvest during the summer and the potential downstream effects on menhaden predators. (ASMFC) I strongly support taking a precautionary approach. We may not yet have all the science needed to understand the full picture of what is happening with osprey populations along the East Coast. But that uncertainty is precisely why we should not wait until the evidence is unequivocal and the damage is irreversible. When a species that depends so visibly on abundant forage fish appears to be struggling, we should be protecting its food supply rather than continuing to remove large quantities of that food during the very season when it is most important to predators. I urge the Commission to adopt the strongest conservation measures supported by the Draft Addendum, including a substantial reduction in the Chesapeake Bay menhaden reduction-fishery cap and seasonal quota periods that prevent large concentrations of menhaden harvest during critical periods for ospreys and other predators. Menhaden are not simply a commodity. They are part of the ecological foundation of the Atlantic coast. As someone who treasures the living coastal community of Cape May Point, I don't want to imagine a summer without the sight of ospreys circling overhead, carrying fish back to their nests, and teaching their young to fish. Please give the ecosystem—and the ospreys that depend upon it—a margin of safety. I urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to reduce the Chesapeake Bay menhaden harvest and establish seasonal protections that allow menhaden populations to recover and remain available to the wildlife that depends

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Tim Stoessler	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Reductions must pass !!!!! I'm sure they have a strong lobby... Stand firm, or it will soon be too late to save this vital fish and all others that feed on it
Gabriella Rodriguez	New Jersey	Other (please specify)	save osprey chicks	save osprey chicks
Nicholas Twomey	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Save the Bay!!! Listen to the science, NOT industry!
Robby fuggi	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Save the bunker 50% REDUCTION
Gary DeFranco	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Save the Bunker for our childrens children
Eric Warner	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Save the bunker please!
Joseph Marchesano	New Jersey	Other (please specify)	Recreational and for hire	Save the fishery! It’s a disgrace that we allow our own and other agencies to decimate such a keystone species.
Tim Riley	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Save the menhaden! I fish multiple times a week for years and the bait is gone. These thieves have harvested too much. They should all be shut down.
Kathleen Reardon	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		Save the ospreys!

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Peter J. Kellison	New Jersey	Other (please specify)	Retired for hire deckhand and avid Striper fisherman	Seeing first hand what happens when Bunker is excessively harvested and the food chain is disrupted to both fish stocks,reduced tourism, and fishing related businesses it is imperative that we need to reduce bunker harvest by at least 50%.
Gregory Brand	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		Should also commission a study of the wider causes of menhaden die out and its impacts on the ecosystem and other species like osprey, dolphins, tuna, etc. Emergency measures should also be planned out for rapid ecosystem collapse, which is already apparent to observers.
George smith	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		should be no reallocation of any under performance of the catch because it would relate to having fewer fish available to catch.
Anthony Orovio	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		significantly lower the coastal Total Allowable Catch.
Robert W	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Stop monetizing the waters….. the rich continue to get richer while the eco system suffers and so do the recreational anglers. You do not need to be highly educated or have a plethora of letters after your name to see what is happening
Glen Zeeck	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		Stop ruining our recreational fishery by selling out to foreign countries.
Garth Hutchinson	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		Thank you for concerned citizens to comment on this important issue.
Diana R. Hutchinson	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		Thank you for receiving these public comments!
Kathleen Goodman	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		Thank you for the opportunity to share my feedback.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Andrea Shotkin	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		Thank you for your consideration. Please ensure that the reduction fishery is better regulated to allow a large proportion of menhaden to mature and live longer lives (up to 10 years). The Chesapeake Bay needs more, and much larger, fish in the NEAR future for ospreys, which are now suffering terribly, and other organisms that depend on a healthy, populous, and mature menhaden population.
Jeffrey Fedor	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		The coastal total allowable catch must be reduced; please save the fishery
William Roth	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		The commercialharvest by Omega corpoaration needs to be cut down to at 85% of what they are currently allowed.
Rebecca Goldburg	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		The economic effects of failing to leave enough menhaden in the water to support the ecosystem are profound - not just for the recreational fishing industry, but also for all the other sectors that depend on the enjoyment of nature up and down the east coast.
Neal Hafner	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		The foundational data behind reduction fishing needs to be revisited to set more accurate targets
Joe Crouchman	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		The menhaden fishery is in extreme danger and this will snowball into a major issue if not resolved now. We need to take action to cap areas so that we do not witness and depleted fishery and we see progress made. The ecosystem is in need of menhaden and we have to protect them at all costs
Mark A. Taylor	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		The need to protect this essential forage fish is urgent. The decisions being made now will have long-term consequences, and we must act before it is too late.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Patricia Hollenack	New Jersey	Other (please specify)	Avid birders upset with the affects of over fishing on the Osprey and Dolphins et al	The Osprey numbers are declining to the point they will be endangered or already are...other species will follow...we must save our nature!!!!
Jay A Trinter	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		The over harvesting of the Menhaden stock must be stoped ! Or every fish and mammal that Depends on them will Die !
Charles Jewell	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		The person who made this survey made it as confusing as possible. Just reduce the amount of bunker harvested to as little as possible. The loss of these forage fish is having a direct impact on the ecosystem of the marine life and its estuaries. The loss of this industry would not be missed and what it provides can be replaced by other means. Reduce its quota as much as possible so I can see an increase in the fish I recreate to catch!!!!
Kathrine Mitchell	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		The quota should be divided to allow the best flourishing of menhaden
Peter Walsifer	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		The reduction fishery is detrimental to the entire coastal ecosystem from Maine to Florida. We must do every thing in our power to greatly curtail or eliminate all together this destructive practice.
Richie Mansfield	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		The Shortage Of Bunker Is Destroying The Inshore Recreational Fishing No Tuna Last Few Years Striped Bass Fishing Is A Joke We Need More Bunker See No whales Either

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Don	New Jersey	Other (please specify)	Former charter boat captain/owner	The Virginia menhaden boats have been vacuuming our Menhaden for over 50 years with virtually no restrictions in the 60s or 70s. Back then, they would net them at the waters edge. If you were fishing the beach, you risked getting caught up in their nets. The inshore fisheries have suffered for years. It's time for them to have some lean years!
Thomas Kowitski	New Jersey	For-hire vessel owner/operator/crew		There have been significantly less adult menhaden in the NJ coastal waters this year (2026) so I see a need for at least a 50% reduction in the TAC.
Joseph E. Koscielny	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		There is a definite need for the reduction of Bay Cap limits in order to provide for the future of the Menhaden, rather than see their future extinction. The impact of the loss of the Menhaden would definitely have an impact on the fisheries and survival of the whales, striped bass, ospreys and other sea life. We need to act now before it is too late to reverse the dangerous effects of current inaction that would allow the adverse affects of inactivity.
Karen Nickeson	New Jersey	Other (please specify)	Conservation Director managing Osprey monitors	There is an exigent need to preserve the fishery for the industry, but also for the Osprey population and other wildlife that depend on this food source.
Sharon Coughlin	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		there seems to be a serious problem with overfishing of menhaden. we need to cut back on the overfishing, protecting the fish so that populations do not collapse, allowing the ecosystem to function properly, protecting wildlife that depend on these fish in order to reproduce and survive. we cannot let the ecosystem collapse. we cannot let any species go extinct.
Harold Wasserman	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		There were literally miles of Bunker in the New York Bight in prior years. Now there are NONE. Omega Protein and others have decimated the Menhaden population to the point where they can no longer meet their harvests.

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Kristin S	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		these options best support the Chesapeake Bay and ensure the health of our birds, people, and coasts.
Carol Ann Welsch	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		These options will help protect the ospreys of the Chesapeake Bay, which are suffering from serious rates of nest failure.
Tim Waller	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		This fish is a keystone of the atlantic and gulf marine environment. As current regulations are enforced we have watched our fisheries decline hand over fin. Not only are game fish species impacted but the entirety of our atlantic and gulf ecosystems stand to benefit before we completely rip the scales to irreversible harm.
John Tefankjian	New Jersey	Other (please specify)	Recreational fisherman/ Osprey volunteer	This has become a coastwide issue affecting, wildlife , Marine and Avian, Bad fisheries management and poor decisions got us to here , let's make better decisions based upon actual observations , please stop letting financial and political decisions guide us in the wrong direction! Thank you
Matthew Szatkowski	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		This needs to be addressed and action needs to be taken to reduce the harvest with extra attention the Chesapeake bay
James Connell	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		This survey questions are confusing. The bottom line is the menhaden population in the areas I fish (De to ME) from boat or the beach, bay or ocean have diminished greatly. Although my observations are anecdotal, they are accurate. I have found multiple dead osprey in the nesting areas of NJ and the striped bass and bluefish are no longer here in any significant numbers.
Martin Fletcher	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		Thousands of people rely on the health of our East Coast ecosystem from the fishing vessels to the support services to the restaurants and recreational fishing industry. The entire economy needs to be considered not just the extraction companies. Please reduce the Bay Cap as much as possible and consider further reductions in the future. Thank you.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Melissa Laurino	New Jersey	Other (please specify)	Marine mammal ecotour provider and marine mammal scientist	Management Board: On behalf of the Cape May Whale Watch & Research Center (CMWWRC), I appreciate the opportunity to provide public comment on Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. For nearly four decades, CMWWRC has operated whale and dolphin ecotourism and research programs off Cape May, New Jersey. Through systematic data collection aboard our vessels, we have documented marine mammals and other marine megafauna that utilize the coastal waters of southern New Jersey and the southernmost area of the New York Bight. Spending 200 days on the water a year has granted us a firsthand perspective on the importance of healthy bait fish communities to this highly productive marine ecosystem. Atlantic menhaden (Brevoortia tyrannus) are considered the most important fish of the sea. They play a valuable role in our coastal food web and provide food for marine mammals, pelagic seabirds, ospreys, sharks, and large predatory fish. The ASMFC recognizes marine mammals among the predators supported by Atlantic menhaden. We have documented Humpback whales (Megaptera novaeangliae) and Tamanend's Bottlenose dolphins (Tursiops erebennus) regularly feeding on Atlantic menhaden throughout the year. We have observed a noticable decline in the surface presence of Atlantic menhaden over the last ten years in the Atlantic Ocean and the Delaware Bay. We recognize that the coastwide Atlantic menhaden stock is currently classified by ASMFC as not overfished and that overfishing is not occurring under the current ecological reference points. At the same time, ASMFC notes that the coastwide assessment cannot determine menhaden abundance at smaller regional scales such as Chesapeake Bay, and therefore not the Delaware Bay either. For highly migratory predators, the location and timing of prey availability can be ecologically important even when a prey stock is considered "healthy" at the larger scale. For this reason, we encourage the Management Board to give substantial consideration to the ecological role of Atlantic menhaden, localized and seasonal forage availability, and the needs of marine predators throughout the Mid-Atlantic ecosystem. The Mid-Atlantic waters support whales, dolphins, pelagic seabirds, ospreys, sharks, and economically important fishes. Protecting the forage base that supports these animals is an important component of

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Scarlett Blydenburgh	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		Unprecedented osprey chick starvation and reproductive failures in the Chesapeake Bay are directly linked to a shortage of Atlantic menhaden, driven largely by large-scale industrial reduction fishing. Menhaden is a critical food source for ospreys, along with predatory fish (such as striped bass, bluefish, tuna, and sharks), and marine mammals (including whales and dolphins). Menhaden supports coastal ecosystems and coastal economies, but simply put, the fisheries catch levels have exceeded the ecological overfishing threshold. Personally, I see ospreys coming back from offshore with either small fish or no fish at all, so this issue needs to be addressed immediately. I support a full moratorium to menhaden fishing.
Captain Peter Grimbilas	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		We desperately need the total allowable commercial catch reduced to help bring back striped bass and bluefish stocks
Daniel Thompson	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		We first settled in the area 35 years ago. The fishing at East Point was so plentiful that we had to get to East Point at 7 AM to get a parking spot and we would actually catch fish. Now it's a ghost town there. No fish, nobody there. I have several friends with small boats who tell me it's a waste of time to go fishing anymore. There are no fish to catch anymore.
Nick foell	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		We need to do everything we can to help the osprey
Rachel Grace	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		We need to do what is best for biodiversity - which would be to reduce the harvest numbers allowed, and give ospreys and all the other marine life a fair chance at survival.
Kevin	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		We need to reduce the overall number of fish harvested each year drastically, even if that means stopping harvesting for a few years. The ecosystem is collapsing from osprey to striper we are seeing a dramatic decline in populations. Now might be our only chance to save these animals.
Brian walters	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		We need to stop over harvesting bunker. They are the primary resource for so many game fish and migratory birds such as osprey which had their worst recruitment too date

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Aidan Griffiths	New Jersey	Concerned stakeholder		While reducing commercial harvest of Menhaden for local fisherman is now a necessary measure to allow the adult population to rebound, the major issue that caused the most egregious over harvesting is not addressed by this addendum (that being the Canadian Omega corporation's harvest in Federal waters). If Federal measures are taken to stop Omega's activities in the mid-Atlantic, local fishermen will not have to bear as much of the burden of protecting the fish stock.
Kevin Papa	New Jersey	Private recreational angler		You are allowing the destruction of our local food systems by permitting such a massive menhaden harvest. In my opinion, it should be far higher than even 50% reduction.
Joel Sklar	New Jersey	Other (please specify)		Concerned citizen who wants to protect Ospreys
Emery Thul	New Jersey	Other (please specify)		Concerned stakeholder worried about the impact on Osprey populations.
Gail Morchel	New Jersey	Other (please specify)		I have a boat in Osprey Point Inn and Marina Rock hall, Maryland. I enjoy the Osprey at the Marina. I am .
Andrea	New Jersey	Other (please specify)		Concerned for ospreys
Joan	New Jersey	Other (please specify)		A beach resident and wildlife supporter and particularly concerned with decreasing osprey survival
Tracie Muir	New Jersey	Other (please specify)		Own in Edgewater, MD along the water and noticed a decline in osprey

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Claire Rodriguez	New Mexico	Other (please specify)		I live on this planet and care about the food web.
Daniel Brown	New York	Private recreational angler		Menhaden is the most important fish in the sea and should be treated as such.
Robert Rapisarda	New York	Private recreational angler		“Please significantly lower the coastal Total Allowable Catch (TAC) to a level that ensures that striped bass can rebuild quickly and so that the coastal ecosystem has a abundance of bunker for all creatures to thrive”
Anne Lazarus	New York	Other (please specify)	none, I am a birder.	A lot of the fishing for Manhaden goes to pet food as well. They are literally sweeping out the ocean. Whales and other marine species are also suffering from this overfishing. The ecology supporting Ospreys and other life will be devastated if this overfishing is not stopped. Manhaden are keystone to saving the ecology. Ospreys are important, and the destruction is before our eyes. Other species harmed and pushed toward extirpation can be invisible to our eyes. This extreme overfishing needs to be stopped now, or the whole ecology of the area will collapse. I am also thinking of dolphins and seals.
Juan jose	New York	Private recreational angler		All I got it said is this should be regulated just like fishing cause if we don’t. We not going to be catching fish the feeds on this bait fish
Richard F Grein	New York	Private recreational angler		As a concerned fisherman, I’ve watched the schools of bunker dwindle and the almost complete disappearance of river Herring in my area. We have to stop this from becoming a cost wide issue. And help rebuild from the past assessment errors and harvests. The reductions also should come from harvest numbers and not quotas. Thank you.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Daniel Franc	New York	Other (please specify)	An avid birder who has witnessed a sharp decline in osprey population.	As a lifelong fisherman AND birder. I have witnessed the decline of the fishery and now the birds. Action must be taken.
Lina Sinishtaj	New York	Private recreational angler		As a recreational angler, it's better for the environment and for local economies to keep the menhaden protected. Large businesses pillaging the resources does not help anyone except for the 1%.
Larry Federman	New York	Other (please specify)	Concerned stakeholder whose interest in protecting food supplies for Osprey and other birds and wildlife depending on menhaden stocks.	As we've seen successful measures to protect migrating shorebirds by regulating horseshoe crab egg harvests, a strong protection program for menhaden is critical to reverse the decline of Osprey breeding success in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Jonathan Agosta	New York	Private recreational angler		Atlantic Menhaden is one of the most important species of bait fish for a myriad of species - fisheries and otherwise - across the East Coast. The Atlantic Menhaden fishery has been grossly mismanaged for far too long. Every action should be taken to conserve this species and limit the reduction fishery. The economic benefit of the reduction fishery falls several orders of magnitude short of the economic importance that this species represents across numerous other fisheries.
Richard Bertoli	New York	Private recreational angler		Atlantic Menhaden: literally the most important fish in the sea
Eric Radoman	New York	Private recreational angler		Have not seen large schools of Bunker in 3 years
Laura Desmarais	New York	Concerned stakeholder		I am a resident of both NY and CT and have personally observed both the dramatic reduction in menhaden in the Long Island Sound and its apparent effect on local osprey population. I have also heard from fishermen whose fishing lives are disrupted from this reduction. I strongly urge you to adopt the strongest option presented: a 50% reduction to the Bay cap, tied to the coastwide cap, and split seasonally (25/25/50) so as to minimize the impact during osprey nesting season. Thank you.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Emelie Einhorn	New York	Concerned stakeholder		I am writing in as a concerned ecologist. The menhaden of the Bay are being overharvested by commercial fishing vessels. Private industry is causing the menhaden populations to collapse so they can sell fish oil to consumers across the globe. Meanwhile the local ecosystems are suffering. Osprey in particular, which have historically made a recovery from the impacts of DDT in the 60's, are now in serious decline due to their primary prey being removed from the environment. Menhaden are often harvested for fish oil, which is typically a sham supplement and doesn't actually benefit human health in many of the ways it is advertised to. Realistically a moratorium on commercial fishing would be the best option to allow menhaden populations to recover, but seeing as the ASMFC isn't currently entertaining that as an option, the 50% cap reduction is the next best option. A majority of commercial fisheries have collapsed in the last century, and ensuring the longevity of menhaden populations is significantly more important than short-term profit. Overharvesting can permanently collapse a fishery - just look at wild Atlantic salmon - and the cascading environmental and economic effects would be significantly greater should that occur than a 50% reduction. Please consider the long-term prospects of both the menhaden population and all the wildlife that depend specifically on the presence of oily fish for the nutritional needs they have evolutionarily adapted to. Continued overharvesting of menhaden, the current status quo, would be a death knell for regional osprey populations in particular. Thank you for your attention to this matter.
Mike Viola	New York	Private recreational angler		I have been fishing for 40+ years in the Long Island Sound area and over the past 3 years I have continued to see a drastic reduction in menhaden in the local waters. Bunker are basically non-existent throughout the sound. This is having ripple effects to the other fisheries as food sources are not readily available for predatory fish such as Striped bass. Action needs to be taken before it is too late!

