

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries COMMISSION

[Species](#)
[Programs](#)
[Action Tracker](#)
[About Us](#)
[News](#)
[Resources](#)
[Meetings](#)

Atlantic Menhaden

EXPLORE: [Contacts](#) | [News & Resources](#) | [Meetings](#) | [Species Information](#)



**Population
Abundance**
Not overfished



**Fishing
Mortality**
Overfishing not
occurring

Current Status

Stock status based on 2022 assessment update. Use of ecological reference points (ERPs) implemented in 2020. Single-species assessment update and ERP benchmark assessment and peer review scheduled for 2025.

Latest News and Resources

Ecological Reference Point Work Group
Assessment Workshop Summary —
March 2025

Ecological Reference Point Work
Group Meeting Summary — February
2025

Atlantic Menhaden ERP Work Group
Assessment Workshop Agenda — March
2025

[Read More](#)



Credit: Creative Commons



Schooling menhaden. Credit: Jerry Prezioso

Meeting Calendar

Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 2

**Atlantic Menhaden Work
Group**

Webinar

[See All Upcoming Events](#)

Contacts

- James Boyle IV, FMP Coordinator (JBoyle@asmfc.org)
- [Management Board](#), John Clark, Chair
- [Technical Committee](#), Caitlin Craig, Chair
- [Advisory Panel](#), Meghan Lapp, Chair

Species Information

Atlantic menhaden are a crucial forage species in the Atlantic coastal ecosystem, supporting a wide range of predators including striped bass, bluefish, and weakfish. Managed under a comprehensive Interstate Fishery Management Plan, Atlantic menhaden fisheries balance commercial reduction and bait harvests with ecosystem-based approaches to ensure healthy populations. Through advanced stock assessments and ecological reference point strategies, the Commission works to sustain this vital species while supporting the fisheries and communities that depend on them.

Management	+
Stock Status	+
Commercial & Recreational Fisheries	+
Life History	+



THE MENHADEN OR MOSSBUNKER.

Brevoortia tyrannus (Latrobe), Goode. (p. 569.)

Drawing by H. L. Todd, from No. 20666, U. S. National Museum, collected at Wood's Holl, Mass., October 18, 1877, by Vinal N. Edwards.

News & Resources

Explore recent news, management updates, and scientific reports to gain a deeper understanding of ongoing conservation efforts and sustainability strategies.

Meeting Summaries, Plans and Reports

Select Category Filters

Filter by Year

Select Date Filters

Filter

Clear

Fisheries Science Meeting Agendas And Summaries, Technical Committee Reports And Summaries

Ecological Reference Point Work Group Assessment Workshop Summary — March 2025

March 2025



Technical Committee Reports And Summaries

Ecological Reference Point Work Group Meeting Summary — February 2025

March 2025



Board Agendas And Proceedings

Atlantic Menhaden ERP Work Group Assessment Workshop Agenda — March 2025

Ecological Reference Point Workgroup

February 2025



Technical Committee Reports And Summaries

Ecological Reference Point Work Group Meeting Summary — January 2025

January 2025



In The News

Good News for Chesapeake Menhaden

Amid all the gloom-and-doom reporting, good news often slips by unnoticed. That seems to be the case with menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay.

December 2024



In The News

Osprey Troubles Not Tied To Menhaden, Some Fisheries Scientists Say

Prompted in part by the College of William & Mary's Center for Conservation Biology study saying ospreys are suffering from a menhaden shortage, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission formed a work group in September to weigh new "precautionary" harvest limits.

December 2024



Technical Committee Reports And Summaries

Ecological Reference Point Work Group Meeting Summary — December 2024

December 2024



Atlantic Menhaden Stock Assessment Subcommittee Methods Workshop Summary — November 2024

The Atlantic Menhaden Stock Assessment Subcommittee (SAS) and Ecological Reference Point Workgroup (ERP) met in Arlington, Virginia, and via webinar to discuss a re-analysis of the historic tagging data that resulted in a different estimate of natural mortality and model development of the single-species Beaufort Assessment Model (BAM) and suite of ERP models.

November 2024



Atlantic Menhaden Management Board Annual Meeting Supplemental Materials — Oct. 2024

October 2024



2024 Annual Meeting Summary

ASMFC 82nd Annual Meeting October 21 – 24, 2024

October 2024



Atlantic Menhaden FMP Review – 2023

October 2024



Atlantic Menhaden Species Management Overview — October 2024

Prepared for the Commissioner Manual

October 2024



2024 Annual Meeting Final Agenda

82nd Annual Meeting, October 21 – 24, 2024

October 2024



Atlantic Menhaden Management Board Annual Meeting Presentations — Oct. 2024

October 2024



Atlantic Menhaden Management Board Annual Meeting Supplemental Materials (Comments) — Oct. 2024

October 2024



Get Hooked on ASMFC News

Dive into the latest updates and catch all the important news by joining our newsletter mailing list. Stay in the loop with meeting agendas, fisheries management news, and more.

[Sign Up](#)

Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

[Species](#)[Programs](#)[Action Tracker](#)[Meetings](#)[News](#)[Resources](#)[About Us](#)[Archives](#)[Subscribe](#)[Jobs](#)[Contact Us](#)[Privacy Policy](#)[Cookie Policy](#)

Phone: 703-842-0740 | 1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, VA 22201

© 2025 Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission