



# Menhaden Work Group Update

Menhaden Management Board  
October 22, 2024

# Board Task



Consider and evaluate options for further precautionary management of Chesapeake Bay menhaden fisheries, including time and areas closures to be protective of piscivorous birds and fish during critical points of their life cycle

# Draft Problem Statement



“There is an inadequate availability of menhaden to support overall predatory demand in the Bay.”

# Work Group Update



- The WG is addressing this charge without determining if there is or is not an adequate supply of menhaden to support predatory demand in the Bay
- The WG will develop possible management recommendations, and the Board would determine if or when it is necessary to implement them

# Work Group



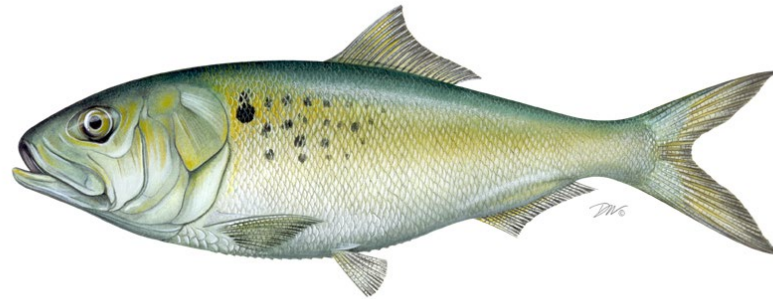
- Anticipate a completed report for the Spring Commission Meeting Week

# QUESTIONS





# 2023 Fishery Management Plan Review for Atlantic Menhaden



Atlantic Menhaden Management Board  
October 2024

# Overview



- Status of the FMP
- Status of the stock
- Status of the fishery
- Compliance requirements for 2023
  - Quota, biological sampling, Bay Cap
- PRT Recommendations





# Status of FMP



## **2023 fishery operated under Amendment 3 (Nov 2017) and Addendum I (Nov 2022)**

Changes from previous years:

