

Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association

Recipient: Wilbur Ross Secretary of Commerce

Letter: Greetings,

The Honorable Secretary Wilbur Ross
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Ross, April 1st, 2019

We the people of Virginia are requesting that the federal government take management measures to force Virginia to reset the menhaden Chesapeake Bay cap on the menhaden reduction fishery from 87,216 to 51,000 metric tons.

Background. Back in fall of 2017, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) voted to reduce the maximum allowable harvest of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay from 87,216 metric tons to 51,000 metric tons a year. The ASMFC, an inter-state compact established by federal law, manages fish found common along states along the Atlantic Coast. The process calls for the states to implement state regulations once ASMFC members vote on fishery management quotas. In Virginia, menhaden is the only fish managed by the delegates from the Virginia General Assembly. Every other saltwater fish is managed by the state agency, Virginia Marine Resource Commission (VMRC). The Virginia General Assembly has failed to implement the reductions during both sessions in 2018 and 2019. Under U.S. law, the ASFMC has the authority (and obligation) to notify the U.S. Department of Commerce that a state is out of compliance with ASFMC guidance. ASMFC has failed in its obligation to escalate this matter and notify your office that Virginia is out of compliance, stating they are taking a "Let's wait for Virginia to go over the quota before taking action."

We the People of Virginia are not willing to wait for Omega to "officially" overfish before action is taken and therefore need for the Federal Government to take action now.

Menhaden stocks are in significant decline in the Chesapeake Bay as evidenced by thousands of anglers who have testified as well as the Reduction Industry's inability to even catch previous bay caps set. Yet every year a single foreign owned company removes as many menhaden as possible from the Chesapeake Bay resulting in declining bay, ecosystem, and fishery health. Menhaden serve as a critical forage for other fish species, mammals, and birds. In addition to the declining menhaden population in the bay, Striped Bass (Rockfish) are showing a similar decline, because their primary food source (menhaden) are simply not there. Virginia desperately needs a reasonable bay cap on the menhaden catch in the Chesapeake Bay especially in light of their vital importance to striped bass which are also in decline in the bay and the Atlantic Coast. The bay is the nursery for menhaden so they must be protected with a reduced legislative quota in Virginia.

Please take action now to help protect the Chesapeake Bay from the overharvest of menhaden. Failure to act will result in further declines in the bay's overall health, while the profits from such overfishing flow to a foreign country. The overall landings of menhaden continue to decline year after year, so reductions are justified (as was called for by ASMFC establishing a cap on the Chesapeake Bay harvest).

The ASMFC and Virginia have institutionally failed in their management of the menhaden reduction fishery. We The People of Virginia are hereby notifying you of Virginia's noncompliance and request that the Secretary of Commerce, with its authority over the National Marine Fisheries Service, either:

1. Shut down all Reduction Industry harvest of menhaden until Virginia comes into compliance. Or
2. Establish an Emergency Rule in the Federal Register effective NOW to establish the quota set forth by the ASMFC reducing the bay cap to 51,000 metric tons of menhaden.

Signed,

The People of Virginia

On behalf of the Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association

Comments

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Steve Atkinson	Richmond, VA	2019-02-27	Im signing because this critical baitfish is being decimated in the Ches Bay by the reduction industry.
Leslie Harris	Richmond, VA	2019-02-27	I support the bay!
Peter Egbert	Long Beach, NY	2019-02-27	Bunker is a vital forage fish for strikers, whales and dolphins!
carl lewis	Seaford, VA	2019-02-27	I support the restoration of the Chesapeake bay
Kathy Stanley	Virginia Beach, VA	2019-02-28	We need to protect our bay!
sam ashbee	Machipongo, VA	2019-02-28	Sam ashbee
Ed vedder	Virginia Beach, VA	2019-02-28	They allowing a foreign owned company to deplete the baitfish and severely impact the fishery in Virginia.
Paul Youngk	Poquoson, VA	2019-02-28	My fishing season sucked last year
Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association	US	2019-02-28	I'm sick and tired of our politicians in Richmond doing nothing but taking \$\$ from Omega while they rape the bay. Time for the feds to step in and take control. They have the authority and obligation so let's nudge them to do the right thing.
Brian Gay	Mechanicsville, VA	2019-02-28	It should have happened 10 years ago!
Daniel D'Amico	Cobbs Creek, VA	2019-02-28	The state of Virginia (and surrounding states) will clearly do nothing until their hand is forced. While we have made strides to fix the bays ecosystem since the seventies nothing was done until it was almost too late. Can we please not repeat that proses. Let's move before anymore damage is done.
Susan Tansey	Mechanicsville, US	2019-02-28	Please save the health of our waters.
Cabell Powell	Crimora, VA	2019-02-28	Trying to protect our fisheries
Jesse Rossmann	Baltimore, MD	2019-02-28	I believe the mouth of the bay depleted of menhaden due to over fishing and this as a negative effect over the entire bay ecosystem.
Don Spencer	Brick, NJ	2019-02-28	Menhaden are essential not just as a forage food but because they filter the water every time they breathe
Germain Cloutier	York, ME	2019-02-28	These fish are so heavily pressured and overfished that the fleets of boats have to claim there are tons of fish to try and increase quotas or worse overlimit on their catch limits. This fishery is declining and along with it the striped bass fishery as well. Time to change this is now before it's too late. These fishermen that claim there are "tons of fish in VA" yet they travel far away from their state to fish. These fish are the building blocks of the northeast ecosystem from Whales to stripedbass they play a huge part in the health. So stop all the Backdoor deals and make the change Now!

