



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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James J. Gilmore, Jr. (NY), Chair

Patrick C. Keliher (ME), Vice-Chair

Robert E. Beal, Executive Director

Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

TO: ASMFC Commissioners and Proxies
DATE: January 29, 2018
SUBJECT: 2017 Commissioner Survey Results

34 Commissioners or Proxies completed the 2017 ASMFC Commissioner Survey. The survey is based on the 2014-2018 Strategic Plan and will be used to shape the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan. This document contains an Executive Summary, charts summarizing responses for questions 1-15, a summary of the five open-ended questions, and unabridged responses to the five open-ended questions.

Executive Summary

Questions 1-15 prompted respondents to rate their answer on a scale of 1 to 10 (ten point Likert scale). Key takeaways from this portion of the survey:

1. Scores increased for all but four questions from 2016 to 2017.
2. The largest increases were for engaging state legislators and Congress (Q10); reacting/adapting to new information (Q12); and securing adequate fiscal resources (Q6). The highest scores were given for Science and ISFMP products (Q15, 14); spending the appropriate amount of resources on issues within our control (Q13); and utilizing fiscal and human resources (Q11).
3. The lowest scores in 2017 were cooperation between Commissioners (Q3); the Commission's ability to manage rebuilt stocks (Q9); cooperation with federal partners (Q4); and working relationships with stakeholders (Q5). Only two questions decreased more than 1% from 2017 to 2016:
 - (Q3) Cooperation between Commissioners to achieve the Commission's Vision decreased sharply in 2016 and more moderately in 2017.
 - (Q7) Satisfaction with using 'the number of stocks where overfishing is no longer occurring as a metric for progress' has dropped each year since it was introduced to the survey in 2015.

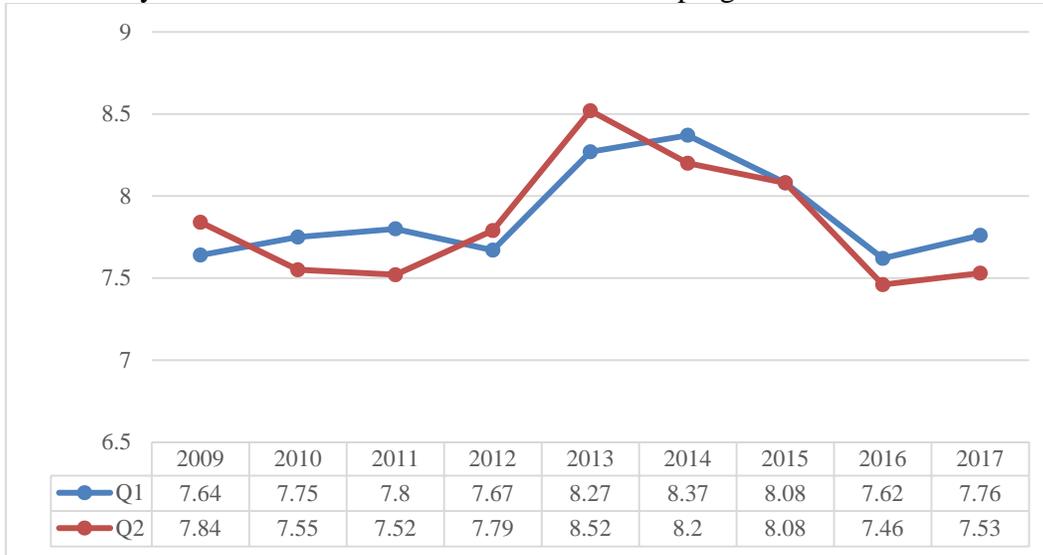
Questions 16-20 prompted respondents for open-ended responses. A few themes emerged. Throughout questions 16 (stock rebuilding obstacles), 19 (issues to focus on), and 20 (additional comments), the most frequently mentioned topic was cooperation within the Commission. Many respondents referenced 2017 summer flounder specifications and the Commerce Secretary's response, and others noted a more general shift towards managing for a single state's benefit. The second most frequent comments related to climate change, shifting stocks and the Commission's inability to adapt management to reallocate resources. Other frequent comments included developing a risk policy, inadequate funding for data collection, and improving recreational data.

Likert Scale Questions 1-15

Questions 1-15 prompted respondents to rate their answer on a scale of 1 to 10. The higher the average, the more positive the response. For each question, the average score by year is presented. The 2010 results were based on a response ranging from 1 through 5, so the value was doubled for comparison to future responses. Questions 7, 8, 14 and 15 were new to the 2015 survey, as the survey was simplified to increase participation.

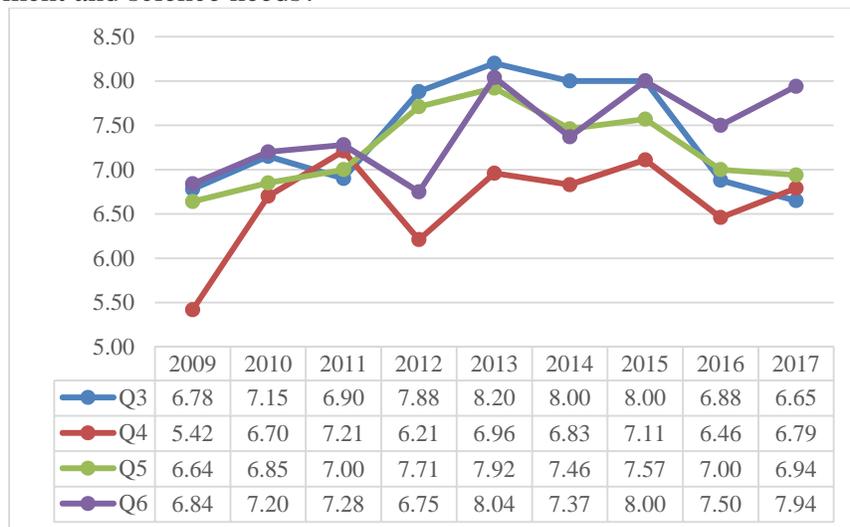
Commission Progress

1. How comfortable are you that the Commission has a clear and achievable plan to reach the Vision (Sustainably managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries)?
2. How confident are you that the Commission’s actions reflect progress toward its Vision?



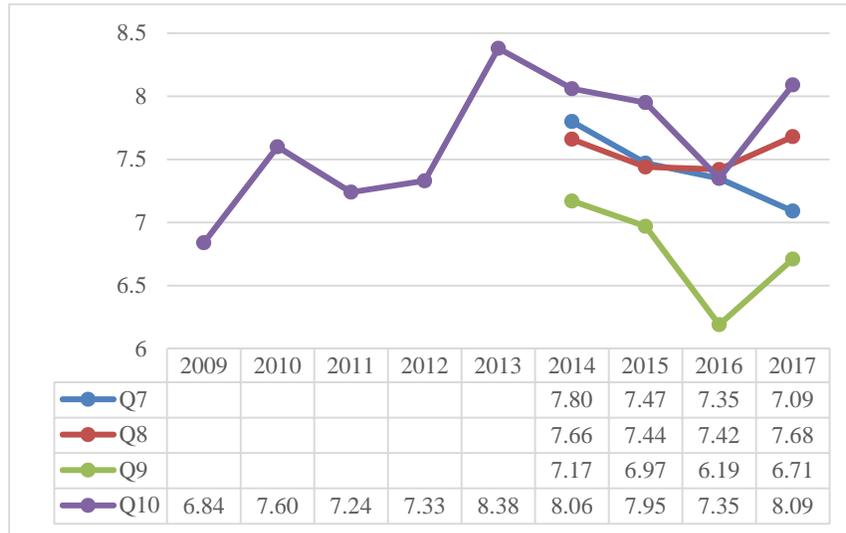
Commission Execution and Results

3. How satisfied are you with the cooperation between Commissioners to achieve the Commission's Vision?
4. How satisfied are you that the Commission has an appropriate level of cooperation with federal partners?
5. How satisfied are you with the Commission's working relationship with our constituent partners (commercial, recreational, and environmental)?
6. How satisfied are you with the Commission's effort and success in securing adequate fiscal resources to support management and science needs?



