



## **An Angler's Guide: Addendum II to the Atlantic Menhaden Fishery Management Plan**

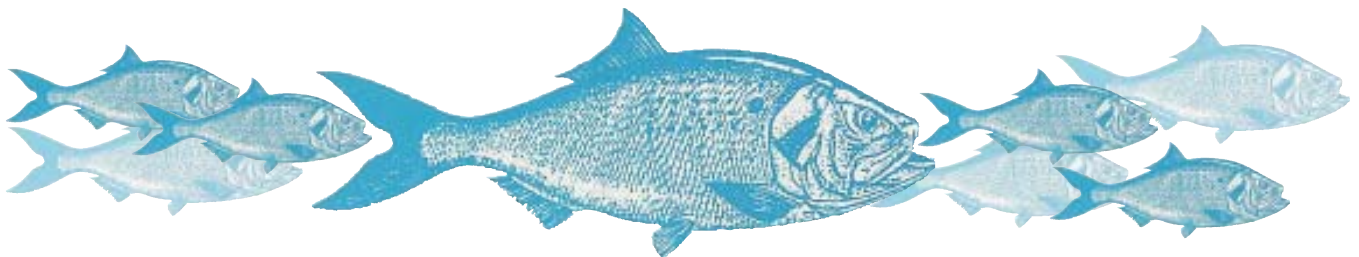
### **WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:**

Write a letter, fax or e-mail to your ASMFC representatives stating that you support CCA's position on Addendum II to the Atlantic Menhaden Fishery Management Plan. You can find the addresses for your state representatives beginning on pages 6-7. You can also attend a public hearing in your state – the list of is on page 5.

Please include these primary points:

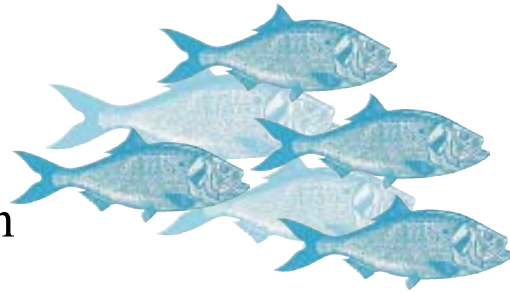
### **Coastal Conservation Association Supports:**

- \*\* A cap on the Atlantic menhaden harvest
- \*\* The cap should be in the Chesapeake Bay and apply to the industrial-scale, reduction fishery
- \*\* The cap should be set at the average of the last 5 years and should be in place for 5 years
- \*\* Any harvest over the quota should be subtracted from the following year's quota
- \*\* The proposed research program outlined by ASMFC



# An Angler's Guide:

## Addendum II to the Atlantic Menhaden Fishery Management Plan



### What's Happening?

Menhaden, a small, oily forage fish often used by anglers for bait, has become a hot topic lately. The problem is actually simple and twofold:

1. While the stock is assessed on a coastwide basis, the majority of landings (~65%) come from the Chesapeake Bay raising concerns about localized depletion. At this time, the data to evaluate localized depletion is not available, but a number of red flags indicate there are problems.

