



Governor Kaine, Menhaden matter to Virginia anglers.

The Honorable Timothy M. Kaine
Governor of Virginia
State Capitol
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor Kaine:

We are writing to you on behalf of the many thousands of fishermen and conservationists who care deeply about the future health of the Chesapeake Bay -- a concern we know you share.

Recreational fishing - whether for striped bass, bluefish, gray trout or spot - depends on robust stocks of fish, which in turn rely on an adequate supply of prey, most notably menhaden. A recent report, "*Menhaden Math: The Economic Impact of Atlantic Menhaden on Virginia's Recreational and Commercial Fisheries*," details the importance of menhaden as a forage base for many other fish on which the Virginia economy depends. It clearly demonstrates that the economic value of menhaden is by no means limited to those fish taken by the reduction fishery. In fact, menhaden left in the water to serve their natural role as prey for striped bass and other predators are far more valuable to the state's economy.

As you know, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) voted overwhelmingly to cap the industrial menhaden harvest in the Chesapeake Bay at the average catch of the last five years, while further research is conducted into localized depletion in the bay. We feel it is critical to determine if localized depletion is occurring, and its possible impact on menhaden's important ecological function, which would affect not only species in the bay, but throughout the coastal range of menhaden, striped bass and other dependent species.

We urge you to act now, to honor Virginia's commitment to multi-state conservation and protection of the Chesapeake Bay, and to implement the ASMFC menhaden cap - a reasonable and precautionary action that will protect jobs and economic growth for Virginia's recreational and commercial fisheries.

Sincerely,

American Fisheries Society
American Fly Fishing Trade Association
American Sportfishing Association
BASS/ESPN Outdoors
Berkley Conservation Institute
Coastal Conservation Association of Virginia
Eastern Shore Anglers Club
Great Bridge Fisherman's Association
Izaak Walton League of America
National Coalition for Marine Conservation
Northampton County Anglers Club
Peninsula Saltwater Sportfisherman's Association
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Cap the catch!

For more information: www.MenhadenMatter.org