Measuring the Commission’s Progress and Results

- 7. One of the metrics the Commission uses to measure progress is tracking the number of stocks where overfishing is no longer occurring. Is this a clear metric to measure progress?
- 8. How satisfied are you with the Commission's progress to end overfishing?
- 9. Are you satisfied with the Commission's ability to manage rebuilt stocks?
- 10. How satisfied are you with the Commission's efforts to engage with state legislators and members of Congress?



Measuring the Availability and Utilization of Commission Resources

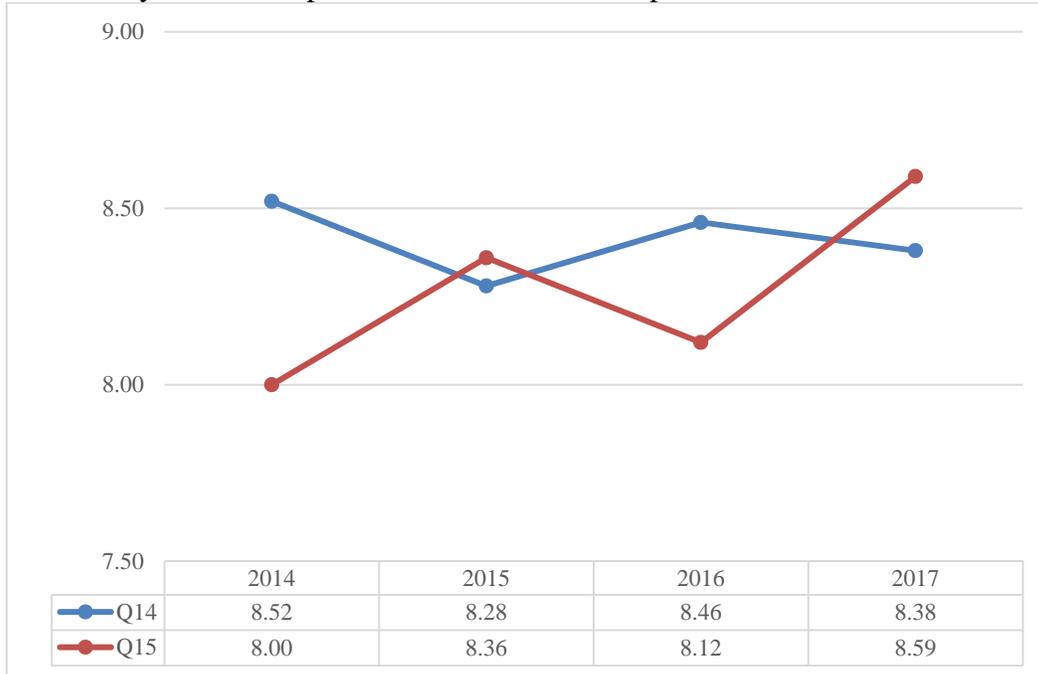
- 11. How satisfied are you that the Commission efficiently and effectively utilizes available fiscal and human resources?
- 12. How comfortable are you with the Commission's performance in reacting to new information and adapting accordingly to achieve Commission Goals?
- 13. The Commission has a limited scope of authority. How comfortable are you that the Commission spends the appropriate amount of resources on issues within its control?



Commission Products

14. How satisfied are you with the products of the ISFMP Department?

15. How satisfied are you with the products of the Science Department?



Discussion Questions

The most mentioned **obstacle to the Commission's success in rebuilding stocks (Q16)**, according to the 2017 Survey, was poor Commissioner cooperation and a degradation of the Atlantic Coastal Act resulting from recent compliance issues. The second most mentioned obstacle was climate change and the management of shifting stocks. Other obstacles mentioned include: uncertainty in recreational harvest estimates, inability to sustain consensus among the states to support shared goals, lack of a clearly defined policy towards risk, finite resources (staff, time, funding), coordination with the Councils and NOAA on joint FMP's, managing rebuilt stocks, political interference and special interests, lack of confidence in stock assessments and management actions, and failure to implement Ecological Assessment Point Methodology.

The most **useful products produced by the Commission (Q17)**, according to the 2017 Survey, include: Annual status of the stocks reports, meeting materials and summaries, science training for staff, support for public hearings, support for technical and management analyses, the Commission website and meeting archives, AP and TC reports, fishery management plans/amendments/addenda, workgroups, Annual Reports, management decision timelines, guidance on conservation equivalency, stock assessment process, and an understanding of the dynamic relationship between recreational and commercial anglers.

Additional products the Commission could create to make your job easier (Q18), according to the 2017 Survey, include: plan updates to ensure agencies adopt management provisions, updated stock assessments using Commission stocks as examples, meetings summaries and press releases specifically for state media and state legislators, online travel reimbursement, direct phone numbers to Commission

staff, a presentation on Commission funding needs, a "Report Card" that measures management actions to determine the impacts, a risk and uncertainty policy, prioritization of problems, plans that reflect what is happening in the ocean, a fisheries monitoring dashboard, evaluation of NEAMAP, reevaluation of the TC tasking process, socioeconomic presentations for the public, lunch at all the meetings, AP fishery performance reports, population graphs and annual harvest data back to 1950, and the determination of estimated sustainable harvest of fully recovered populations under ideal environmental conditions.

Issues the Commission should focus on more (Q19), according to the 2017 Survey, include: adapting management to climate change, habitat impacts of offshore energy, quota allocation/reallocation, collecting and using socioeconomic data, accounting for management uncertainty, consistency in specification setting among states, a management strategy evaluation, staff retention, regionally and temporally stable management measures for recreational fisheries, depleted stocks, developing and researching new management techniques, characterizing sustainable and recovered fisheries for stakeholders, reducing discards, prioritizing Meeting Week Agendas, cooperation with the Councils, improving MRIP, and improving the appeals process.

'Additional Comments' (Q20) from the 2017 Survey were not conducive to summary and may be viewed in their entirety at the end of this document.

Unabridged Answers to Questions 16-20

Q16 What is the single biggest obstacle to the Commission's success in rebuilding stocks?

- Inadequate data to rely on, sample size issues
- Uncertainty, particularly in the recreational harvest estimates.
- State level reluctance to accept and act on measures needed to restore overfished or depleted fish stocks. Lately there has been federal support for this reluctance.
- Baseline creep and the inability to sustain consensus among the states to support shared goals. It was extremely disappointing to see the appeal last year which threatens to undermine our work. We also need to shift more decisively to multi-species management. And we need to find ways to factor in climate change which may undermine the capacity of management practices to deal with declines of populations and shifts of populations. We also need to find ways to project changes due to ocean acidification that may create obstacles to rebuilding stocks.
- The lack of a clearly defined policy towards risk which allows for too much on the spot subjectivity in final management selections.
- Resources: Staff, time, funding
- For some species, impacts from climate change.
- The uncertainty in the sanctity of the Commission process that resulted in from the Secretary of Commerce's decision in the 2017 NJ Summer Flounder non-compliance case.
- Super abundance achievement theory for dominate species puts other species in precarious levels. More foxes in the hen house means less chickens no matter how big the hen house is.
- Addressing issues relating to overfishing, specifically those that are not actually the result of overfishing. I.e., overprotection of predator species, or anthropogenic impacts to the resource, both of which would require further reductions in harvest by recreational and commercial fishermen who in reality are not the cause, but still must react. Solely. This is where interagency support needs to be bolstered, EPA, CWA, and support or reconstitution demanded of those damaging habitat.
- Unclear commitment by all parties to the collective mission/goals

- Need better coordination with the Councils and NOAA. Need to develop a different and more efficient way of working on joint FMP's
- Dynamic (negative) changes in stock distribution and reproductive success. The former has created a 'what's in it for me' attitude that does not foster cooperative management efforts.
- managing rebuilt stocks
- Recreational data and politics
- Political interference and special interests on the commercial side. State representatives who choose a side to vote for rather than the wishes of the majority of their state's constituents.
- Lack of funds for monitoring progress in rebuilding and lack of confidence in quality and accuracy of stock assessments (status of stocks)
- Reluctance to make the tough vote for a resource if it affects one's home state. Political influence over commissioners and the attempted political influenza of the commission. No direct enforcement capability on individuals.
- State's self interests and the new federal administration dictating MSY
- Resources (in the sense that we rarely have all the data we need because getting data costs money): the lack thereof results in less public confidence in the actions taken by ASMFC.
- global warming
- Environmental conditions out of the Commission's control, either from nature or human induced.
- Conservation equivalencies are creatively circumventing the methods and requirements put in place to rebuild stocks.
- Not having the appropriate support of NOAA fisheries and/or the Secretary of Commerce
- State cooperation
- Climate change and interannual changes in environmental conditions in general. These issues are already having a tremendous impact on the Commission's ability to manage shifting/expanding/shrinking stocks effectively.
- Reallocation of rebuilt coastal stocks.
- time, uncertainty of the technical information and the NMFS decision on NJ flounder (apparent lack of collaboration, trust and consistent goals in decision making)
- Failure to implement Ecological Assessment Point Methodology for all species
- shifting stocks

Q17 What are the most useful products the Commission produces for you?

