

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 2

M2
SJ 6/22 – EHE

3lr2143

By: **Senator Bailey**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2023

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission – Atlantic Menhaden – Prohibition**
3 **on Commercial Reduction Fishing**

4 FOR the purpose of requesting the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to
5 consider prohibiting the commercial reduction fishing of Atlantic menhaden,
6 including the use of purse seines and spotter planes, in the Chesapeake Bay; and
7 generally relating to Atlantic menhaden.

8 WHEREAS, Atlantic menhaden are ecologically and economically important to the
9 Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic coast; and

10 WHEREAS, Atlantic menhaden create a vital connection between the bottom and
11 top of the food chain by eating plankton and, in turn, becoming a rich food source for many
12 predators, including rockfish, osprey, and bald eagles; and

13 WHEREAS, The Atlantic menhaden commercial fishery consists of a bait fishery and
14 a reduction fishery in which fish are “reduced” into fish meal, fish oil, and fish solubles; and

15 WHEREAS, The Atlantic menhaden fishery is managed under a plan developed and
16 adopted by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, which represents all coastal
17 states from Maine to Florida; and

18 WHEREAS, Despite the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s cap on the
19 commercial harvest of Atlantic menhaden, the cap was exceeded in 2019; and

20 WHEREAS, Spotter planes and purse seines are used in the commercial reduction
21 fishery to locate and catch Atlantic menhaden; and

22 WHEREAS, Atlantic menhaden have been the highest or among the highest
23 poundage landings of any fish species on the East Coast for many years, with the poundings
24 predominantly occurring by the use of purse seines; now, therefore, be it



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 2

1 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That, in order to
2 maintain a sustainable Atlantic menhaden fishery, the General Assembly requests the
3 Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to consider prohibiting the commercial
4 reduction fishing of Atlantic menhaden, including the use of purse seines and spotter
5 planes, in the Chesapeake Bay; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
7 Legislative Services to the Honorable Wes Moore, Governor of Maryland; the Honorable
8 William C. Ferguson, IV, President of the Senate of Maryland; and the Honorable Adrienne
9 A. Jones, Speaker of the House of Delegates.