



The NCMC

MARINE BULLETIN

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THE WEAK LINK

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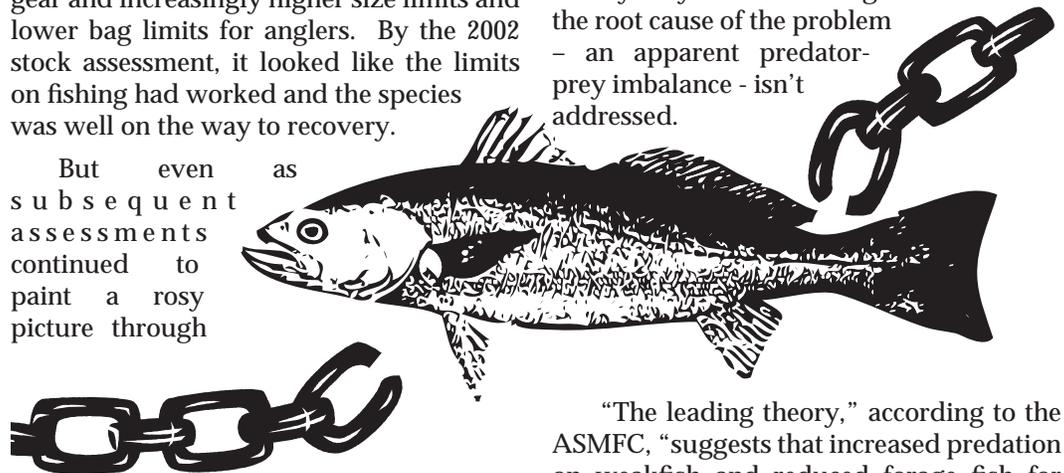
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Weakfish and Fishermen Suffer Lack of Attention to Food Base

Weakfish supported strong recreational and commercial fisheries on the east coast for over a century. But in the 1990s, the dwindling supply of gray weakfish (*Cynoscion regalis*), also known as sea trout, brought about strict measures to reduce bycatch in commercial gear and increasingly higher size limits and lower bag limits for anglers. By the 2002 stock assessment, it looked like the limits on fishing had worked and the species was well on the way to recovery.

But even as subsequent assessments continued to paint a rosy picture through

says the weakfish spawning stock has been depleted to just 3% of an un-fished population and advise that almost any level of fishing on a stock that tiny could harm future productivity. The ASMFC, which regulates fishing for weakfish from Massachusetts to Florida, recently proposed a number of options, foremost among them a complete harvest moratorium. Unfortunately, even a shutdown of the fishery may not do much good if the root cause of the problem – an apparent predator-prey imbalance – isn't addressed.



2005, landings along the Atlantic coast plummeted to all-time lows. Despite what the assessments said, fishermen couldn't find the fish; they weren't there. In 2006, fishery scientists dug deeper into the data, including non-fishing impacts on the stock, and concluded that weakfish mortality is higher than ever. But unlike in the '90s, overfishing isn't the culprit. Natural mortality, primarily due to predation and starvation according to scientists working for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), has been on the rise since the mid-1990s.

The 2009 stock assessment team now

“The leading theory,” according to the ASMFC, “suggests that increased predation on weakfish and reduced forage fish for weakfish have caused natural mortality to increase.” The weakfish decline, then, is likely due to an excessive number of fish being eaten by predators or dying for lack of food. There are also sub-lethal effects from decreased prey availability, such as slower growth and lower reproductive success.

The National Coalition for Marine Conservation and others have been sounding the alarm about the state of the Atlantic's forage base for years. The list of key forage species of concern includes sea herring, shad and river herring, butterfish and menhaden (see page 6). The resurgence of striped bass, and its dependence

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PATIENCE HAS ITS LIMITS

In an article we wrote for *Marlin* magazine last fall, we called bluefin tuna “the longest-running fishery management failure in the world.” This observation, it pains us to say, is based on personal experience.

The following statements pretty much sum up where things stand today:

“There is good reason to think that the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna now faces a survival crisis. This fact remains despite all arguments to the contrary.....Our primary concern should be for the resource. Our energies should be directed toward a hard-line, concrete, constructive course of positive action.”