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
John Mlodynia	New York	Private recreational angler		I implore the board to adopt measures that drastically reduce the take of Bunker especially by Omega Protein from Virginia. I believe there should be no bunker harvest by purse seine in Chesepeake Bay and not within 3 miles of Virginias Coast. Omega Protein has decimated the bunker population and we have been seeing a drastic decrease in bunker on the entire Atlantic Coast. Omega Protein has fished the Chesepeake Bay into a wasteland and it needs to stop immediately. Ospreys, Striped Bass, Marine Mammals are all starving for this vital food source that cannot be found for huge swaths of the coast. I encourage the board to have the courage to put a stop to this destructive fishery forever and save the most important fish in the sea. Thank you.
Michael Noville	New York	Concerned stakeholder		I support saving the osprey in the Chesapeake Bay.
Ann Kelly	New York	Private recreational angler		If 50% of our osprey new population didn't survive reproduction then drastic measures need to be taken now to help them recover. Isn't that obvious?
Katherine Drouin-Keith	New York	Other (please specify)	Birdwatcher and nature enthusiast	I'm very alarmed about the declining osprey population on Long Island. We fought so hard to ban DDT and bring them back in the 1970s, and it's important to keep supporting them.
Marianne Poteet	New York	Concerned stakeholder		It is important that we co-exist with wildlife.
Max chronister	New York	Private recreational angler		It shouldn't have gotten to this point
M	New York	Concerned stakeholder		Just let the Osprey have more fucking fish for their chick's. Nesting, I believe is May through maybe August. New York has seen large increase is Osprey numbers. Just fucking do similar.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Pamela Brocious	New York	Concerned stakeholder		Many species depend on Menhaden for their lives. We can source other proteins for fish/pet food rather than live fish. Let's support our local environments. Collectively, these choices support lowering menhaden's Chesapeake Bay cap to 50% of the current 51,000 metric ton fishing limit. They also break the fishing season into three "quota" periods, so Osprey won't need to compete as much for food during the most vulnerable times of their life cycles. And to give the Commission the ability to plan and react to changing conditions, the Chesapeake Bay cap would be reviewed every 3 years.
Mike murray	New York	Private recreational angler		Marine ecosystem collapse is worse than humans losing jobs - they can find another job
June Summers	New York	Other (please specify)	Environmentalist, who spends time on the coast of Maine.	Menhaden are too important to the ecosystem to allow their population to fall so low. Looking at only one predator population to predict population of menhaden might not be the best way to do it. Blue fish also prey on menhaden and the few fishermen in Maine that I spoke with said they hadn't seen any blue fish in a long time.
Filipe Gomes	New York	Private recreational angler		Menhaden is one of the most vital part of our ecosystem it cannot be over fished
Jackie Stephens	New York	Other (please specify)	Concerned public	Menhaden must be protected for all living creatures they sustain.
Eric M	New York	Private recreational angler		Menhaden need to be made more of a priority by managers and the Board. There are too many issues with your models that make “paper fish” that aren’t real. The ecosystem is depleted of menhaden and it shows in so many ways to us on the water. Regulations need to be more cautious and tight to prevent overfishing and allow the menhaden to stay at sustainable levels to support the many species that rely on them.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Peter Leary	New York	Private recreational angler		Menhaden need to be protected as they are the cornerstone of our oceans ecosystem from southern Florida to northern main. For recreational fishing, marine mammals, shellfish. Everything.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Christopher Reigel	New York	Private recreational angler		primary production to higher trophic levels. Commercially and recreationally important fishes, including striped bass, bluefish, spiny dogfish, and bluefin tuna, are all known predators of Atlantic menhaden (Anstead et al. 2021). Avian predators, including osprey and bald eagles, also feed on seasonal menhaden aggregations, as do sharks, weakfish, and marine mammals including bottlenose dolphins and humpback whales (Ahrenholz 1991; Anstead et al. 2021). For each of these species, menhaden schools represent a predictable, energy-rich prey source that is particularly exploitable in nearshore habitats during their seasonal migrations. Predator health and recruitment have been tied to menhaden abundance in estuarine environments (Uphoff 2003). Decreased menhaden populations were implicated in the depressed nutritional state, fluctuations in weight-at-length and weight-at-age averages, and spread of disease observed in Chesapeake Bay striped bass during the late 1990s (Uphoff 2003). The presence of stable menhaden populations has also been identified as a potential predictor of nesting success and productivity in osprey in the lower Chesapeake Bay (Academia and Watts 2023; Watts et al. 2024). These cascading trophic interactions highlight the importance of maintaining adequate menhaden abundance throughout coastal and estuarine ecosystems. Their abundance supports the feeding demands of a large and diverse predator base, and documented shifts in menhaden abundance have been associated with impacts on the health and productivity of upper-trophic-level populations within their communities. Estuaries including the Chesapeake Bay serve as important nursery habitat for menhaden, but environmental conditions within the Bay are also changing. Summertime temperatures in the Chesapeake Bay have risen steadily since the 1980s, while the volume and duration of summertime hypoxia have also increased (Nelson et al. 2025). These environmental changes may impose additional physiological and ecological pressures on menhaden populations within the Bay. Draft Addendum II is a response to growing concerns over declining pound-net harvest and reduced catch per unit effort in the Chesapeake Bay. These declines, considered in the context of environmental degradation and continued fishing pressure, warrant a precautionary management response. Where environmental conditions are becoming increasingly challenging,

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Benjamin Manley	New York	Other (please specify)	Someone concerned about wildlife.	Moderation needs to be considered. The current model is unfair.
Trevor Benevento	New York	Private recreational angler		My name is Trevor Benevento. I've been fishing my entire life 30 years. Over the course of these years myself and all recreational anglers have seen a decline in bait present along long islands beaches. What was once a fantastic fishery has dwindled into close to nothing. Fishing is something that brings in much of long islands annual revenue, and much of what the average person lives there life from. The foreign and US bunker boats are destroying the fishery's. This needs to be changed as of immediate.
Margarita	New York	Other (please specify)	Fish advocate	No
Troy	New York	Concerned stakeholder		No
Astrid Jarvis	New York	Other (please specify)	Promote environmental justice, concerned about fishing as related to climate and environmental issues.	No
Shaeril McBrown	New York	Concerned stakeholder		No

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William Theodoropoulos	New York	Private recreational angler		No
Meredith Kent-Berman	New York	Other (please specify)	None.	No.
Thomas Weickert	New York	Concerned stakeholder		none
Amy Simmons	New York	Concerned stakeholder		Not at this time.
Mary Troland	New York	Concerned stakeholder		Osprey rely on menhaden so please manage your fish stock carefully. Thank you.
Sierra Duca	New York	Concerned stakeholder		Ospreys are crucial indicators of ecological health, and their declining reproductive success signals massive ecological disruption linked to menhaden overfishing. Immediate government action is essential to restore menhaden populations and protect the entire Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.
robert dawson	New York	Private recreational angler		Please do something about this. please. its has been really bad for the last few years. no bunker by me at all and historically there are so many.
Bridget Lavender	New York	Concerned stakeholder		Please help protect wildlife for all of us!
Jonathan	New York	Private recreational angler		Please keep the ecosystem and the people who do the right thing to conserve our fishery!
June Fox	New York	Concerned stakeholder		Please protect the ospreys ! Too many birds are going extinct due to human activity.
Ross Squire	New York	Private recreational angler		Please reduce the TAC to support the viability of striped bass and other species that rely on menhaden as a primary source of food.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Sailor Cook	New York	Other (please specify)	Wildlife lover	Please save the Osprey
John Bowman	New York			Please significantly lower the coastal Total Allowable Catch (TAC) to a level that ensures that striped bass can rebuild quickly and so that the coastal ecosystem has a abundance of bunker for all creatures to thrive”
Anthony Criscuola	New York	Private recreational angler		Please significantly lower the coastal Total Allowable Catch (TAC) to a level that ensures that striped bass can rebuild quickly and so that the coastal ecosystem has an abundance of bunker for all creatures to thrive
Hussam gouda	New York	Private recreational angler		Reduce the quota for all of the menhaden fisheries on the Atlantic coast. They are the backbone of the ecosystem, and if their populations crash the rest of the ecosystem will too
Logan Douglas	New York	Private recreational angler		Save the bunker
Nuno decosta	New York	Private recreational angler		Save the bunker
Andrew	New York	Private recreational angler		stop killing all the bunker
Mary Anne Miller	New York	Other (please specify)	concerned osprey nest monitor	Thank you for allowing the public to weigh in on this important issue. Something has to be done before the menhaden are gone from the Bay..and the east coast.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Matthew Garczynski	New York	Concerned stakeholder		Thank you for soliciting comments on Draft Addendum II. Menhaden are a keystone species to coastal wildlife, as well as a critical forage fish that many of our bait fisheries, coastal communities, and small businesses rely on. In observable correlation to a decline in menhaden, the osprey population has struggled in recent years. It has become clear that a healthy menhaden population is critical to the health of the entire Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.
Christopher Albronda	New York	For-hire vessel owner/operator/crew		The current limits and regulations are destroying a once thriving fishery. Lower, the quotas across the board,
John Isgro	New York	Private recreational angler		The fish populations are so drastically down it is literally insane. I have not seen schools of adult bunker in Long Island sound in 3 years. This commercial harvesting absolutely need to be regulated and harvests by industrial fertilizer companies must be stopped. If proper actions are not taken, there will be dramatic, severe revolt and damages done. Mark my words.
Jennifer Wilson Pines	New York	Other (please specify)	Audubon chapter president on Long Island	The impact is also being seen on the south shore of Long Island and New Jersey with diminishing productivity in successful fledging of Osprey. Serious studies need to be done so that the Committee can make a decision based on science
Maryanne Adams	New York	Concerned stakeholder		The importance of menhaden for a healthy ecosystem cannot be emphasized enough. These fish are not just a cash cow for the fishing industry. Their role as a vital food source for osprey, for example, needs to be considered when proposing a management plan. Please keep the importance of menhaden to other life forms in mind when making recommendations about taking them out of the food chain.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Luka Rodriguez	New York	Other (please specify)	Frequenter of Atlantic shores	The overfishing of our Atlantic waters is killing not only killing ospreys, but damaging the microbial communities and ecosystems of the ocean. This will lead to the demise of the current balance of nature in the Atlantic, eventually causing damage to humans and ruining the beautiful nature we cherish and spend our free time in. Do not take nature for granted and take without ever giving back.
Cathy McConnell	New York	Concerned stakeholder		The return of the Osprey has been an inspiring conservation victory. Let's not let them down now! Especially if the only reason they are starving is that their food is being taken to create fish meal!
Mike Mcloughlin	New York	Private recreational angler		there should be a 5 year moratorium on any bunker harventing to let all the stocks rebound and reassess the state of all the fisheries then and not put corporate profits over our ocean
Kimberly Williams	New York	Private recreational angler		There should be zero roll over of unused quota except for unusual circumstances that prevented boats from fishing. If we can't catch fish because they are unavailable, then that is telling us something important that has not yet been picked up by stick assessments that have a multi-year lag. If you can't catch fish because they are not there, it's rediculous to allow more to be caught the next quota period. Also the season should start later to allow fish to grow larger, move around the bay, and be available for predators. ASMFC needs to let menhaden live longer and grow larger. If it was technically feasible I would be suggesting a size limit minimum of 8 inches total length to correspond with size of 50% maturity. ASMFC needs to stop confusing targets and thresholds. Be responsible and manage to the targets.
Matthew Spataro	New York	Private recreational angler		There's no bunker!!!!!

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Timothy Kennedy Regan	New York	Other (please specify)	Marine Wildlife Cinematographer - menhaden, whales, sharks, fish	These options are way too lax. Menhaden is known as the most important fish in the sea, not due to its monetary value, but because of its contributions to each ecosystem that hosts the fish. Harvesting this public resource at the current unsustainable rate should be deemed criminal. It is frankly inappropriate to consider any approach which does not guarantee at least a 75% of rebuilding this biomass.
Susanne Fordham	New York	Concerned stakeholder		This is critically important. It's right up there with DDT and the urgency needed to address immediately. We can't wait for another nesting season to FAIL like it did this year!
Frances Greenberg	New York	Concerned stakeholder		We must act to preserve the Bay against overfishing
Matt	New York	For-hire vessel owner/operator/crew		We need to do something and fast. It should've been done years ago, but God willing we have an opportunity to salvage our current situation now; and need to take advantage and reduce the quota by 50%. That is the only option that will possibly save our fisheries
Christopher Gagnon	New York	Private recreational angler		Why allow a foreign (Canadian) company fish in American waters at all? Reduction fishery by this company should not be allowed!
John Conboy	New York	Other (please specify)	Wildlife conservation	Why do you make this so difficult. Just ban industrial fishing for menhaden. Simple. Get rid of the omega boats.
Raphael Wakefield	New York	Private recreational angler		With atlantic menhaden stocks and hauls dropping, it is imperative to at least try to reduce take until such time as this has been proven ineffective or the fish stocks grow. The decline in ospreys that birdwatchers have observed are a warning signal that should be taken seriously
Joe Bragan	New York	Private recreational angler		Yes, more needs to be done in regard to the purse seining happening off NJ and Nay waters.

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James Jones	New York	Other (please specify)		I study osprey which rely on bunker!
norma sloane	New York	Other (please specify)		interested in osprey
Mary A Weber	New York	Other (please specify)		concerned voter, love biodiversity
Jean Norris	North Carolina	Other (please specify)	Recent visitor to Maine, impressed by lobster fishing	Helping the ospreys will add some protection for the entire ecosystem. It may end up being the reason the fishery survives. Plan for detecting, and discouraging, poaching.
Ann Christensen	North Carolina	Concerned stakeholder		I am a former resident of Maryland and lived on Chesapeake Bay. It is important to carefully manage that ecosystem to protect the ospreys and all the other species dependent on a properly functioning ecosystem.
John Willis	North Carolina	Private recreational angler		I want the greatest reduction in menhaden harvest in the bay as possible. It is crazy to put all this fishing pressure on such an important fish for the ecosystem.
Daphne McKibben	North Carolina	Other (please specify)	I just am trying to protect ospreys, and therefore fish	Please save these fish. If the fish die, all the coast ospreys will as well, resulting in a severe decline of many species. Thank you.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
John DeLuca	North Carolina	Concerned stakeholder		Please strengthen menhaden fishing limits so Ospreys can recover and that coastal ecosystems continue to function.
Colt	North Carolina	Other (please specify)	Conservationist, sportsman, fisherman, & extremely concerned about the declining osprey population. In NC we have to deal with trawling in the estuaries…. We understand directly how telling osprey populations are.	Protect our water. Ospreys tell us how
Cynthia Sampson	North Carolina	Concerned stakeholder		Thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in this survey. I care about it deeply. Best regards, Cynthia Sampson

