

# HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4

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By: **Delegate Crosby**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2021

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4**

1           RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General  
2 Assembly requests the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to evaluate the  
3 population of Atlantic menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay; and be it further

4           RESOLVED, That, in order to maintain a sustainable Atlantic menhaden fishery,  
5 the General Assembly requests the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to  
6 consider prohibiting the commercial reduction fishing of Atlantic menhaden, including the  
7 use of purse seines and spotter planes, in the Chesapeake Bay; and be it further

8           RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
9 Legislative Services to the Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland; the  
10 Honorable William C. Ferguson, IV, President of the Senate of Maryland; and the  
11 Honorable Adrienne A. Jones, Speaker of the House of Delegates.