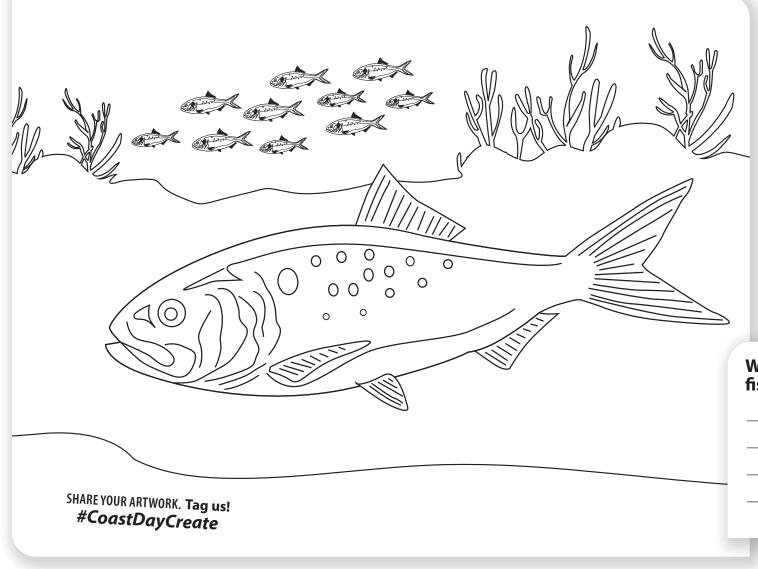


Coloring by

Atlantic Menhaden

scientific name: Brevoortia tyrannus *Life Span:* 10 to 12 years *Size:* 14 to 18 inches in length. Fully grown, they weigh about a pound. *Range:* Coastal and estuarine waters from Nova Scotia to northern Florida



Fun Facts:

The **Atlantic Menhaden** play many important roles. They are filter feeders, primarily consuming phytoplankton and zooplankton in the water column. Menhaden support an important commercial fishery. They constitute the largest landings, by volume, along the Atlantic Coast of the United States. **Menhaden** are harvested for use as fertilizers, animal feed, and bait for fisheries including blue crab and lobster. They are a major source of omega-3 fatty acids, so they are also used to develop human and animal supplements. In estuaries like the Chesapeake Bay, they are food for striped bass and other fish, as well as for predatory birds, including osprey and eagles.

Where is your favorite fishing spot?