- Annual state of the stocks reports.
- All the materials for the meetings.
- Science training for staff, staff support for local public hearings, staff support for technical and management analyses
- Summaries of meeting materials and post meeting actions
- briefing materials
- The most useful product the Commission produces is the Commission web site. it is a well-organized site where a huge range of current and historical information is easily and quickly accessible.
- AP and hearing opinion.
- Multiple things, but to me, impartial summaries of large documents and research results. Everything should be read, but realistically, commissioner have other responsibilities and many use these summaries to manage where they devote their available time. The staff does a pretty

good job at providing such products. Although they may be relied upon too heavily by a few, they are still appreciated by those who really want to do a good job.

- Clear fishery management plans/amendments/addenda
- Stock assessments and annual plan updates. Plan updates need to do a better job of ensuring that all management agencies adopt the management provisions or if they fail to do so, point is out in the annual review. So for example the lobster plan would point out that the Commission recommended x, y, z on the following date and NOAA has not adopted these provision as of x date.
- Involvement of work groups to assist with a burgeoning load of species issues
- stock assessments
- meeting materials
- Staff summaries, annual reports, compilation of public hearing results.
- Technical Committee reports with conclusions and recommendations
- Provide excellent meeting materials as prep and documenting meetings
- The FMP, Amendments, and Addendums are usually very useful in explaining to the public why we are considering management actions. The stock assessments are also great and very useful at explaining why we are taking actions. Also, the meeting archives are very useful as there are often bits of information I will remember from a Board presentation that I can't find elsewhere, but now I can pull it out of the meeting archive.
- stock assessments , public input documents , addendum and amendment documents
- Stock status reports
- Clear synopses when discussing timelines prior to management decisions
- Everything is useful. ACCSP not so.
- The guidance documents (e.g., Conservation Equivalency guidance, Stock Assessment process guidance, Technical Committee guidance), the FMP reviews, Stock Assessment Overviews and the Meeting Week Summaries. The guidance documents are great resources for new commissioners and stakeholders just becoming involved in the process, while the FMP Reviews and Stock Assessment overviews are concise reviews of both the management and scientific processes that help one to remember what happened when; additionally, they are a great resource to provide to stakeholders and state-level commissioners. Finally, the Meeting Week Summaries are fantastic for helping us to discuss what actions occurred back home, and to answer specific questions regarding support for a particular motion, etc. While the Meeting Summaries are a lot of work for staff during the week, having those available by the time we all head home for the weekend is invaluable!
- stock assessments, reports and updates
- An understanding of the dynamic relationship between recreational and commercial anglers
- FMP development and general communications

Q18 What additional products could the Commission create to make your job easier?

- Updates on definitions of the terms used in stock assessments, using as examples stocks that we manage.
- Summaries of meetings and press releases on Board actions that could be sent out by commissioners to media in their states and to state legislators.
- You already make my job easier, you are a great partner.
- Online travel Reimbursement

- Direct phone numbers to Commission staff.
- What presentation can a State Commissioner make in regards to securing funding, that may be quick and extremely focused. Time and reception are always key when presenting a asking opportunity.
- A "Report Card." While future stock assessments and updates are generally used in this capacity, there should be specific goals stated in management actions that are measured periodically to determine the impacts they have made. Ex) reduce harvest by X for a year to increase SSB to Y. After that year, specifically address whether the action achieved Y, and or why it did not. This needs to be available to stakeholders as well. Constituents lose faith in a body that causes them harm with a promise of relief, but it never comes. When a reduction in harvest does not achieve the desired impact, it would also be obvious that something different may need to be done. Instead, stakeholders see another reduction with more promises. refer to questions #16 & 19.
- Policy guidance on risk/uncertainty
- A better prioritization of pending problems and issues to allow complete focus and understanding on these issues.
- plans that reflect what is happening in the ocean
- A dashboard format for monitoring fisheries through the years and within the current year.
- Evaluation of NEAMAP usefulness in stock assessments. Where have data been used and to what extent? Did NEAMAP have a substantial effect on assessments by stock and resulting management decisions?
- Some TC's overtasked. Evaluate tasking process and explore ways to improve.
- If the ASMFC states can ever get to an agreement on how to incorporate socioeconomic data into the FMP, it would be great to present that information to the public.
- lunch at all the meetings
- Press packets to distribute to local media outlets explaining our managed species during and after decision making processes
- Perhaps consider development of fishery performance reports by the APs, similar to what the MAFMC (and now SAFMC) have developed -- these could be very useful in getting an annual on-the-water picture of how the fishery has operated, any unusual or unexpected changes, etc. and might provide another avenue for the fishing public to feel invested in the process.
- not sure - ASMFC is responsive to the many needs we have and do a good job of providing what they can.
- Determine estimated sustainable harvest for various species if the populations were able to fully recover and the quality of the aquatic environment was excellent.

Q19 What issue(s) should the Commission focus more attention/time on?

- What can we as a Commission do for depleted stocks? What can the Commission accomplish for overarching habitat issues like offshore oil and gas development, wind power construction, climate change and others outside of the regulatory purview of the Commission or even its partners.
- Climate change and OA.
- Development of systems to account for management uncertainty, development of ways to develop consistency in specification setting among states, and the commission should initiate its first management strategy evaluation in the coming year or two.
- staff retention

- adapting management to fish movement and changes in stock abundance that are the result of warming ocean waters.
- Moving away from managing recreational fisheries based on harvest targets and MRIP estimates. A new approach needs to be developed that will provide more regionally and temporally stable management measures. 2) Revisitation of species allocations, especially for those species that were allocated long ago under different environmental and populations conditions.
- Each and every State has particular issues that may be considered Major Priorities. These identified issues should be addressed and worked through to the satisfaction of said States needs being considered. Often the bigger issues are left unaddressed because of an agenda's secondary information convoluting the discussion. Focus on the major problems identified by representative states should relieve most feelings of distress with a state's involvement with the ASMFC.
- Developing and researching new management techniques. 2) Addressing what the "sustainable" fishery might be expected to look like. Simply put, when recovery strategies do have the desired effect, what can stakeholders expect the fishery to look like afterwards. Reductions from most of the management bodies are put into place to recover or build a fishery, but are then rarely removed or relaxed even close to earlier levels. While that may be appropriate for some species, stakeholders need to know what to expect once the stock is good shape. 3) Making an apparent effort to reduce discards. There are many ways to achieve this, but it seems as though most of our actions tend to increase discards. This is compounded by states wanting their own regulations to fit their fishery, but a prerequisite of any plan should have this as a top priority for states to tackle within it.
- number 16 above on joint plan
- As in 18,, above, the Commission schedule is too hectic. Many issues that are fast-tracked need not be expedited at a quick pace; conversely, some species issues and problems do not need the immediate attention given, solely because of the ASMFC meeting schedule. Work groups seem to be helpful with this logjam of issues and problems.
- Getting better data
- cooperation with our Council partners
- Obtaining more accurate and reliable MRIP data.
- MRIP re-working and consequences of "new" effort data on management measures
- Re-evaluate the appeals process in the face of real and potential increased use. Concerning allocations mandatory periodic re-evaluations
- I have been on ASMFC Boards long enough to see aspects of management that perhaps were not as thoroughly considered in previous FMP take center stage, get contentious as going from the hypothetical to the concrete is always difficult, and then fade away again. I am sure there are issues more deserving of attention, but, given the current plethora of FMP, it is hard to imagine Commissioners having the time or energy to shift the ASMFC focus to other issues.
- Economic impact of decisions.
- Quota management. How reliance on historical quotas doesn't match present condition of various stocks. How to move away from the past and look at the present.
- Seems like all of our time (commissioners and staff) is already maxed out!! The commission does a great job of managing time efficiently and scheduling board meetings when needed, following up via email for certain types of Board votes (e.g., FMP reviews). Tough to think of how to do better.
- Reallocation of rebuilt coastal stocks.

