



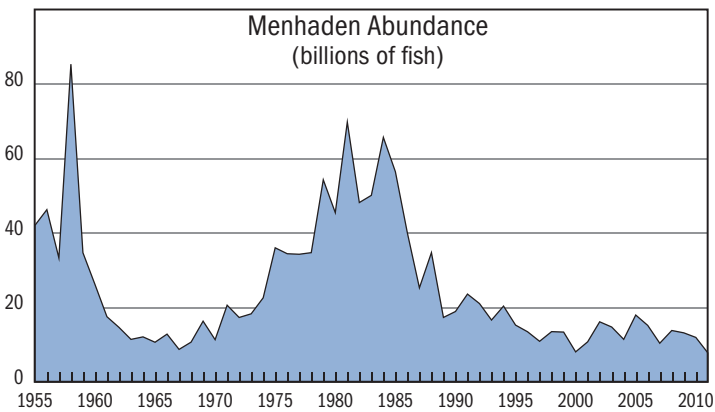
## Help Restore the Atlantic Menhaden Population!

### The Bay's Most Important Fish

Menhaden have been called “the most important fish in the sea” because of the critical roles they play in the ecosystem of Atlantic coastal waters.

- Menhaden feed on plankton, filtering it from the water.
- Menhaden are a valuable food source for a wide variety of fish including striped bass, bluefish, summer flounder, and weakfish; also for marine mammals and many sea birds including ospreys, pelicans, and loons.
- Menhaden have declined dramatically in the diet of striped bass, and poor nutrition has been linked to striper disease.

### The Menhaden Population is in Trouble



- The best available science (called a “benchmark stock assessment”) by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) has shown that the menhaden population is at its lowest recorded level.
- ASMFC’s benchmark assessment has been validated by an independent peer review of fisheries scientists.
- According to the benchmark, menhaden are currently being overfished, and overfishing occurred in 32 of the last 54 years.
- The menhaden population currently is only eight percent of what it would be if there were no pressure from fishing, and the independent scientists urged steps to boost the population.
- In response, ASMFC has adopted tighter standards for menhaden fishing and is seeking public comment on how to achieve them.

### Let Your Voice be Heard

Write a letter or e-mail by **November 16**, asking ASMFC to manage the menhaden fishery so the population can recover and fulfill its vital ecological roles. CBF recommends the following:

1. **(Section 2.5)** ASFMC should adopt Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) Option B which will set a SSB target of 30% MSP and threshold of 15% MSP.
2. **(Section 2.6.2)** ASFMC should adopt Option C to reduce the Current F to at least the target F in a timeframe that shall be no longer than 5 years.
3. **(Section 4.2.1)** ASFMC should adopt Option B in order to set harvest levels through use of a total allowable catch.
4. **(Section 4.2.1.2)** ASFMC should adopt Option A which specifies setting a TAC through an ad-hoc approach. The multiplier used should be 0.75 and the future allocations should be 30% bait and 70% reduction.
5. **(Section 4.2.2)** ASFMC should adopt Option C to adjust the Chesapeake Bay Cap consistent with quota management.

Send your letter, e-mail, or fax to:

Mike Waine  
Subject: Draft Addendum 2  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
1050 N. Highland Street, #200 A-N  
Arlington, VA 22201  
mwaine@asmfc.org  
Fax: 703/842-0741

Attend one of these public hearings:

**Monday, October 29, 2012; 6:00 p.m.**

Potomac River Fisheries Commission  
222 Taylor Street, Colonial Beach, VA  
Contact: AC Carpenter 804/224-7148

**Tuesday, October 30, 2012; 6:00-9:00 p.m.**

Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
Easton Armory, 7111 Ocean Gateway (Rt. 50), Easton, MD  
Contact: Lynn Fegley 410/260-8285

**Thursday, November 1, 2012; 6:00-9:00 p.m.**

Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
Northeast Community Center  
4075 Gordon Stinnett Avenue, Chesapeake Beach, MD  
Contact: Lynn Fegley 410/260-8285