



Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association

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PRESS RELEASE

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ASMFC Executive O'Shea Defends Omega?

Click link to watch O'Shea defending overfishing of menhaden by Omega

<http://video.aol.co.uk/video-detail/omega-protein-harvests-menhaden-a-sustainable-resourcecomp4/205156479/?icid=VIDURVTEC02>

Recently Omega put out a video extolling the virtues of their company. It was done professionally and an effective communication. Nothing unusual about that. What was unusual and unexpected was to find Vince O'Shea executive director of the ASMFC as a featured spokesperson. Since the ASMFC is the regulatory body for Menhaden, one would not expect an executive of this quasi Federal body to be an advocate for the commercial fishery they are tasked with regulating.

There has been a general feeling that the ASMFC has been overly sensitive to Omega's interests. This, however, brings into question the objectivity of ASMFC when regulating fisheries. Perhaps Mr. O'Shea should at least use better judgment in where and how he voices his opinions. As usual he states that the Menhaden stock is "healthy" and that the stock is not overfished. From what we've heard about the current assessment, that is hardly an accurate characterization of stock abundance. So, in addition to questionable ethics, there is also the question of the accuracy of his message.