- Provide species population graphs and annual harvest data back to 1950. This would give Commissioners a chance to grapple with changes over decades.
- Relocation of shifting stocks

Q20 Additional comments?

- Recently confidence that our federal partners will support Commission positions has been shaken. This trust must be restored.
- The lack of consideration for the written process to work during the Summer Flounder issue, was embarrassing to witness. If a state is willing to consider non-compliance: then there must be some real issues with said FMP that must be given additional negotiation time. On the better side, an example for the ASMFC would be, the negotiations that took place under the Menhaden Amendment Three process. Much regard was brought to light of different states fisheries ability to prosecute them successfully and sustainably.
- It has been a privilege to serve on this commission. The staff is extremely knowledgeable, and their "opinions" should be as welcome as their products, and for the most part, they are. Every meeting is an educational opportunity for me, and should be for everyone else. I would like to see the commission step outside the box much more often when traditional concepts do not appear to bear fruit. Finally, protecting the species and sectors that rely in them are very important, but traditional reliance on a fishery should also be an apparent top concern. This commission has the capacity to pick winners and losers. It should be better stated in our Values and possibly Mission that no state should lose just so another can win. Any state utilizing its historical fishery, has grown to depend on it. A state without, cannot be dependent on it. This could be better stated, but the point stands.
- I am concerned that we have entered a "post-institutional" age wherein we (our members, our constituents) may consider abandoning traditional institutions (such as the Commission) in favor of "rent-seeking" behavior of "going-it-alone" to seek better outcomes. I think we need to acknowledge this tendency and reinforce incentives to cooperation and disincentives to "going rogue."
- The frenetic pace that quite a few ISFMP coordinators take to detail issues and problems can be slowed down by ensuring coordinators give extra time to thorny problems and issues and de-emphasize minor issues relative to management.
- We are not allowing commercial and recreational industries to harvest what they could especially in joint managed stocks since NMFS manage to avoid lawsuits
- Very concerned about NJ's behavior over the fluke issues. Concerned about a veiled threat by VA to go out of compliance over menhaden. Concerned that more states will ignore ASMFC rules and processes when things don't go their way. We need to find a way to ensure that states' cannot go around the Commission to defeat its processes. Need to finally fund the angler catch & harvest surveys on the Rec. and Commercial sides to bring credibility to the data. Need to allow the public more comment time during the meetings when the Commission is taking action. Time limits for speakers, one shot at the podium. Too much time taken up by the same speakers getting multiple opportunities.
- Overall, doing a great job.
- As in past years, the ASMFC staff did a phenomenal job again in 2017. The quantity and quality of the work done by ASMFC continues to impress. I know it isn't easy and, given the comments sometimes made by curmudgeonly Commissioners (not me, of course...haha!), it might seem

unappreciated, but I think all Commissioners appreciate and value the continually excellent work done by ASMFC staff. Thank you very much!

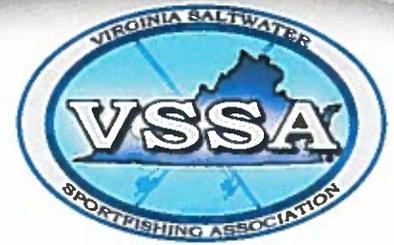
- Good job by staff again this past year. Especially kudos to plan coordinators!
- Overfishing is often a tough metric to use, b/c while valuable, it needs to be considered in context with other relevant information about a fishery, and our score on that particular question reflects this viewpoint.
- I think the successes far outweigh any shortcomings of ASMFC and the process we go through for fishery management. It is the best approach even with the issues where there is disagreement.
- It has been a distinct joy to serve my state and the ASMFC.

Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association, Inc (VSSA)

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Henrico, VA 23228
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RECEIVED

JAN 22 2018



ASMFC

Mike Avery
President

January 17, 2018

Curtis Tomlin
Vice President

James J. Gilmore Chair
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland St. 200 A-N
Arlington VA, 22201

Kevin Smith
Treasurer

Lanie Avery
Secretary

Dear Mr. Gilmore

Board of Directors

John Bello,
Chairman

John Earle

Mike Avery

Jerry Aycok

Brent Boshier

Jerry Hughes

Nelson Smither

York Fee

Mark Roy

Kevin Smith

Curtis Tomlin

I am writing on behalf of VSSA's more than 600 members to express our disappointment and displeasure over Virginia's appeal of the Amendment 3 provisions to Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. Virginia is challenging the decision as being unfair to Virginia. In our view, the arguments offered are without merit. They appear to be based on the greed from a single member that didn't get their way. Be assured, the arguments offered do not reflect the views of all Virginians. First the Coastwide Total Allowable Catch (TAC) was increased. Virginia is upset claiming they did not get their fair share of the increase based on the methodology chosen to distribute the total quota. The commission sought to spread the increase among the member states. Why is that unfair to Virginia? It isn't unfair to Virginia; provisions were included giving Virginia the opportunity and ability to negotiate with other states for their unused or unneeded quota.

Virginia is complaining because the Cap on the reduction fishery in Chesapeake Bay was reduced. The fact is the reduced cap was set above the average for the previous five year landings. Virginia argues there is no science to justify the decrease. Science or no science, the Menhaden Management Board feels the cap is necessary and has demonstrated this by originally implementing a Chesapeake Bay cap in 2005. In reality, if the menhaden were in Virginia's portion of the Chesapeake bay, the one and only reduction fishery company would have landed them from the bay rather than incur the additional time and expense of going to the Ocean to catch them. It should also be noted that Virginia is the only remaining state allowing purse seign fishing in their waters.

Amendment 3 considered changing Menhaden Management from a single species management to an Eco system based management philosophy. There were in excess of 150,000 written comments supporting the inclusion of Ecological Reference Points (ERP's) in Amendment 3 submitted to ASMFC. As additional information, there were over 2200 comments from Virginia residents, as well as 118 from scientists, and 180 businesses included in that total. This number of comments was both historical and unprecedented. Yet, the board decided to ignore the wishes of the public and continue



Mr. James J. Gilmore
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
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with single species management for at least two more years. Had ERP's been implemented, the TAC would no doubt have been decreased rather than increased.

I urge you to consider, the appeal from Virginia does not reflect the view of all Virginians. Accordingly, VSSA does not support Virginia's appeal and strongly encourages the ISMFP board deny this appeal in its entirety.

Respectfully,



Chairman

This form letter was submitted by 114 individuals.

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA Draft Amendment 3
Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 12:30:08 PM

First Name Aaron

Last Name Aaron

Street Address 14 Lakeview Dr

City, State Zip Code 23662

Email aaronkhomes@gmail.com

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision the would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.

2. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. You have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the years the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence?

3. The long letter from Virginia has no many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.

Request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny

Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

Sincerely,

Following are the individual comments that have been received:

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 1:23:07 PM

First Name Murray

Last Name deMuth

Street Address 314 Thornhill Rd

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Email demuth4@comcast.net

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

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Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

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2. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. You have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the years the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence?