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Amelia Boyer	North Carolina	Concerned stakeholder		The menhaden fishery has been poorly managed for years. The impacts up and down the food chain has impacts on us too. With thoughtful management I hope this problem can finally be addressed.
WILLIAM YOUNTS	North Carolina	Concerned stakeholder		these choices support lowering menhaden's Chesapeake Bay cap to 50% of the current 51,000 metric ton fishing limit. They also break the fishing season into three "quota" periods, so Osprey won't need to compete as much for food during the most vulnerable times of their life cycles. And to give the Commission the ability to plan and react to changing conditions, the Chesapeake Bay cap would be reviewed every 3 years.
Jared L Saum	North Carolina	Private recreational angler		This fish is the lifeblood of the entire eastern seaboard fishery. I urge you to reduce the catch
Terrence Ginn	North Carolina	Private recreational angler		You need to stop kicking the can down the road. The Chesapeake Bay Menhaden population is the last viable population along the eastern seaboard than can repopulate the resource on the east coast. It affects way more than Virginia! The loss of the menhaden biomass along the eastern seaboard has decimated many fisheries that rely on menhaden as their food source, not to mention the effects on the bird population and reduction in water quality that is caused by the reduction of the menhaden biomass. Please recognize the incredible importance of menhaden in the food chain that so many other species need to survive.
Colt	North Carolina	Other (please specify)		Sportsman, fisherman, & extremely concerned conservationist. Ospreys are a direct tell of our fisheries
Kelly Levenda	Oregon	Concerned stakeholder		N/a
Risa M Mandell	Pennsylvania	Concerned stakeholder		I'd prefer that we humans let fish be and live their lives. We don't need them for nutrition, see pcrm.org and https://www.bryant-terry.com/books. i don't regard fishing as a sport since it's hardly a level playing field: Fish and other animals don't have opposable thumbs or a prefrontal cortex comparable to ours - therefore, foul play. Thank you for including this field for additional comments.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
William Lytle	Pennsylvania	Private recreational angler		American fisheries should benefit American companies and communities.
Alison Ames	Pennsylvania	Concerned stakeholder		As this is a conservation measure, conservation groups and advocates thereof must have the final say.
James Suleski	Pennsylvania	Private recreational angler		CUT MENHEDEN HARVEST AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE OUR ENTIRE INSHORE ECOSYSTEMS ARE COLLAPSING!!! WHAT THE HELL ARE WE WAITING FOR LOOK AT WEAKFISH STOCKS, STRIPER RECRUITMENT, AND OSPREYS!!!
Nanci Sarcinello	Pennsylvania	Concerned stakeholder		For question 8 I do NOT want status quo. Beyond that I don't understand enough in questions 8-10 enough to make specific choices. For question 8 I want seasonal time periods and caps arranged so that the taking of menhaden will have the least adverse impact on the fishery and other predators.
Rodger Waldman	Pennsylvania	Concerned stakeholder		https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0165783626002183?via%3Dihub
Ann Myers	Pennsylvania	Other (please specify)	Birder	I have seen the decline in osprey babies.
Jason Kirschner	Pennsylvania			I selected these options for the least fishing, but in actuality I want no fishing, for the sake of the menhadens and the species that depend on them — from birds to whales — and because the Chesapeake Bay serves as a nursery for many of these animals. The Commission should consider the interests of all, not solely those who fish.
Roberta Petusky	Pennsylvania	Concerned stakeholder		I trust all the testimonies by the fishing community in favor of supporting a strong predator-prey relationship. Menhaden is essential for supporting weakened ecosystems and fisheries across the east coast.
Hannah Malfitano	Pennsylvania	Concerned stakeholder		I would prefer a moratorium followed by a 50% reduction

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Janet Toole	Pennsylvania	Concerned stakeholder		I've made my selections in the survey for the least fishing but, in actuality, want no fishing, for the sake of the menhadens and because this fishing will disrupt the ecosystem by reducing the amount of fish "food" available to other types of fish. I believe the Commission should consider the interests of all and not solely those who fish.
Robin Queenan	Pennsylvania	Concerned stakeholder		If we let corporations set their own ethics and moral judgement for what is fair they will use all the natural resources available as quickly as possible. It's the public's job to make sure wildlife and birds who also depend on those resources get enough to survive. There is no way to reverse extinction. Thank you very much. I am grateful to you.
Mary prosser	Pennsylvania	Other (please specify)	Concerned citizen	One of the most thrilling sights is to see osprey dive into the water, and come out with a fish. Nature must be protected, because when it's gone, it's gone.
Liz Brensinger	Pennsylvania	Other (please specify)	Conservationist / birder very concerned about the decline of Osprey populations around the Chesapeake Bay	Osprey came close to extinction during the 1960s, but fortunately their populations rebounded after the banning of DDT. Now, according to the American Bird Conservancy, Osprey nesting success in the Bay is at its lowest level ever recorded — even lower than during the height of the DDT crisis. An estimated 5,000 Osprey chicks are starving to death each year around the Chesapeake Bay, according to ABC, with overfishing of menhaden being the main culprit. Please take action to support the health of Osprey populations and the overall health of the bay ecosystem. Thank you.
Landon Moore	Pennsylvania	Private recreational angler		Please also significantly lower the coastal total allowable catch

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Ryan loughlin	Pennsylvania	Private recreational angler		Please also significantly lower the TAC
Grace MacNeill	Pennsylvania	Concerned stakeholder		Please ensure all species reliant on menhaden are protected.
John Carbutt	Pennsylvania			Please lower the quota for the health of this amazing estuary!
Elliot Gerber	Pennsylvania	Private recreational angler		Save the Osprey, Save the Rockfish which have been decimated.
Kathleen Juracka	Pennsylvania	Private recreational angler		Thanks for the opportunity to give opinions.
Aaron Blair	Pennsylvania	Private recreational angler		The Chesapeake Bay is menhaden population is declining and the species that depend on them for forage along with them. To save our striped bass fishery and dwindling osprey populations of the mid and lower-bay, the menhaden quotas should be reduced to the maximum extent for a three year period, after which time the stocks can be reevaluated.
Mary Krupa	Pennsylvania	Concerned stakeholder		The Commission must act now before menhaden populations collapse any further. A healthy menhaden fishery is critical to the livelihoods of thousands of people and contributes millions of dollars to local economies. Our fisheries are a public resource that need to be shared and stewarded for future generations. Allowing one foreign company which employs only a few hundred people to grind up the vast majority of this 'most important fish in the ocean' is reckless. Quotas have to change now.
Carole Ackelson	Pennsylvania	Other (please specify)	Concerned Citizen	These choices support lowering menhaden's Chesapeake Bay cap to 50% of the current 51,000 metric ton fishing limit. They also break the fishing season into three "quota" periods, so animals won't need to compete as much for food during the most vulnerable times of their life cycles. And to give the Commission the ability to plan and react to changing conditions, the Chesapeake Bay cap would be reviewed every 3 years.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Jennifer Chapman	Pennsylvania	Concerned stakeholder		Management Board: I am a Pennsylvania resident, conservationist, and avid bird watcher, and I am writing as an individual citizen who cares deeply about the health of the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Coast. I grew up near the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland, and the Bay has been an important part of my life for as long as I can remember. I continue to spend time throughout the Chesapeake region and regularly visit the Atlantic Coast, including the Delaware beaches and New Jersey Shore. As someone who spends a great deal of time observing birds and wildlife in these ecosystems, I have a personal stake in ensuring that the forage base supporting these species remains healthy and abundant. I strongly support reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by up to 50% and establishing a dynamic Bay cap tied to a fixed percentage of the coastwide Total Allowable Catch (TAC), such as 13.6%. I urge the Management Board to adopt these protections rather than treating the Chesapeake Bay as a separate reservoir of menhaden available for intensive harvest. The Bay cap should be directly connected to coastwide management. If the coastwide TAC changes, the Bay cap should change proportionally. A dynamic cap tied to a fixed percentage of the coastwide TAC would prevent the Chesapeake from experiencing a disproportionate increase in harvest pressure simply because coastwide quotas have changed. The Bay is not an isolated fishery; it is a critical component of a larger coastal ecosystem. Its management should reflect that reality. I also strongly support an option to reduce the Bay reduction cap by 50% and establish strict seasonal or split-period allocations. Harvest pressure should not be concentrated into a single season or short period when menhaden are particularly important to predators and the broader food web. Spreading harvest over defined periods—and reducing the overall amount available for reduction fishing—would provide greater protection against concentrated fishing mortality and help preserve menhaden when and where they are most ecologically valuable. This is fundamentally an ecosystem issue. Menhaden are forage fish, and their value cannot be measured solely by the pounds available for reduction harvest. They are an essential food source for striped bass, ospreys, marine mammals, and numerous other predators. When management removes large quantities of a forage species from an ecosystem, the question

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Linda Rowan	Pennsylvania	Other (please specify)		Bird watcher concerned about Osprey that rely on Menhaden as a food source.
Amy Langman	Pennsylvania	Other (please specify)		Birder and one who believes greed never solves anything
Linda L. Campbell	Pennsylvania	Other (please specify)		Private citizen concerned about the balance in nature and maintaining food supplies for various fish species
Perry Kendall	Pennsylvania	Other (please specify)		Concerned about our environment
Summer	Pennsylvania	Other (please specify)		I want to protect their predators and them.
Judy Kramer	Pennsylvania	Other (please specify)		Osprey supporter
Debra metzger	Pennsylvania	Other (please specify)		I care about the environment.
Kim E Soroko	Pennsylvania	Other (please specify)		I'm concerned about wildlife and our planets well being

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Steve chafee	Rhode Island	Private recreational angler		Local waters use to be loaded with menhaden and now are completely void. Occasionally there will be peanuts in the LIS Sound estuary but very few an far between. Also lots of Dolphin and brown sharks probably looking for food. Ospreys further up Ct River hunting for food while the chicks are starving and die in the nest. All for the industrial fleets greed. Please stop this downward spiral. Thank you for taking this up
Ben DeMario	Rhode Island	For-hire vessel owner/operator/crew		All these studies and meetings is a waste of everyone's time and money. It's plan as day the numbers are WAY down. Shut the fishery down completely for a few years and watch what happens. Yes, people will lose jobs, but people jobs in the menhaden industry are not more important than the jobs that the menhaden support in other areas. Anyone who has a commercial interest in menhaden should not have any say in this because all they are thinking about is their bank account. They are not thinking about next years numbers of menhaden or the food source they are taking away from fish and animals. Shut it down, let it rebuild to record high numbers and then go from there.
Ben Bartoszuk	Rhode Island	Private recreational angler		Constant review of addendums impacting commercial and recreational fisheries is vital to maintaining meaningful conversation and understanding between the scientific and harvester communities.
Mary Alice Smith	Rhode Island	Concerned stakeholder		I support lowering menhaden's Chesapeake Bay cap to 50% of the current 51,000 metric ton fishing limit. I also support breaking the fishing season into three "quota" periods, so Osprey won't need to compete as much for food during the most vulnerable times of their life cycles. This gives the Commission the ability to plan and react to changing conditions. the Chesapeake Bay cap should be reviewed every 3 years.
Marc Grandmaison	Rhode Island	Private recreational angler		In all fairness, do what needs to be done to bring back the oceans bounty.
Seguin Spear	Rhode Island	Concerned stakeholder		It is essential for all stakeholders that we protect the continued population of menhaden through reducing harvest and stress on fish populations along the Atlantic.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Joshua Bartoszuk	Rhode Island	Private recreational angler		Menhaden are the base of one of the most diverse and plentiful food chains in the United States, providing economic and recreational value to millions across the eastern seaboard. Any inaction on the matter of harvest quota reduction should be considered as a deliberate attempt to continue to sabotage one of the most important ecosystems in the United States and the world.
Jackson Foster	Rhode Island	Private recreational angler		N.a
Michael Long	Rhode Island	Private recreational angler		No
David Prockop	Rhode Island	Private recreational angler		Now that we know how badly the menhaden population has been depleted, it would be irresponsible not to respond to this knowledge in ways that will allow the population to regrow. Reductions in allowable catch should be made immediately, and measured against catches in most recent years (not against previous quotas, which have not been reached because the population is already so badly depleted). If you act decisively to allow the menhaden population to regrow, it seems likely that will help support populations of other fish, such as striped bass. Protecting menhaden now might therefore allow striped bass to need less protection in the coming years. Thanks for soliciting these comments, which I hope and trust you will take seriously as you make these decisions.
Kevin case	Rhode Island	Private recreational angler		Ospreys nest failed this year in large numbers, obvious what's going on.
Scott	Rhode Island	Private recreational angler		Please limit ALL of the menhaden harvest including the entire East coast. Chesapeake and Narragansett bays.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
James M Gilbane	Rhode Island	For-hire vessel owner/operator/crew		Stop commercial pogie dragging. Every fish eats them. I cast net bunker a single time this spring for my charter business for targeting striped bass.
Ethan Fuller	Rhode Island	Private recreational angler		Stop destroying our bunker stock and the fishery for foreign companies to profit.
Jason Protass	Rhode Island	Other (please specify)	Osprey conservationist	The decline of the fishery corresponds to the increased mortality of osprey. Dead young and juveniles are reported to have starved to death. Historical links suggest the cause is the status of the manhaden fishery.
Gigi D'Onofrio	Rhode Island	Private recreational angler		the full 50 percent Bay cap reduction, tied to the coastwide limit and split across three seasons under Option B2's 25/25/50 allocation, meaning the fewest menhaden would be removed during Osprey nesting season!
Chris mcintee	Rhode Island	For-hire vessel owner/operator/crew		There is a significant decline in menhaden in the waters I fish. It's currently October 8th and every harbor, bay and estuary should have schools of peanuts in plain view. There's none in our harbors, I see a few small schools throughout the bay in a day I run 50 miles in the boat. There's not been adult menhaden all year. We need to significantly reduce the harvest of menhaden
Hank DeWolf	Rhode Island	Other (please specify)	Osprey nest observer	We installed an Osprey nest in the marsh behind our property eight years ago since the first initial season, we have always had at least two fledglings leave the nest as adults. 2026 is the first year that we had no fledglings in our nest or any of the other nests in Barrington Rhode Island. Narragansett Bay lobster Tuna Buyer PT Judith all summer long and thus there was no forage for the ospreys to feed offspring had they had them. In addition, as an avid Fisherman, the lack of menhaden as forage for striped bass and bluefish caused Narragansett bay to be void of these species for most of the summer. The giant bluefin fishery is also a predator of the menhaden causing lower production this year.

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Robert Westbury	South Carolina	Private recreational angler		Commercial harvest of Menhaden should be greatly reduced or eliminated in the USA. Find another source of protein, maybe lab grown?
Nicholas Armstrong	South Carolina	Concerned stakeholder		For the love of Christ, please…
Andrea Schechter	South Carolina	Concerned stakeholder		Please consider this thoughtfully to protect the osprey population.
Sandra	South Carolina	Other (please specify)	We use to boat on the Chesapeake Bay Area.	Should be reviewed yearly
Sherry A Oliveri	South Carolina	Private recreational angler		Thank you.
JEREMY FROST	South Carolina			The shortage of forage fish has had such a negative impact on all species it can not be tolerated and must be addressed!
Tom Cushman	South Carolina	For-hire vessel owner/operator/crew		This is a confusing and bullshit form . Stop taking the fuckjng menhaden you bought and paid for asshats
Janelle Musser	Tennessee	Concerned stakeholder		Follow science and protect wildlife and fisheries for future generations, not just those making money now.
Sue Denosowicz	Texas	Concerned stakeholder		The opinions of everyone concerned about fish must be considered, not only the opinions of fishermen or those in the fishing related industries.
Linda Gionti	Vermont	Other (please specify)		Citizen concerned about crashing Osprey populations.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Francis M. Sprinkel, Jr.	Virginia	Private recreational angler		"I support a 50% reduction in the bay cap and the use of quota periods."
Lesley Gamble	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Property owner on Gwynn's Island in the Bay	1. Reductions are only a step. Stop all industrial harvesting of menhaden in the chesapeake bay. The scale and methods are inappropriate, unsustainable and grossly wasteful (ie pollution and "bycatch"). Do not allow one large company from Canada, Cooke, to deploy industrial scale fishing to remove large quantities of a keystone species that supports a multitude of lives, human and more than human, and, as a result, a multitude of local businesses, not to mention families, towns and counties. 2. Food and economic security are primary and fundamental to a healthy democracy. Do I want to be dependent on a multinational corporation based god knows where for my food? Or do I want to be able to bait my own hook and catch fish in my own backyard? Failing that (I fail a lot!) pay a local charter to take me fishing or simply pay local watermen and women for my seafood? I vote for the later! I want the reciprocity, accountability and happiness of supporting my neighbors and our local community businesses. 3. The ugly snd toxic irony of eating farmed fish is not lost on me. I don't consume it anymore. It's supposedly taking pressure off wild fish stock but that's a lie. In fact, using menhaden to feed farmed fish steals from the wild fish, ospreys, local watermen and the entire ecology and economy of the bay. 4. Instead of incentivizing a rich multinational company's literal killing field for "making a killing" let's designate the Bay a sanctuary for menhaden regeneration so the bay's ecology, people and enterprises thrive and flourish right along with them. Thank you. With kind regards, Lesley
Brian Malsch	Virginia	Private recreational angler		50 percent reduction is a good start, overages in catch limits should be fined heavily.
Charles Machek	Virginia	Private recreational angler		A combination of the most restrictive measures needs to be passed! The Chesapeake Bay's food chain needs to be protected. Reduction fishing needs to be ended in the Chesapeake Bay.