Name	Location	Date	Comment
George Reich	Chesapeake, VA	2019-02-28	They are killing the bay!!!!
Dave Stefan	Arlington, VA	2019-02-28	Please protect this precious resource!
Jeff Staples	Chesapeake, VA	2019-02-28	I have seen menhaden stocks go down for decades, it is rare now that I spot a school. Please help protect what we have left.
Donald Cowan	Florence, NJ	2019-02-28	Rhe Chesapeake is a major spawning ground for Stripers and with out an abundance for Bunker it is detrimental to there population.
Patrick Wells	Kill Devil Hills, NC	2019-02-28	To save our fishery
Teghpal Sandhu	Williston Park, NY	2019-02-28	I care and I'm concerned regarding the commercial fishing and damage it does
William Pappas	Virginia Beach, VA	2019-02-28	Enough is Enough, they need to be stopped one way or another. All they need to do is raise the price, lower the cap and catch less. Simple economics. Who else is going to suck up that much bunker, for omega. They have a really hard job that not many can do and it's a time honored tradition. There is a way to keep many in the state happy and limit the greed by a Canadian owned reduction company only in it for profit\$. I support this reduction and all common sense legislation put forward to give menhaden back to VMRC. It's our resource not Canada's. Captain Pappas
Thomas Wacker	Brooklyn, NY	2019-02-28	It is absurd that we're obliterating the feeder fish for so much of he ocean only to grind them up for cat food and fertilizer.
janet taylor	virginia beach, VA	2019-02-28	I have fished the Bay for 57 years. The menhaden fleet are rapists of the Bay taking almost all the baitfish! The fish are therefore eating all the baby flounder , trout, drum anything they can find for lack of a good source! Please help us save the all the speices effected by protecting their food sources. If not there will no fish for our grandchildren or their children!!#💎💎
Joe Basralian	Chatham, NJ	2019-02-28	THIS IS IMPORTANT! Our ecosystems and jobs depend on recovery of bunker
Jacob Drudge	Midlothian, VA	2019-02-28	I don't agree with taking away a food source for a fishery
William bowman	North Babylon, NY	2019-02-28	There da pleating the stock
Ole Sandtorv	Wantagh, NY	2019-02-28	How we even had to get to this point is absolutely mind boggling.
Olly alston	Wantagh, NY	2019-02-28	Corporate greed.
Jennifer Hueston	Mechanicsville, VA	2019-02-28	We need this done due the fact the representatives of Virginia will not follow the guidelines and protect the recreational fisheries in the Chesapeake Bay.
David Jenkins	Richmond, VA	2019-02-28	This needs to be inacted immediately!
Steven Ginn	Voorhees Township, NJ	2019-02-28	Steven Ginn 6 Towne la Voorhees Nj 08043

