



SUPPORT

A. 2571/S. 2317 (Englebright/Kaminsky)

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to the taking of menhaden

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports A. 2571/S. 2317 (Englebright/Kaminsky), which would prohibit fishing for menhaden with purse seines.

Atlantic menhaden are a species of small fish that are a food source to many larger marine animals and therefore an important part of the marine ecosystem. Menhaden were at one point overfished and in danger of disappearing from our waters entirely, but the population has recently rebounded due to aggressive conservation efforts. With the population rebound, menhaden predators such as whales and dolphins have also been returning to New York waters. Purse seines are large nets that can encircle an entire school of fish, and their use could reverse all of the progress that has been made in bringing back menhaden, damaging both the marine ecosystem and the fishing industry.

A. 2571/S. 2317 would prohibit the fishing of menhaden with purse seines, a policy which will support the continued resurgence of menhaden and the marine life they support, thereby also helping New York's fishing industry to thrive. The bill would allow the Department of Environmental Conservation to issue temporary permits allowing the use of purse seines if there is an imminent risk of a fish kill.

For these reasons, the New York League of Conservation Voters strongly urges passage of A. 2571/S. 2317.

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