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Mary Broome	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		A lower quota than proposed as an option would be desirable.
John cantrick	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		A reduction is essential for the health of the marine life in the Chesapeake Bay!!!!!!
John Bush	Virginia	Private recreational angler		A revised cap is sorely needed to restore the health of the Bay. Omega and Ocean Harvesters have been overfishing the Bay for years and it is time to rein them in before further damage to the ecosystem occurs.
Mario Balitbit	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Adopting a more conservative approach to menhaden fisheries will increase the chances of other species, such as ospreys, recovering during turbulent times. Regardless of the outcome, Virginia and the Atlantic and Gulf coasts still need more science and conservation strategies moving forward.
Farrah B Sutton	Virginia	Other (please specify)	None	All fishing rules should apply upon next season opening for best estimates.
Bart	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Biologist, Fisherman	Allocate a percentage of bay quota to pound netters and bait fisherman.
Polk Kellam	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Appropriate conservation measures on menhaden harvest, especially in Chesapeake Bay, are long over due.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Lynne S. Haynie	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		As a concerned citizen of Northumberland County, I strongly urge the Board not to consider any further cap reductions on the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery. From a biological standpoint: The ASMFC website reports that menhaden are not overfished. The Science Center for Marine Fisheries is completing research that will create a pathway for developing a scientifically sound and ecologically just harvest cap. Where is the logic in creating more restrictions on a healthy population before that research is complete? From a community standpoint: I am concerned about the economic impact resulting from any cut to the Bay harvest cap. A reduction in landings below the break-even point could force Omega Protein to close. In a rural community, with no comparable jobs, this would cause severe economic hardship for the many workers and their families whose lives have been tied to the menhaden fishing industry for generations. For those reasons, I ask that no further restrictions are imposed on the Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishery. Thank you.
Elizabeth Lipford	Virginia	Private recreational angler		As a forage fish, menhaden are the basis of the food chain that provide ecosystem benefits for fish , birds and all the way up to whales. The most protective measures should be deployed to provide the maximum amount of benefits for nature to thrive in the Chesapeake Bay and along the Atlantic coastline. Thank you for considering these protective measures.
Edmund Brodie III	Virginia	Private recreational angler		As a professional ecologist, it is clear to me that the massive erasure of a key resource at the base of the food web is having decimating effects on higher trophic levels. As a resident of the VA Bay region, I've watched stocks of aquatic predators (Striped Bass, Red Drum) and Osprey plummet to near zero in my local rivers over the last 5 years. The ecosystem cannot sustain the current level of harvest any longer

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Julie Ellis	Virginia	Private recreational angler		As a resident living on the Rappahannock River and a recreational angler who enjoys many days on the bay, I support the following: Section 3.1 Bay Cap Amount: Options C1e (reduces the Bay Cap by 50% and then links it to the Coastwide catch limit at a 13.6% proportion) AND option C2a (Upper Cap limit of 51,000mt and no lower limit) Section 3.2 Bay Cap Distribution: Options B2 (3 even length/uneven harvest quota periods 25%-25%-50%) AND Option B (establishes quota period overage and underage provisions) Section 3.3 Bay Cap Revisit Provision: Option B (revisit the Bay Cap every 3 years) Thank you for seeking feedback and fighting for the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Dr. Julie Ellis
James Hammond	Virginia	Private recreational angler		As a Virginia resident and lifelong recreational angler, I strongly support the 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay menhaden reduction fishery cap. I grew up fishing Virginia waters and believe protecting menhaden as a critical forage fish is essential to the long-term health of the Bay and species like striped bass. Given the concerns about localized depletion, I believe a precautionary approach is warranted rather than waiting until the damage is clear. Please adopt the 50% reduction.
Ryan Goodman	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		At the current rate, the age of Menhaden is tracking younger, which doesn't bode well for the future of the industry nor the local ecology that depends on Menhaden for nutrients. Intervention is necessary because I want a sustainable harvest that supports communities and think in the long term. We need to cut the Bay Cap before it's too late.
Don	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Ban all Canadian owned companies from Chesapeake Bay. Require at least 3nm in the ocean only
William Klein	Virginia	For-hire vessel owner/operator/crew		ban reduction fishing

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Kammie Lee	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Center for conservation biology published their 2026 Osprey report. Worst breeding year ever. 50% worse than DDT years. Menhaden are being overfished and will lead to the decimation of the Osprey population.
Lucile Miller	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Commercial catch of menhaden should no longer be allowed in Virginia waters due to the its negative impacts on game fish and birds, especially striped bass and osprey. These species require a dramatic recovery of menhaden to survive. It is time for decisive action.
Gorden Trutt	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Consider if you will this is not just a resource and object it is life itself
Luna Nordstrom	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Consider that Osprey are the "canary in the coal mine." I personally monitored 15 Osprey nests this year, with a combined group of 38 nests. Only 2 fledglings from my nests survived. The overall sustainability rate was .4 --and we believe that several survived because a person was actually supplementing the Osprey parents by putting fish on his pier (we don't support this, but desperate times...) Over and over I watched the adult Osprey dive and miss--until they would finally catch the smallest of fish. Osprey don't miss. They are efficient fishers. But they struggle with the tiny fish, and there aren't many large fish this year or the past two years. It has been devastating to watch nests fail through the season: Females not laying eggs; eggs failing because the female had to leave the nest to fish herself because the male wasn't able to catch anything; chicks failing because the female again had to fish; fledglings failing because the parents did not bring them enough to eat; and fledglings failing because they could not find enough fish. Every single young dead Osprey that we salvaged had starved. Our nest success rate is now lower than during the DDT years. I speak to several folks a week, on the Potomac River and along the Atlantic shore, that tell me the same news, that their nests are failing exactly the same. Osprey are NOT failing on the West coast. They are NOT failing in the Great Lakes area. Those Osprey thrive on other oily fish in those areas. They are doing just fine in Colorado, where they eat trout. This is an East coast failing, and it is directly related to a scarcity of what our East coast Osprey eat for their best nutrition--menhaden. Thank you.

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Debbie	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Bay use for wildlife watching	Destruction of the Bay has resulted from over harvest of menhaden for decades.
DAVID B FRANCIS	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Do not allow menhaden harvesting inside the bay, period! Send them 3+ miles offshore, at least! Follow the rule ever other state has in place. Reduce quota by more than 50% for at least 3 years then revisit. Send the Omega boats offshore and away from the Bay.
Victoria Elsbernd	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Do the science - complete the studies first before making any decision to cut caps.
Bernard Berne	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Draft Addendum II, which will consider reducing the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap by up to 50%, does not go far enough. The Chesapeake Bay fishery cap needs to be reduced by at least 80%. The present uses of menhaden benefit nobody except those who profit by catching and processing the fish and selling the finished product. None of the uses are actually necessary. In contrast, the fishery's adverse environmental impacts, which likely include declines in populations of other fish species, ospreys, bald eagles, and other parts of the food chain, are immense.
Jack gerstein	Virginia	Private recreational angler		E we need to do something before we loose it I've rec and commercial fished and it's not right out there
Gwen Gubeli	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Efforts to sustain this resource are greatly appreciated.
Diana Hutchens	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Eliminate Menhaden fishing completely like all other states! I was born and raised on the York River and have lived on a boat half time for past 32 years. There used to be fish to be caught but very few anymore, extremely sad. We travel up the bay several times each season and it is heart breaking to see them fish the Bay so broadly. When coming down the Bay this summer, when we crossed over the Potomac River we saw the Menhaden Fishing Trawlers fish right up the the Maryland line, it was digusting to see them push the envelop that we call our Chesapeake Bay!

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Kevin Lane	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Wildlife Rescue/Reha b	Every consideration should be given to protecting the menhaden and the wildlife in the Bay, in rescue and rehab we see every day how hard it is for wildlife, continuing to overfish menhaden in the bay will only make things worse.
Ronald Marino	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Fishing in the Bay is being destroyed by the current Menhaden harvest. All humans, birds and sealife that depends or counts on fishing opportunities in the bay are severly compromised due to Menhaden reduction harvesting.
Vance Hopkins	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Fishing tackle dealers have closed at an alarming rate for the past 10 years due to dwindling stock of consumer recreational fisheries. This has been mainly due to a lack of forage fish(menhaden)
Thomas P. Charlock	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Birder (osprey reproduction threatened by menhaden fishing)	For the interest of birding (osprey reproduction in Ches. Bay), please cut the amount of reduction fishing in the Ches. Bay; professional watermen transporting sport fishing have same interest.
Kathleen M Stewart	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Osprey advocate	For the protection of the Ospreys, it is most important to reduce the current cap by the highest amount and to spread the take period, with the highest concentration delayed until the Ospreys leave the Bay on their migration South in September.

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ann violi	Virginia	Other (please specify)	private citizen concerned with our environment with the goals of economic and physical sustainability.	Given the damage menhaden hauls have perpetrated, I would like to see a moratorium on any harvesting with a plan to compensate those workers who would be directly impacted- maybe switch to flax seed oil..Some inventive planning might suffice.
Alan Wingfield	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Given the emergency and dire condition of Osprey breeding in the main stem of the Bay, the balanced approach here is the most protective options provided. I would have preferred more stringent option, including an outright moratorium. But of the options given, the most protective represent a balance between ecological concerns and the interests of those involved in the reduction fishery.
Susan Laume	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Given the intense ecological warning signs present in the Bay for successive past years, with Osprey chick starvation, and Menhaden not moving to upper Bay reaches, with impact to other fisheries and industries, the most severe cut backs in reduction fishing should be adopted most quickly.
John Brooke	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Having abundant menhaden is critical for maintain osprey populations.
Lori Scheibe	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Hello- I grew up along the Potomac River when the river was very polluted and Bald Eagles were dying out. We came together and reduced river pollution and Bald Eagles are thriving now. We need to save the Osprey and everything else that relies on the Menhaden. Thank you for caring about our Food Web.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Michael Snow	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Honestly the Bay Cap is directly affecting our stripped bass population in the Chesapeake bay and we have not been monitoring this well at all. Also by reducing the cap now we will allow the population of menhaden to rebound and harvests could sustainably be higher in the future if populations return to what they were in 1990s. Please reduce the harvest and help our fishery for all parties involved.
Dale William Neal	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		How does the caloric density and lipid content of Atlantic menhaden compare to other Chesapeake Bay forage species? Atlantic menhaden (Brevoortia tyrannus) function as the premier high-octane prey in the Chesapeake Bay, offering significantly higher lipid concentrations and caloric densities than nearly all competing estuarine forage species. While lean species like bay anchovy and spot deliver baseline protein, adult menhaden build immense fat reserves from direct planktonic grazing, making them nutritionally indispensable for large piscivores building energy for migration, overwintering, and egg production. - Chesapeake Bay Foundation Forage Species Typical Lipid Content (% wet weight) Caloric Density (kJ/g wet weight) Primary Nutritional Role in the Bay Atlantic Menhaden (Age 1+ / Adult) 8% – 18%+ (peaks in late fall) 6.5 – 9.0+ kJ/g High-energy fat packets; critical for adult striped bass, cobia, and osprey. Atlantic Menhaden (Age 0 / Peanut bunker) 3% – 7% 4.5 – 6.0 kJ/g Transitional energy source for juvenile predators and diving birds. River Herring (Alewife / Blueback) 6% – 12% 5.5 – 7.5 kJ/g High-lipid spring forage, but temporally and spatially limited by spawning runs. Bay Anchovy 2% – 5% 3.8 – 4.8 kJ/g High-volume, low-fat protein base fueling young-of-the-year predators. Atlantic Silverside 2% – 4% 4.0 – 5.0 kJ/g Lean inshore forage for juvenile gamefish and marsh-dwelling predators. Spot (Juvenile) 2% – 5% 4.2 – 5.2 kJ/g Protein-dense benthic prey; low energy per gram compared to pelagic clupeids. Mummichog / Killifish 1.5% – 4% 3.5 – 4.5 kJ/g Low-lipid, lean estuarine forage relied upon in marsh shallows.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Brandon Maddox	Virginia	Private recreational angler		I am 45 years old and have fished the rivers and the bay my whole life. I have never seen so few schools of fish as i have the past 10 years. Each year gets worse and worse. If nothing is done we will see a collapse of the bays ecosystems within my life time. I love to catch and eat fish, nowadays its more of a boat ride than a fishing trip. 50 percent reduction is not enough, close it until a fully independent multi year study can be completed. If we were talking about any other species of fish the season would have been closed years ago ie herring, shad, ect.
Forrest Spaits	Virginia	Shore-side support industry (e.g., bait and tackle shop owner, boat retailer)		I am a fishmonger in Virginia and have begun working more in depth with our local seafood institutions, alongside the fishermen and farmers who make this industry possible. Omega Protein is extremely unpopular, and we want them OUT OF OUR WATERS. We can acknowledge that this is a nice step in the overall fight for menhaden, but this is not enough. We must ban foreign corporations from destroying our ecosystems and support our watermen at home. Thank you.
Robert Walker	Virginia	Commercial harvester or dealer		I am a resident of Reedville Virginia and work for ocean harvesters. I strongly vote option A no change to the bay quota.
Janet Gohres	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Birdwatcher, conservationist, recreational fisherwoman	I am againt allowing reduction fishing of menhaden in Chesapeake Bay. It is depleting fisheries on up the Atlantic Coast and starving wildlife as far north as Maine.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Virginia Wycoff	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		I am an avid birder currently living in the Commonwealth of Virginia. I previously lived in Florida and had many opportunities to observe Osprey in all of their splendor. The impact of menhaden overfishing has decimated the Osprey population and needs to be curtailed to restore the area as a viable Osprey breeding ground. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this draft addendum and am hopeful that changes will be made to reinvigorate the Osprey population. Ignoring the impact on the Osprey population caused by menhaden overfishing is unconscionable. The changes for which I have expressed support are an imperative first step to begin to remedy the devastating impact of the current state of menhaden fishing in this region. I implore you to make the changes for which I have expressed support.
Arthur R. Wycoff	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		I am an avid wildlife photographer currently living in the Commonwealth of Virginia. I previously lived in Florida and had many opportunities to photograph and observe majestic Osprey. Unfortunately, the impact of menhaden overfishing has decimated the Osprey population and needs to be curtailed to restore the area as a viable Osprey breeding ground. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this draft addendum and am hopeful that changes will be made to reinvigorate the Osprey population and ensure the health of the ecosystem. Such action would also prevent the menhaden population from plummeting, which would destroy the livelihood of many people. Ignoring the impact on the Osprey population caused by menhaden overfishing is unconscionable. The changes for which I have expressed support are an imperative first step to begin to remedy the devastating impact of the current state of menhaden fishing in this region. I respectfully request you to make the changes for which I have expressed support.
Michael Lipford	Virginia	Private recreational angler		I am concerned about the decline in living resources of the Chesapeake Bay that are dependent on a healthy forage fish population. Specifically seabirds like osprey, terns and shorebirds as well as recreational fish like striped bass. These concerns extend to the Atlantic coast as well. It is time to responsibly limit menhaden harvest and monitor the effectiveness of those measures on a regular basis.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Christine Brown	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		I am most invested in the health and welfare of the raptors that feed on the fish and will defer to scientific research.
David L Rosmer	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Boat owner and recreational fisherman and environmentalist	I am not against the menhaden fisheries but over fishing harms all and, if allowed to continue, will force it to end at some point in the future.
Barbara Slatcher	Virginia	Other (please specify)	I was an surf fisher in VA and NC, now bird watcher	I am sending my comments separately

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Tom Burkett, Seasider Charters LLC	Virginia	For-hire vessel owner/operator/crew		I am the owner and captain of Seasider Charters LLC. We operate ecotours in both the lower portion of the Chesapeake Bay and the Seaside of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Our charter business is one of many in this coastal region that depends on a healthy, properly managed fishery. The coastal region of Northampton County where my business operates remains the hardest-hit area by the menhaden reduction fishery. Net-set data show that more menhaden reduction nets are set in Northampton County than in any other county on the Eastern Seaboard. The Northampton County Board of Supervisors recognized the inequity and the socioeconomic strain the menhaden reduction industry places on our region of the Chesapeake Bay and local businesses. For this reason, the Northampton County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved an Industrial Menhaden Moratorium Resolution. The resolution came after years of county concerns regarding the health of the menhaden stock, record low striped bass and osprey recruitment numbers in the Chesapeake Bay, and public health and economic issues caused by the industry's persistent fish spills and concentrated extraction in the lower Chesapeake Bay region. The resolution remarks that the ASMFC and the Atlantic Menhaden Technical Committee can not provide Northampton County scientific assurance that the spatial or seasonal stock of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is healthy, or quantify the ecological and socioeconomic impact of localized depletion due to concentrated industrialized Atlantic menhaden fishing techniques in the Chesapeake Bay. The ASMFC should take the most conservation minded reforms available at this point in time until scientific assurance can be provided. I call on the ASMFC to approve the most conservation-minded reforms that better protect menhaden and support a healthy Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and the businesses that depend on a healthy ecosystem, including reducing the Bay Cap by 50 percent in 2027 and implementing quota periods to more effectively distribute reduction fishing pressure throughout the season. Support these conservation-minded reforms. Local businesses like mine are depending on you to take action and properly manage our fishery. Thank you, Captain Tom Burkett Seasider Charters LLC Northampton County Virginia