Believe it or not, we wrote those words 35 years ago, in the lead article for our February 1974 newsletter.

At the time, the western stock of tuna that spawns in the Gulf of Mexico was in the midst of a freefall, having declined over 70% since 1960. The following year, the United States formally joined ICCAT with the goal of conserving bluefin, a wide ranging fish we share with other countries. But during the next two decades, western bluefin fell another 90% - to just 1/10th of a sustainable population - which is about where it remains today, despite ICCAT “management;” or maybe because of it.

Also under ICCAT’s watch, the much larger eastern stock, which breeds in the Mediterranean Sea and mixes with western fish on Atlantic fishing grounds, went into its own tailspin in the 1990s. Overfishing continues in 2009 and

the stock is still plummeting, closing in fast on the severely depleted condition of the western stock and putting the future survival of bluefin throughout the Atlantic in serious jeopardy.

ONE LAST SHOT

On page 3 of this newsletter, you’ll read about “The Last Best Hope for Bluefin?” How a pending listing of bluefin as an endangered species under an international trade agreement (CITES) is putting pressure on ICCAT to stand and deliver at the November 2009 meeting – or else.

The U.S. is supporting the proposal to ban trade in bluefin, which will be voted on in March 2010, hoping to leverage that threat to get “significant” action out of ICCAT this year.

Recognizing that ICCAT gets one last shot, and that the CITES effort could fall short, we support the U.S. making a full court press at ICCAT. We clearly lay out for the Administration what action we would deem significant. We base it on the best science, yet we know it will be strongly resisted by European and North African countries. We emphasize that this position *must* be a non-negotiable bottom-line.

Anything less will leave bluefin on the brink. The U.S. has to be willing to say, “No, not again,” and walk – straight to CITES – and make good on its promise to “vigorously support” a global ban on trade in bluefin.

It’s been 35 years. What have we got to lose? “Patience has its limits,” as someone once said. “Take it too far, and it’s cowardice.”

Ken Hinman, *President*

NATIONAL COALITION FOR MARINE CONSERVATION

Founded in 1973

The NCMC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the following goals:

- ◆ preventing overfishing and restoring depleted fish populations to healthy levels
- ◆ promoting sustainable use policies that balance commercial, recreational and ecological values
- ◆ modifying or eliminating wasteful fishing practices
- ◆ improving our understanding of fish and their role in the marine environment
- ◆ preserving coastal habitat and water quality.

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THE LAST BEST HOPE FOR BLUEFIN?

ICCAT Will Seek to Head Off Endangered Listing, Trade Ban



Frozen tuna in Tokyo market ; Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons/Chris 73

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) didn't plan on discussing bluefin at November's meeting in Recife, Brazil. The commission's inability to curb over-exploitation of this highly valuable but disappearing giant of a fish wasn't scheduled to be revisited until 2010. But bluefin tuna quickly found its way to the top of the 2009 agenda when the Principality of Monaco proposed banning trade in Atlantic bluefin tuna under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), whose 175 member nations meet next March in Doha, Qatar.

A CITES listing would be a global indictment of ICCAT, whose handling of bluefin – in particular its repeated failure to crack down on overfishing in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea – was recently labeled an “international disgrace” by an Independent Performance Review. But more importantly, it would do what the tuna commission has been unwilling to: save the species from commercial extinction.

“With fully 80-percent of Atlantic-caught tuna exported, mostly to Japan, an international trade ban may be the last best hope for saving the bluefin,” says National Coalition for Marine Conservation (NCMC) president Ken Hinman, an advisor to the United States on tuna issues. “And with only its November meeting left before next spring's vote on a trade ban, ICCAT knows it has one last chance to save face and avoid surrendering oversight of bluefin to CITES.”

U.S. SUPPORTS CURBING THE WORLD'S YEN FOR BLUEFIN

Will the prospect of a CITES takeover prompt ICCAT to finally adopt a serious, science-based and enforceable conservation program? Or will it make

only minor changes to its past “conservation” agreements, hoping that will be enough to derail Monaco's proposal? And if that's all that happens, can enough international support be marshaled to approve a trade ban next March? And finally, where does the U.S. fit in to all of this?

