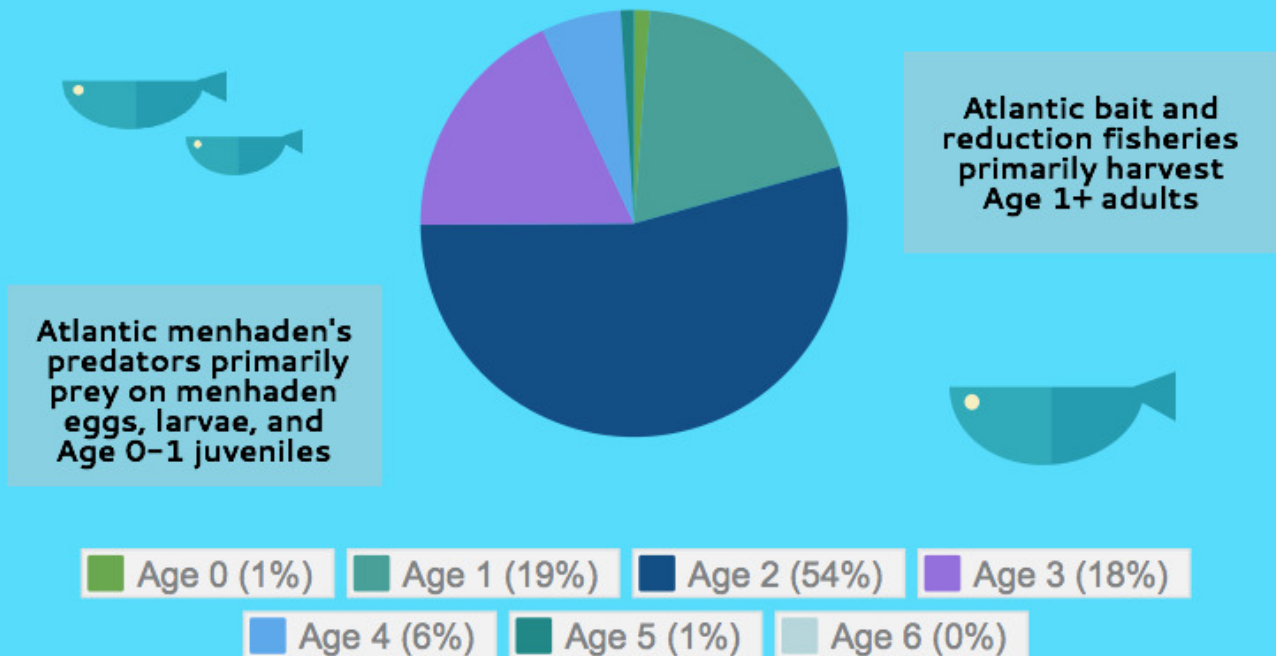


# Age Composition of Atlantic Menhaden Samples, 2012-2013

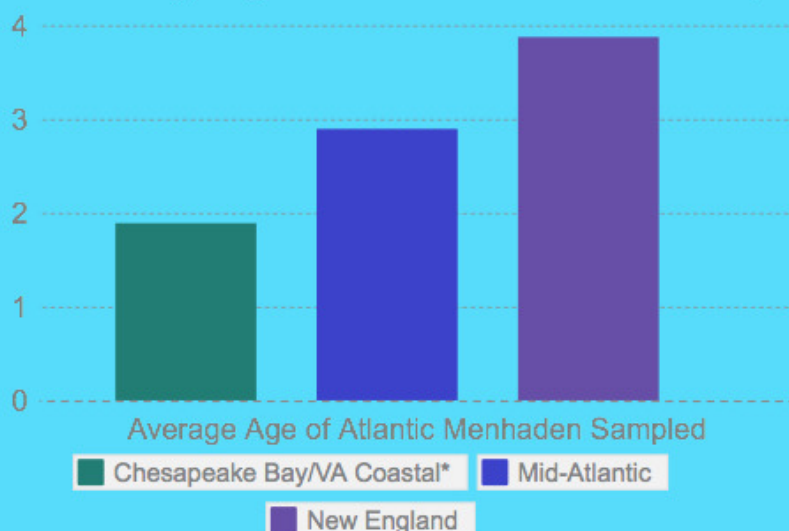
Samples of menhaden collected at the National Marine Fisheries Service's Beaufort Lab reveal important details about Atlantic menhaden. Menhaden's predators primarily target younger age groups of the species than those caught by commercial fishermen. The data confirms a substantial population of older menhaden located in the species' northern range.

## Age Composition of Atlantic Menhaden Sampled by Percent



Source: Samples of menhaden collected by NMFS along the coasts of Virginia, Maryland, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maine, and New Jersey in 2013

## Average Age of Atlantic Menhaden Sampled by Fishery Region



Significant numbers of older fish exist in the northern range

Source: Samples of menhaden collected by NMFS by age and state along the coasts of Virginia, Maryland, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maine, and New Jersey from 2012-2013.

\*Chesapeake Bay/Virginia Coastal includes samples taken from the PRFC, Virginia bait fisheries, and the reduction fisheries.