

## Chesapeake Bay Inshore Gillnet Fishery

**Fishing gear type:** Gillnet

**Current category:** Category II\*

**Basis for current classification on the LOF:** By analogy with other Category II gillnet fisheries that use similar gear and operate in a similar manner to this fishery. Also, because of the potential for interactions with bottlenose dolphins (Western North Atlantic [WNA] stock).

**Current list of marine mammal species/stocks injured/killed:** None documented.

**Estimated number of current participants:** 45

**Take Reduction Teams/Plans that affect this fishery:** N/A

**Year added to the LOF:** 1996

**Category when originally listed:** Category III

**Basis for original classification on the LOF:** This fishery was listed as Category III because there was no information to suggest that mortality and serious injury to any marine mammal species/stock occurred. Also, likelihood of encounters was low based on the distribution of marine mammal stocks in the areas with effort in this fishery. This fishery was separated from other mid-Atlantic gillnet fisheries to account for differences in marine mammal distribution. NMFS stated that a closer examination of recent records may provide information to support re-classification.

**Estimated number of participants when originally listed:** 45

**Past names, if any:** None.

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**Gear description/method for fishing:** This fishery uses gillnet gear with mesh sizes ranging from 2.75-5 in (7-12.7 cm), depending on the target species.

**Target species:** Menhaden and croaker.

**Spatial/temporal distribution of effort:** The fishery operates between the Chesapeake Bay/Bridge Tunnel and the mainland.

**Levels of observer coverage each year<sup>†</sup>:** There has not been observer coverage in this fishery.

**Management and regulations:** The fishery is managed under the Inter-state Fishery Management Plans (ISFMPs) for Atlantic menhaden and Atlantic croaker managed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC).

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\* The fishery is classified by analogy to other gear types or fisheries that are known to cause mortality or serious injury of marine mammals.

<sup>†</sup> Observer coverage levels include the latest information reported in the most current final Stock Assessment Report (SAR).

## **History of Changes on the LOF**

### 2006 LOF:

- Elevated from a Category III to a Category II based on analogy with other Category II gillnet fisheries and because of the potential for interactions with bottlenose dolphins (WNA). As a Category III fishery, observer coverage was not required. However, incidental takes of bottlenose dolphins (WNA) had been documented in similar gillnet fisheries listed as Category II. Effort in this fishery overlaps with the range of bottlenose dolphins (WNA), and therefore the potential for interactions exists. Reclassifying as Category II allowed NMFS to characterize this fishery through the observer program.
- Added a superscript “2” after this fishery in Table 2, indicating that this fishery is categorized by analogy.

2005 LOF: Harbor porpoises (Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy) deleted from the list of species/stocks incidentally killed/injured in this fishery because interactions had not been documented in recent years.

2001 LOF: Harbor porpoises (Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy) added to list of species/stocks incidentally killed/injured.