After considering public input and much internal deliberation, the Obama Administration announced on October 14th that the U.S. strongly supports Monaco's proposal.

The Interior Department's Fish & Wildlife Service is the lead U.S. agency for implementing CITES. Noting that bluefin are one of the most sought after species in Japan's sashimi markets and a single fish can sell for the equivalent of tens of thousands of U.S. dollars, Tom Strickland, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, said in a statement: “We understand the dire situation with respect to Atlantic bluefin tuna, and the U.S. intends to vigorously support Monaco's proposal at the upcoming CITES conference.”

In the case of marine species, Interior consults closely with the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, which issued its own, more restrained statement. NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco reiterated that “the United States strongly supports” a CITES listing, but emphasized that it “will consider amending or withdrawing support..... if ICCAT adopts significantly strengthened management and compliance measures” at the November 2009 meeting. So the question is, what does “significantly strengthened” mean?

The NCMC, which called for U.S. support of CITES in written comments as well as oral testimony before government officials, is encouraged that the Administration believes bluefin meet the criteria for listing: stock status approaching commercial if not biological extinction; the

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THE LAST BEST HOPE FOR BLUEFIN? (Continued from page 3)

central role of international trade in the decline; and management policies insufficient to reverse it. Only the last of these can change between now and March 2010.

FOR NOW, ALL EYES ON ICCAT

The eyes of the world will be focused on ICCAT and its effectiveness in addressing the threats of extinction for bluefin tuna," said Interior's Strickland. "Unless ICCAT adopts significantly strengthened management and compliance measures, specifically measures to address (illegal and unreported) harvest, the United States will exert complete and vigorous support" for Monaco's proposal at CITES.

Strong words, but they must be followed up with deeds. NOAA, not Interior, takes the lead for the U.S. at ICCAT. And while the agency takes much the same stance in its October 14th statement, it has closer ties to the U.S. tuna industry, which vigorously opposes a trade ban. Industry spokesmen are already lowering expectations for the upcoming meeting in order to portray whatever happens as removing the need for CITES to get involved.

NOAA, on behalf of the U.S. and on behalf of bluefin tuna, must take a hard line at this fall's session and make good on its stated intent to support CITES if ICCAT falls short. "If ICCAT is to get one more chance and anything good is to come of it," says NCMC's Hinman, "it has to be with the full knowledge that there is now an alternative to ICCAT and we don't have to accept anything less than what's needed to save this magnificent fish."

The NCMC is recommending the following bottom-line position, based on recommendations from the latest ICCAT bluefin science report (2009):

- A total allowable catch for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean of 8,000 tonnes beginning in 2010 (down from 19,950 t under the current agreement), which the science says will provide the best probability of ending overfishing. Given the history of quota overruns, anything higher is unacceptable.
- A closure to fishing for bluefin in the Mediterranean during spawning season, May through July (it is now open in May and half of June, peak fishing times). This is not only a conservation measure recommended by the science, but an important compliance tool, since closures are more easily enforced than quotas. Anything but a complete spawning closure is unacceptable. □

OPTIONS FOR MINIMIZING LONGLINE TAKE OF BLUEFIN

This summer the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) asked for comments on possible adjustments to regulations for the U.S. Atlantic pelagic longline fishery, which limit the number of incidental bluefin tuna that may be retained per pounds of targeted catch. In response, the National Coalition for Marine Conservation recommended that NMFS evaluate the following options, beginning with our preferred alternative, a Gulf longline closure, and consider including them in a future rulemaking:

- **New Longline Time-Area Closure in the Gulf of Mexico**

Close an area of the north central Gulf of Mexico to all pelagic longlining, corresponding to the area recently designated a bluefin Habitat Area of Particular Concern, during the months of April, May and June to eliminate the incidental catch of spawning bluefin tuna. Evaluate lengthening the closure to include summer months (July and August) when longline bycatch of billfish (blue and white marlin, sailfish and spearfish) is highest.