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Stacie D. Hendrickson	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		I am writing in support of Omega Protein and Ocean Harvester ("Omega"). Keep the cap the same or raise it. This is not just about menhaden, this is also about people. Prior to retiring to the county Omega operates, I was a corporate Chief Operations Officer and I know your decision to further reduce the cap will economically crush this community. Further caping Omega's catch limit will be a case study in what not to do with regulatory authority and you will own the results of your actions. Omega created Reedville and has been a staple in our county for nearly 150 years. It is our county's single largest employer and its impact reaches far beyond people who receive a paycheck. Omega creates $100 million in economic activity for the state of Virginia and is a supplier to the largest food production companies in the country. Omega is a national treasure, a historical landmark, and a source of pride. Omega has long term commitments and investments in this region. This region, in return, has made generational commitments to the fishing industry. Their continuing operations is the return on investment. Omega employs over 250 people and twice as many indirectly. They provide $29 million a year in payroll and benefits to our friends and neighbors. This money doesn't disappear into a corporate balance sheet. It goes home with local families. It is spent on our homes, at our grocery stores, restaurants, gas stations, and other local businesses. Additionally, Omega sources all of its business supplies and services locally which, in turn, supports other businesses and families. You are wrong to take these jobs, these families, and our economic future for granted. Omega takes its role in my community seriously - it means something to them. It should mean something to you as well. Your own data shows the menhaden population is healthy and thriving, yet you want to reduce catch limits again. This will create an unsurvivable economic ripple effect across this region, while not providing any environmental solutions. Your decision to reduce their limits is a lose - lose proposition. Omega has addressed your issues, they have yielded, they have compromised, and they have adapted to new regulations again and again. Let's find a way to allow our community to thrive while also protecting the Bay. The two have coexisted for nearly 150 years. Omega has been part of Northumberland County for generations so let's make sure it remains part of our future.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
James Deaver	Virginia	Private recreational angler		I believe restrictions should be put in place now and see if the fisheries improve. If little or no restrictions are increased and the fisheries do not improve or get worse, you have kicked the can down the road and missed an opportunity to do something before it's to late.
Jimmy Harris	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		I believe that the bay is over fished for this important resource. Sorry that Reedville and Omega Protein is protesting this initiative. Its part of being in a business for profit, and adapting to change. The greater good should be for the bay. I was born and raised in Virginia and spent a lot of time on the bay.
Sarah Mayhew	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		I believe the Council must balance the needs of the fishery to remain viable with the long-term harm to the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. At this point, it appears the Chesapeake Bay has been seriously harmed. The reduced harvests should remain in effect until an adequate scientific study of the age categories and abundance of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay has been completed. Relying on historical data is not going to maintain a viable fishery in the future. We need the new data.
Tyler Nonn	Virginia	For-hire vessel owner/operator/crew		I depend on bunker nearly every day in my charter business we run hundreds of trips a year with multiple boats, providing multiple jobs in a small town. Many of our guests stay at local hotels and VRBO's and eat at local restaurants.
Mary Kane	Virginia	Other (please specify)	environmentalist	I feel there must be controls on overfishing

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Mark Headly	Virginia	Private recreational angler		I have fished Chesapeake Bay since 1977. I have had my own boat since 2001 and fished between 5 and 20 times per year on the Bay. I really would rather VA followed Maryland's lead and banned netting in the Bay, but since that is highly unlikely, I would prefer the options noted above. The Bay has always been exploited by both recreational and commercial fishermen, but the technology and capabilities of 2026 are orders of magnitude more effective at removing menhaden than the methods available 150 years ago when Reedville claimed its place in fishing history. I fish mostly out of Smith Point and it is evident to me when we head south into VA waters and see the Reedville menhaden fleet and their spotter planes that they are taking a significant chunk of the menhaden in VA waters just based on the equipment and effort expended.
Samuel Gaddy	Virginia	Private recreational angler		I have fished in the Chesapeake Bay for 65 years. During the moratorium on rockfish, the boom years after the moratorium was lifted and now it's not worth going for rockfish as there are so few. I know there has been overfishing but now there is nothing for them to eat as the menhaden are being sucked up in factory ships. We would regularly see menhaden being 12" or larger now 5-6" is the norm. I live is Deltaville,VA and our bay used to have 14 active osprey nest now there are 3. There is nothing for them to eat either. I beg the commission to take action to reduce the menhaden quota but I would really wish Omaga would be banned from catching the fish in the Bay.
Gary Tingley	Virginia	Private recreational angler		I have kept my boat on Sara's creek, Gloucester Point since 2004. In addition to the drastic reduction of Rockfish population, the three Osprey nests in the channel did not produce any chicks for the first time in 22 years. No available Menhaden!
Ed Knight	Virginia	Private recreational angler		I have lived at the mouth of the York River and the Chesapeake Bay for the past 15 years. I have experienced a steady decline in the menhaden population as evidenced by the lack of Gannets in late fall that follow the schools of menhaden in the water.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Andrea Levine	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Recreational angler, Master Naturalist, Wildlife observer	I have lived on the Bay since 2008, am an avid responsible angler, bird watcher, and a Master Naturalist since 2023. In recent years I have witnessed a marked decline in our Striped Bass population as well as numerous failed Osprey nests. The quota questions being proposed here are not addressing the real concerns of overfishing in the Bay. Unbiased scientific research and data must be presented in a timely manner in order to present the facts. Asking the general public to choose quotas is biased and irresponsible. In the meantime, why is it that Virginia is the only state still allowing Menhaden fishing in the Bay? My vote would be for a total ban in the Bay until we have real data before the damage becomes irreversible.
Wayne Johnson	Virginia	Private recreational angler		I have owned property on a creek that feeds into the Bay for 20 years. There are many charter fishing captains who are canceling trips because the Bay can no longer support charter fishing. Menhaden reduction fishing is one cause that can be immediately corrected with these changes. I appreciate your support.
Kenneth Hil	Virginia	Private recreational angler		I have personally witnessed the decline of menhaden in the bay and the negative impact on dependent species. We need to reduce the catch in the bay substantially.
Christine H Llewellyn	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		I have seen an increasing number of starving osprey come into wildlife rehabilitation care over the last few years. We have to give them a fighting chance at survival by not removing their food source.
Bill Hafker	Virginia	Private recreational angler		I have seen for myself the damage being done to an entire ecosystem, one of the greatest estuarian ecosystems in the world, for the profit of a single company, whose products all can be found/made in other ways. This is an unconscionable behavior, and one that will be looked back on with disdain if those responsible for its control, allow it to continue unchecked, until the fishery collapses under Omega's own greed and the fish are gone not only in sufficient numbers for the rockfish and ospreys and other that rely on them, but for the owners of Omega.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Tom Dolan	Virginia	Private recreational angler		I have witnessed the Bay fishing becoming worse every year for the last 20 years. The trophy Striper season has become nonexistent. I have also witnessed the excessive harvesting of these bait fish. They are the life of the food chain in the bay and this cannot continue.
Karen Pica	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		I hold a PhD and have been following the research. There is no scientific study that supports reductions that is peer reviewed and replicable. There is no scientific study that identifies the optimum osprey population in order to say it is being decimated. There are scientific studies identifying how the current harvesting is not harming the marinelife and it is being ignored. Decisions regarding this life-sustaining decision cannot be made on emotion only. Follow the science as it shows there is no scientific rationale for further reductions in the menhaden harvesting.
Alfred Ellis	Virginia	Private recreational angler		i honestly dont think omega/industrial reduction should be fishing in the bay at all. Its an animal nursery and should be a national park frankly
David Helms	Virginia	Private recreational angler		I live on the Mobjack Bay in the lower Chesapeake Bay. Bunker fish were once abundant especially as the year progressed and almost every Osprey nest along the Ware River were successful in raising a pair of chicks. Now, few schools of bunker are observed, Osprey chicks are starving and dolphin pods rarely appear in the river. While coast-wide trawl surveys may indicate the Menhaden Fishery is stable, this is NOT the case in the lower Chesapeake Bay.
Steven Guilday	Virginia	Private recreational angler		I politely urge you to take action to protect the bay and it's important "foundation fish". Virginia is the only mid Atlantic state who permits this public resource to be decimated as they do. And to what end? The protection of a few jobs. This backwards thinking impacts us all…detrimentally to be clear. It is time to wake up - I am on the bay 2-3 days a week, and while my feedback is anecdotal and not scientific, I am also in the right.
Angela Woodward	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Concerned citizen	I pray we can make a change!

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Lilia Komleva	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		I selected the options above that would allow the least amount of fishing, but my actual preference is for no fishing at all, both to protect the menhaden and for the reasons stated above. The Commission should consider the interests of all residents, not just those who fish.
Jennifer R Salan	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		I selected the options for "least" fishing but in actuality, I'd like NO fishing of this species because it is a vital part of the Chesapeake Bay habitat. Already we're witnessing declining fish populations because the Menhaden is in decline. We don't need to allow the fishing of Menhaden for fish oil or fertilizer - we need them to get back to solid numbers to keep the rest of our fish safe and healthly.
Ruth Amundsen	Virginia	Other (please specify)	waterfront resident, boater	I still think the book "The Most Important Fish in the Sea", although old, is illustrative of why we need to limit menhaden catch, for the overall health of the Bay, general commercial catch and sport fish populations, and ospreys specifically. I think allowing a non-US-owned, non-local company to make a huge profit by stripping our Bay of a valuable asset is unconscionable.
Scott Graves	Virginia	For-hire vessel owner/operator/crew		I strongly support a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay menhaden harvest cap. Menhaden are a critical forage fish supporting striped bass, bluefish, osprey, eagles, and the broader Bay ecosystem. Meeting coastwide population targets does not guarantee adequate forage in the places predators need it most. Concentrated industrial harvesting is depleting this essential food source in the most vital feeding and nursery area. We should act before ecological damage becomes irreversible. I urge the Commission to adopt the full 50% reduction and prioritize the long-term health of the Bay, its wildlife, and future recreational fishing opportunities over short-term industrial harvest interests.

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Patricia Quinn	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Birder concerned about severely declining Osprey population	I strongly support the Osprey population in the Chesapeake Bay.
Letitia Johnson	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		I support and stand with CBF in supporting these strong conservation-minded reforms

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Daniel E Davis	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Fishery Cap and spreads remaining harvest later in the season. Status quo is not precaution. It is continued industrial extraction from the last East Coast reduction fishery in a nursery estuary while ospreys fail and striped bass remain overfished. 1. Ospreys and striped bass are already paying the cost of the current cap. Peer-reviewed research from William & Mary's Center for Conservation Biology, USGS, and partners found widespread osprey reproductive failure in high-salinity Chesapeake waters, where the birds depend most on menhaden. The authors conclude that reduced Atlantic menhaden availability is a primary driver of poor reproduction. Menhaden deliveries to nests have fallen sharply over decades; diet energy content has dropped; chicks starve. Recent field results are worse still: productivity in saltier waters fell to about 0.25 young per pair in 2026, far below replacement, with a projected rapid decline if conditions do not change. ASMFC's own ecological reference points treat striped bass as the most sensitive modeled predator. Striped bass are overfished. The 2025 assessments lowered the ecological reference points and supported leaving more menhaden in the water. A 20 percent coastwide TAC cut does not fix concentrated purse-seine harvest inside the Bay during the weeks when ospreys are provisioning chicks and when Maryland bait fishermen need fish moving up the estuary. The addendum itself notes concentrated mid-summer reduction landings and a sharp drop in Maryland pound-net harvest. That is exactly the pattern three quota periods are meant to interrupt. 2. This fishery exists to serve one industrial complex. Virginia is the last Atlantic state that still allows industrial reduction fishing in state waters. Ocean Harvesters takes the Bay reduction harvest and supplies Omega Protein's Reedville plant. The 51,000 mt Bay Cap is not a Bay biological reference point. It is a historical-landings number that reserves a public forage base for one reduction operation. Other states ended this practice. Maryland watermen and the Bay's predators should not have to absorb the residual risk so that one mid-Atlantic processing system can keep an annual industrial allocation. 3. The data gap is real. That is why the burden of proof belongs with those who want to keep the 51,000 mt cap. Draft Addendum II is honest about what it does not know. There are not sufficient scientific data to fully describe Bay abundance, movement, and the effect of fishing. The

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Terri Cuthriell	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		I support reduced harvest so that ospreys, marine birds, and native fish can rebound. Also, I support reduced harvest because more menhaden in the Bay provides more Bay filtering. Thank you
Luke Lemon	Virginia	Private recreational angler		I support the following selections
Gregg Shivers, MD	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		I support the Manhaden fishery remaining a sustainable and viable industry for the Northern Neck of Virginia. At the same time, there is ample evidence that there is a decline in nesting pairs of Osprey and successful broods (an indicator species). A recent study by the Eastern Ecological Center points to a decline in manhaden stock as a prime cause of the documented decline in Osprey numbers. What appears to be missing is scientific data on the population of Manhaden and making a confident link between overfishing in the Chesapeake estuary and the environmental impact. I am hopeful that the VIMS research funded through the state will help to clarify what bay cap will lead to a sustainable fishery both economically and environmentally.
Tim Morgan	Virginia	Private recreational angler		I sympathise with the commercial fishing interests but it is important to address the obvious deficit of menhaden in the bay. So the fundamental change needed now, until we have better science, is to push the fishery out of the bay to the ocean.
Kathryn P Miles	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Live on the bay	I understand that commercial fishing has a life component of supporting the families that work there, but I feel big business is taking advantage of our fragile ecosystem and do not want an important part of that ecosystem driven to extinction for business and greed. Many other businesses rely on this fragile ecosystem. When we moved here to the lower bay I was excited to watch an osprey nest from my backyard. After our first year here it has never been active again. Our neighborhood nests have gone downhill. It is heartbreaking to watch the adult ospreys soar over the bay and dive, with nothing in their talons when they rise. They are an important part of our ecosystem and they must have access to menhaden. I am against allowing OMEGA their current seemingly free rein to over fish our menhaden. PLEASE ACT

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Victor Luftig	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Tourist	I visit the region from the Charlottesville area with my family at least once per year, and the ospreys are an essential reason for those visits. We have spent money in Reedsville and the surrounding towns. I think the Commonwealth should be providing support for the fishing industry to offset losses that would be the result of reduced fishing of menhaden, but I think such reductions are imperative.
Tomoko Hamada	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Bay front Property owner,Master Naturalist, and founding member of Osprey Watch Alliance	I would like to have total moratorium for three years but this is not the option gI can have,so I support this addendum B4 for 50percent reduction
Leah Shepherd	Virginia	Private recreational angler		I would like to see a moratorium in the Bay for 3 years or until the game fish and Ospreys come back in numbers similar to 2015.
Thad Konopnicki	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		I would prefer a total elimination of the menhaden harvest in the bay and its tributaries. Harvest in the ocean line every other state. You are killing our osprey and striped bass.

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Rossie V. Baker, Jr.	Virginia	Private recreational angler		I've lived in Hampton Roads my entire life and have fished the lower Chesapeake Bay for a good 40 years. I have never seen fewer and smaller schools of menhaden than I have in 2026. The Reduction fishery has decimated that baitfish population and the State of Virginia has never successfully limited the catch. Twenty years ago, we arguably had the best striped bass fishery on the east coast. Now, it's just gone. There's a good fishery near the Maryland state line, because they (Maryland) kicked Omega Protein out. But Virginia just can't seem to take that step. Politicians on Omega's payroll is the going theory and there's no evidence to dispute that theory. Please do something. A 50% reduction to the bay cap would be a great place to start.
Tim Hatok	Virginia	Private recreational angler		I've watched the amount and quality of sport fish decline over the 26 years I've been fishing in the bay. I've also noticed a massive reduction in schools of menhaden each summer. These have to be linked. The destruction these menhaden cause while actively fishing can't be understated. Every time I see them the amount of dead bunker too small for the nets, the filthy sludge that comes off of the boats, and the dead by watch like turtles, rays, red drum is appalling.
Molly Rae Pearl	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		I'm concerned about the declining Osprey population and am voting accordingly

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Roberta Kellam	Virginia	Other (please specify)	birding and ecotourism	discuss the Atlantic Menhaden. There were two important points made at this summit (see page 34): (1) There was an ongoing concern of the decade-long decline in recruitment in Chesapeake Bay. (IN 2004!) (2) Menhaden have diminished compared to its historical abundance in the Chesapeake Bay. (Again, this decline is noted in 2004 – we are now in 2026!) In 2004, significant concerns were raised about the historical decline of Atlantic Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay. After 22 years of inaction, ASMFC is now poised to finally reduce the Bay quota to a level that might allow restoration of the species, although it might already be too late. We don't know if it is too late because ASMFC never directed the studies to be done on the Bay after the 2004 Summit. Shame on ASMFC. Important issues were addressed in the 2004 Summit – some of which led to attempts to develop an ecological reference point, and some which were significantly delayed by the Menhaden Reduction Industry's political influence (i.e., a Chesapeake Bay study). Please note the following: Page 11: "The importance of menhaden to osprey, loon, and brown pelican can be assessed in quantitative terms. Birds should be used as a bioindicator." Page 13: "There has been a negative trend in recruitment to age 0 over the last 20 years. Age 0 and 1 are not fully selected by the fishery. Age 1 shows a declining trend in recruitment as estimated by the model for age 0 and age 1……The latest assessment shows that Atlantic menhaden are not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. The model does not address localized depletion in areas such as the Chesapeake Bay." Page 19: Effects of Concentrated Harvest in the Chesapeake Bay, Historical and current removals from the Bay (Doug Vaughan, NOAA Fisheries) "Chesapeake Bay is the center of the species range for Atlantic menhaden (Brevoortia tyrannus). Menhaden form large near surface schools and are obligate filter feeders. They are an important pathway from the primary producers to higher-level piscivores. Menhaden spawn offshore and the larvae are transported into the estuaries. Juveniles reside in estuaries during their first year of life. Juveniles migrate from estuaries to the ocean in late fall. The migratory pattern from tagging demonstrates one population that moves north in spring and stratifies by age and size along the coast in summer. Larger fish of similar age move farther north. In Chesapeake Bay, ages 1-3 predominate. In the Mid-

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Tanya O'Connor	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Recreational boater; human who cares about the planet and other species, particularly their wellbeing in the Chesapeake Bay.	In order for a fishery to be properly managed and any change to be meaningful, there MUST be independent oversight, separate from relying on data Omega provides!
Miles Townes	Virginia	Private recreational angler		In question 11, the Revisit Provision should be modified to include “or sooner as may become necessary by changed conditions.”
Betsy Washington	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		In view of the critical role of the Chesapeake Bay as a primary nursery area for Menhaden young of year and the findings that 2026 is the worst year ever recorded for predators of Bay menhaden populations including Osprey, strong measures are a must to protect and rebuild breeding and young of the year populations and protect the Bay ecosystem. As a former Fishery Biologist that worked with Larval and juvenile fish populations the management policy needs to do everything possible to protect the juvenile populations and early age populations in the Bay.
Lee Ceperich	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Industrial fishing should be restricted to three miles offshore. No industrial fishing should occur in the Chesapeake Bay or Rappahannock River or any estuary.
Paul Anderson	Virginia	Private recreational angler		It appears that the ecosystem in the bay, including breeding ospreys, is dependent on an abundance of Menhaden. I am in favor of all actions and restrictions that will increase and protect the menhaden population in the bay and adjacent coastal waters