2. Anglers all along the coast are seeing far fewer adult

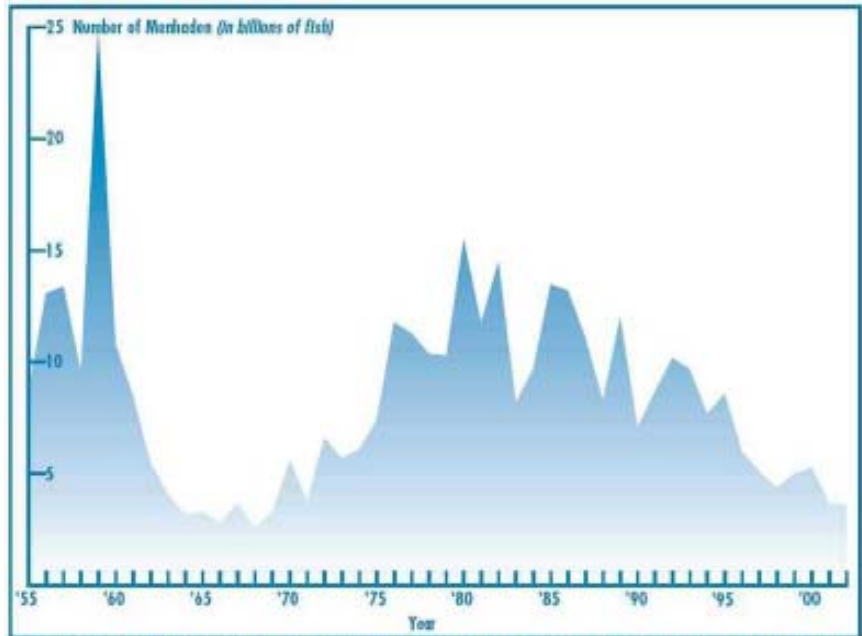
menhaden than they had historically encountered.

The status of the stock is determined on a coastwide scale from Maine to Florida. On that basis the current stock assessment says the stock is not overfished (i.e., there is enough spawning stock) and overfishing is not occurring (i.e. the fishing rate is not depleting the spawning stock). Yet over 65% of the harvest occurs in the Virginia portion of Chesapeake Bay. The menhaden reduction industry, which renders thousands of tons of menhaden into fish meal and oil each year, is largely responsible for this catch. Because the Bay is prime

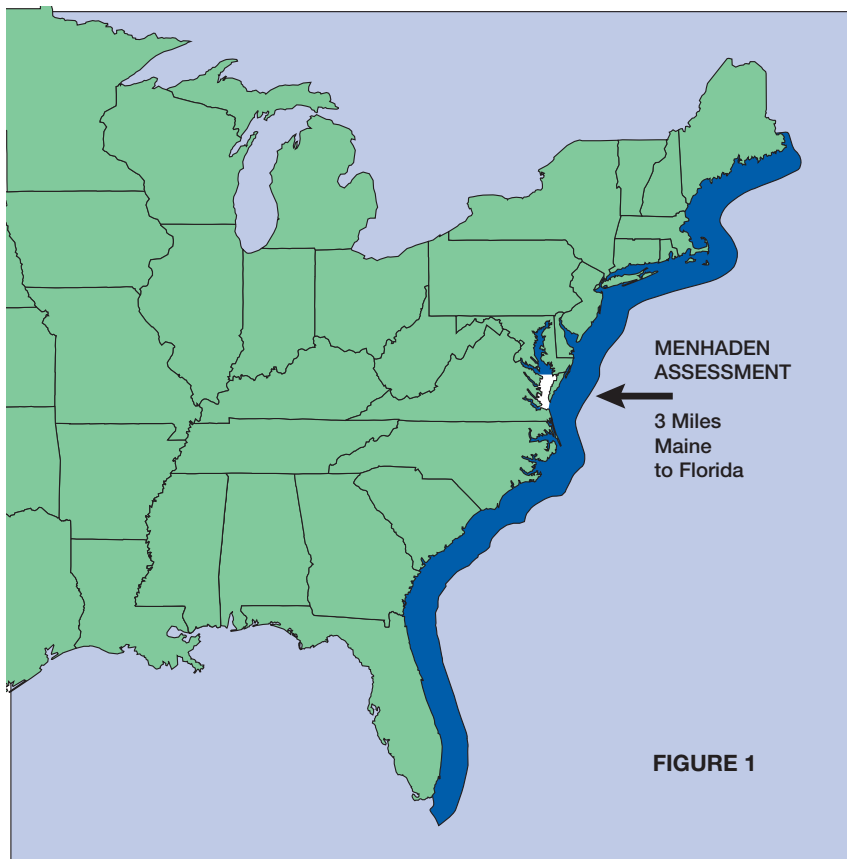
***The primary question is whether or not the menhaden harvest in Chesapeake should be capped, and if so, at what level and for how long?***

habitat for such important species as striped bass, bluefish and weakfish, some are concerned that concentrating the harvest in a small portion of the Bay depletes the available forage for those fish. In addition, the ecological role of menhaden, as food for predators and a filter feeder, has diminished. There will be a new stock assessment in 2006, at which time new information on the health of the coastwide stock (including concerns that the spawning stock is over-estimated) will be reviewed.

