

## NEW MENHADEN REGULATION

On December 14, 2012, the ASMFC adopted Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. The major impact to Virginia from Amendment 2 was the 20% reduction in 2013 and 2014 total allowable landings.

The provisions of Amendment 2 mandated by the ASMFC were enacted upon the signature of Governor McDonnell on February 23, 2013, and will expire on January 1, 2015. The expiration is timed to coincide with the ASMFC scheduled completion of a Benchmark Stock Assessment of Atlantic Menhaden in 2014 that should better determine whether overfishing is occurring or whether the stock is overfished.

Section 28.2-400.2 of the Code of Virginia establishes the total allowable commercial landings for menhaden in 2013 and 2014 in metric tons equivalent to 318,067,167 pounds. The purse seine menhaden reduction sector is allocated an annual quota of 286,396,768 pounds of allowable menhaden landings. The purse seine menhaden bait sector is provided a 26,648,870-pound annual quota of allowable menhaden landings. The non-purse seine menhaden bait sector is allocated a 5,021,529-pound annual quota of allowable menhaden landings.

On March 26, 2013, the Commission adopted Chapter 4 VAC 20-1270-10 et seq. "Pertaining to Atlantic Menhaden" as authorized by the Code of

Virginia, to comply with requirements established by Amendment 2.

The non-purse seine menhaden commercial bait sector shall submit daily reports according to the schedule and reporting requirements established by Chapter 4 VAC 20-610-10 et seq., "Pertaining to Commercial Fishing and Mandatory Harvest Reporting".

When the Commissioner announces that 90% of the non-purse seine menhaden bait quota has been reached, each harvester of this sector is required to report his previous 10 days of landings by calling the Commission's Interactive Voice Recording System (1-800-937-9247; first choose Option 2, then Option 8) and continue to report additional landings every 10 days, until it is announced that the non-purse seine bait quota has been attained. More frequent reporting is permissible. The Commission may also implement other harvest conservation measures such as trip limits.

When a non-purse seine menhaden bait sector quota, by gear, is announced as having been attained, individuals using that specific gear type may land no more than 6,000 pounds of menhaden per day, as bycatch. All bycatch landings of menhaden must be reported according to the schedule and reporting requirements established by Chapter 4 VAC 20-610-10 et seq., "Pertaining to Commercial Fishing and Mandatory Harvest Reporting".

<b>The non-purse seine menhaden bait sector quota by gear, for 2013 and 2014, is as follows:</b>			
Cast Net:	1,930 pounds	Dredge:	3,069 pounds
Fyke Net:	2,115 pounds	Pound Net:	3,412,020 pounds
Gill Net:	1,521,108 pounds	Seine:	20,103 pounds
Hook and Line:	234 pounds	Trawl:	58,847 pounds
Pot:	2,064 pounds	Trot Line:	39 pounds