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Matt Brough	Drexel Hill, PA	2019-02-28	Stop the eviscerating
Dillon Lamon	Clementon, NJ	2019-02-28	I wish for a future, where the striped bass and menhaden populations are not exploited and are atleast at safe levels
Miss-Ella Charters	US	2019-02-28	I'm signing because I feel that the Chesapeake Bay is being overfished of Adult Menhaden.
Scott Witt	shelburne, VT	2019-02-28	I like fish in the ocean not in bottles
Ronald Long	Westover, MD	2019-02-28	Omega is wrong!!
David Showell	Absecon, NJ	2019-02-28	Because Virginias lack of responsible action affects the Recreational fishing in NJ and the entire Atlantic coast.
Tom Thomas	Lancaster, VA	2019-02-28	Virginia is the only state where this kind of commercial fishery is governed by legislators.
Philip Anastasi Jr.	Philadelphia, PA	2019-02-28	We need to conserve our waters
John Tasso	Brooklyn, NY	2019-02-28	We need a new tomorrow 🍀🍀🍀🍀🍀🍀
David Sachs	US	2019-02-28	I want the over fishing of menhaden to stop. Omega needs to stop overfishing the Virginia waters of a very important bait fish!
Luke Guido	Pleasantville, NJ	2019-02-28	Im signing because iam a fisherman and care about the menhaden and striped bass resources in decline
Belinda Endrich	Henrico, VA	2019-02-28	I love the Chesapeake Bay and want to see it stay healthy and beautiful.
Ian Gatavaski	New Haven, CT	2019-02-28	Bunker are some of the most important fish in many eco systems along the whole east coast. I saw significantly less bunker in the water this fall when I was fishing. I thought it was just a coincidence or maybe a slow year. I hope the population isn't declining.
Christopher Siess	Richmond, VA	2019-02-28	We need menhaden in the Bay for the health of the ecosystem.
Peter Jordan	Bronx, NY	2019-02-28	We need the menhanden to feed the larger fish.
Josh Ambrose	US	2019-02-28	I want to help preserve our fishery in the Chesapeake Bay!
Watson Braithwaite	Virginia Beach, VA	2019-02-28	I'm concerned about menhaden.
S.A. Reeve	Riverhead, NY	2019-02-28	In my 68 years of living on eastern LI & fishing most of that time, the decline of the species & all the animals that feed on it is shocking. THIS HAS TO STOP!!!!!!!!!! Bunker is "the PotatoChip of the Sea" and a VITAL food source for all animals. The fisheries are dieing out because of just this behavior- no food, no fish. Bluefish, stripers, whales, dolphin, ...- all GONE without them. STOP IT- or there won't be enough fish for humans!!
Bob Deml	Virginia Beach, VA	2019-02-28	I fish for sport fish in the bay and they are declining because the forage fish are declining.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
John Larimer	Virginia Beach, VA	2019-02-28	I've seen reduction in Quality fishing in the area over the past decade
Don Yeakle	lutherville, MD	2019-02-28	The proliferation of this species as a bait fish and a filter fish is vital to the health of the striped bass population and the overall health and cleanliness of the bay and it's tributaries.
Bryan Callow	Aldie, VA	2019-02-28	Bay is being raped by a company not from our state, and our state doesn't give two fcks.
Coleson Pokorny	US	2019-02-28	The menhaden fishery is destroying the rest of other fisheries. When you take away the food for the larger fish, they don't stay here which effects businesses for commercial and recreational and charter fisherman in the state. I strongly support the metric tonnage reduction.
Todd Beck	Virginia Beach, VA	2019-02-28	Stop this now!
Kyle Dolinsky	La plata, MD	2019-02-28	We need to take care of the bays ecosystem and reducing the amount taken helps
Al Bailey	Chester, MD	2019-02-28	I recreational fish and would like to continue to do so.
John Bonanno	Curtis Bay, MD	2019-02-28	I feel states should follow the guidelines set by ASMFC
Ken Mack	Finksburg, MD	2019-02-28	We are depleting the primary forage for most of our North East game fish. If we destabilize the food source all our fisheries suffer.
David Wolf 2nd	Gibson Island, MD	2019-02-28	Born and raised on the Chesapeake bay, been fishing it for 25+ yrs dont want to see a great fishery destroyed by greedy corporate companies. Action is needed Now not later this will eventually affect us all.
Benjamin Aigner	Athens, GA	2019-02-28	Protect the Chesapeake Bay!!
Michael Graybill	Pasadena, MD	2019-02-28	This is a very serious issue, this is clearly affecting the Rock, blue fish and other species that rely on this for food. Please stop the over fishing of the bays menhaden population before it's at a crisis level.
Jeff Clark	Mechanicsville, VA	2019-02-28	Preservation of our resources.
Chris Johnstone	Point Pleasant, NJ	2019-02-28	Bunker boats are upsetting the balance of food.
Harry Mass	Newport news, VA	2019-02-28	I care about the bay and it's estuaries and the animal population. We as anglers spend a lot of money to fish these waters and are regulated on what we can take, so should commercial fisherman
Jeff Fleischut	Halethorpe, MD	2019-02-28	They are depleting this great natural resource. Used to be able to find menhaden all over the bay now you got to drive around for hours to find one small school
jim chrzanowski	Lutherville-Timonium, MD	2019-02-28	Omega is DESTROYING the Rockfish population. Stop breaking the food chain!!