There are signs that the number of menhaden in the Bay has declined. The amount of menhaden in the diet of Chesapeake stripers has also declined dramatically in recent years, and many are suffering malnutrition. Seventy percent of the striped bass

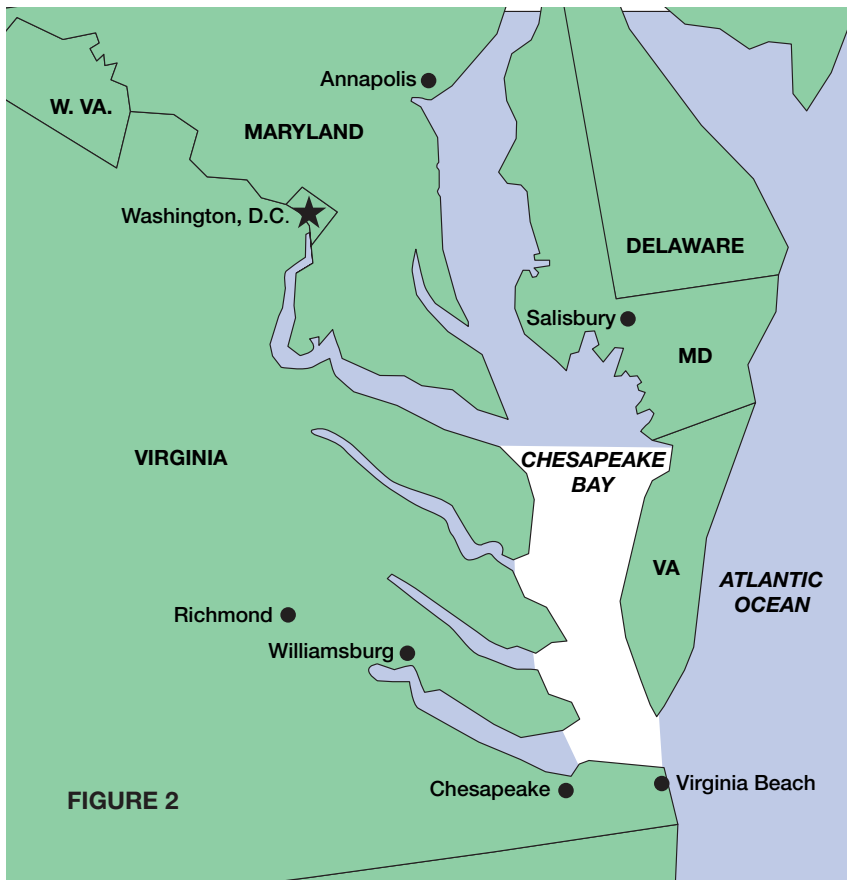


The abundance of menhaden, in numbers of fish age one and older, has declined to nearly historic lows, and similar to levels found in the 1960s and 1970s when the stock was considered overfished.



sampled in the bay have mycobacteriosis, an often fatal disease typically observed in fish under stress. In addition, the estimated coastwide population of menhaden is currently at a low level, similar to the overfished population of the 1960's. However, we won't know the status of the population for sure until more research is conducted to determine the abundance of menhaden in the Bay.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) is considering an addendum to the Atlantic Menhaden Fishery Management Plan that will provide interim management measures or regulations for menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay while research is conducted to determine the fish's abundance and the movement of menhaden into and out of the Bay. The recommendations in the Addendum will not "fix" any problem with the menhaden population, rather it is designed to cap harvest at current levels while research is done to determine if there is indeed a problem in the Chesapeake Bay.



