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Mr. Jim Estes
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Division of Marine Fisheries Management
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Mr. William R. Orndorf
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October 16, 2020

Dear ASMFC Florida Representatives,

Today the undersigned ask Florida State's delegation to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to

2022 (combined) is 176,800 mt per year. While this TAC represents an approximate 18% reduction from the current 216,000 mt TAC, it is similar to the TACs implemented for 2013-2014 (170,800 mt) and for 2015-2016 (187,880 mt). **Setting the Total Allowable Catch at this level or lower would have little to no negative impact on commercial fishers who harvest and land Atlantic menhaden in Florida and would better position forage fish availability to facilitate sustainable populations of Florida's ecologically and economically important predators and gamefish.**

There are many reasons that Florida's State delegation to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission should not consider Atlantic menhaden catch limits that have less than a flip of a coin chance of maintaining fishing mortality rates at or below the newly adopted Ecosystem Based Reference Point target, not the least of which is that doing so would be inconsistent with the leadership that the State legislature and Governor DeSantis have already taken on fisheries conservation.

We thank you for your ongoing managerial leadership and we look forward to collaborating with you to advance ecosystem-based management approaches for other key species managed by the ASMFC.

Sincerely,

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President
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Tallahassee, FL 32318

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cc: **Jessica McCawley, Director, FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management**