



May 25, 2022

Senator Bob Hensgens
Chairman, Senate Committee on Natural Resources
900 North 3rd Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: House Bill 1033; Menhaden Catch Limits and Reporting Requirements

Position: Support

Dear Chairman Hensgens and Members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee:

On behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF), we write in support of House Bill 1033, legislation to establish menhaden catch limits and reporting requirements that will benefit all of Louisiana's coastal fish and wildlife resources.

Founded in 1989, CSF's mission is to work with Congress, governors, and state legislatures to protect and advance hunting, angling, recreational shooting, and trapping. CSF has a strong track record in Louisiana, working with the Louisiana Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus and conservation partners to protect and advance Louisiana's sporting heritage by supporting pro-sportsmen legislation and state fish and wildlife management objectives. We offer the following comments based on our experience working on fisheries policy for more than 30 years.

Recreational fishing for Louisiana's inshore and nearshore species such as trout, southern flounder and redfish are extremely popular with Louisiana anglers, and these fisheries provide a significant economic benefit to the state's economy. Persistent concerns about the proximity of the industrial menhaden purse seines near the shoreline, the degree of incidental bycatch of non-target species, and the growing concerns regarding the overall impacts of such large-scale harvests on the coastal ecosystem warrants reasonable harvest limitations and reporting requirements.

Louisiana is known as the "Sportsman's Paradise" for a reason. Tens of thousands of anglers both from within and beyond Louisiana travel to the state's coast each year to spend time with their family and friends fishing the Louisiana marsh and nearshore waters to fill coolers and a chance

to catch a fish of a lifetime. While this bill does not limit the ability of the menhaden industry to harvest the fishery, it will ensure that Louisiana remains the “Sportsmen’s Paradise” by taking an important step to protect the state’s valuable estuarine resources. For this reason, we strongly urge you to support HB 1033.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue for Louisiana anglers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Lance". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mark Lance
Southeastern States Coordinator
Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation
mlance@congressionalsportsmen.org