60-70% of coastwide menhaden harvest from the unshaded area of Chesapeake Bay.

### A Simple Guide to Addendum II

We will provide you a short summary of each management option contained in the addendum. While we do indicate our preferred option, we have provided details of all

the alternatives so you can make your own decisions about which options you would like to support.

The primary question is whether or not the menhaden harvest in Chesapeake should be capped, and if so, at what level and for how long?

**Management Options –  
The Main Issues**

*(The pages referenced below can be found in the Public Hearing Document)*

**Option 1: Status Quo, no cap on the harvest of Atlantic menhaden.** (page 9)

We do not support this option.

**Option 2: Cap the Atlantic menhaden harvest.** (page 9)

**We support Option 2: Cap the Atlantic menhaden harvest.**

This is the critical issue. If Option 2 is chosen, there are four issues to consider.

**A) Should the cap be in Chesapeake Bay only or coastwide?** (pages 10 & 11)

**We support Option 1: The cap should be in Chesapeake Bay only.**

We support a cap in the Bay, but would not oppose a total cap if the Management Board chose to implement one. A cap in the Bay is necessary because of concerns about localized depletion. While the immediate problem we

are dealing with is the concentrated removals of menhaden from the Chesapeake Bay, there is also a concern that the large reduction boats, when faced with a cap, will simply move just outside of the Bay and target fish as they enter and leave that waterway. If we were asking for a substantial reduction in harvest in the Bay, this would be of far

greater concern; however, since we are only asking that the harvest remain constant, the likelihood of such shifts in effort is low. Regardless, ASMFC should closely monitor effort in the coastal fishery (outside the bay) during this interim management period to detect shifts in effort or increases in catch and to respond in a timely way, if necessary

**B) What gears should be included in the cap?** (page 11)

**We support Option 1: The cap should be on the reduction fishery only.**

There are many gears used to harvest menhaden, from the large purse seines used by the reduction industry, to smaller purse seines used for bait harvest, pound nets and even recreational anglers' cast nets. The goal

of the addendum is not to reduce harvest with this addendum, but merely to assure that current harvest levels are not exceeded while research is done to determine if the concentrated removals in

*The status of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is unknown, and will remain unknown until the results of new research are available.*

the Bay are a problem. Thus, capping only the reduction industry, which accounts for 80% of the annual harvest from the Bay and employs large nets that have the capability to substantially increase harvest in a short period of time, appears to be the most effective option. Other nets used to harvest menhaden are unlikely to cause short-term damage to the population.

**C) What should the amount (tonnage) of the cap be?** (page 11)

**Option 2: The cap should be a mean of the last 5 years**

The motion passed by the ASMFC mentioned a specific amount (110,400 metric tons), which at the time of the motion was the average of the past 5 years

through 2003. While the addendum includes a number of possible ways to calculate a harvest cap, we believe that using the average of the most recent 5 years is a commonsense approach, which would permit a harvest of 105,800 metric tons when the 2004 landings are added. Since the goal is not to reduce harvest in the Bay, but merely to freeze it at current levels while research is being done, the simplest approach is to use the most recent 5 years average,

Average Purse Seine  
Reduction Landings From  
Chesapeake Bay Through  
2004  
3-Year Mean – 106,600 mt  
5-Year Mean – 105,800 mt  
10-Year Mean – 124,400 mt

**D) What should the length (# of years) of the cap be?** (page 11 & 12)

**We support Option 3: The cap should be in place for 5 years.**

The motion called for the cap to be in place for 2 years – 2006 and 2007. There are several options in the addendum - 2, 3 and 5-year caps. The purpose of the cap is to maintain harvest at current levels

until the necessary research is conducted, analyze, and available for management decisions. It is highly likely that all these steps will take longer than 3 years. In addition, if the information is available sooner and the Board takes action, it can easily make necessary changes to the cap at that time. Therefore we support a cap for 5 years.

