



The International Game Fish Association

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Louisiana House Natural Resources and Environment
900 North 3rd Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear House Natural Resources and Environment Committee,

Please accept this letter as public comment on behalf of the International Game Fish Association, an organization representing the national and international community of recreational anglers. The IGFA is committed to the conservation of game fish and promotion of responsible, ethical angling practices through science, education, rule making, record keeping and recognition of outstanding accomplishments in the field of angling. The IGFA is also a member of a large coalition of stakeholders known as the Gulf Menhaden Conservation Coalition that advocates for sustainable menhaden fisheries and ecosystem-based management practices.

Gulf menhaden is a critical forage species in the diets of the Gulf Coast's most sought after game fish such as redfish, sea trout, mackerels, jacks, and flounder. These recreationally and commercially important species can be dramatically affected by overharvesting of their prey. Gulf menhaden is also been found to be important in the diets of seabird species as well as the Gulf's variety of dolphins and whales.

We are writing to you today to express our support for House Bill No. 1033 that would implement an annual catch limit and improve fisheries data collection that will allow for a movement toward ecosystem-based management practices. The collection of purse seine set location, fish size, bycatch, and catch statistics is a critical first step in our capability to assess the sustainability of the menhaden fishery off Louisiana. We applaud Representatives Orgeron, McKnight, Fontenot, and Pierre for their commitment to sustainable fishing practices and ensuring Louisiana's state waters remain the Sportman's Paradise.

Sincerely,

Bruce Pohl Ph.D.
Conservation Director
International Game Fish Association

The International Game Fish Association is a nonprofit organization committed to the conservation of game fish and the promotion of responsible, ethical angling practices through science, education, rule making, record keeping and recognition of outstanding accomplishments in the field of angling.