Name	Location	Date	Comment
blair hansford	seaford, VA	2019-02-28	This raping and pillaging of the Bay needs to stop
Scott Johnson	Washington, DC	2019-02-28	I was shocked at the lack of menhaden in the Chesapeake this year.
Mary Galloway	Mechanicsville, VA	2019-02-28	Save the bay!
Peter Ramsey	Annapolis, MD	2019-02-28	I am a concerned about the long term viability of our filter feeders in the bay.
scott curran	Baltimore, MD	2019-02-28	There needs to be someone held accountable for our waterways and the limits need to be addressed before it's too late
Jason Lusby	Pasadena, MD	2019-02-28	I care about the Chesapeake Bay and want my children and their children to enjoy it
Ray Wood	US	2019-02-28	I want there to be some checks and balances.
Brian Kirby	Meriden, CT	2019-02-28	Omega Protein/Cooke Seafood couldn't even reach their expanded quota in the Bay, despite their claims that the fish are so abundant, so they fished all they up into New York waters. It's time for Virginia to adhere to quotas in alignment with all of the other Atlantic states with regard to regulating fisheries.
Barry Browning	Martinsburg, WV	2019-02-28	I care about the bay. I've fished it since I was old enough to fish
Greg Shute	Annapolis, MD	2019-02-28	We need to protect the jobs and economic benefit of the sport fishing industries, which provide employment for far more people than Omega Protein does.
Darlene Patterson	Richmond, VA	2019-03-01	Darlene Patterson
Jayne Collier	Mechanicsville, VA	2019-03-01	This is as I see it a critical issue concerning the health of the Chesapeake Bay and so much more important than the name of a bridge. Everyone who loves the fishery of the Atlantic East Coast should be working to curtail the raping of the most important fish in our Atlantic Eco System! Get Involved In This Good Cause!
Mike Wills	Virginia Beach, VA	2019-03-01	Time for this to change. The Bay's ecosystem is out of balance due to localized depletion of juvenile menhaden.
Bob Castor	Suffolk, VA	2019-03-01	I care about the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Overfishing the primary food for most of the bay is destroying it.
Mike Bishop	Centreville, VA	2019-03-01	Im concerned the lack of Menhaden will disrupt the ecosystem of the Bay
william chestnut	Franklin, NJ	2019-03-01	We need to preserve our primary baitfish that supports many predator sportfish
Richard Egyud	Yorktown, VA	2019-03-01	Omega and this type of reduction fishery should be banned from the bay out to federal waters.
James Eisenhower	Norfolk, VA	2019-03-01	Omega is wiping our menhaden out!!!!

