



**HOLDING STATEMENT**

**July 6, 2022**

**Statement Regarding Net Tear Incident near Silver Beach, Virginia**

REEDVILLE, VIRGINIA - On Tuesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, a vessel harvesting menhaden on behalf of Omega Protein was fishing approximately 1 mile off of the shore of Silver Beach, Virginia when its net was entangled and eventually tore, releasing menhaden into the water. We believe many of the fish were alive and swam away, but we acknowledge that many were already dead at the time of the tear. The incident was reported immediately to the staff at VA Marine Resources. Since that time, the Company has monitored the situation and sent clean-up crews to the location on Silver Beach as soon as fish began to appear on the beach.

The clean up operations began on the morning of Wednesday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, both on the beach and in boats on the water, to minimize the impact to location residents and vacationers. We estimate that the cleanup will take several days. We take full responsibility for the spill, and we will continue to be as responsive as possible in cleaning up the remaining fish as best we can.

It is important to note that Ocean Harvesters, the fishing partners of Omega Protein, fully observed the Independence Day holiday and no vessels were in operation between July 2 – July 4. The company takes no responsibility for any fish washing ashore prior to the reported July 5<sup>th</sup> spill.

We sincerely apologize to anyone impacted by this incident and we hope to remedy this unfortunate situation as soon as possible.

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