



New York Coalition for Recreational Fishing
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Toni Kerns
Senior Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator for
Management 1050 N. Highland Street
Suite 200 A-N
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Dear Coordinator,

The New York Coalition for Recreational Fishing is writing this letter to provide our position on Menhaden Draft Addendum V, and to offer our opinion on menhaden management.

We support provisions to reduce the annual harvest by 40%. We also believe the plan should include a ban on netting in the Chesapeake Bay and other estuaries. Abundant supplies of menhaden in estuaries cleanses the water since they are filter feeders, and provides food for dozens and perhaps hundreds of marine species including striped bass, weakfish, blue crabs, oysters, and a myriad of small invertebrates. As filter feeders, they remove large amounts of plankton that "bloom" each year. As they feed they convert plankton biomass into fish biomass. Without the bunker, huge numbers of plankton would die at the end of their annual cycle, sink to the bottom and decompose, releasing tons of nutrients into the water column compounding a trend of eutrophication in our coastal estuaries.

Too often profit is victorious over common sense. Efficacious fisheries management should be based on sound science and common sense. In terms of common sense, menhaden are too important to our coastal ecosystems and the creatures that live there to allow over harvesting and exploitation by commercial interests. We are long past a time when the benefits of a key resource to a massive food chain can be, or should be, deferred for profit.

Thirteen coastal states already ban menhaden reduction operations in coastal/estuarine waters. It's time for ASMFC to follow the common sense approach of these coastal states.

Yours truly,

William A. Young
President - New York Coalition for Recreational Fishing