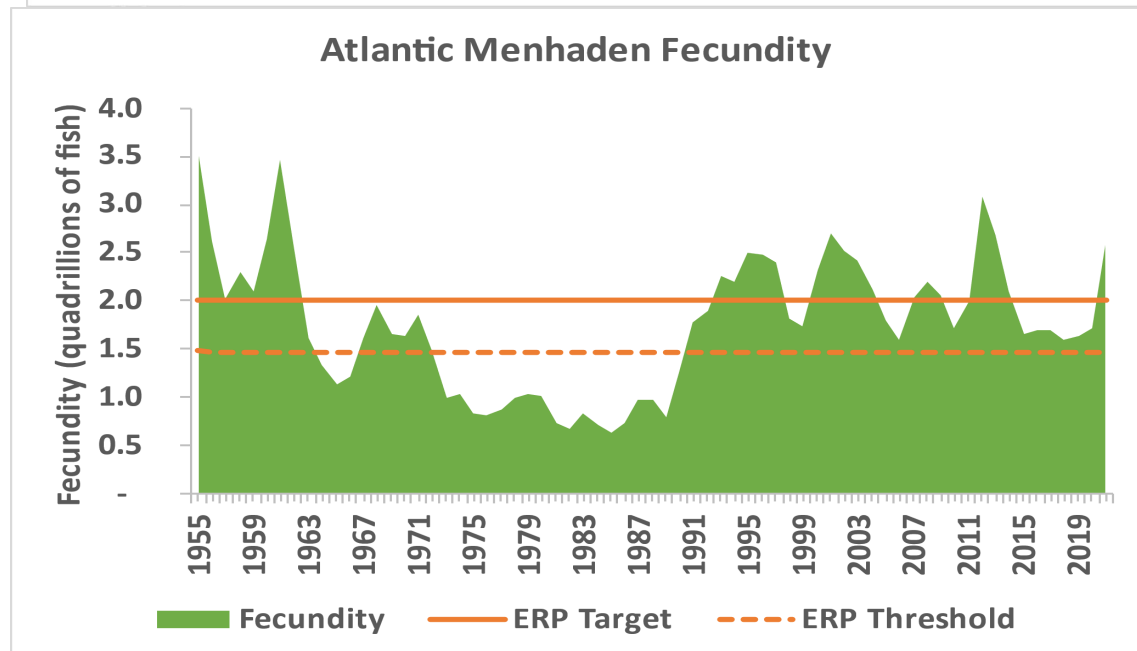
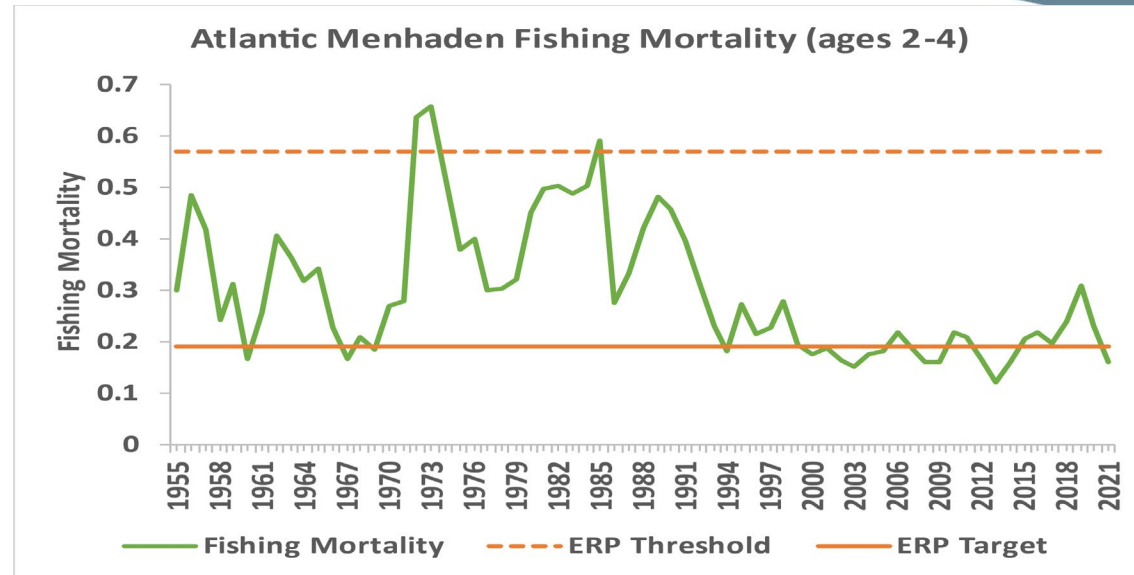
- Addendum I to Amendment 3 implemented
  - Changes to allocation of TAC and IC/SSF provision
- Board set TAC for 2023-2025 at 233,550 mt
  - Based on approved ERPs



# Status of the Stock



- 2022 Assessment Update
- Stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring
- Single-species and ERP assessments scheduled for 2025