3. The long letter from Virginia has no many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.

4. As a result of the actual lower catch of 57,000 MT Omega missed its financial forecast and goals and the institutional investors (stock holders) forced the sale of the company to Cook Industries. They now own the resource and this is obviously an attempt through back door politics and lobbying to placate the new owner. This is simply wrong. Let's understand that the new owners are looking for a cheap and reliable food source for their aquaculture business (Farm Raised Fish) for the general Grocery Store Market. As such, they should be responsible stewards of the resource they now own.

5. I personally attended the public meetings and raised the following issues. The math of allocation is all wrong. Why do I say this? First, how is it that one company gets 75%+/- of all the Atlantic Coast menhaden. Just because this is the way its always been done is not a science based answer. Second, how is it that only the employees of Omega have the right to harvest more menhaden then all of the recreational and commercial fishermen combined. This is a gross imbalance to allocate the harvest of a public resource. Third, there has not been an economic impact study to determine what would happen to the cost of goods and services if the menhaden harvest and rendering were shut down. Again, there is no science or study of what happens to the economy by shutting down the industry. So again a very important piece of the decision making matrix is missing. Fourth, as in any industries there is a social/public benefit policy of do no harm. How is it that Omega can take 51,000 MT of fish from the water and not do any harm to the environment? The short answer is they can't. There has never been an offset for public benefit to improve habitat, water quality, or to ensure that the heath of the Chesapeake Bay will not be harmed by the harvest. As general citizen if I damage the environment I am held criminally responsible for such actions and/or correcting the problem at my own expense. How is it that the laws of the land do not apply to Omega?

So based upon the above information I respectfully and strongly request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny Virginia's appeal. If not then this shows me and every other citizen that the decisions for ASMFC are being made by NOAA as a result of Government policy being made behind closed doors to the benefit of a select few. Any action to change or reverse the hard work of many stake holders should be done in a Public Forum and open to all. If not then it is the duty of the citizens to demand a congressional investigation to uncover, expose and prosecute any criminal activity involved in reversing the new menhaden policy. I think it's fitting to end that it is very clear that based upon the outcome of the Public Comment Period and the final results that ASMFC takes its orders from NOAA or ASMFC will be disbanded.

Sincerely,

Murray deMuth

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 2:37:14 PM

First Name jerry

Last Name llaneza

Street Address 11020 whistlinf swan place

City, State Zip Code chesterfield, va 23838

Email llanezaj@verizon.net

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision the would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.

2. I have a home at Windmill Point and have fished in the Bay frequently for many years. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. You have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the years the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence?

3. The long letter from Virginia has no many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.

Request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

Sincerely,

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 2:44:24 PM

First Name David

Last Name Madison

Street Address 6262 charles city rd

City, State Zip Code Henrico

Email dnmadison@gmail.com

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

There are a lot of reasons that I believe the menhaden population is being depleted. The humpback whales that were being hit in the shipping channel leading into the bay last winter/spring was a big one. The bay used to be covered with menhaden now they are all focused in the channel. When rockfishing was good in the bay years ago depth finders would should huge globs of bait, now you can't find bait balls and fish are feeding on small minnows near the surface. I used to be able to easily catch menhaden in a cast net within 20 mins now I feel lucky to see any at all. Not catching the same amount of rockfish, bluefish, and cobia as I have in recent years also means there is a decline in the bait keeping fish out of the Chesapeake bay.

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision they would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.

2. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower

Chesapeake Bay year after year. You have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the years the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence?

3. The long letter from Virginia has no many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.

Request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

Sincerely,

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 3:05:45 PM

First Name Percy

Last Name Blackburn

Street Address 21 Old canal Road

City, State Zip Code Richmond, VA 23221

Email billyblack3@aol.com

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision the would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.

2. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. You have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the years the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence?

3. It is obvious that this effort is politically motivated by lobbyists with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.

Request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to given, request a full and open public hearing be

scheduled in the future before deciding.

Sincerely,

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 4:48:37 PM

First Name Brian

Last Name Ford

Street Address 2280 Cramer Ln

City, State Zip Code Hayes

Email bford620@gmail.com

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message You morons are allowing Omega to destroy the lower bay. The amount of bait in the lower bay is pathetic. The alga blooms and red tides get worse every summer. There hasn't been a coastal rockfish season in 10 years. Menhaden are the most important fish in the water and the bay is being raped of them.

Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision the would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.

2. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. You have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the years the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence?

3. The long letter from Virginia has so many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.

Request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

Sincerely,

Brian Ford

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 5:03:14 PM

First Name Overton

Last Name Hughlett

Street Address 9110 Pantego Ln

City, State Zip Code Mechanicsville, VA 23116

Email ohughlett@comcast.net

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT which is still too high. I believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision should require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.

2. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. You have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the years the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence? Not only are our observations real but our sport fishing has a much more significant economic impact for Virginia than Omega,

3. The long letter from Virginia has so many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.

I request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny Virginia's appeal. If consideration is given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

Sincerely,

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 7:55:30 PM

First Name Will

Last Name Filomarino

Street Address 1209 Tyler Court

City, State Zip Code Virginia Beach, Va 23456

Email wgfilo@cox.net

Subject VA Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting.

As a life time resident and recreational fisherman of 35+ years in the Tidewater area, I have witnessed first hand the complete collapse and mis-management of the menhaden fishery in the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia waters. The water quality issues and decline in gamefish stocks which the Chesapeake Bay is experiencing are a direct result of the depleted menhaden stocks.

I fully understand the dollars the menhaden provide to a limited commercial fishing industry that targets this species. However, the Common Wealth of Virginia over the last few years has lost and enormous amount of recreational fishermen dollars as a result of poor fishing in the Chesapeake Bay. This can be directly tied to the menhaden decline.

This past November 2017 decision to adopt Menhaden Amendment #3, was the first small positive step in a long time to help stop this decline and hopefully start to rebuild the menhaden stocks within the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia waters which is so desperately needed.

At this time, I express my wish for the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) to deny Virginia's appeal. It is time to limit the over harvesting of menhaden in Virginia which is impacting the ecosystem, and majority people of the Common Wealth of Virginia, instead of just providing profits for a just the few that target this species

commercially.

Sincerely,

Will Filomarino
Life time Virginia Beach Resident

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Thursday, January 18, 2018 7:01:29 AM

First Name Jurgен

Last Name Korb

Street Address 9102 Sherwood Drive

City, State Zip Code Quinton, VA. 23141

Email krazykraut56@verizon.net

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision the would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.

2. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I charter 7 - 8 times each year and have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden and game fish in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. I and many others out here know you have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the years regarding the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence? Or do the perks from lobbyists supersede the voices of the thousands of fisherman? Even our Governor McAuliffe, like many other public officials in Virginia, has benefited from Omega, receiving \$25,000 in 2014 for the governor-elect's inaugural committee. In all, the company has contributed \$385,749 to the campaigns of Virginia candidates.

That matters because Virginia's menhaden fishery is controlled by the General Assembly rather than by regulators, as all other saltwater fish are. Virginia is the only state on the Atlantic coast where lawmakers manage the menhaden fishery.

3. The long letter from Virginia has so many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia, bad for the sport fishing anglers who pay millions of dollars a year, and as I am sure you are abundantly aware for the health and Ecosystem of the Chesapeake Bay. The only winning party in all this is Omega Protein, but they too shall find that the supply of Menhaden is not limitless. These fish play a critical ecological role as forage feeders that eat plankton and generate protein and fat that nourish animals higher up in the food chain including sea birds, dolphins, whales and striped bass and more. Omega Protein, the sole industrial menhaden reduction fishing operation, catches nearly its entire Atlantic quota in Virginia waters, with fully half its quota taken inside the Chesapeake Bay."Unfortunately Thru lobbying and pocket padding Virginia remains the only state to still allow purse seining in our near shore waters.

I request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

Sincerely,

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Thursday, January 18, 2018 9:37:25 AM

First Name Janet

Last Name Worsham

Street Address 1435 westbrook ave

City, State Zip Code richmond

Email jmwors@comcast.net

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision the would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.
2. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. You have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the years the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence?
3. The long letter from Virginia has no many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.

Request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny

Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

I am an angler, and have fished the bay my entire life. I know the truth.