- **Zero Retention of Spawning Bluefin**

Current longline retention limits - up to 3 bluefin per vessel per trip if certain target species thresholds are met - result in mortality of at least 300-400 spawning bluefin in the Gulf of Mexico annually. Zero retention of bluefin tuna for the longline fishery in the Gulf would likely result in a decrease in total bluefin mortality assuming that vessels would have less of an incentive to direct effort at giant bluefin by fishing in the Gulf during spawning season. However, because longlining would still be permitted, discard mortality would continue to occur and therefore a time-area closure is vastly preferable, for both its conservation benefit and its enforceability (i.e., does not require 100% observer coverage).

- **Gulf of Mexico Bycatch Cap**

A fleet-wide bycatch cap, accompanied by 100% observer coverage, could be used to create a disincentive to catch bluefin tuna in the Gulf during spawning season. If the regional cap were set at 50 fish per year (reported catch currently 300-400 fish), then the Gulf would close to longlining for the rest of the year once that cap is reached. Yellowfin tuna longliners would have a strong incentive to forego fishing in the spring, while bluefin are present and before yellowfin are available in large numbers. Or, to develop methods of fishing that are more selective (i.e., avoid bluefin mortality) so they can fish earlier in the year.

- **Transition from Longlining to Cleaner Alternative Gears**

The fishery for yellowfin tuna could be encouraged to switch to alternative gears, such as "greensticks," for use in the Gulf of Mexico (and elsewhere) in concert with a seasonal longline closure there. It has been noted that because this gear has a limited number of hooks and is set in the water for a short time, bycatch mortality problems would be minimal. Longliners should be encouraged to use hand-gear, either harpoon or rod-and-reel, to target swordfish. NMFS should consider expanding the hand-gear permits for swordfish in the northern fishing areas (mid-Atlantic to New England) in concert with a phase-down in the longline fishery.

OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE HEARING HELD AFTER NOAA APPROVES GULF PLAN

NCMC President Ken Hinman Testifies on Threats to Forage Fish

On September 9th, six days after the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's offshore aquaculture plan took effect, the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife heard testimony from experts regarding the need for a national regulatory framework for ocean fish farming.

Chairwoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) opened the hearing by roundly criticizing the Administration for its actions on the Gulf plan. "Last week, the Gulf of Mexico Regional Fishery Management Council's aquaculture fishery management plan - which would create a regional, fragmented approach to offshore aquaculture regulation - took effect with the tacit approval of NOAA and the Secretary of Commerce. Many Members of Congress, including myself, had urged disapproval of the plan because of the risks of this piecemeal approach and the clear lack of authority to regulate offshore aquaculture through the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Plainly, offshore aquaculture is not fishing, and it makes no sense to regulate it as such," she said.

By not officially approving or disapproving the Gulf Council's plan by the statutory deadline, NOAA passively allowed the plan to become law. "A decision not to act is still a decision," noted one hearing attendee. Dr. James W. Balsiger, Acting Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries, responded to criticism by declaring the agency's intent to create a national policy for regulating aquaculture in federal waters, against which the Gulf plan would be evaluated.

NCMC President Ken Hinman was one of eight panelists invited to testify at the hearing. Echoing the concerns expressed by Chairwoman Bordallo, Hinman testified, "After giving the gulf the go-ahead, NOAA says it will now begin developing a national policy. To use an expression from down on the farm, that's putting the cart before the horse. Congress needs to step in now, bring this cart to a halt, step back, and begin a true national dialogue on offshore aquaculture. The first priority is to develop strict national environmental standards that will keep our

ocean fisheries healthy and wild."

The environmental threats posed by industrial-scale ocean fish farming are considerable; pollution from fish waste and medical treatments, disease transmission, escaped farmed fish that interact with wild fish, predator entanglement in net pens, and the depletion of wild forage fish, which are major ingredients in aquaculture feed. A recent study found that the aquaculture sector consumed the equivalent of 23.8 million tons of small pelagic forage fish in the form of feed inputs in 2006; that's 87% of the global forage fish landings that year.¹

Hinman concluded his testimony by urging for forage fish protections on both the supply and demand side of the market. "None of the U.S. fishery management plans covering forage fish adequately address all areas vital to maintaining a healthy forage base . . . Without more conservative standards, the risk of harvesting these fish at levels that damage the food web and irreversibly harm ecosystems is substantial." Recommendations provided by NCMC for inclusion in national aquaculture legislation include:

- Minimizing the use of forage fish by only permitting feed to be sourced from fisheries utilizing an ecosystem-based approach to management;
- Capping harvest of forage fish used for reduction until such time as ecosystem-based management measures are in place;
- Requiring all fishery management plans for forage fish to employ ecological reference points to ensure an adequate forage reserve is maintained for the ecosystem.