# Status of the Fishery



**Total landings: 166,844 mt (367.8 mil pounds)**

- 15% decrease from 2022
- 71% of TAC

**TAC: 233,550 MT (514.9 mil pounds)**

**Incidental Catch: No reported IC/SSF landings**



# Status of the Fishery



## **Reduction fishery: 117,019 mt (258 million pounds)**

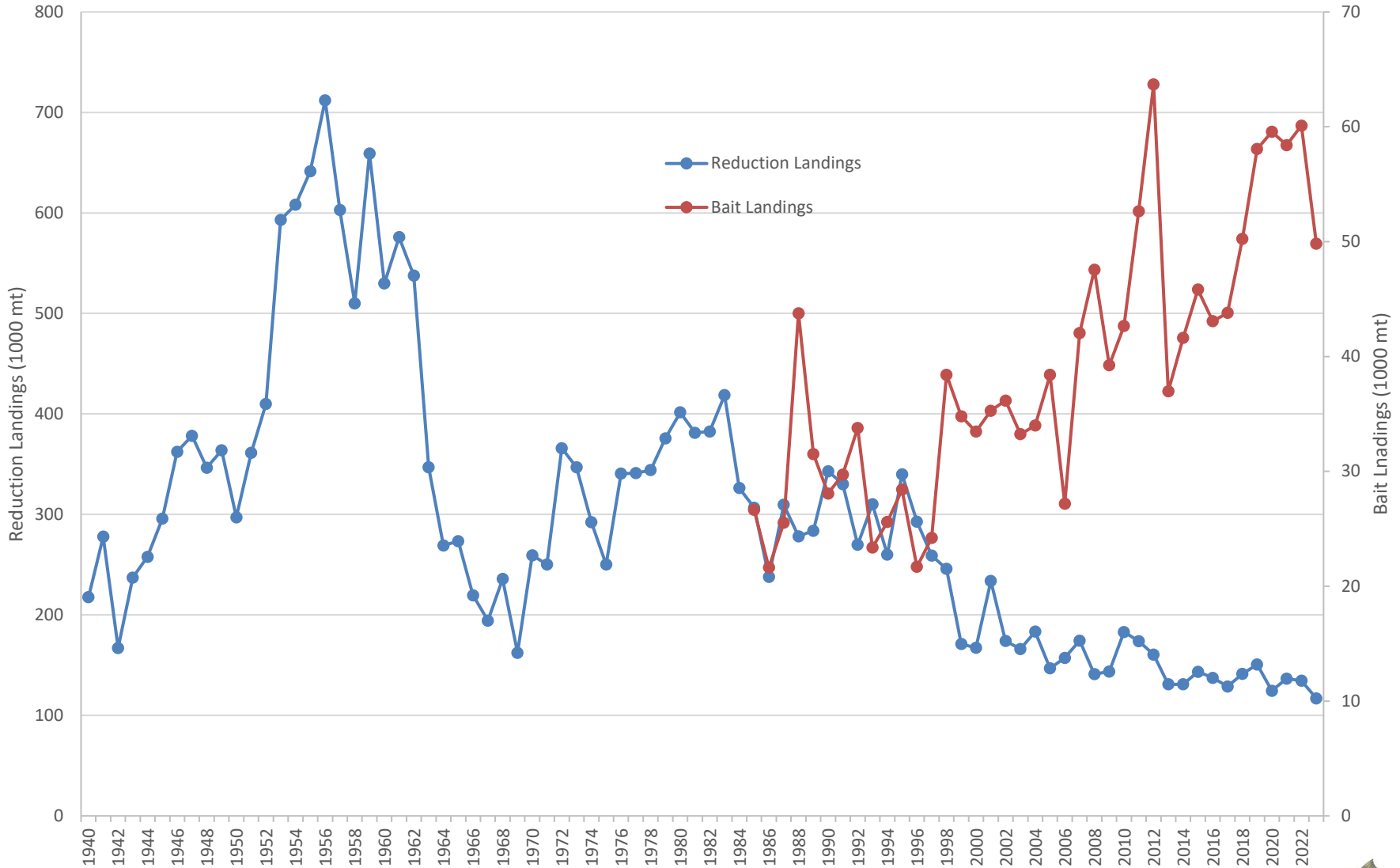
- 13% decrease from 2022 (296 million pounds)
- 15% below the previous 5-year average (303.3 million pounds)

## **Chesapeake Bay Reduction Harvest and Cap**

- 2023 Cap = 51,000 mt
- 2023 harvest= Less than 40,000 mt



# Atlantic Menhaden Landings



# Incidental Fishery



## Incidental fishery landings, 2014-2023

Year	Landings (pounds)	Trips	Number of States
2014	6,831,462	5,275	8
2015	5,991,612	4,498	9
2016	2,075,127	2,222	9
2017	7,407,441	2,108	7
2018	3,309,666	1,224	3
2019	10,750,929	3,113	1
2020	13,957,206	3,565	4
2021	12,675,882	3,155	6
2022	17,980,167	4,134	3
2023	0	0	0