Sincerely,

Janet Worsham, CW4, USAR, RET.

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Thursday, January 18, 2018 10:41:19 AM

First Name Lud

Last Name Kimbrough

Street Address 107 Kennard Lane

City, State Zip Code Deltaville

Email lud.kimbrough@gmail.com

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

I am a sportfisherman based in Deltaville, VA and I consider the decline in availability of sportfish such as striped bass, bluefish, trout etc. to be directly caused by the continued taking of menaden from the Chesapeake Bay. Commercial fishing for menhaden is a tragedy to the entire ecosystem.

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision the would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.

2. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. You have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the years the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence?

3. The long letter from Virginia has no many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.

Request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

Sincerely,
Lud Kimbrough

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Thursday, January 18, 2018 9:40:39 AM

First Name Steve

Last Name Atkinson

Street Address 2631 Robys way

City, State Zip Code Midlothian va 23113

Email steveatkinson52@verizon.net

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision the would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.

2. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. You have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the years the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence?

3. The long letter from Virginia has many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.

Please help save menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay which is the largest nursery for menhaden.

Request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

Sincerely,
Steve Atkinson

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Thursday, January 18, 2018 10:42:20 AM

First Name James

Last Name Stout

Street Address 4237 Brixton Road

City, State Zip Code Chesterfield, Va 23832

Email lpgtrout@aol.com

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision the would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.
2. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have fished the Bay for over 40 years and have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. The Menhaden boats have been fishing closer and closer to shore, removing bait fish and reducing the number of fish I catch. You have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the years the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence?
3. The long letter from Virginia has no many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.

Request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

Sincerely,

James E. Stout
Recreational Fisherman

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Thursday, January 18, 2018 1:16:35 PM

First Name tom

Last Name herendeen

Street Address 912 sharon dr.

City, State Zip Code chesapeake VA 23320

Email twoherrons@aol.com

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision the would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.

2. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. You have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the years the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence? " If NOT" Common sense would indicate that when, essentially ONE company is taking approximately 80-85% of all MENHADDEN LANDED ALONG THE ENTIRE ATLANTIC COAST, & THEIR CATCH COMES PRIMARLY FROM THE CHESAPEAKE BAY, with a few landings along the Atlantic coastal beach areas within the 3mile limit. It would have an impact on predator fish and the overall health of the Chesapeake Bay.

3. The long letter from Virginia has so many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.

Request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

Sincerely,
Tom Herendeen
Concerned citizen & steward for Chesapeake Bay

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Thursday, January 18, 2018 1:32:03 PM

First Name Scott

Last Name Houghtaling

Street Address 10676 Anna Marie Drive

City, State Zip Code Richmond, Virginia 23060

Email scott@haiboiler.com

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision the would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.
2. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. You have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the years the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence?
3. The long letter from Virginia has no many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.
4. Are the local scientists aware that thousands of fish including menhaden, striped bass and

more just died due to hard freezes in the Chesapeake area? I know this is solely a natural event but with thousands dead in one event I think that needs to be considered along with commercial harvest numbers.

Request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to be given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

Sincerely,
Scott Houghtaling

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Thursday, January 18, 2018 3:10:18 PM

First Name edward

Last Name fortunato

Street Address 8803 general couches court

City, State Zip Code fredericksburg, VA 22407

Email ed.fort.translog@comcast.net

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

After 30 years of recreational fishing in Virginia's Chesapeake Bay and watching the fish getting worse year after year, I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision the would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.
2. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. You have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the years the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence?
3. The long letter from Virginia has no many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.

Request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

Sincerely,

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Thursday, January 18, 2018 8:37:58 PM

First Name Joseph

Last Name Shaw

Street Address 1629 Kettle Creek Ter

City, State Zip Code Chesapeake

Email jshaw4428@aol.com

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

I have been fishing the Chesapeake for over 50 years both from the CBBT pier as a kid to owning a boat for almost 25 years. I have a 15 year old special needs son who love fishing the bay, but not catching fish is turning him off from fishing the bay. As a child I caught fish all day, now as an adult its much harder to catch. I am not a scientist but something is defiantly going on. If things don't change to the better I will sale my boat and fishing gear which will be a sad day for me, my friends and family. Please help and do the right thing. Thank you for taking the time to read this. I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision the would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.

2. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. You have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the years the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence?

3. The long letter from Virginia has no many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.

Request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

Sincerely,

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Thursday, January 18, 2018 9:45:50 PM

First Name ROBERT

Last Name MORGAN

Street Address 3417 SPRINGDALE AVE

City, State Zip Code FORESTVILLE, MD 20747

Email captchawk@aol.com

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following personal reason. The work that went into the current harvest limits was extensive. I really think there should have been greater reductions in the limits, but at least some consideration was given to the Chesapeake. I don't need science to tell me the state of the menhaden stock in the bay. I remember the 60's and 70's when huge shoals of jumbo alewives were everywhere on the surface. I haven't seen that for many years, and now a self serving group in VA wants to keep it that way. Their philosophy of "he who catches the last fish wins" is not in the best interest of of our resource.

I realize that I'm in Maryland, but what VA commercial interests remove from the bay impacts what the stripers up the bay have to eat. Please let the current limit stand.

Thanks for your consideration, R. Morgan

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Friday, January 19, 2018 7:23:41 AM

First Name kennedy

Last Name daniels

Street Address 3423 lake view road

City, State Zip Code mechanicsville, va 23111

Email kdaniels@weoc.com

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision the would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.

2. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. You have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the years the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence?

3. The long letter from Virginia has no many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.

Request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny

Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

How could it be possible that allowing menhaden depletion in our waters would be considered a good thing?

Sincerely,

Kennedy Daniels MD

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Friday, January 19, 2018 10:39:42 AM

First Name Robert

Last Name Wells

Street Address 271 Chesapeake Watch Rd.

City, State Zip Code Deltaville, VA 23043

Email rockfish.robin@gmail.com

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision the would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.

2. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. You have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the years the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence? You know that this is a "form" letter that concerned anglers in the Bay region were asked to send you but the following is personal anecdotal information that is certainly, in my mind, worth your consideration. I Rockfished 19 times this year from the 2nd week of the season through the last week. The first 7 times, I did not catch a keeper fish. The largest fish caught was 28". This was not a good year. Part of the reason is that there is very little bait (Menhaden) and what we have is what we call Peanut Bunker (2" to 3" approx.). Big fish want the big baits (10" to 12"). You folks,

VMRC, VIMS and the like really need to start listening to those of us who put in the time on the water,

3. The long letter from Virginia has no many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.

Request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

Sincerely,

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Friday, January 19, 2018 11:11:07 AM

First Name Eddie, Jr.

Last Name Cutts

Street Address 306 Tilghman Street

City, State Zip Code Oxford, Maryland 21654

Email eddiecutts@me.com

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision the would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.

2. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. You have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the years the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence?

2a. I moved into my parents boatyard facility in 1965. I was 9 and began fishing hook and line almost immediately. When I took sailing lessons there were large pods of menhaden of several hundred acres on the Tred Avon and Choptank rivers. They were mistaken by me many times for a fresh breeze coming in. The menhaden have been in decline for many years. Jim Price had pointed this out to you many many times. It appears the small \$ gain of

a few is not as important as the Bay's needs as a whole. Menhaden filter the water, they eat algae. They are need to clean the Bay. They are a forage fish and a needed food for predator fish. Pleas limit the commercial take of menhaden.

3. The long letter from Virginia has no many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.

Request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

Sincerely,

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Friday, January 19, 2018 11:29:21 AM

First Name anthony

Last Name marchetti

Street Address 41 cedar cir

City, State Zip Code irvington, va 22480

Email anthony@rroysters.com

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision the would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.

2. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. You have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the years the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence?

3. The long letter from Virginia has no many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.

Request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny

Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

If you don't believe the menhaden stocks are declining in the Chesapeake Bay, then you haven't been fishing on the Chesapeake Bay.