Subcommittee member Lois Capps (D-CA), who was present at the hearing, has expressed her commitment to a precautionary and environmentally-sound national regulatory framework for offshore aquaculture that would bring an end to haphazard regional regulations. Capps is currently leading House efforts to craft offshore aquaculture legislation, and is likely to introduce her bill in the current Congressional session. □



1.3 billion pounds of menhaden were landed in the United States in 2008. Nearly all the catch is ground into fishmeal and oil for use in animal feed. The aquaculture industry is the largest global consumer of fishmeal and fish oil. (Image courtesy of NOAA/Bob Williams)

Visit www.savethefish.org to read Ken Hinman's testimony.

¹ Tacon, Albert G. J. and Marc Metian. 2009. "Fishing for Feed or Fishing for Food: Increasing Global Competition for Small Pelagic Forage Fish." *AMBIO* 38 (6):294-302.

NCMC CALLS ON ASMFC TO FULFILL ITS PROMISE ON MENHADEN

In September the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission issued a proposal to extend the current cap on the industrial harvest of menhaden in Chesapeake Bay, first implemented in 2006 and set to expire in 2010. The National Coalition for Marine Conservation submitted the following statement, at public hearings and in writing.

The National Coalition for Marine Conservation (NCMC) cannot support Addendum IV to the Interstate Atlantic Menhaden FMP, which would extend the current cap on reduction harvest in Chesapeake Bay through 2013, without the ASMFC having taken meaningful steps toward an ecosystem-based approach to conserving this critical forage fish, as it promised the public it would. Instead, we urge the Commission at its November meeting to begin developing a substitute addendum that features conservative catch limits that are sufficient to protect menhaden's vital role in the ecosystem.

We supported the cap (109,000 tons/year, the average catch from 2001-5) in order to give the commission time to fully consider the compromised predator-prey balance caused by the excessive and concentrated harvest of menhaden in Chesapeake Bay; in particular, the harvest of age 1 and 2 pre-spawning juveniles, which are prime prey for adult striped bass and other predators that are showing signs of stress due to an inability to compete with the fishery for food.

New research has only confirmed earlier concerns about an inadequate supply of menhaden. We now know mycobacteriosis, the stress-related disease afflicting well over half the bay's striper population with lesions and tumors, slows growth and doubles the mortality rate.¹ The number of juvenile menhaden - Chesapeake Bay is the coastal stock's primary nursery - remains at historic lows. The bay catch, averaging 85,000 tons a year since 2006, has fallen to a 40-year low (accompanied by declining landings coast-wide), suggesting diminishing abundance of young fish. Ongoing studies show menhaden are vastly reduced in the diet of striped bass², causing them to shift to alternate prey and compete for food with other vulnerable species, such as weakfish³ -which are suffering rates of natural mortality so high we may have to close the fisheries entirely (see page 1) - and ospreys. Menhaden historically made up 75% of the diet of osprey nestlings in the bay. Today, that's down to 25% and the survival of nestlings is as poor as it was in the DDT era.⁴

The ASMFC implemented the 5-year cap with the promise that it would develop a long-term ecosystem-based approach to address these concerns by the time the cap expired in 2011, and fully ten years after the FMP was amended to make protecting menhaden's ecological role a plan objective. By extending the cap another three years, without beginning to develop the framework for an

ecosystem-based approach, the ASMFC would be defaulting on that promise and its responsibility to the public.

The extension is proposed in order to keep the cap in place while menhaden research continues. But information brought before the ASMFC has made it clear that the current management program fails to address predator and other ecological needs and that ongoing research must be supplemented by policy decisions at the management level.