However, we would prefer the cap stay in place until the research is completed *and* ASMFC adopts a revised management plan that incorporates reference points based on the role of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

**Other Issues to Consider**  
(page 12)

**A) Overages and Underages** (page 12)  
**We support quota overages being subtracted from the next year's quota.**

When instituting a cap on a fishery, there is always a chance that the fishery may exceed their quota for the year. Since the goal of the addendum is to prevent an increase in harvest, subtracting overages from

the following year's harvest is a necessary safeguard.

**Issue 2: Research Program for Chesapeake Bay** (pages 13 – 15)

**We support the proposed research program outlined by ASMFC.**

**In June 2004, The Atlantic Menhaden Technical Committee determined the following research priorities to examine the possibility of localized depletion of Atlantic menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay:**

A. Determine menhaden abundance in Chesapeake Bay.

B. Determine estimates of removal of menhaden by predators.

C. Exchange of menhaden between bay and coastal systems.

D. Larval Studies (determining recruitment to the Bay).

## Public Hearing Dates

### **Maine – June 27, 2005 6:00PM**

Boothbay Harbor Laboratory  
194 McKown Point Road  
West Boothbay Harbor, ME  
Contact: 207-624-6548

### **Delaware – June 27, 2005 7:00 PM**

Division of Fish and Wildlife Auditorium  
89 Kings Highway  
Dover, DE  
Contact: 302-739-9914

### **New Jersey – June 28, 2005 6:30 PM**

Nacote Creek Research Station  
360 New York Road, Route 9  
Port Republic, New Jersey  
Contact: 609-633-2408

### **Maryland – June 29, 2005 7:00 PM**

Annapolis Radisson  
210 Holiday Court  
Annapolis, Maryland  
Contact: 410-260-8281

### **Massachusetts – July 5, 2005 7:00 PM**

Plymouth Harbor Radisson  
180 Water Street  
Plymouth, Massachusetts  
Contact: 617-626-1528

### **Rhode Island – July 6, 2005 6:00 PM**

URI Narragansett Bay Campus  
Corless Auditorium  
South Ferry Road  
Narragansett, RI  
Contact: 401-423-1943

### **Connecticut – July 7, 2005 7:00 PM**

Marine Headquarters Boating Education Center  
333 Ferry Road  
Old Lyme, Connecticut  
Contact: 860-434-6043

### **New York – July 7, 2005 7:00 PM**

Bureau of Marine Resources Headquarters  
205 North Belle Meade Road  
East Setauket, New York  
Contact: 631-444-0436

### **North Carolina – July 11, 2005 6:00 PM**

Classroom 2, Crystal Coast Civic Center  
3505 Arendell Street  
Morehead City, North Carolina  
Contact: 252-726-7021

### **Virginia – July 12, 2005 6:00 PM**

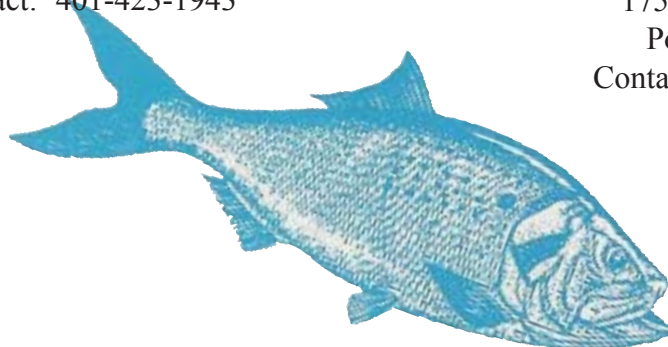
Virginia Institute of Marine Science  
Waterman's Hall  
Route 1208 Create Road  
Gloucester Point, Virginia  
Contact: 757-247-2247

### **Potomac River Fisheries Commission – July 13, 2005 6:30 PM**

John T. Parran Hearing Room  
222 Taylor Street  
Colonial Beach, Virginia  
Contact: 804-224-7148