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Dennis Parmenter	Virginia	Private recreational angler		It appears that the past over harvesting has had an adverse impact on the overall health of the bay. The water quality has diminished significantly since remaining filter fish are insufficient to maintain water quality Therefore increasing the red tides and dead zones.
jean nelson	Virginia	Other (please specify)	bay resident	it has been verified that ASMC made damaging stock assessment mistakes on two fronts five years ago. ASMfc staff acknowledged their miscalculation and determined that a 50 to 54% reduction in bay cap is necessary to correct their serious error. this tracks with Asmfc's own reporting that states that landings since 2021 are the lowest in 80 years. omega is not in business to leave fish behind, but they have shortened fallen significantly short of their tac during this same timeframe proving that they have devastated the bay stock for at least five years. A 50% reduction is what was recommended by your own experts. The large number only reflects the magnitude of the damage that has already been done. Omega will fish themselves out of business if allowed to - save them, save the bay, while theres something left to save. your five years into a serious miscalculation and that 50% number will grow exponentially larger every year you delay already five years into this mistake miscalculation what they failed to put this place
Paul Hartman	Virginia	Private recreational angler		It is a crime that commercial fishing is destroying the sport fish in the Atlantic and companies are getting rich stealing fish from the American sportsmen!
Richard Parker	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		It is a shame that our state has allowed the overharvest of menhaden in the Chesapeake for so long. It's hard to not think it was political. We should all be ashamed of ourselves for allowing this overharvesting to go on so long. The Osprey cannot reproduce enough to sustain their population, and it is a sad thing to see starved chicks that Osprey pairs could not feed due to no menhaden. If the Osprey population collapses forever, we have only greed to blame, and we should be ashamed of ourselves as a civilization to have been such poor stewards of our planet. The fishing recreation industry is collapsing also, and that will hurt Virginia in many different ways.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Theodore Hoffmann	Virginia	Private recreational angler		It is absolutely critical to reduce the quota in the Chesapeake Bay to provide food for game fish like striped bass and for osprey.
Joette Borzik	Virginia	Other (please specify)	certified VA Ecotour Guide and local resident	It is hard to imagine that we as Americans would not want to protect our keystone species like the Osprey. I believe we should halt all catch of menhaden in the Chesapeake, like Maryland and other states has done. Obviously this is not an option, but I asked in the questions above for the strictest regulation on menhaden harvesting.
David Shantz	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		It is past time to implement reasonable, *science based* quotas to the indiscriminate harvesting in the Bay that has been allowed up to now. The Menhaden Reduction Industry has leveraged their political power for too long, and their actions and harvest totals pose a continuing, and compounding threat to not only the Menhaden fisheries, but the entire ecosystem of the Bay. Please follow the best science based guidance to regulate this harvest as has been intended. Do not cave to political pressure that continues to have long term negative impacts, not only to the Bay, but to the widely varied economic interests in a healthy Chesapeake Bay.
Perry Mastrola	Virginia	Private recreational angler		It is ridiculous that any of this type of commercial fishing is done in the bay while we are trying to keep it clean and healthy. I am paying for recreational fishing licenses for all of my boats and the fishing is not that good since these commercial boats are cleaning out everything
Teig F Shaw	Virginia	For-hire vessel owner/operator/crew		It is well past time to stop kicking the can down the road. It is time to manage the resource for all concerned and NOT just Ocean Harvesters and Omega/Reedville. As H Bruce Franklin wrote: "The Most Important Fish in the Sea" Time to treat it as such.
Betsy Saunders	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Concerned citizen	Its past time to put the health of the Bay above corporate profit.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Mark Mullen	Virginia	Private recreational angler		I've been fishing the bay several times a month from march to December for over 20 years now and the number of menhaden that I come across has drastically decreased to a fraction of what it was. lets reduce the quota by 50% and keep studying them and their impact and readjust as necessary
Jon DeHart	Virginia	Private recreational angler		I've been fishing the Chesapeake Bay for 40+ years and have noticed a drastic decrease in Atlantic Menhaden, especially the last 10 years. The fact of the matter is that I've moved to fishing in Maryland waters primarily because of it. And there is an astronomical difference in the amount of Atlantic menhaden in the Maryland stem of fhe Chesapeake bay. I mainly attribute to menhaden boats from Reedville, VA not being allowed to fish Maryland waters. For this reason, we need our resources to be left alone to rebuild themselves so we can have a fishery for the next generations to enjoy. If this isn't taken care of this year, it's probably too late.
Patricia Massari	Virginia			I've selected these options for the least fishing but in actuality want no fishing. The Commission should consider the interests of all and not solely those who fish. As well, Menhaden are fish who serve as food for other animals ranging from birds to whales. Some of these species are showing population declines believed to be caused by a decrease in menhadens. The Chesapeake Bay serves as a nursery for many of these animals. Virginia is the sole East Coast state that allows these fishes to be caught for reduction fishing and that is upsetting. Thank you for your consideration.
Judy Guariglia	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Keep it as strict as possible since it's a critical key stone species. It's not just for us but everyone in the water, by the water and on the side of the water. Let nature heal so that we can enjoy more of the bounties for us and for generations to come.
Jason Lewis	Virginia	Commercial harvester or dealer		Leave the quota alone. No science saying to do anything other then leave it alone.
Mark Carstens	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Limit harvests to outside the bay and outside three miles of the coast. Implementing these restrictions would improve the bay and the fishing associated with the bay.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Thomas Faisant	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Limit the Omega Company to only go out 5 miles or more into ocean.
Peter Dezendorf	Virginia	Other (please specify)	I am witnessing the decrease in the survival of osprey chicks.	Limiting the measurable impact of menhaden harvesting by the status of other fish ignores a serious problem with birds. Osprey numbers are falling as chicks starve due to the parents unable to catch enough menhaden. I recommend starting menhaden harvesting after osprey fledging occurs.
Baxter Beamer	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Menhaden are a critical natural resource in the Chesapeake Bay. Warning signs such as dramatic Osprey declines must be heeded, and the reduction fishery should be held to account for its role in regulating healthy menhaden populations.
Meredeth Dash	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Menhaden are the most important and beautiful fish in the Bay. They are a keystone species that are at the base of the food chain for so many other Bay critters. Please do everything in your power to maintain our menhaden populations in the Bay.
Robert Allen	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Menhaden are very important to the overall health of the bay and coastal fisheries. We need responsible management of Menhaden.
Tom Fenn	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Menhaden are vital to the fall migration of striped bass into the Chesapeake Bay and represent a fishery with substantial economic impact which has not been included in the analysis. For this reason, splitting quota period 1 underage between periods 2 and 3 is important.
Matthew Lee	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Menhaden fishery should be pushed out of the bay totally to let the stock recover. I have commercial fished and recreationally fished all my life and have seen the devastating affects of over fishing of the Menhaden stock.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Rick Meinke	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Menhaden fishing should be limited to coastal fishing only. Menhaden enter the bay for a reason. Osprey and stripers follow the food source. We don't need another 10 year study to come to a decision on overharvesting, etc. The decline of fish species can't wait, while "scientists" dilly dally around with figures for years to come. The menhaden numbers are up, put Omega out in the ocean.
Christine Lofgren	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Menhaden serve as food for other animals ranging from birds to whales. Some of these species are showing population declines believed to be caused by a decrease in menhadens. The Chesapeake Bay serves as a nursery for many of these animals. Virginia is the sole East Coast state that allows these fishes to be caught for such uses as fish oil or fertilizer ("reduction fishing"). I selected the options for the least fishing, but would prefer no fishing, for the sake of the menhadens and for the reasons mentioned above. As a Virginia resident, I also ask that the Commission consider the interests of all and not solely those who fish. There are many other residents like me that treasure the Chesapeake Bay solely for the nature and wildlife. Thank you for your time and consideration.
Kevin Riley	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Most importantly the cap should be reviewed as soon as the VIMS study becomes available. I personally feel that the fishery should be shut down in the bay as it is in other states.
David H Gottfried	Virginia	Private recreational angler		My experience as a recreational angler tells me we need to do something drastic and urgent. There are fewer and fewer large fish in the Potomac and its tributaries along the Northern Neck of Virginia. I've also observed that the osprey nests are going empty with greater frequency. It's time to take urgent and meaningful action to save this precious body of water. Cut the menhaden catch by at least 30 percent and observe the results. We can adjust from there.
Russell Wilbourn	Virginia	Private recreational angler		My personal feeling is that there should be rules about what products can be produced with menhaden. Manufacturing cat food and agricultural products like fertilizer and chicken feed should be toghtly controlled or evev banned.

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James N Hendrickson	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Northumberl and County resident, retired military, tax payer	My preference was not an option, increase the cap limit. Since 2006 the cap has been reduced to learn the impact on the health of the bay. The evidence is now clear, the menhaden population is healthy. The cap should be raised. The counties impacted by the reduced cap limit have been economically harmed for the past 20 years as a result of this cap limit experiment. We are all glad we have the results but it now seems the goal posts are being moved, again. Menhaden populations are healthy but now we are being asked to suffer more cap limits and more economic damage. The science and data do not match the actions of this committee. Ocean Harvesters has business obligations and if they cannot meet them they will have no option but to close. This community has been patient and understanding of the past cap efforts, however, enough is enough. Time to back off, follow your own current data, wait until the Virginia funded menhaden study is complete and then consider those results but for now lets let the region recover economically and leave the cap limits alone of lift the cap. We have enough economic headwinds as it is, we do not need to pile this optional economic hardship on an already hard hit region. Thank you for leaving the cap alone or raising it.
Sue Anderson	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		my primary interest is to reduce the harm to osprey population.
Matt	Virginia	Private recreational angler		N/A
Sam McAdoo	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Na
Tom Endrusick	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Need additional limits on dragging the sea floor for other harvests.
Kathryn	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Resident of the bay	No

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Timshel Purdum	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		No
Roberto Gaylord Lovick	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Norfolk enviormental Office	No
Amanda	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		No
Michael Wills	Virginia	Private recreational angler		No
William Brown	Virginia	Private recreational angler		No under quotas should be able to be made up at all. You don't make your quota at any interval and you lose it. Any overages should cost the company 10x actual cost. Not minus expenses.
Rick Schwartz	Virginia	Private recreational angler		None
Gindy Feeser	Virginia	Private recreational angler		None
JAMIE D FERGUSON	Virginia	Private recreational angler		None
Kelsey Steffen	Virginia	Private recreational angler		None
Robert Hughes	Virginia	Private recreational angler		None of this matters if it's not enforced! Currently there are no inspectors/observers on these boats.

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Kate Doyle Feingold	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Not taking action will cause significant damage to the Bay. The quota should be reduced by at least 50% and the types of fishing/harvesting should be restricted.
Carl	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Omega Protein should be banned from operating US flagged vessels when they are owned by a foreign company whose profits all go back to Canada! Make them so out into international waters. Stop foreign companies from raping the Bay!
Cathy Dixson	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Concerned citizen who will push for Omega to be shut down. They are raping our Bay.	Omega Proteins needs to be put out of business. We need to save our menhaden population now, not later. I realize that closing Omega Proteins would result in some loss of jobs for the locals but perhaps another solution could be found to re-employ those who have lost their jobs at Omega Proteins.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
John Bello	Virginia	Private recreational angler		One year ago, the Technical Committee recommended cutting the coastwide Total Allowable Catch (TAC) by 50%. The Menhaden Management Board chose to ignore this committees' analysis and recommendation and only implemented at 20% reduction in the TAC for 2026. Unfortunately, that didn't work and here we are again, one year later and now the Atlantic Menhaden Technical Committee and Stock Assessment Subcommittee on September 28 said maintaining the current quota of 186,840 metric tons has a probability of 99.5% of exceeding the fishing mortality target in every year from 2027 through 2029. In other words, it is almost a certainty the target will be exceeded. Moreover, reducing the TAC to 114,200 metric tons, which would represent a 39% reduction, only has a 50% probability of staying under the target. The Management Board can longer continue to kick the can down the road on this TAC. The time to take significant and meaningful action is now. Accordingly, I strongly encourage the board to cut the coastwide TAC by 40% to 112,100 metric tons for the years 2027 and 2028. This will still result in only a 40% - 50% chance of overharvest during these years. Additionally, Set the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap at 25,500 Metric Tons. This is roughly 23% of the TAC and in line with what the harvest has been since 2018. I am cognizant these actions are harsh, but the current and recent year's harvest trend dictate the need for drastic management action.
Mike	Virginia	For-hire vessel owner/operator/crew		Osprey are suffering breeding deficits worse than the peak of DDT. That is a huge red flag that cannot be kicked down the road. Reduction of the menhaden catch in the Chesapeake Bay must occur and drastic reductions at the least should happen.
Janet Paisley	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Proponent of Osprey Conservation	Osprey had a dismal year with many starved chicks.

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Kathleen O'Kane Kreutzer	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Other fishing communities have worked this out to support both wildlife and the fishing industry. I hope that in Virginia we can show the same level of leadership and foresight.
Will truslow	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Our family home is located in Mathews Virginia along the shore of Bavon beach, the bay has changed for the worse in recent years…menhaden are harder to come by for bait each year here with that follows the game fish …we now have to run across the bay to Cape Charles to make it worth a day of fishing with such a depletion of baitfish on the western side. As an outdoor enthusiast and avid recreational fisherman on the Chesapeake bay i urge the board to please reduce the total bay cap harvest of the Atlantic menhaden inside the Chesapeake bay. Thank you . William Truslow
Angier Brock	Virginia	Other (please specify)	I am a Master Naturalist and recreational birder.	Our local Osprey desperately need the mehaden. Please protect it against overfishing so that the Osprey can thrive and the ecosystem be kept as healthy as possible.
Tom Carricato	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Overfishing menhaden is killing the bay. Any one who is on the water is painfully aware of it. Cut the quota 50% every year until stocks come back in numbers. The quota should be revisited every year.
Jason Shepko	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Phase out reduction fishing in the bay until the population of all native fish species returns to plentiful levels.
Shaun Whitworth	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Please allow the Virginia voters to take this issue to the polls. There is significantly more upside for Virginia's residents from protection of the resource vs allowing a foreign owned business to profiteer from it with very little return realized by the state.
Lisa Cannon	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Please balance business needs with environmental stewardship.

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Maryann Laughton	Virginia	Other (please specify)	concerned citizen supportive of our birds, in this case, Osprey	Please ban menhaden overfishing to support the Ospreys and other wildlife in the Chesapeake Bay. Thank you.
Gail Kynett	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Please consider the enormous impact of overfishing on our lives, not just jobs for some but the health of millions over time.
Thomas Gibson	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Please do the right thing here by taking action to reduce the overharvesting of menhaden. Studies do not need to prove what is obvious to everyone - our wildlife depend on menhaden for food. We are overfishing this valuable resource.
Ronald White	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Please establish a limit to the amount of menhaden being taken from the Bay. The industrial fishing is destroying the entire Bay ecosystem!
elaine watkins	Virginia			please limit menhaden fishing in the chesapeake bay. Virginia is one of very few who allow this.
Kierston Bell	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Citizen of Northumberl and County	Please note the comments presented at the Northumberland County public hearing.
Diane E Bowden	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Please protect our CB ecosystem.
Lee Cooper	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Please protect the Osprey. Would you like to have your babies starve to death?
Darby Groff	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Please put a stop to this madness! I have witnessed the boats firsthand literally stripping entire areas of menhaden, one at a time. As a Bay fisherman for over forty years, there is no doubt in the declines of normally healthy native species.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Brian McAvoy	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Please save our fishery in the middle Chesapeake Bay. I have witnessed the steady decline. I would like to see non- corporate funded impartial research begin. This issue is too important to ignore. Thank you
Patricia VonOhlen	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Please save the bay by drastically reducing the allowable catch of menhaden. Like to so many things in the our eco-system it's all connected. Take out too many fish then the osprey and striped bass suffer.
Bob sinclair	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Please save the menhaden for the health of the bay. Maybe the striped bass would come back to Virginia waters if so!
Karen hoffman	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Bird lover	Please save the ospreys.
Doug Hamann	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Please significantly lower the coastal Total Allowable Catch (TAC) to a level that ensures that striped bass can rebuild quickly and so that the coastal ecosystem has a abundance of bunker for all creatures to thrive
Deborah Schroeder	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Wildlife enthusiast and conservation ist	Please take action to reduce the menhaden harvest in our Chesapeake Bay. Our wildlife depend on these nutritious fish. And a healthy wildlife population (birds, fish, etc) is of benefit to all os us.
Golda Carrico	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Please, protect our environment by protecting the fish!
Pierre Guariglia	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Protect the fish so we all can benefit from what they provide for the entire east coast
James R Kortze	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Reduction fishing in the bay should be banned. Absent that, it needs to be limited as much as possible.

