



Northeast PA Audubon Society
Box 711, Honesdale, PA 18431

November 27, 2012

The Honorable Tom Corbett
225 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Corbett:

I am writing you on behalf of the Board of Directors of Northeast PA Audubon Society and its 500+ members, to share our concerns about a tiny fish called Atlantic menhaden. You have never seen menhaden in the grocery store or on the menu at your favorite restaurant, but you have probably enjoyed Stripped Bass, for example, which is a predator of the menhaden. However, it is a very important fish to the Atlantic ecosystem and the fishing related businesses along the Atlantic coast. Menhaden is vital for the coastal and marine environment because it is forage food for shorebirds, osprey, striped bass, sharks, bluefish, whales, and other marine life. Unfortunately, menhaden have fallen by over 90% in the last 25 years from overfishing. The fish are ground up, oil is extracted and livestock food produced. Over fishing of menhaden can have economic consequences for several industries which rely on the fish for a sustainable business model.

Attached, please find a letter signed by 71 bird conservation organizations, clubs, and businesses from Maine to Florida. A closer look at the letter shows that 23 of the 71 signers calling on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) to adopt strong conservation measures for menhaden come from Pennsylvania. Our chapter is one of those.

We recognize that the Pennsylvania delegation to the Commission does not vote on menhaden management. However, we urge you and the members of the Pennsylvania delegation to make other Governors and Commission members aware of our concerns. The birding activity of our members is not confined to Pennsylvania. In fact, many of us enjoy visiting the coast throughout the year to watch shorebirds and other bird migration activity. We would like to continue to enjoy and ensure that future generations enjoy, one of nature's many marvels.

Sincerely,

Barbara Leo
Conservation Chair
Northeast PA Audubon Society

cc: Secretary Richard Allan, DCNR
Director, John A. Arway, PA Fish & Boat Commission
Commissioner, Mike Vereb, PA House of Representatives
Commissioner, Loren W. Lustig
Dave Miko, PA Fish & Boat Commission