### **Georgia – July 18, 2005 – 6:00 PM**

Mighty 8th Air Force Museum  
175 Bourne Avenue  
Pooler, Georgia  
Contact: 912-264-7218



## Contact your ASMFC Commissioner:

	<u>ADMINISTRATOR</u>	<u>GOVERNOR'S APPOINTEE</u>	<u>LEGISLATOR</u>
<b>ME</b>	<b>George Lapointe</b> ME DMR 21 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333 Phone: 207/624-6553 FAX: 207/624-6024	<b>Patten White</b> 1 Pine Island York, ME 03909 Phone: 207/363-6783 FAX: 207/363-6783	<b>Senator Dennis Damon</b> Maine Senate District 5 256 Oak Point Road Trenton, ME 04605 Phone: 207/667-9629 FAX: 207/287-1585
<b>NH</b>	<b>John I. Nelson, Jr.</b> NH FG 225 Main Street Durham, NH 03824 Phone: 603/868-1096 FAX: 603/868-3305	<b>G. Ritchie White</b> 30 Lang Road Rye, NH 03870 Phone: 603/964-2211 FAX: 603/964-2212	<b>Rep. Mary Ann Blanchard</b> 34 Harrison Avenue Portsmouth, NH 03807 Phone: 603/436-7008 FAX: 603/271-2016
<b>MA</b>	<b>Paul Diodati</b> MA DMF 251 Causeway Street, #400 Boston, MA 02114 Phone: 617/626-1530 FAX: 617/626-1509	<b>William A. Adler</b> Mass. Lobstermen's Assoc. PO Box 397 Green Harbor, MA 02041 Phone: 781/545-6984 FAX: 781/545-7837	<b>Rep. Anthony Verga</b> 66 Perkins Street Gloucester, MA 01930 Phone: 978/283-2675 FAX: 978/283-5870
<b>RI</b>	<b>Mark Gibson</b> RI DEM 235 Promenade St, 4th Floor Providence, RI 02908 Phone: 401/222-6605 FAX: 401/222-3162	<b>Everett A. Petronio, Jr.</b> 1239 Hartford Avenue Johnson, RI 02919 Phone: 401/273-8800	<b>Rep. Eileen Naughton</b> 100 Old Homestead Road Warwick, RI 02889 Phone: 401/738-7928 FAX: 401/737-4161
<b>CT</b>	<b>Eric Smith</b> CT DEP, Marine Fisheries 333 Ferry Road PO Box 719 Old Lyme, CT 06371 Phone: 860/434-6043 FAX: 860/434-6150	<b>Dr. Lance Stewart</b> University of Connecticut CANR/CES, Avery Point 1084 Shennecossett Road Groton, CT 06340 Phone: 860/887-1608 FAX: 860/886-1164	<b>Senator George Gunther</b> 890 Judson Place Stratford, CT 06497 Phone: 860/240-8863 FAX: 860/240-8308
<b>NY</b>	<b>Gordon Colvin</b> NYS DEC Marine Resources 205 N. Belle Meade Rd, Suite 1 East Setauket, NY 11733 Phone: 631/444-0433 FAX: 631/444-0434	<b>Pat Augustine</b> 25 Stuart Drive Coram, NY 11727 Phone: 631/928-1524 FAX: 631/928-3540	<b>Senator Owen Johnson</b> 23-24 Argyle Square Babylon, NY 11702 Phone: 631/669-9200 FAX: 631/669-9007
<b>NJ</b>	<b>Martin J. McHugh</b> NJ FW PO BOX 400 Trenton, NJ 08625-0400 Phone: 609/292-9410 FAX: 609/984-1408	<b>Tom Fote</b> 22 Cruiser Court Toms River, NJ 08753 PHone: 732/270-9102 FAX: 732/506-6409	<b>Assemblyman Robert Smith</b> 129 Johnson Road, Suite 1 Turnersville, NJ 08012 Phone: 856/232-6700 FAX: 856/232-6844

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