Sincerely,

Anthony Marchetti

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Saturday, January 20, 2018 6:47:11 AM

First Name Mike

Last Name Ostrander

Street Address 7239 Lookout Drive

City, State Zip Code Richmond, VA 23225

Email mike@discoverthejames.com

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

Isn't it about time menhaden the historic biomass lows are recognized as a problem? There is a fix for this and it's pretty obvious the answer is a much lower cap for commercial catch. It's the only way to begin a fix f this.

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision the would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.

2. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. You have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the years the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence?

3. The long letter from Virginia has no many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me

that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.

Request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

Sincerely,

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Sunday, January 21, 2018 10:43:21 AM

First Name Robert

Last Name Hudson

Street Address 116 BRIDGE LN

City, State Zip Code REEDVILLE, VA 22539

Email karisma@hughes.net

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting. I have been fishing the bay since 1960. It is obvious to me that there has been a serious decline of the menhaden stock over the past 20 years. This is why I can so strongly support the following key points:

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision the would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.

2. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. You have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the years the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence?

3. The long letter from Virginia has so many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.

Request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to be given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

Sincerely,
Robert Hudson
116 Bridge Lane
Reedville, VA 22439

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Sunday, January 21, 2018 2:49:57 PM

First Name Mike

Last Name Mike

Street Address 3841 Jefferson Blvd

City, State Zip Code 23455

Email mwills98@yahoo.com

Subject VA's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

As a saltwater Chesapeake Bay angler for over 25 years, I encourage the ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting. I attended the meeting in person as well as several VMRC meetings in preparation and was appalled the VA delegation failed to fairly represent the majority of all VA interested parties. As evidenced by the unprecedented volume of public comment, the majority fully supported a change to an ecosystem based management plan for menhaden.

A change to an ERP plan would have undoubtedly called for a reduction in the coastwide TAC in addition to a reduction in the bay cap. Regardless of the VA's delegation refusal to support the change to a ERP management plan, the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT was one small step in the right direction by the ASMFC.

Virginia's claim that there is no evidence suggesting that localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay has occurred is laughable. Having spent one day a week on average from April through October (used to be through January before rockfish disappeared), often covering as much as 100 miles on the water from Cape Henry to Cape Charles, I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. Also gone are the schools of peanut bunker that used swim along the beachfront all summer near my home in Lynnhaven. As a result, catches of the most popular sport fish in the lower Chesapeake has been in steady decline. There are thousands of other anglers who have confirmed the same findings. I don't know how you have more conclusive evidence than direct observation? The "wild guess" VMRC representatives either spend too

much time in the office to see the evidence or they are being unduly influenced by industry.

Please do not undo the first small step in the right direction to help restore ecosystem balance in the Chesapeake Bay and deny Virginia's appeal to raise the bay cap. If consideration is to given to VA's appeal, I demand a full and open public hearing be scheduled.

Sincerely,

Mike Wills

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2018 11:41:13 AM

First Name Steve

Last Name Atkinson

Street Address 2631 Robys way

City, State Zip Code Midlothian va 23113

Email steveatkinson52@verizon.net

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

1. ASMFC has acknowledged Virginia's appeal claim that the evidence of menhaden depletion in the bay. The truth is very few studies have looked at the bay and thousands of fishermen have provided input on the rapidly declining bay population. Further, if the bay wasn't being depleted why would Omega catch consistently fall well below the bay cap? But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision they would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.

2. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. You have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the years the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence?

3. The long letter from Virginia has no many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.

Please, we need the lower cap in place to protect these fish in case they return some day!

Sincerely,
steve Atkinson

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 3:07:51 PM

First Name james

Last Name shadbolt

Street Address 2200 Pump Rd #227

City, State Zip Code henrico

Email jshadbolt@verizon.net

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision the would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.

2. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. You have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the years the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence?

3. The long letter from Virginia has no many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay. I PERSONALLY WITNESS WHILE ROCKFISHING NEAR PLANTATION LIGHT IN THE LOWER BAY THE FLEET FROM OMEGA COME THRU AND SCOOP UP ALL OF THE FISH IN THE AREA THE

SMELL IS HORRIBLE AND ALAS WE END UP GOING HOME BECAUSE THE BITE THAT WAS ON IS COMPLETELY DESOLATE. I HAVE ALSO SEEN THEM TAKE MENHADEN AND ALL OF THE SPANISH MACKEREL OUT IN FRONT OF RUDEE INLET AND THE FISHING WAS IMMEDIATELY STOPPED FOR ANY MORE SPANISH MACKEREL UNTIL 1 MONTH LATER AS ALL OF THE BAIT AND SPANISH WERE SCOOPED UP 2017

Request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to be given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

Sincerely,

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 4:39:20 PM

First Name Keith

Last Name Koontz

Street Address 2340 Haversham Close

City, State Zip Code Virginia Beach

Email kkhokie@gmail.com

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

The sad fact is that our governing institutions are corrupt and that most people dont care. So, we live with the consequences of having 99% of the Bays striper and bluefish populations GONE. They've been spotted far offshore by researchers headed due South to the Outer Banks for wintering over till the northern migration. Here in Virginia, our infamous menhaden fleet (Omega Protein)STILL sells them for fertilizer even though soybean works just as well! They have just a couple dozen employees who get paid squat. The profit is in the hands of the owners and goes to soft money for our politicians in campaign contributions.

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision the would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.

2. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. You have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the

years the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence?

3. The long letter from Virginia has no many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.

Request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

Sincerely,

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Thursday, January 25, 2018 11:42:48 AM

First Name Westley

Last Name Chesser

Street Address 151 FAIRMONT DR.

City, State Zip Code STAUNTON

Email wc4x@virginia.edu

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision the would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.

2. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. You have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the years the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence?

3. The long letter from Virginia has so many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.

Request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny

Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

Please consider our children and grand children's use of the bay, if the current direction continues the bay will no longer have a viable fishery, so the state will loose millions of dollars in revenue.

Sincerely,

Westley Chesser

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Friday, January 26, 2018 9:40:40 AM

First Name Gary

Last Name Whiting

Street Address 222 Milstead Rd

City, State Zip Code Newport News, VA 23606

Email nkingfish@gmail.com

Subject Keep Lower Cap on Menhaden Harvest in Ches. Bay: VSSA - Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Please deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

A) ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC. It was proper for ASMFC to reduce the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. I believe that if ASMFC considers a reversal of this decision, they should also request a new round of public input. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.

B) The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden and its impact on local wildlife in the lower Chesapeake Bay over the past 20 years. Whale populations feeding during the fall and winter at the mouth of the bay have shown evidence of reduced food availability. Increased frequency of whales washing up dead on our local bay and coastal beaches and reduced populations visiting our coastal waters during the winter appear to be our canary in the coal mine.

I request that the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny Virginia's appeal. Please protect our coastal ecosystems - especially so our hungry winter visitors to our local waters have young bay menhaden to eat!

Sincerely,

Gary Whiting
Newport News, VA

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Friday, January 26, 2018 10:44:12 AM

First Name Boyd

Last Name Chapman

Street Address 1705 Bruce Ave

City, State Zip Code Charlottesville, VA 22903

Email boydchapman@yahoo.com

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision the would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.

2. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. You have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the years the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence?

3. The long letter from Virginia has no many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.

Request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny

Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

Sincerely,

Boyd Chapman

PS: The VMRC scientists alone should manage the Virginia population, not politics.

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Sunday, January 28, 2018 12:46:35 PM

First Name Burnley

Last Name Taylor

Street Address 204 windway drive

City, State Zip Code Orange, VA. 22485

Email burnley.taylor@yahoo.com

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

Please save The Bay by protecting the most important fish in The Bay! Enough is enough!

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision the would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.
2. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. You have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the years the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence?
3. The long letter from Virginia has no many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.

Request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

Sincerely,

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Sunday, January 28, 2018 2:57:08 PM

First Name Glen

Last Name Groat

Street Address 2411 Corner Rock Road

City, State Zip Code Midlothian, Virginia 23113

Email midloglen@verizon.net

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

I wanted to add a personal note to this factual email. I have been fishing the lower Potomac river as well as the bay for about the last 20 years and have seen the changes in numbers as well as size of Rockfish drop over that time. Menhaden are a primary food source for these and other migratory fish. Please deny Virginia's request.