Name	Location	Date	Comment
wk schmitzer	Arlington, VA	2019-03-01	the bay is in steep decline. allowing omega to continue to rape the basic food source of all the predators will surely kill the chesapeake.
Bill Harris	Glen Allen, VA	2019-03-01	You are absolutely right. The Governor has done nothing for the bay on this issue but take money from the lobbyist, The destruction of the menhaden bait has affected all species of and bay animals. The lower Chesapeake bay fishing is the worst I have seen in the 50 years I have been fishing, This menhaden decline has affected the amount of money that recreational fishermen have spent to support the bay economy and jobs supporting the bay. Almost 87% of the menhaden taken on the east coast comes from the Virginia waters. Wake up politicians before its too late.
Wade Hughes	Utica, NY	2019-03-01	Menhaden fish stocks is not being watched as it should on over harvesting. Get it out of the Virginia General Assembly's hands.
Jeremy Thomas	Parsonsburg, MD	2019-03-01	I live the Chesapeake bay
Mark Jungdahl	Middletown, OH	2019-03-01	The depletion of Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay has already had a deleterious effect on the fish population. Recreational and Commercial fisherman are constantly voicing their concerns. If allowed to continue the depletion of Menhaden will impact the local economy and quality of life for residents and visitors to the area.
Charles Webster	Toms River, NJ	2019-03-01	Save the menhaden we need em.The commercial guys always think they can do what they want.
Zeke Kelchner	Yorktown, VA	2019-03-01	I love fishing and want they are running all the fisheries by killing the menhaden
earl walton	Virginia Beach, VA	2019-03-01	It is time for VA to do this right!
stephen smith	severna park, MD	2019-03-01	As filter feeders, the menhaden are as critical to our bay as the oyster is. We need to stop removing these " free" filters!!
Joe Tester	Thurmont, MD	2019-03-01	Our precious natural resources being depleted
Chris Cancelmo	Coatesville, PA	2019-03-01	These fish are vital to the health of the bay!
Rose Bartell	Wallace, NC	2019-03-01	Rose Bartell
Eric Richard	New Bloomfield, PA	2019-03-01	Ron Russell Virginia Beach Virginia
Robert Como	Point Pleasant Boro, NJ	2019-03-01	menhaden have been over harvested and I've seen a big difference in there numbers
andrew onorio sr	newport, NC	2019-03-01	This is our heritage. Take that away and you must take every heritage away.
Anne Licht	Virginia Beach, VA	2019-03-02	Resource needs protection.
Brian Thomas	Moorestown, NJ	2019-03-02	I support the Striper fishery here in Jersey that the menhaden are critical too!

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Herman Marvel	US	2019-03-02	Because if the Raping of our fishery's doesn't stop soon we will not have one. Big corporations should not be allowed to deplete How are fish stocks
Ian Fawthrop	Medford Lakes, NJ	2019-03-02	Menhaden are being removed from the food chain. Unbalancing the ecosystem.
STEPHEN CALHOUN	Newport News, VA	2019-03-02	manhaden are filter feeders, more manhaden, the better water quality in the bay.
Stuart Taylor	Virginia Beach, VA	2019-03-02	Our natural eco balance is being destroyed by this over harvesting and adversely impacting the other fish that feed on the minhaden
Tyler Horsley	Deltaville, VA	2019-03-02	Because of omega the bay has changed drastically since there introduction into the Chesapeake bay. Menhaden a main forge fish that is ground for use of fish oil also leads to population decline of other predator fish as rock fish cobia red drum just a few for example. To say that omega isn't catching those other mentioned species is complete bull I've first hand talked to people that have worked there. Not only is the harvesting of said fish but taking the main food source and filter out of our ecosystem. The bay is a nursery so by the fishing of bunker our ecosystem will be in steady decline until there is nothing left
Christine Higbie	Montpelier, OH	2019-03-02	I love this area, please protect it!
Gary Lengerhuis	Hagerstown, MD	2019-03-02	Menhaden are filter feeders that clean the bay and provide food for the striped bass and other game fish. Much better in the water than cat food, fertilizer and fish oil.
Pamela Jenkins	Leesburg, VA	2019-03-02	Pamela Jenkins
William Dunn	Dunnsville, VA	2019-03-02	So glad to see that 1,698 people have signed this petition. It's very hard to get this many to stand up in unison to the menhaden reduction industry but if we don't stand together now our children will never see the Chesapeake Bay as it should be.
robert walker	glastonbury, CT	2019-03-03	Fish are our responsibility.. lefishious 12#13
robert a. wojcik	richmond, VA	2019-03-03	Robert A. Wojcik
Gregory Smith	Airville, PA	2019-03-03	Gregory smith
Ryan Cratty	Annapolis, MD	2019-03-03	Signed
Jack Romesberg	Rockwood, PA	2019-03-03	Signed
Jon Forget	Denver, CO	2019-03-03	For my friend Ross Johnson who has been a fisherman on the Chesapeake Bay for over 40 years.
James Jewkes	Woburn, MA	2019-03-03	I'm signing because if we don't manage the fishery right greed will take every last fish out of tne waters and destroy an ecosystem that we desperately have to have to sustain life not just for people but for every other species

