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**HOUSE BILL NO. 2713**

Offered January 17, 2025

A *BILL to direct the Marine Resources Commission in collaboration with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and certain stakeholders to study the ecology, fishery impacts, and economic importance of the Atlantic menhaden population in the waters of the Commonwealth; report.*

Patron—Milde

Referred to Committee on Rules

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. § 1.** *That the Marine Resources Commission in collaboration with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and with the cooperation of relevant stakeholders, including recreational anglers, the reduction and bait fishery sectors, and nongovernmental organizations, shall conduct a three-year study of the ecology, fishery impacts, and economic importance of the Atlantic menhaden population in the waters of the Commonwealth. The study shall address (i) the seasonal abundance of Atlantic menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay, (ii) the movement rates of Atlantic menhaden between the Atlantic coast and the Chesapeake Bay, (iii) the impacts of predator demand and consumption of Atlantic menhaden on the Atlantic menhaden population, (iv) the spatial and temporal patterns of the Atlantic menhaden commercial fishing effort in the Chesapeake Bay, (v) the possibility of localized depletion of Atlantic menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay, (vi) changes in recreational fisheries in the Chesapeake Bay, (vii) the economic impacts of management decisions on the Atlantic menhaden fisheries and related industries, (viii) the social and economic importance of Atlantic menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay region, and (ix) the bioeconomic impact of fisheries removing Atlantic menhaden from the waters of the Commonwealth. The Marine Resources Commission shall report its findings and any recommendations to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources and the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources and the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources by October 1, 2028.*

INTRODUCED

HB2713