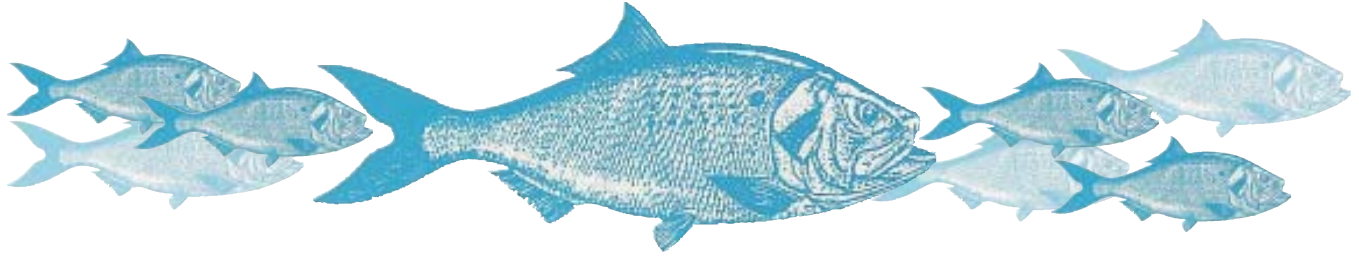


Coastal Conservation Association Virginia



Tips on Lobbying Your Legislator

Develop Relationships

Strive for a good working relationship. Such relationships must be built and maintained; they must be honest and straightforward; and they must be premised upon mutual respect. Try to avoid only talking to your legislator when you need something, but if you do need something do not hesitate to talk to your legislator.

Provide Accurate, Reliable Information

The best way to render yourself ineffective is to provide bad information to a public official who is working on your behalf. Don't mislead someone whose help you wish to enlist. If providing inaccurate information does work you will destroy the relationship you are trying to develop.

Remember, Your Vote is Important

Never forget, that as a voter, your vote is important to your legislator.

Do's & Don'ts While Visiting Your Legislator

DO...

Make your appointment in advance and be prompt.

Introduce yourself, even if you have met previously, and let them know the positive things you have heard about the Delegate or Senator.

Be polite and pleasant.

Get to your point(s) of business quickly. Tell the legislator why you are visiting, why the Menhaden issue is important to you, and what action you would like to see from him/her.

Write a "thank you" to the member, restating the issues discussed and close with an action request for the legislator to act on.

Hand the legislator printed information supporting your point (position statements, newsletter articles, fact sheets, etc.)

Offer similar printed materials to the legislator's staffers.

Perpetuate the relationship every few months to raise your visibility with the legislator's office.

In closing, offer your assistance in the future.

DON'T...

Be impatient.

Assume the member remembers you from a previous event or meeting.

Be rude, argumentative, or abrasive.

Chat away the legislator's time.

Forget about the legislator as soon as you leave.

Hand over volumes of materials to the legislator.

Underestimate the influence of staffers.

Only call on your legislator when you need something.

Overstay your welcome, make demands, or threaten the member with votes.

CCA Virginia Legislative Contact Sheet

Delegate or Senator: _____

Date of Contact: _____

Method of Contact: Telephone _____
Mail _____
E-mail _____
In-person meeting _____

Menhaden Issue:

Does the Senator/Delegate support the regulation of menhaden by VMRC?

_____ Yes _____ No

Comments: _____

Person(s) Making Contact:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

PLEASE MAIL OR FAX THIS FORM TO:

J. Christopher Jankowski

Mailing Address:
830 East Main Street
Suite 2001
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Fax Number:
(804) 643-5906