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Jesse Warrick	Virginia Beach, VA	2019-03-03	Jesse S Warrick
Alex Bell	Virginia Beach, VA	2019-03-03	This fishery is overfished.
Sean Hankinson	Elizabeth City, NC	2019-03-03	This fishery is overfished
Lisa Brickson	Virginia Beach, VA	2019-03-04	The Chesapeake Bay is my back yard.
Ryan Milhorn	US	2019-03-04	Ryan Milhorn
Scott Luedtke	Pasadena, MD	2019-03-04	I care about the Chesapeake bay and it's eco system
Captain Adam Lucas	Virginia Beach, VA	2019-03-04	Time for Virginia to be held accountable like all other states in the Menhaden Fishery. Let's put a stop to the over fishing. #mostimportantfishinthesea
Robert Gleason	Baltimore, MD	2019-03-04	Virginia needs to be held accountable for their actions like the rest of us.
Blake Morris	New York, NY	2019-03-04	Blake Morris their is not reason for this to be happening. Take their boat or nets away and fine them with double fines.
Chuck Ginter	Crofton, MD	2019-03-04	As an angler, I have personally seen the decline in both menhaden and rockfish in the Chesapeake bay
Cecelia Fanton	Virginia Beach, VA	2019-03-04	I live near the bay!
Thad Palmer	Seaford, DE	2019-03-04	Ricky Adkins threatened me with bodily harm if I refused to sign
vinny Vetere	Brooklyn, NY	2019-03-04	Need Bunker for bass
Daniel Bryk	Bolton, CT	2019-03-04	For a good cause more bait more fish!
Noah Claytor	Virginia Beach, VA	2019-03-04	Menhaden becomes harder to find each year!
Lawrence Stippich	Newport News, VA	2019-03-04	I'm signing because I care about the waterways and their future.
Kelly Hovatter	Seaford, DE	2019-03-04	Thad Palmer said that Ricky Adkins was threatening bodily harm
Patricia Hertel	Powhatan, VA	2019-03-04	Please protect the fishing so my kids and grandkids will have the opportunity to fish as well
Joyce Elliott	Norfolk, VA	2019-03-05	I want change!
Mary Barcena	Chesterfield, VA	2019-03-05	It's the right thing to do
Bob Mandigo	Virginia Beach, VA	2019-03-05	The Virginia General Assembly has not found the time or energy to support the Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission (ASMFC) recommendations on the Bay Cap for menhaden and it refuses to delegate management of menhaden to the Commonwealth's Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC). Menhaden is the only fishery not managed by the VMRC.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Johnnie B Byrum	Woodland, NC	2019-03-05	I see these people in the bay and James all the time. They come with an entire fleet! Let,s continue to get signatures and keep this petition going.
Kristi Orcutt	Richmond, VA	2019-03-05	The fish and other species of the Chesapeake Bay Are the property of all virginians part of our common wealth. Fisheries regulations are put into place to protect the fishing industry itself to ensure that jobs are long term and to protect the Ecological balance of the Bay itself. We all benefit financially And in multiple other ways when species are harvested responsibly . Please enforce menhaden catch restrictions.
Melanie Lee	Leland, NC	2019-03-05	It is the right thing to do to protect our resources.
Elizabeth Bourquin	Greensboro, NC	2019-03-05	We have to protect our natural resources against the short-sighted forces of corporate greed.
Larry Gooss	Glen Allen, VA	2019-03-05	We need to make the Chesapeake Bay as healthy as possible while still maintaining a reasonable amount of fishing.
George Hartsell III	Portsmouth, VA	2019-03-06	Need to reduce the amount of menhaden being caught.
Hansley Cook	Saint SIMons Island, GA	2019-03-06	Over fishing of the Manhadden is devastating food fish.
Treg Burris	Seaford, DE	2019-03-06	Treg BurrisBigtreg9544@comcast.net
Rick Amaro	Bethesda, MD	2019-03-06	We should not take out more than nature can produce. More food more predator thus better fishing.
kim Cullingsworth	Highland Springs, VA	2019-03-07	Kim Cullingswort
Patrick Dye	Lake Ridge, VA	2019-03-07	The menhaden fishery in Virginia is a waste of an important Bay species and needs to be relegated to a footnote in Virginia history.
Edward Knight	Richmond, VA	2019-03-07	Menhaden are too important to the Chesapeake Bay for one company to ruin the fishery
Sarah Ahn	Chesapeake, VA	2019-03-07	the state needs to take accountability.
Ayham Nouisser	Falls Church, VA	2019-03-07	cuz im fat
Jacob Bayer	Norfolk, VA	2019-03-07	I wholeheartedly agree.
Charles Cuaresma	Virginia	2019-03-08	Overfishing is only recognized as a problem after the fact. Right now, the signs are there, so we can take action now before the problem escalates further.
Chris Ward	Manquin, VA	2019-03-08	Omega is killing the bay !!!!
Anthony Pollastro	Bronx, NY	2019-03-08	we need action now before it's too late !!!!!

