

# SUPPORT HB1048

Topic: Menhaden Fishing in the Chesapeake Bay

Bill Patron: Delegate Betsy Carr

## OVERVIEW:

HB1048 directs the Marine Resources Commission to close the menhaden reduction fishery in the Chesapeake Bay until the necessary science has been conducted in order for the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources to make a determination that the reduction fishery does not negatively impact other fisheries or menhaden-dependent species.

## REASONS TO SUPPORT:

- Climate change is rapidly changing the makeup, abundance, and migratory patterns of fish species in the Chesapeake Bay region. Without necessary science on Chesapeake Bay, Virginia must be more precautionary in managing this important public resource.
- A new stock assessment released by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission this past October indicated the Atlantic Coast menhaden population is about 37% smaller than previously thought.
- As a forage fish, menhaden nourish striped bass, bluefish, summer flounder, and other popular fish targeted by commercial and recreational fishing industries, as well as bird species like osprey.
- The science plan for making this determination has already been developed by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, the Commonwealth's science advisor on marine issues.
- A healthy menhaden population benefits both ecological and economic interests throughout the state.



Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Chris Moore  
Cmoore@cbf.org  
757-353-2687



Virginia Conservation Network  
Rebecca Malpass, Director of Land  
Conservation & Clean Water Programs  
[rebecca@vcnva.org](mailto:rebecca@vcnva.org)  
Rebecca: (281) 635-5740

---

This position was taken by Virginia Conservation Network (VCN)'s Legislative Committee and Board of Directors and is supported by Virginia's conservation community. For a complete list of VCN positions, visit [www.vcnva.org/bill-tracker](http://www.vcnva.org/bill-tracker). VCN is committed to building a powerful, diverse, and highly-coordinated conservation movement focused on protecting our Commonwealth's natural resources today and for tomorrow.