# Episodic Events Set Aside



- 2023 EESA = 2,317 mt (5.1 million pounds)
  - 2022 Overage = 40,723 pounds
  - ME was the only participating state
  - Overage from late reporting resolved through 2024 transfers

Year	States Declared Participation	EESA Quota (1% of TAC) (mt)	Landed (mt)	% EESA Quota Used
2015	RI	1,879	854	45.5%
2016	ME, RI, NY	1,879	1,728	92.0%
2017	ME, RI, NY	2,000	2,129	106.5%
2018	ME	2,031	2,103	103.6%
2019	ME	2,160	1,995	92.4%
2020	ME, MA	2,160	2,080	96.3%
2021	ME, MA, RI	1,944	2,213	113.8%
2022	ME, MA	1,944	1,992	102.4%
2023	ME	2,317	1,274	55%



# Quota Transfers



- 5 quota transfers for 2023 fishing season
  - 24 in 2022





# 2023 Bio Samples



State	#10- samples required	#10 samples collected	Age samples collected	Length samples collected	Gear/Comments
ME	47	55	550	550	47 from PS; 8 from gillnets
NH	7	7	70	70	Purse Seine
MA	4	10	100	100	All purse seine
RI	1	1	10	10	Otter Trawl
CT	1	-	-	-	LIS Trawl: 158 tows in '23
NY	1	16	161	161	Cast net, Seine net
NJ	58	85	85	850	Purse Seine
	3	3	30	30	Other Gears
DE	1	1	10	10	Gillnet
MD	5	26	455	1095	Pound net
PRFC	5	8	80	80	Pound net
VA	3	5	56	56	Pound net
	2	50	502	502	Gillnet
	-	12	120	120	Haul seine
NC	2	9	86	236	Gillnet
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>3,870</b>	

# *De minimis*



- To be eligible for *de minimis* status, a state's bait landings must be less than 1% of the total coastwide bait landings for the most recent two years
- The states of Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida requested and qualify for *de minimis* status for the 2023 fishing season



# Board Actions for consideration



- Approve the 2023 FMP Review and state compliance
- Approve *de minimis* status for Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida



# Questions?





# **Progress Update on Ecological Reference Point Benchmark Assessment**

K. Drew, ASMFC

Oct. 22, 2024

# Timeline



	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>
✓	<b>Methods Scoping Webinar</b>	<b>May 23-25, 2023</b>
✓	New data submission deadline	<b>Sep. 1, 2023</b>
✓	<b>Data &amp; Methods Workshop</b>	<b>October 2-5, 2023</b>
✓	2023 Data Submitted	Feb.– Aug. 2024
	<b>Methods Workshop II</b>	<b>Nov. 4-8, 2024</b>
	<b>Assessment Workshop</b>	<b>Feb.-Mar. 2025</b>
	<b>TC approves reports</b>	<b>July 14, 2025</b>
	<b>Peer Review Workshop</b>	<b>August 2025</b>
	<b>Assessments presented to Board</b>	<b>Oct./Nov. 2025</b>

# MW II



- Review single-species assessment update results
- Review progress on ecosystem model development
- Discuss model comparison criteria and ERP scenarios

# MW II



- Develop plan to address M question
- Ault et al. re-analyzed the historical menhaden tagging data and estimated M to be lower than is used for the single-species assessment
- SAS has not been able to resolve the discrepancies & make a recommendation
  - Differences in effort time-series used
  - Differences in tag-recapture datasets



# MW II



- SAS will have the final decision on M peer-reviewed through the ERP benchmark
- *TOR 1: Review and evaluate the fishery-dependent and fishery-independent data used in the Atlantic menhaden single-species assessment and the single-species assessments of the other major predator and prey species included in the ERP models, and justify inclusion, elimination, or modification of those data sets.*