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Eric NIKOLAUS	Quarryville, PA	2019-03-09	Menhaden are the greatest forage fish in the bay. Fishing greatly improves whenever nets of any sort are banned or regulated. Louisiana. Texas and Florida are great examples of this. Virginia needs to get on board. Omega is deeply rooted in Richmond. Richmond needs to hear from the public loud and clear on this. New York just passed laws to regulate and protect menhaden.
stefano mencarelli	Citt� Di Castello, Italy	2019-03-09	ocean must live!
Glenn Johnson	US	2019-03-09	Protect the bay!
Anthony Garguilo	US	2019-03-09	Only takes s second to sign and help
Raymond Ottavi	Hampton, VA	2019-03-10	Because as filters of the bay and basic forage for many predatory species they must be protected too preserve the bay.
Gary Powell	Richmond, VA	2019-03-10	I care about the bay and everything around it!
Arthur Moody	Staley, NC	2019-03-10	There is a desperate need to reduce the removal of Menhaden from such a vital nursery ground as the Chesapeake Bay and tributaries that feed it in order to preserve the future of generations to be able to fish it.
Diane Curry	McLean, VA	2019-03-11	Protect our fisheries! This is vital to Virginia and our medicine.
tyler Peel	media, PA	2019-03-13	It's the right thing to do
Al Adam	US	2019-03-13	Menhaden is the most significant food source for other east coast fish populations. It has been overfished for many years.
Craig Davis	Reading, PA	2019-03-13	Bunker need to replenished so that the sport fish can survive
Brian Leffet	Wilmington, DE	2019-03-13	Don't let politics ruin this fishery !
Joe drupieski	Earleville, MD	2019-03-14	I'm a fisherman
Robert Wilson	Fairhope, AL	2019-03-14	Enough is enough
Brandon Hess	Macungie, PA	2019-03-15	I support our fishermen.
denise moore	Milford, DE	2019-03-15	This is a very important matter. Please do something to stop overharvesting. Thank you
TOM Herendeen	Chesapeake, VA	2019-03-15	I'll send this petition on to everyone I know. Harvesting menhaden in the Chesapeake BAY.Should be stopped or at least reduced. The Sport fisherman are once again looking at a new moratorium on stripper fishing. WHY? Because their is not enough menhaden left to sustain the larger fish that feed on them. When are the politicians going to start working for all of us instead of the well connected few?
Shawn Price	Scranton, PA	2019-03-23	I stand with my fellow fisherman

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Judy Johnsons	Virginia Beach, VA	2019-03-24	As a Virginian I think it's deplorable that the over harvesting of Menhaden has not be addressed. This after the metric tons was supposed to go from 87,215 to 51,000. We need you to help us to protect the Chesapeake Bay and the Menhaden that live in it.
Byron Farlow	Virginia Beach, VA	2019-03-24	They are raping the Chesapeake Bay of a vital resource that helps the bay
Deana Kluchonic	Norfolk, VA	2019-03-24	Deana L Kluchonic
Troy Robertson	Virginia Beach, VA	2019-03-24	Troy Robertson
Janette Woodruff	Norfolk, VA	2019-03-25	It's important!
Cheryl Matthews	Virginia Beach, VA	2019-03-25	My father went to Richmond and spoke about this very thing at some point about 10 years ago. Dr. Mitchell Dudley has written something on this too. I unfortunately have not read but will be in the near future!
Patrick Mayo	Westminster, US	2019-03-26	I'm signing this because it need s to stop.
Dana Fleming	Norfolk, VA	2019-03-26	Stop the corruption and the damn greed.
TONY SOWARDS	Prince George, VA	2019-03-31	Politicians in VA only have one thing on their mind..the money in their pockets...could care less about the bay or the people of VA.....just tired of them destroying the bay for big business..