The recently completed CIE peer review of menhaden science questioned whether the research design alone is relevant to the management issues at hand and advised that fishery managers need to agree on thresholds of abundance and allocations of mortality between the fishery and predators for the results of the research to be useful.⁵

The Menhaden Technical Committee has acknowledged that the existing reference points for determining the status of menhaden in the upcoming benchmark stock assessment are only intended to assure that the stock has sufficient reproduction to replenish itself and is maintained at a size capable of supporting a viable fishery.

As the chair of the ASMFC's own Management & Science Committee, which was tasked with reviewing new, ecological reference points, noted (and we quote)⁶:

"(F)or a prey species with such importance for so many other managed species, forage needs for predators need to be considered in the management of the menhaden fishery. Presently menhaden management does not recognize objectives other than fishery sustainability. Fishing is removing biomass that could go into predator biomass and therefore affecting or potentially depressing production in these predator populations...Ecological linkages are discussed and fishery management plans recognize the linkages but there are not explicit measures in plans to account for ecological relationships. A precautionary approach in the management of important forage species is called for. The question should be now not should we set aside menhaden to satisfy forage needs but rather how much should we set aside...(M)enhaden are too important to manage strictly on the basis of sustaining spawning stock biomass. A precautionary approach should be taken in present management and work needs to begin immediately on developing quantitative ecological reference points."

In June, the NCMC submitted a paper, "Ecological Reference Points for Atlantic Menhaden," based on a review of the scientific literature and policies in place for key forage species in the U.S. and abroad. It provides the framework for developing a menhaden management plan that accounts for menhaden's unique role as a forage species. The paper presents examples of quantitative targets and limits designed to allocate menhaden to the ecosystem in a precautionary and sustainable manner.

In the end, the move into an ecosystem-based approach to conserving menhaden is a policy decision that recognizes, as do the new National Standard 1 Guidelines and a growing body of science, that mid-trophic level forage species like menhaden demand a more conservative approach; that is, higher target populations and stricter overfishing limits.

With Addendum IV, the ASMFC is proposing to postpone if not evade its responsibility to make these decisions. In November, we urge you to disapprove this addendum and begin work immediately to make good on your promise to put in place a management program that protects menhaden and the marine ecosystem it is such a vital part of. □

1 Gauthier et al. Mycobacteriosis-Associated Mortality in Wild Striped Bass from Chesapeake Bay. Ecological Applications, 18(7), 2008, pp. 1718–1727

2 Research to Improve Management of Atlantic Menhaden in Chesapeake Bay. NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office Newsletter. 2009.

3 Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management for Chesapeake Bay. Striped Bass Species Team Background and Issue Briefs. www.mdsg.umd.edu/images/uploads/siteimages/Striped_Bass_Species_Team_Briefs.pdf.

4 Garman et al. Predatory-Prey Interactions among Fish-Eating Birds and Selected Fishery

Resources in the Chesapeake Bay. NOAA Fishery Science Symposium. April 2009.

5 Report on the evaluation of the Chesapeake Bay Fisheries Science Program: Atlantic Menhaden Research Program. Jean-Jacques Maguire, CIE Reviewer. Prepared for the Center for Independent Experts. May 2009.

6 Email from MSC chair Harley Speir to MSC members and ASMFC staff, July 23, 2009.

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on menhaden in particular, figures prominently in this discussion.

A number of studies indicate low abundance of menhaden has striped bass out-competing weakfish and other predators for prey, as well as feeding on juvenile weakfish.

According to the state/federal Chesapeake Bay Program’s Striped Bass Species Team, which is identifying critical ecosystem concerns for striped bass, “(s)triped bass actively select for Atlantic menhaden, but will feed on other species when menhaden are not sufficiently abundant... (There have been) potentially large negative effects in recent years of high striped bass abundance on alternate prey or competitors such as Atlantic coast weakfish.” Research by the University of Maryland’s Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, monitoring linkages between three predators - striped bass, weakfish and bluefish - and their prey, indicates that when menhaden abundance is low, the usual pattern of predation changes. Striped bass aged 2 years and older, which rely on menhaden as their primary food source, feed more heavily on prey tightly linked to weakfish, such as spot and croaker.

