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Subject: Statement of the Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Office of the Governor

Timothy M. Kaine
Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR KAINE

*~ On Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission preliminary approval of
proposed menhaden harvest cap ~*

RICHMOND – Governor Timothy M. Kaine today announced that members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) have given preliminary approval to the Governor’s proposal to set a five-year annual cap on the industrial harvest of menhaden from the Chesapeake Bay. Today’s 15-1-1 vote, taken at the ASMFC meeting in Arlington, allows for public comment and a final vote, which is expected to be conducted at the next ASMFC meeting in October.

“We are gratified by today’s support from our neighbors and others who serve on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and we look forward to final ASMFC approval later this fall. Our initiative, which was the result of intensive discussions with industry and leaders in the environmental community, will protect the health of the menhaden fishery, foster additional scientific research, and protect fishery-related jobs.”

Representatives of Omega Protein Corporation, Inc., which employs more than 250 people at its Reedville, Virginia, plant, and Menhaden Matter, an umbrella organization for leading environmental groups such as the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Coastal Conservation Association, endorsed Governor Kaine’s initiative.

The Governor’s menhaden management proposal, which was first announced on July 31, 2006, establishes an annual cap on menhaden harvested from the Chesapeake Bay for industrial purposes of 109,020 metric tons. This represents the average annual harvest over the most recent five-year period, 2001 through 2005. The proposal also includes a provision to allow a one-year “credit” to be granted for the year immediately following a fishing season when catches fall below the 109,020 metric-ton cap.

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