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision the would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.

2. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. You have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the years the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence?

3. The long letter from Virginia has so many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.

Request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

Sincerely,

Glen Groat

This form letter was submitted by 114 individuals.

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Monday, January 29, 2018 1:08:41 PM

First Name Tyler

Last Name Sondberg

Street Address 102 Franklin St

City, State Zip Code Cambridge, MD, 21613

Email TMS4659@gmail.com

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Please deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

A) ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC. It was proper for ASMFC to reduce the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. I believe that if ASMFC considers a reversal of this decision, they should also request a new round of public input. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.

B) I am 29 years old and have a BS in Biology and Marine Environmental Science. Although I studied Menhaden in school the most obvious signs that the bay needs more of them is seen out on the water while fishing. My castnet used to easily fill with several handfuls of small menhaden to use for bait. Now I struggle to find schools of smaller Menhaden to catch for bait. Rockfish appear more sickly than ever due to the lack of Menhaden (the main portion of their diet).

I request that the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny Virginia's appeal. Please protect our coastal ecosystems - especially so our hungry winter visitors to our local waters have young bay menhaden to eat!

Sincerely,

Tyler

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Monday, January 29, 2018 10:37:50 AM

First Name Byron

Last Name Quinley

Street Address 104 Chestnut Ct

City, State Zip Code Yorktown

Email byron.quinley@gmail.com

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

Anyone on the water can tell you menhaden IN THE BAY has been declining. Please protect our coastal ecosystems for the health of The Bay and all it means to Virginia - commercial fishing outside of menhaden, recreation, tourism, and the whale migration.

I request that the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 appeal.

The 51,000 metric ton cap represents an approximation of the five-year average of reduction harvest from the Chesapeake Bay between 2012 and 2016. This shows The Bay population was down and lower cap needed to be set, but in effect, they can catch the same amount as they have been catching!

Therefore, there is no reason to appeal Amendment 3.

Request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

Sincerely,

Byron & Cassandra Quinley

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Monday, January 29, 2018 1:44:47 PM

First Name David

Last Name Harmon

Street Address 8233 N. Mayfield Ln

City, State Zip Code Mechanicsville, Va 23111

Email firedkvh@yahooo.com

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

Please respect my View on This IMPORTANT subject.

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision the would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.

2. The idea that no localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is absolutely false. I have personally witnessed the significant decline of menhaden in the lower Chesapeake Bay year after year. You have been hearing from thousands of anglers over the years the same message, that menhaden stocks and the predators that feed on them have been in serious decline for years. How can the direct testimony from thousands of anglers on the water not be considered scientific evidence?

3. The long letter from Virginia has no many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for

Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.

Request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

Sincerely,
D K Harmon

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Monday, January 29, 2018 10:52:48 PM

First Name Robert

Last Name Robert

Street Address 33232 Hickman St.

City, State Zip Code 23420

Email btytus@hotmail.com

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision the would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.
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3. The long letter from Virginia has no many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.

Request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny

Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

As a lifelong angler (I'm 72) of the Chesapeake bay I have seen a decline in the quality of the fish in the bay, I believe that menhaden play a extremely important role in the bay , first as a filter feeder and more important as a food source for most fish in the bay , The menhaden are a political issue that generates a tremendous amount of money for politicians , I hope that politics will not affect your thinking.

Sincerely,
Bob Tytus

From: Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: [Mike Avery](#)
Subject: VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal
Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 1:17:38 PM

First Name ZACHARY

Last Name DUKE

Street Address 9609 BAY POINT DR

City, State Zip Code Norfolk

Email dukezb@yahoo.com

Subject VSSA -- Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 Appeal

Message Mr. James Gilmore Jr.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

What's happening with the menhaden in va is a joke to anglers throughout the east coast. Let's take pride in our state's waters and work to rectify the Canadian corporation that is allowed to put in minimal work to meet their needs by scraping the mouth of our bay clean of its most important fish.

I respectfully request ASMFC deny Virginia's appeal regarding the Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 decision's made during the November 2017 ASMFC meeting for the following reasons:

1. ASMFC conducted public hearings and comment period for Amendment 3. An historic number of 153,000 comments were submitted to ASMFC which were largely ignored by the board. But the one victory was the reduction of the bay cap from 87,000 MT to 51,000MT. We believe for ASMFC to reverse this decision the would require another series of public comments. Reversing a decision without another public comment period would set a very bad precedence for ASMFC.

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3. The long letter from Virginia has no many errors and misinformation, it is evident to me that this effort is highly political written by lobbyist with paid agendas. This is bad for Virginia and bad for the Chesapeake Bay.

Request the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board (ISFMP) deny Virginia's appeal. If consideration is to given, request a full and open public hearing be scheduled in the future before deciding.

Sincerely,
Zac Duke

January 28,2017

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
c/o James J. Gilmore, Chair and Robert E. Beal, Executive Director
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N,
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: "Virginia's" Appeal of the November 2017 Commission Decision related to
Amendment 3 provisions, and setting the Menhaden cap for the Chesapeake Bay at
51,000 Metric Tons

Dear Commission Members and Staff:

A. Introduction - I write this letter solely in my own behalf as a lifelong Virginian, who for the past 14 years running, has fished in or near the Bay, usually in shallow water, and on incoming tides. The early years (04-06), were a time when one could almost walk across the water on schools of incoming Menhaden. My fishing and observation point was on the Bay's Western shore near the Virginia-Maryland line not far from Reedville, Va., home of Omega Protein. In the interest of brevity and clarity what I am about to say may sound overly caustic or strident. It is not intended as such and I assume the folks who signed the letter trying to effect this appeal, allegedly in behalf of Virginia, are good people, just like other good people who work for Omega.

B. Standing - This appeal asks you as Commissioners to believe that the three persons who signed it represent the views of citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia, or at least a significant majority of such Virginians. That's fiction. Instead, this appeal letter with no letterhead should carry Omega Protein's official imprimatur. How is it not written by Omega Protein, for Omega Protein? Please reject the appeal solely on the basis that it lacks standing. Whatever statutory and related regulatory underpinnings cited to claim that the three people who signed this appeal are somehow "authorized" to speak for an entire state has to be suspect, and probably is an improper delegation of power, and certainly wrongheaded.

C. The Merits - Omega's appeal letter (as I would name it) seems designed, intentionally or not, to have this Commission treat this appeal as if it were about a Menhaden allocation between a number of Atlantic States. That's off the mark. This is about the Chesapeake. The juvenile Menhaden population has evolved from being wonderfully, beautifully abundant in 2004 to almost non-existent now. Something is wrong. Short term, Omega should and can live with your November decision and take a few less tons (36,000 MT??) from our Bay. What Omega seems to forget or has never acknowledged is that Menhaden in the Bay are not owned by Omega. Instead these forage fish, these filter feeders, are a natural resource vital to the the Striper population and the overall health of the Bay. As such they belong to the public. If Omega is left unchecked it will plunder our Bay until there are no more Menhaden. There will be nothing to allocate. Any economic argument about jobs lost or gained will be academic and moot. Please deny this appeal.

Thank you,

Clyde Gouldman
Charlottesville, Va.

From: [info](#)
To: [Comments](#)
Subject: FW: on menhaden
Date: Thursday, January 18, 2018 11:24:50 AM

From: gradymania [mailto:blueseas65319@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 12:38 PM
To: info <info@asmfc.org>
Subject: on menhaden

Im not surprised at the reversal of position on the limits of "harvesting" menhaden being increased again. I have no doubt as to the cause - soft money. Someone is getting bribed, period. My 70 years on the planet and a lifetime of support to causes that benefit the Chesapeake and coast marine fisheries, have shown me that the governing organizations have no shortage of corruption and self interest - as do most other ruling bodies. The place is loaded with self serving individuals who could care less about their public obligation, much less the welfare of the species.

thanks for nothing.

P Paul
Surry, Va