

Dear Commissioners,

The 188 undersigned sportfishing businesses write in opposition to the proposed buffer zone reductions along Louisiana's Gulf Coast. This proposal, which would reduce the one-half mile industrial menhaden fishing buffer to one-quarter mile in most areas, will have detrimental impacts on sportfish, forage fish, spawning habitats, coastal communities, and Louisiana's \$3.7 billion recreational fishing industry.

Our companies depend on healthy fisheries and recreational fishing access in Louisiana and throughout the Gulf Coast. Recreational fishing has a deep tradition in Louisiana, which is home to 730,000 anglers who support 23,980 jobs in the state. Unfortunately, that tradition will be jeopardized if buffer zone reductions are approved.

Last year, the Commission adopted a one-half mile shoreline buffer following several incidents where large industrial menhaden boats operating in shallow waters damaged nearshore fisheries habitat and caused significant bycatch. Charter captains, coastal business owners, and anglers expressed concern about how these vessels disturbed water bottoms, impaired water quality and left redfish, jacks, sharks and other sportfish, as well as thousands of menhaden and other forage fish, dead along beaches and coastal bays. Reducing the buffer would exacerbate these concerns without justification.

Since the buffer was implemented, a state-sponsored study documented nearly 150 million fish caught and killed from industrial menhaden bycatch in 2024 and confirmed that this bycatch includes significant numbers of important recreational species, such as red drum, black drum, speckled trout, Spanish mackerel, and flounder, as well as the forage fish that many of these species rely on for food. Bycatch of redfish increased in shallower depths, which raises concerns that a buffer zone reduction would make redfish more vulnerable to capture as bycatch when redfish aggregate nearshore.

We are also concerned that reducing the buffer would harm the recreational fisheries that help Louisiana maintain its reputation as the Sportsman's Paradise. This is especially concerning, given recent restrictions on recreational fisheries like redfish and spotted seatrout and is counter to efforts of the Commission and angling community to improve these iconic Louisiana fisheries.

We urge the Commission to maintain the status quo and vote no on developing a Notice of Intent to reduce any of the menhaden buffer zones. We believe the current buffer provides sensible protection for coastal fisheries and habitats while supporting Louisiana's recreational fishing industry.

Sincerely,

Active Manufacturing Corp.	AFTCO	American Fishing Wire
American Maple Inc.	Anglers Resource	Aquatic Nutrition Inc.
Atlantic Marine Electronics	B & M Pole Co., Inc	Bajío, Inc.
Bamm Bamm charters	Bates Fishing Co	BD Outdoors
BIG Adventures, LLC	Bigeee Fishing LLC	Black Oak LED
Boomerang Tool	Boone Bait	Boujee Marlin
Buffalo Gear	Bullet Weights Inc	Buzbe
Cablz Inc.	Can-Am Sales Group, LLC	CAPERLAN
Capt. Harry's Fishing Supply Co., Inc	Captains Collective Podcast	Casa Vieja Lodge
Cashion Fishing Rods	CB's Saltwater Outfitters	Chasing Din
Connect-Ease	Coyote Bait and Tackle	Cypress Creek Outdoors, LLC
Danco Sports	DHUKY	Digital Sportsman
Dixie Jet Lures, LLC	DL Ventures LLC	DMF Bait Co
Do-it Corporation	Don Coffey Co	Dreamcatcher Fishing Supplies Inc.
Duckett Fishing	DUN Magazine	Engel Coolers
Extractor Line Cutter	ExtremeMist	Farwest Sports
Feral Tackle LLC	Firecrown Media	First Lite Tackle LLC
Fish Monkey LLC	FISH307 LLC	FishHawk Jig Company
Fishing Tackle Retailer	Fishizzle, Inc.	FishTalk Magazine
FishUSA, Inc.	Fly Rod Chronicles with Curtis Fleming	Flying Fisherman
Flyliner Charters	Flytime Fishing, LLC	Folsom Corporation

G. Pucci & Sons Inc.	Game On!	Geaux Outdoors
Gill NA	GOATNEWBEE LLC	GP Productions, Inc
Grady-White Boats, Inc	Guy Harvey Foundation	Halco USA Corp
Half Hitch Tackle Co. Inc.	Happy Hollow Outdoors Southeast Sales, INC,	Hard and Soft Fishing, LLC dba Acme Tackle
Hobie Eyewear	iAngler Tournament Systems, LLC	Innotech Marine
Inside Sportfishing	Jay D Gemma & Associates	Jay's Sporting Goods
Jeff Robles & Associates	Jim Crowley Outdoors	JL Marine systems
Jones & Company	J-Squared Consultants, Inc	Kayak Distribution
Kureha America, Inc.	L&S Bait Company	Lamiglas, Inc
Lee Fisher Sports	Leland's Lures	Livingston Lures
Lone Star Marine USA	Louisiana Charter Boat Association	Major League Fishing
Mason Tackle, Ed Cumings, Fishing Tackle Grab Bag	Matt Reed Fishing	Maxima USA, inc
Mercury Marine	Mickey Eastman Outdoors	Missile Baits
Monkey Gloves	MONSTERBASS	Morton & Associates
National Professional Anglers Association	Neverenuf Sportfishing LLC	Florida Shrimp Co.
NuCanoe Inc	O. Mustad & Son Americas, Inc.	Okuma Fishing Tackle Corporation
On The Water Media	Owner American Corp	Pacific Bay International Inc.
Pacific Catch	PACP, Inc	Palm Beach Towers
Phillips Inc.	Power-Pole	PRADCO Fishing
Pro-Troll, Inc.	Pursuit Channel	R and R Eco
R&R Tackle Inc	Racks & Rifles Outdoors, LLC	Rapala

Rather Outdoors	Red Eye Trolling Lures, LLC	RM Media
Rogers Sports Marketing	Salty Crew	Samsa Trading LLC
Schmitt Marine	Scientific Anglers LLC	Scotty Manufacturing
SeaQualizer, LLC	Seasonal Marketing Inc	Shimano North America Fishing
Simms Fishing Products	Smith's Consumer Products, Inc.	Sniper Marine LLC
Snow Peak	Solid State Marine	SORD Fishing Products
SOS Screens	Source Outdoor Group	Southern Audio Services, Inc - (Yak Power)
Southern Connecticut Tackle Co Inc.	Spectrum Metal Finishing Inc	Spike-It Outdoors, Inc
Sport Truck USA	Sportco Marketing, Inc.	SPY OPTIC
St. Croix Rods	Star Brite	Sunline America Co., Ltd.
Superior Tackle	Susquehanna Fishing Tackle Inc.	TackleDirect
TACO Marine	Technotren Inc	Temple Fork Outfitters
The Fisherman	The Fly Fishers	The Hammond Group
The Qualified Captain	The Worth Company	Thomas F. Gowen and Sons
Tiara Yachts	Tim Hunter & Assoc. Inc	TTI-Blakemore Fishing
Tug Fishing Gear	Tyalure Tackle	Vallhalla Boat Works
Vexilar, LLC	Viking Yachts	Wellman Sports Marketing
Western Filament, Inc.	Wild Side	Wilder Side LLC
Winthrop Tackle	Wired2fish	Wolff Industries Inc.
Wright & McGill Co.	Xanigo Marine	YakAttack
Yo-Zuri America	Z-Man Fishing Products, Inc.	