

SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2304

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 3, 2010

The Senate Environment and Energy Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 2304.

This bill provides that the Commissioner of Environmental Protection may only issue a license for a person to take menhaden with purse or shirred nets if that person possessed a valid license for at least one of the years between 2002 through and including 2009, and commencing in 2011, the commissioner may only issue a license to a person to take menhaden who (1) possessed a valid license for at least one of the years between 2002 through and including 2009, and (2) possessed a valid license in the preceding year.

The bill also provides criteria for the replacement and retiring of vessels used to take menhaden with purse or shirred nets.

Lastly, the bill provides that the Commissioner of Environmental Protection would regulate the taking of menhaden, including the issuance and transfer of licenses for the taking of menhaden, by rule or regulation and upon adoption by the commissioner of these rules and regulations, the provisions of section 2 of the bill would expire.