



2013 Menhaden Changes

ASMFC Amendment 2



- ASMFC has implemented a 20% reduction (from the last 3 years) in coast wide commercial menhaden harvest beginning in 2013.
- A 20% reduction from the average harvest over the last 3 years results in a coast wide quota of 170,800 Metric Tons (377 million lbs).
- ASMFC will also require that states obtain harvest data on a weekly level, or at a frequency that prevents substantial quota overages.



- Maryland will receive a percentage of the coast wide quota based on the last 3 years harvest.
- our percentage is 1.37%, equating to a Maryland quota of approximately 5,185,729 pounds – will be slightly less with set aside for NE episodic events.
- Average harvest 2009-2011 was 6,353,625 pounds, but Maryland' 2012 harvest will exceed 10 million pounds.
- Multi-species fisheries have been granted a 6K bycatch allowance that does not count against the quota.



- There will be two management priorities for Maryland in 2013:
 - 1) implementing a means to more rapidly acquire menhaden harvest (weekly). This is required by ASMFC.
 - 2) promulgating a regulation that allows us to 'close' the menhaden fishery when the quota is achieved and implement a 6K pound bycatch allowance. This regulation should be in place by June 1, 2013.



Details that need to be worked out:

- Handling different gears that target menhaden. Most menhaden are harvested from pound nets, so DNR could create a quota 'set aside' for minor gears that harvest menhaden (gill nets, fyke nets, fish pots etc.) This set aside would be based on the historical percentage harvested by these gears.
- DNR may craft regs (season-long catch limits) to ensure menhaden effort does not increase by these gears?



Details that need to be worked out— The 6K bycatch allowance.

How precisely will the bycatch allowance be implemented: trip limit, daily limits etc.

Some of this will be clarified at ASMFC Feb 20th, but waterman input is needed.

DNR will be setting up meetings with watermen in the latter part of February/early March to discuss details.