



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Marine Resources Commission

Building 96

380 Fenwick Road

Fort Monroe, VA 23651

Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

Steven G. Bowman
Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 4, 2020

Press contact: Ellen Bolen, Deputy Commissioner

757-788-9772

“Secretary of Commerce lifts scheduled moratorium against Virginia’s menhaden fishery”

FORT MONROE, VA Yesterday the Secretary of Commerce notified Virginia and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Committee that Virginia had come into compliance and the moratorium scheduled to start June 17, 2020 has been lifted.

“We took swift action to bring Virginia into compliance in April, and I am glad that this matter is finally resolved,” said Commissioner Steven G. Bowman. **“We will continue to ensure Virginia remains in compliance with all fisheries regulations for healthy stocks and a sustainable future for the Chesapeake Bay.”**

The US Secretary of Commerce found Virginia out of compliance in December of 2019 and gave the Commonwealth six months to come into compliance with the management plan set forth by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Had Virginia not taken action, the entire menhaden fishery would have shut down on June 17, 2020 impacting workers and other fisheries who rely on menhaden for bait.

An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat

www.mrc.virginia.gov

Telephone (757) 247-2200 (757) 247-2292 V/TDD Information and Emergency Hotline 1-800-541-4646 V/TDD