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Brendan McGee	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Revisit the Cap annually.
Sharon Dequaine	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Concerned resident	Save our Bay! Save our Osprey!
Brandon Goodrich	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Save our fish!
sean savage	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Save the animals. Save the Bay.
Zack Truslow	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Save the bay while we can! Reduce 50% total catch limit.
DJ Yee	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Save the ospreys. The overfishing by commercial fishing company is unacceptable. I support the welfare of wildlife especially the ospreys!
Megan	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Screw omega
Frederick Benson	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Serious reduction of the Menhaden harvest in the Bay are long overdue!
William Disney	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Shut it down 100% for two years and see how the menhaden fishery recovers. Also you have to be a lawyer to understand how to answer some of these questions. Shut the menhaden fishing in the bay now before it's to late.
Renee Banks	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Something must be done to insure that ospreys are not driven to extinction!

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Gerald	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Stop commercial harvesting for 10 years to correct the over fishing of menhaden It is at the point now that they are having trouble catching menhaden. The little fish they are catching now 4" to 6" are this year's hatching. It soon won't be financially feasible to fish for them. The BAY will be dead saidly
Arthur Miles	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Stop menhaden fishing by Omega in Virginia. Let them fish in the ocean.
Edward	Virginia	Private recreational angler		STOP Menhaden reduction fishing in the bay now!!! It may already be too late.
A	Virginia	Other (please specify)	I feel very strongly about the menhaden destroying our osprey population	stop the greed. protect our ospreys
Andrew Clay	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Stop the menhaden harvest for 2 years and then see if other fish return
Kevin Smith	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Stripers, Gray Trout, Blue Fish, Osprey and other predators rely on Menhaden to thrive. The decline of the above species are a clear sign that Menhaden are overfished in the Chesapeake Bay

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Anneke DeLuycker	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Subject: Public Comment on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), I am writing today as a dedicated wildlife advocate and resident to express my strong support for the most protective management measures under Draft Addendum II. Specifically, I urge the Commission to select Option B4 to implement a 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap, lowering it to 25,500 metric tons. I also fully support establishing seasonal quota periods to eliminate the severe, concentrated industrial harvest that occurs during critical wildlife breeding seasons. Atlantic menhaden are the foundational fuel for the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. Our local wildlife is currently sending us an unambiguous warning sign that the current cap is unsustainably high. Forage depletion has led to an unprecedented ecological crisis for local predators. Recent research from the 2026 nesting season shows that osprey reproduction rates have plummeted to near-zero levels in many parts of the Bay, with widespread chick starvation directly linked to a lack of menhaden. Other species such as bald eagles, loons, gannets, whales, and dolphins all depend on robust menhaden schools to thrive. Allowing a single industrial entity to extract over 100 million pounds of these essential fish annually from a concentrated nursery area like the Chesapeake Bay undermines ecosystem-based fisheries management. To protect the food web that sustains the Bay's incredible biodiversity, please pass the 50% cap reduction (Option B4) and mandate strict seasonal quota splitting to distribute and minimize localized depletion. I am a professor of Conservation Biology and have a direct connection to showcasing osprey to my students, and have noticed a considerable reduction in osprey nest success, hatchling deaths (due to starvation), and overall decline in osprey adult presence in the Jug Bay Preserve (MD) over the years. There is scientific evidence that directly tie menhaden decline with osprey decline. Thank you for your time and your dedication to protecting our shared marine resources. Sincerely, Anneke DeLuycker, Front Royal, Virginia

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Thomas W. Powell	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Support kicking Omega out the Chesapeake Bay entirely but this is a start.
James Davis	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Thank you for considering my opinion
Emily Landon Davies	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Thank you for doing an honest and transparent job of protecting our Bay ecology.
Anton Sorkin	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Thank you for listening ASMFC. Time to act!
Andrew Tonra	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Thank you for opening this up for public comment and providing this survey
Kristin Giordano	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in and support this important work! The decision that you are making impacts the possibility for future commerce in the Chesapeake, tourism dollars, recreational anglers, and all of us who live, work, and recreate in the Bay. Thank you for thinking about the future of our community in 3, 10, 20, and 50 years as you make these decisions. These decisions affect all of us and can ensure that we protect some of our most vital resources before we lose them forever.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
A. M. Lindemann	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		regulation of menhaden fishing and menhaden sustainability in the Chesapeake Bay region of Virginia; I am sincerely appreciative. I am both Virginia native and resident in the Chesapeake Bay region. In my younger years, I sailed competitively up and down the Chesapeake Bay. As an adult, I have variously been an award-winning NASA research engineer, turned award-winning economic development leader across several Mid-Atlantic states, now entrepreneur. I also currently serve on a local wetlands board, as well as the board of a statewide conservation nonprofit. Throughout, I have loved and long enjoyed the bounty that is our State: the waters; the land; the citizenry; the wildlife. I assert that, in the Chesapeake Bay region, menhaden fish are over-fished, and that the problem is a very serious if not dire one. I also take the position that commercial fishing of menhaden regionally must be significantly limited, if not eliminated altogether. I base those assertions on myriad scientific reports – through the last 10, 5, and even more recent years, as well as multi-year personal observation – that convincingly point to this unwelcome conclusion. Parallel findings of dangerously reduced or compromised populations of both marine and avian species that are vitally dependent on menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay for their survival are red flags that must not be ignored any longer. Anecdotally and very personally, from my own careful observations through the last almost 15 years in the area where I live in Hampton Roads at the mouth of the Elizabeth River, the exclusively menhaden-dependent Osprey population – thriving more than a decade ago – has crashed. Back then, I used to be able to regularly take pictures of the numerous successful nesting pairs in my immediate surroundings, along with Ospreys living on my own property. Frequently at that time I could witness and photograph upwards of 20 Ospreys at a time hunting over the river, however such a scene has in the interim disappeared from the scene. By 2018, the one remaining nest of the year in my environs failed. By 2022, I almost never saw an Osprey with a menhaden catch. By late April 2023, there were no Ospreys in the area, which meant no nests that year or in all the years since, either – a true documentable tragedy, but one completely preventable and also correctable provided the needed Menhaden protections are put into place. It is an undeniable red flag that all states but Virginia have enacted

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Mary McLean	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Thank you for your careful considerations of these choices weighing in with those who have the most to lose.- For the Ospreys - their lives.
Stephanie Lessard-Pilon	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Thank you for your consideration of this important species and fishery!
Danny Pettengill	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Thanks for allowing our input. Menhaden need protection from overfishing by out of state/country interests. The osprey decline is linked. Thanks for considering action to protect our wildlife and fisheries.
Shawn Maxwell	Virginia	Private recreational angler		The Bay and surrounding rivers have been a longstanding pastime for our family for years! Doing anything and everything to ensure its health is not only desirable but necessary for future generations.
KEN KLOTZ	Virginia	Private recreational angler		The Bay Cap may be revisited more frequently than every 3 years, and probably should be considering the condition of the menhaden population at this time, but at least with a 3 year schedule it wouldn't be more than 3 years..
James Clay	Virginia	Private recreational angler		The bay is almost dead for the recreational fishermen I would like to see it come back
Kent	Virginia	Private recreational angler		The bay quarter needs to be reduced to for Omega protein
Pippa Holloway	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		The Chesapeake bay is a treasure. Please protect our ecosystem.
Caroline Coe	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		The Chesapeake Bay is an invaluable resource nationally, regionally and as part of my personal heritage. The health of the BAY as a total system must be sustained.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Scott Wiley	Virginia	Private recreational angler		The Chesapeake Bay is the most important nursery and feeding ground on the Atlantic Coast, and menhaden are one of the most important species in that ecosystem. They feed striped bass, ospreys, dolphins, and countless other predators. The reduction fishery removes millions of pounds of these forage fish from the Bay to be processed into fishmeal and fish oil with no tangible penalty or repercussions for overfishing quotas. While the overall Atlantic stock may still be considered healthy, that does not tell us whether enough menhaden remain in Chesapeake Bay waters to support the ecosystem that depends on them. The Bay should be managed as an ecosystem, not as a source of raw material for industrial processing. We have invested decades and billions of dollars into restoring the Chesapeake Bay. Protecting the forage base that supports striped bass, ospreys, and other wildlife should be a fundamental part of that effort. I urge the Commission to eliminate the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery and leave more menhaden in the water where they belong. If a reduction to the cap is approved, it is a step in the right direction, but we must do more to place heavy fines, and devastating consequences to those who overfish this cap and exceed quotas.
Wayne Young	Virginia	Private recreational angler		The Commonwealth of Virginia has consistently placed the interests of the menhaden reduction fishery above conservation of the species fin the Chesapeake Bay and its approaches in Virginia coastal waters for the benefit of predators that rely on menhaden for forage and the public interest. The Commonwealth has yet again failed to fund essential studies needed to support well-informed fisheries management determinations. Unfortunately, the politicians and the reduction fishery interests don't want the answers to the questions that the planned studies would produce. Therefore, the ASMFC is encouraged to continue its proactive efforts to conserve menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay which is critically important not only to the menhaden as a nursery but also as a forage species for important sportfish and the associated sportfishing and commercial fishing sectors which rely on them. The boundary for Chesapeake Bay menhaden fisheries management should also include a buffer in coastal waters around the entrance so that the Bay quota isn't compromised by concentrated reduction fishery harvest effort in menhaden migration paths in and out of the Bay.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Brett Jones	Virginia	Private recreational angler		The current menhaden capture is decimating the Bay. We have seen Osprey numbers plummet in recent years- this requires massive intervention.
Lindsay Bomgardner	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		The current rate of harvest of Atlantic Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is not sustainable nor proportionate to broader Atlantic harvest. The harvest rates in recent years are incredibly concerning for the success of the Chesapeake Bay fish. Despite not having an in depth and focused study, it is evident that the number of Menhaden in the Chesapeake has greatly decreased in recent years, which should result in a decrease in fishing pressure as well as the improvement of fisheries independent surveys within the region. The limited scope of focused research on the species leads to inaccurate assumptions of the appropriate harvest levels, so more work needs to be done to ensure that this fishery is able to continue in the future and balance is able to return to the system. Menhaden support many other recreationally and commercially important fish as well as birds and other wildlife. They are an essential part of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and provide many people with their livelihood. Without proper management and harvest limitation on the species, their chance of success is greatly reduced. Creating an appropriate limit based on research and the current state of the fishery is the only way to ensure that they will remain stable and healthy.
Michael H Freeman	Virginia	Private recreational angler		The current status quo has decimated the fishery. The osprey aren't reproducing and the catch amounts have dropped precipitously year over year since the omega plant increased its catch volumes in the mouth of the Rappahannock. This has had devastating effects on the tourism/recreational fishing industry around here.
T van	Virginia	Private recreational angler		The damage to the environment due to overfishing on the bay is obvious. Normal fishstocks are decreasing due to the lack of bunker to include rockfish and cobia. The osprey have not returned in the same numbers the past 10 years also due the over fishing in the bay.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Kevin Howe	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Retired Ichthyologist & Researcher	The ecosystem needs help and menhaden are a keystone system to this ecosystem. The decline of baitfish and the declines in sportfish are bioindicators. Further the precipitous decline in Osprey young survival is due to research indicating the delivery of menhaden to the nest has been reduced as much as 80%. While some say Menhaden are abundant, yes, they are to the reduction fishery but not to the ecosystem itself. This has become painfully clear. While I feel sad in regard to the Menhaden commercial fishing personnel, history shows a crash is likely in the near future - a crash from which the ecosystem may not recover.
Craig Freeman	Virginia	For-hire vessel owner/operator/crew		The full 50% reduction should be given to the reduction fishery. This would be ideal as Virginia just funded the study of Manhattan in the Chesapeake Bay and we need to have time to make the study work. If I reducing the cap, it will ensure there are menhaden to study.
Rosanne Lush	Virginia	Private recreational angler		The impact of fishing on Osprey and other birds of prey is vitally important. We should take whatever measure necessary to ensure they are not fished out of existence. Once they are gone, they can never come back. Please protect our most precious natural resources, including the animals who rely on us to respect nature's balance.
Julie V. Kacmarcik	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Conservation Chair Richmond Audubon	The menhaden are a public resource that provide for the complex ecosystem of the Chesapeake Bay. Time is up. The harvest of the most important forage fish in the ocean/bay is risking the sustainability of many species. Because it is now vividly seen in the collapse of osprey populations throughout many portions of the Chesapeake Bay must tell us that something is also going on below the surface disrupting the balance of this vital ecosystem. The decision to stop this overharvesting of menhaden is not a personal attack at an industry. It is a decision to do the right thing to protect our fish, our Bay and all that it is. Because something is a tradition, does not in itself mean it is the right thing.
Joan Keith	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		The menhaden are overfished and causing great harm to the ecosystem, in particular for the osprey whose numbers are in sharp decline in the Chesapeake Bay.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Katy Marchello	Virginia	Other (please specify)	consumer and a part of wildlife and nature conservation	The menhaden are overfished and causing great harm to the ecosystem, in particular for the osprey whose numbers are in sharp decline in the Chesapeake Bay. Virginia is the only Atlantic coast state that allows industrial-scale trawling for menhaden.
Elisabeth Brisebois	Virginia	Other (please specify)	I believe it should not be fished at all and left for osprey birds.	The menhaden fish should be completely and totally left to the birds. They were here first and should not have to starve and starve their chicks.
Dave Nolan	Virginia	Private recreational angler		The menhaden harvest in the bay is adversely affecting many species. Menhaden harvesting should be moved out of the bay and in to the ocean.
Erik Harwell	Virginia	Private recreational angler		The menhaden industry has been paying off state level politicians for years. The current harvest rate and associated by catch is unsustainable. An overabundance of menhaden would be far more beneficial than the small schools that remain. I have spent many thousands of ours on the bay and its tributaries, the decline has been drastic. Sewage dumping and lawn fertilizer run off are also major contributing factors but of all the primary issues facing the bay, a significant reduction in the menhaden harvest is the easiest and quickest to implement
Gabriel Joseph shen	Virginia	Private recreational angler		The menhaden is too much of an important resource to the bay to allow over harvest

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Andrea Steegmayer	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Resident	The Menhaden issue has been around for a long time and the board has continued to decline to act to protect our resources. This is not acceptable. Wildlife and people depend on it. Other states have long provided caps. The collapse of the Hering industry should be a warning. The ocean is not an unlimited resource for us to squander or to provide profits for a Canadian company. The folks in Reedville could be out of jobs before long once the resource is decimated-and then what?
Susan Mastyl	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		The menhaden population in the Bay is critical to many other species -- ospreys, striped bass, blue crab, and others -- as well as many fishing, tourism, and recreational operations. It is critical that we manage this resource conservatively -- a population crash of this forage fish would have devastating and permanent consequences.
Tyla Matteson	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		The menhaden populations must be allowed to recover. If these options do not work for recovery, a full moratorium must be established. The state of Virginia should not be exempted.
Judy Jones	Virginia	Other (please specify)	a lover of birds and a protector of the environment	The menhaden quota should be reduced because the current level of harvest is placing real stress on the coastal food web, especially for species like Osprey that rely on menhaden as their primary prey during nesting season. When menhaden numbers drop, Osprey struggle to feed their young, leading to lower fledging success and weakened populations. The same ripple effects extend to other predators—bald eagles, herons, striped bass, marine mammals—whose health and stability depend on abundant forage fish. Protecting menhaden is not just about a single species; it is about safeguarding the ecological foundation that supports the entire Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic coastal ecosystem. Reducing quotas now is a necessary step to relieve that pressure and allow these interconnected species to recover.
Paul Heinold	Virginia	Private recreational angler		The number of menhaden in my home fishery, the tidal Potomac River, has visibly and drastically decreased in the past several years and appears to be impacting the health of the striped bass in the system, which are also in trouble due to poor spawns. Stop these foreign companies from wrecking these resources for fish oil pills that don't work and for pet food that can be made from much more sustainable sources.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Greg Barlage	Virginia	Shore-side support industry (e.g., bait and tackle shop owner, boat retailer)		The reduction fishery industry has been operating for nearly 150 years. It provides income for many families and businesses in the Northern Neck of Virginia and beyond. My company is located in Richmond and is a substantial part of our business supporting the families of our employees. I have worked in the industry since 2015 and know many of the managers and operators at the Omega Protein facility. They all are very respective of the fish population because they know if overfishing occurs their livlie hoods will go away. The studies I have reviewed on this matter do not seem based in science but in hearsay and what people believe they are observing. I do not think it is prudent to destroy an industry over what some people "feel" is happening it should be based in science. Therefore, I would like to see no change to the current harvest rates, and at some point if the science proves it, the fish quota may need to be increased. I appreciate your attention to this matter. Sincerley Greg Barlage President Process Design and Service
Russell Haynie	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		The science does not support reducing the Bay quota at this time.
Andrew D McCoy	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		The status quo has not been working. It is exhausting this resource and needs to be reduced.
Steve	Virginia	Private recreational angler		There are no longer enough menhaden in the bay to support both the ecosystem and a large scale industrial fishery. thank you for taking action on this despite what the industry claims, there will be little or no impact on their work force as a result of this addendum. They will simply fish more in the bay as they did in several of the years in the past decade.
Matt Marlowe	Virginia	Private recreational angler		There shouldn’t be any commercial menhaden harvest allowed at all in the Ches Bay. None.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
wayne keith boyd	Virginia	Private recreational angler		These are extremly complicated questions. My desire is to reduce the menhaden catch as much as possible. I sold my boat in deltaville and am moving to NC because the fishing has gone to crap in the Bay. How can we expect populations to rebound when we continue the wholesale harvest of the foundation forage species. I suspect many species are now eating their young instead of menhaden. Its truly sad that we even have to conduct a survey like this. You know Omeaga employees are getting all their families to respond.
Mark Barnes	Virginia	Private recreational angler		These companies are over harvesting the fish in the bay, and it is destroying the environment of the bay by removing feeder fish for the entire ecological system.
Aylett Lipford	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		These fish are the bottom of the food chain of all life in the bay, we need to protect them!
James ward	Virginia	Private recreational angler		These measures are better than what has been. However, I believe we should not allow menhaden fishing inside the bay. I have fished the bay for 36 years since I was 16 and have watched the menhaden population decline over that time. The last 4 years have been devastating to the bay. Menhaden schools are harder to find in the bay than they ever have been. I think even the menhaden fisherman would agree. This is affecting the whole ecosystem and we will lose this national treasure of the Chesapeake Bay if something is not done
Capt James Darby Wootten Se	Virginia	For-hire vessel owner/operator/crew		They are actively destroying the bay I see starving ospreys every single day.
joseph anniello	Virginia	Private recreational angler		they should measure and revisit on an ongoing basis.
Justin Dooley	Virginia	Private recreational angler		This action is at least 20 years late.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Selim Kahveci	Virginia	Private recreational angler		This affects so much of who we are, please do the right thing.
Dominic smyth	Virginia	Private recreational angler		This bay as everyone knows supports more than just omega protein… it supports every Capt. every guide, every bait shop, every subsequent linked business, hotels, boat sales, Realestate, property values, it is the backbone of the entire region and beyond. Maintaining a healthy fishery is that important to the entire region… now think of how important it is to the entire Atlantic Ocean… it's the backbone of the entire eastern seaboard… I've fished this bay my whole life now. And like everyone else here I've seen the decline. The flounder and striper first…. Now the large Cobia numbers are falling, soon the red drum that are abundant will also decline if we do not stop destroying the one baitfish that supports every single one of us and our families directly or indirectly. Restrict and restrain these boats harvesting menhaden so that hopefully our grandkids can enjoy this resource instead of a handful of employees at a protein company.
Marsha Stonehill	Virginia	Shore-side support industry (e.g., bait and tackle shop owner, boat retailer)		This fishey needs to be BANNED from State waters
Frank Bentz Jr.	Virginia	Private recreational angler		This has been an ongoing issue for years, please address the over fishing with the passing of this addendum.
Jimmy	Virginia	Private recreational angler		This is a start, but they should ban commercial menhaden fishing from the bay.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Tomoko Hamada	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Osprey watcher	This is a very slow but first step. ASMFC should have a moratorium or 100% stop of industrial reduction fishing.
Glenn H Russell	Virginia	Private recreational angler		this is an urgent issue.
Jessica York	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		This species is the basis of the food chain for everything in the bay and we need to protect it!!
Teresa Hall	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Three years is too long, it should be revisited annually. Overfishing is killing the entire bay!
John	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Time has come for the board to make changes for the future of the bay,and the next generation.please do make changes our children deserve a healthy bay not a water dessert!!