“The sorry state of weakfish is just more evidence that the prey base off the Atlantic coast, the target of intensive commercial fisheries, is unable to support a wide range of predator populations at levels it once did,” says NCMC president Ken Hinman. “When a fishery management body considers closing a fishery, while admitting that this action alone will not reverse the decline, that’s a clear sign that something’s missing. The weak link in all this is the lack of an ecosystem-based approach to managing these fisheries.”

Or as Tom Fote, executive director of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, puts it: “Unless we deal with the factors causing natural mortality, this will happen with many other species. To call the problem natural mortality ignores the fact that this is the unnatural result of human behavior.” □

NCMC BENEFITS WHEN YOU SIGN UP FOR VERIZON FiOS

The National Coalition for Marine Conservation signed up with Verizon’s Velocity fundraising program, which benefits charities each time someone signs up for one or more FiOS services in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Washington DC, Washington state, Oregon or California. For example, if NCMC is your designated charity, we receive \$20 from Verizon if you sign up for FiOS TV, \$25 if you sign up for FiOS Internet, and up to \$65 on a FiOS Triple Freedom order! **All you need to do is order from a special sales number, and give them NCMC’s code.** There is no extra cost to you, and you are still eligible for all FiOS promotions (except online offers). This offer applies only to residential FiOS orders, not business orders.

If you live in any of the states listed above, please see the enclosed Verizon flyer in this newsletter for ordering details. The program is open to anyone, not just NCMC members, so please pass the flyer along if you cannot use it.

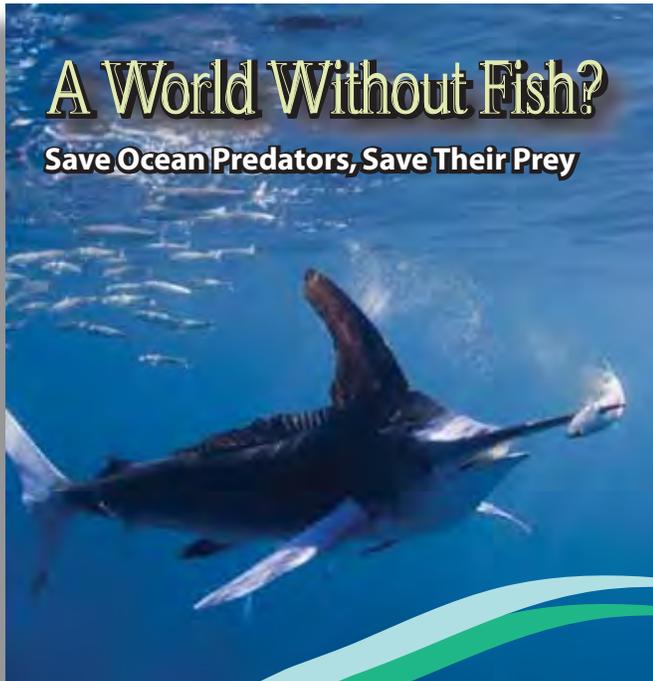
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NEW VIDEO TELLS THE STORY OF NCMC'S FIGHT TO SAVE THE FISH!



Cover Photo © Doug Perrine/SeaPics.com

Just released! “A World Without Fish? Save Ocean Predators, Save Their Prey” tells NCMC’s story through narration, on-camera interviews and lots of awesome footage from renowned marine life videographers including Dr. Guy Harvey, Mike Laptew, Bill Boyce, and Diana Udel.

The handsomely packaged 18-minute DVD is a great way to learn about NCMC’s Bring Back the Big Fish and Forage First! programs - from their early beginnings to the important work that continues today. Share with your family, friends and fishing companions!

Because of the long list of generous contributors to this project, for a limited time we are able to offer the DVD free of charge to members in good standing or to anyone who makes a year-end donation. Get your copy today by sending an email request to christine@savethefish.org or by phoning 703-777-0037. Multiple copies are available for those wishing to share with fishing clubs and organizations. Help spread the word about the great work of which you, our NCMC members, are an invaluable part!

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