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HOUSE BILL NO. 1624

Offered January 10, 2007

Prefiled August 28, 2006

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 28.2-408.1, relating to the harvest quota for taking menhaden.*

Patron—Cosgrove

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 28.2-408.1 as follows:

§ 28.2-408.1. Harvest quota for menhaden; penalty.

A. Beginning 2006 through December 31, 2010, the annual harvest of menhaden taken by purse seine for reduction purposes within the lawful harvest areas of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, as described in this chapter, is limited to a harvest quota of no greater than 109,020 metric tons.

B. If the harvest of menhaden in any year, beginning 2006 through 2010, does not exceed the harvest quota, then the difference between the actual harvest and the harvest quota may be applied as a credit to the allowable harvest for the following year. The credit may neither be reserved for future years nor spread over multiple years. The actual harvest for any year shall not exceed 122,740 metric tons.

C. Any person taking menhaden by purse seine for reduction purposes after the quota has been reached shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

INTRODUCED

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