

MENHADEN (from page 1)

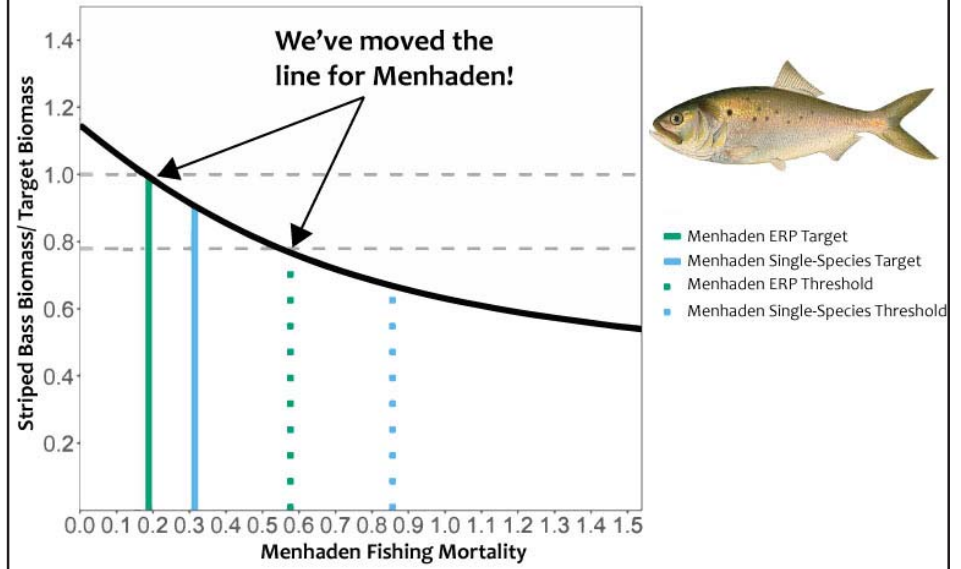
Striped bass were chosen because they are more sensitive to menhaden abundance than other predators. When there are enough menhaden to satisfy striped bass needs, the needs of other predators are likely met as well, according to a multi-species model that was approved by the ASMFC for management use earlier this year. Anglers hope that the focus on striped bass will contribute to rebuilding the stock, which is currently overfished.

Menhaden are often called “the most important fish in the sea” because of their keystone role in the Atlantic’s forage base. “To think that just 8 years ago, we were celebrating the first ever coast-wide catch limit for menhaden, and now we are celebrating the adoption of ecological reference points. It’s a testament to the perseverance of a broad coalition of fishermen and conservationists who have fought for decades to protect menhaden’s role in the food web,” said Wild Oceans Executive Director Pam Lyons Gromen.

Hundreds of emails, thousands of petition signatures, and dozens of group and organization letters were sent to the Menhaden Management Board ahead of the August meeting, urging the Board to move forward with ecological reference points.

The ASMFC’s Atlantic Menhaden Management Board will convene again in the fall to set annual catch limits for the menhaden fishery using the new ecological reference points.

Atlantic Menhaden ERP Target & Threshold



Fishing Mortality Reference Point	Ecological Reference Points	Single-Species Reference Points
Target	0.19	0.31
Threshold	0.57	0.86



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