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Anthony Quintero	Virginia	Private recreational angler		resident of Gloucester, Virginia, and an avid recreational fisherman who spends countless hours on the Chesapeake Bay. I regularly fish the Piankatank River, Rappahannock River, Mobjack Bay, and Lower Chesapeake Bay aboard my boat, PanaSea Ya. Fishing is more than a hobby to me. It is something I share with my father, my son, my wife, and my family. It is a tradition I hope future generations will have the opportunity to enjoy. I am writing to strongly support the strictest possible conservation measures for Atlantic menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay. Menhaden are not simply another commercial fish species. They are a critical part of the Chesapeake Bay food web, supporting striped bass, bluefish, ospreys, and numerous other predators. When we remove enormous quantities of these forage fish from an already stressed ecosystem, we risk affecting far more than one species. I have spent enough time fishing these waters to understand the importance of baitfish, feeding birds, and healthy predator populations. I have watched birds dive on schools of bait and searched for the fish feeding beneath them. Those experiences reinforce how closely connected the Bay's wildlife really is. We cannot continue treating the Chesapeake Bay as an unlimited source of industrial fish harvest. I respectfully urge the Commission to adopt the strongest available protections under Draft Addendum II: Implement the maximum 50% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay industrial reduction fishery cap, lowering it to 25,500 metric tons under Option B4. If the Commission instead links the cap to the coastwide quota, I support the most restrictive proposed percentage, 13.6%, without a minimum harvest guarantee. Establish strict seasonal harvest limits, including Option B2, which limits the first two fishing periods to 25% of the annual cap each. Concentrated industrial harvesting during critical spring and summer feeding periods must be restricted. Require strict accountability and enforcement. Quota overages must be deducted from future allocations, reported harvests must be independently verified, and fishing must stop when limits are reached. Unused quotas should never accumulate into additional harvest allowances in future years. Require regular scientific reviews at least every three years, with immediate reconsideration when credible evidence indicates the need for stronger protections. Pursue additional regulations to prohibit industrial reduction purse-seine fishing within the Chesapeake Bay, particularly

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Robert J Schepker	Virginia	Private recreational angler		To: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission & Virginia Marine Resources CommissionRe: Public Comment on Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum IITo the Members of the Commission,My name is Robert J. Schepker, and I am a resident of Henrico County, Virginia (ZIP code 23233). I am writing to formally submit my public comment regarding Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II. I strongly urge both the VMRC and the ASMFC to adopt the strict management options being proposed that would reduce the industrial Chesapeake Bay menhaden harvest cap by up to 50%.Atlantic menhaden are a vital keystone species that underpin the entire ecological health of the Chesapeake Bay. They serve as an irreplaceable primary food source for economically and ecologically important sport fish like striped bass, as well as a wide array of marine mammals and predatory birds.Allowing massive, industrial-scale "reduction fishing" to continue removing hundreds of millions of pounds of menhaden from the Bay each year causes localized depletion. This depletion creates severe ecological imbalances that directly harm our local tourism, coastal business owners, recreational anglers, and marine ecosystems.As a Virginian who is deeply invested in the long-term health of our natural resources, I ask that the Commission prioritize robust, science-based conservation over short-term industrial harvesting interests. Implementing a 50% reduction to the Chesapeake Bay harvest cap is a critical and necessary step toward restoring and protecting the Bay for generations to come.Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your commitment to safeguarding our public waters.Sincerely,Robert J. Schepker2406 Cedar Cone DrHenrico, VA 23233bschepker@mcmhomes.com
Gary Lowe	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Total ban on this menhaden fishery. Like all the other sensible states. 3 mile limit should be normal for foreign entities. The whole fishery is in danger.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Robert Shepherd	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Virginia has proven to be a very poor steward of God's resources. All the living creatures that are dependent upon menhaden as a food source are declining, yet, despite the decreased natural predation, the number of menhaden keep declining. Virginia commercial fishing policies is an embarrassment to most of the free world. The obvious over fishing of menhaden (along with continuing to allow the archaic and indiscriminate killing of fish via gill nets) are two of the biggest embarrassments. The only success story Virginia fish management can claim is the rebound of striped bass after numbers were so decimated in the 80's that they put in place a total moratorium. Not surprisingly, the numbers of striped bass bounced back quickly and also not surprisingly, Virginia once again allowed overfishing and depleted the striped bass population again in just a few years. Put greed and politics aside and do the RIGHT thing!!!!
Kevin Pauley	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Virginia should follow the lead of all other eastern seaboard states and move reduction fishing to federal waters.
WILLIAM RAY BLACKMAN	Virginia	Private recreational angler		Virginia should not account for 75 percent of the harvest!!!
Jackie Nunnery	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		Wait until studies are completed. Be guided by science, not feels
Caroline Raymond	Virginia	Other (please specify)	Concerned private citizen and birdwatcher	We absolutely have to support the ban on over fishing for menhaden. This fish is not essential for humans, but IS essential for the birds, as well as the sea creatures, of the Chesapeake Bay. We humans are a particularly destructive force to nature and there needs to be significant course correction. If the Bay suffers, so do we all. As a result of the industrial overfishing of the menhaden population, the Bay ecosystem is in serious trouble. At this point, it is CRITICAL to take drastic measures to protect it before it is too late and the damage is irreversible.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Mark Christopher Stromdahl	Virginia	Private recreational angler		We have been fishing in the VA bay for 20 years and have experienced drastic decline in pan and sportsfish populations.
Liz Povar	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		We have lived at the confluence of the Rappahannock River and Chesapeake Bay for over 10 years. As a recreational boater and waterfront homeowner, I can state factually that the number of osprey visibly nesting has decreased each year, and in 2026 we saw 0 nests or young osprey. We do, however, see the menhaden fishing boats consistently plying the waters. We believe there is a correlation between the commercial fishing and the number of osprey nesting; the commercial fishing is negatively impacting the food source for the osprey. We encourage tighter restrictions on the commercial menhaden fishing industry.
Suzanne Gallagher	Virginia	Other (please specify)	A homeowner who lives on the Rappahannock River	We live in Middlesex County Virginia--on the Rappahannock River in sight of the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. When we bought our house in 2008 we were captivated by the wildlife--especially the osprey. We learned their schedule--when they left in the fall and returned in the spring--to the same nest. We watched them catch fish, fly around until the fish was dead and then sit on a branch in a tree in our yard and eat that fish--or take fish to the nest to feed their babies. This was endlessly interesting. Watching them cover the naked babies with their wings when the sun was beating down. For the last two years we've seen very few osprey flying around--and none sitting in the tree in our yard. Our neighbor who was a charterboat captain has given up that work--not enough fish. People can't catch enough menhaden to bait their crab pots. Something is happening to the health of our river. The food chain is being affected in ways we can see and likely others which we cannot see. We think the cause of the problem is that menhaden are being overfished by the commercial fisheries. We are losing the fish in our river and bay so they can be swallowed up to make cat food and fish oil. Let them fish in the Atlantic--not in the Chesapeake Bay. We hope you will help us save our river. What is being done now is not working. Insanity is doing the same thing and expecting it to go differently.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Joan Podd	Virginia	Private recreational angler		We live on the bay. In previous years we frequently caught several game fish off our dock every evening. This year we went weeks without catching even a tiny spot. The bait fish that used to be around our dock are gone, the ospreys and eagles are gone. The destruction of the menhaden population have destroyed the entire ego system.
Edward Ashley	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		We MUST protect this fishery, people don't need menhaden for pet food and fertilizer the BAY NEEDS it for all the wildlife that depends on it.
Tami L Stukey	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		WE MUST SLOW THIS DOWN OR RISK CATASTROPHIC DAMAGE
WALTER CHILDS	Virginia	Private recreational angler		We MUST undertake maximum efforts to promote the Menhaden population.
Connor Rust	Virginia	Private recreational angler		We need to be more vigilant about protecting the bay and establishing caps / quotas to hold omega in check. Omega is destroying our fishery and this is having a profound, negative impact on striped bass, redfish, Cobia, trout, etc. as well as on osprey populations. The economic value of the bay as a natural resource and recreational area / fishery far outweighs the value of any jobs created by Omega.
Michelle Keller	Virginia	Private recreational angler		We need to defend the defenceless. The menhaden feed so many species and need to be protected
John Dyson	Virginia	Private recreational angler		We need to do these caps to bring back the Chesapeake Bay fishery. If we don't learn how to balance the harvest, there will be no industrial catch in the future either. This is very basic logic.
Sean Peucker	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		We need to protect this essential ecosystem that stretches across a vast area, the decline in fish and bird populations is a sign of what is coming. Listen to the people who spend their time living here and enjoy the presence of these beautiful areas, flora, and fauna
Brent Neal	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		We need to protect this extremely important resource instead of the vast over harvesting that continues to cause harm.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Ian McNair	Virginia	Private recreational angler		We need to severely limit the reduction fishery along the Atlantic Coast, primarily in the Chesapeake.
William Judge	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		We should prioritize the Bay for local folks, not for non-USA firms to exploit our precious bay. The Bay is suffering and limiting menhaden exploitation will help the ecosystem.
Denise D.Apple	Virginia	Concerned stakeholder		We were given the beautiful bay and everything that lives in and around it. We need to be better stewards !!
Chris Anderson	Virginia	Private recreational angler		What is wrong with us? Virginia is the only Atlantic coast state that allows industrial-scale trawling for menhaden. WHY? The overfishing of menhaden is causing great harm to the ecosystem. It is causing great harm to anyone else who enjoys fishing or who fishes for a living. Osprey numbers are in sharp decline in the Chesapeake Bay. The bay is a necessary SYSTEM of interconnected life ... and a commercial enterprise shouldn't be allowed to decimate it for corporate profit.
Judson	Virginia	Private recreational angler		When I was a kid, there was a great striped bass fishery. You could go and literally fill the boat if you wanted to Today, there are no predator fish in the bay because there are no bait for them to eat We are literally raping the water, so a couple companies can turn a profit Let those people do it offshore or teach them how to farm it. There's no need to raid our natural resources
Dave Vachet	Virginia	Private recreational angler		While I understand osprey and striped bass suffer and get plenty of deserved attention, the entire ecosystem has suffered. I believe the weakfish decline is a coastal-wide ecosystem collapse indicator directly related to overfishing menhaden. We bring the rockfish back to everyone's delight, but when they couldn't find enough menhaden to eat in early autumn, they began eating all the juvenile weakfish making their first runs out. "Game" fish eating game fish (and all the crabs)? Is that really what we want? Please finally get a handle on this small number of people who over-harvests an important resource that belongs to all.

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Shayne Zasimowich	Virginia	Other (please specify)	I recreational fish a majority of the time but I also maintain a valid Virginia Commercial Watermans Card.	Would be interesting to see what a reduction in the bays quota would do for the over all health of the ecosystem. Other measures need to be taken as well. Primarily concerning pollution. But those arent the concern of this body.
Pam McLeod	Virginia	Other (please specify)		Concerned citizen, Osprey supporter
Ray W. King	Virginia	Other (please specify)		Concerned citizen about the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its wildlife.
Patricia Johnson	Virginia	Other (please specify)		Person who is worried about about the ecology and food distribution to osprey and other life in and out fo the water. Menhaden or bunker are a fox for many plus bait for those that fish and crab etc
Barry Dombek	Virginia	Other (please specify)		Osprey protector, observing and recording nesting at my property

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Kyle Callahan	Washington	Concerned stakeholder		I recently traveled through the Chesapeake Bay region and learned about the negative impacts Menhaden fishing practices are having on wildlife. Specifically, American Osprey are struggling to find the fish they need to survive and raise offspring. Without a change to current fishing practices and enforcing stricter catch limits through science-backed policies, Osprey will become more scarce across the region. Already their numbers are down and the Chesapeake Bay provides a critical location along the Atlantic Flyway migratory route. Beyond these captivating birds, numerous other species also rely on healthy Menhaden populations throughout the year, but the numbers of available fish are down. I urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to act on these draft addendum considerations in order to maintain a sustainable supply of Menhaden across the Atlantic throughout the year, supporting all wildlife that live in and around the Chesapeake Bay. Thank you.
Kristin Johnson	Washington State	Concerned stakeholder		I recently visited the Chesapeake Bay on vacation and was informed about the dire situation of Osprey nesting failures over the summer of 2026. Even though I am a resident of Washington state, I urge the Commission to act to reduce the Bay Cap and allow for repopulation of Menhaden in the bay to support a healthy ecosystem.
Marina Drake	Wisconsin	Other (please specify)	Concerned citizen	I've selected the options above for the least fishing. I actually do not support any fishing, for the sake of the menhadens and for the reasons mentioned above. The Commission should consider the interests of all and not solely those who fish.
Nicholas WazeeGale	Wisconsin	Other (please specify)	Citizen concerned about wildlife	The decline of menhaden should be of concern to all citizens as it is affecting the viability of many species dependent on this fish. I humbly ask we more greatly limit harvests fur the sake if this fish’s numbers and all the species whom depend on them, including human harvesters.

Name	State	Participate in the Atlantic menhaden fishery?	Other (please specify)	Any additional comments you would like to provide:
Jonathan Balcombe	American citizen currently living in Canada	Other (please specify)	concerned scientist (biologist)	We humans have many food choices available to us. Marine creatures, less so. I don't believe we should be catching large numbers of Menhaden from the Chesapeake Bay.
Marian Hussenbux	Britain	Other (please specify)	animal welfare organisation	The members of Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain have chosen these options for the least fishing possible. We wish there were no fishing at all, for the sake of the menhadens and for the reasons mentioned above. We wonder why the Commission appears not to be considering the interests of all local residents and not solely those who fish. It is surely beneficial for all - human and non-human beings - to protect a wide biodiversity in the Bay. As people of faith who try to adhere to the compassionate Jain precept of ahimsa - do no harm - we are offering a somewhat different perspective for your consideration. Thank you for this opportunity to do so.
Debra	CA	Other (please specify)	Advocate for not taking more from the ocean - overfishing	The menhaden is a keystone species - vital for other ocean animals including seabirds and whales. There should be no taking of this species at all
RE Penney	California	Other (please specify)	wildlife observer	As frequent visitors to my parents who live on the bay, (for generations), we have noticed a decline in wildlife that depend on the Menhaden. Sensible protection is now required. Sooner than later. (thank you)
Sarinea Meserkhani	California	Other (please specify)	Concerned citizen invested in habitat and biodiversity conservation	I strongly urge the board to incorporate the September 2026 by Dr. Watts into their November decisions. These findings link Osprey nest failings to Menhaden scarcity and reinforces the 50% reduction as a cautionary measure to rebuild the Chesapeake Bay Menhaden predatory fish and bird populations.