



**“Commercial fishermen want some of the fish for all, but zealots of the angling industry want all the fish for some.”** *RP Jones-2017*

The coastal conservation association brags that the bounty of the sea is being transferred from the non-fishers “one bite at a time” the same way you eat an elephant. The only way non-boaters can purchase and eat fish is by commercial fishermen providing a fair share of the fish for them. Cca wants all fish allocated to men with boats, motors, time and money. Non-boaters, seniors and the least of the brothers have already lost access to and a share of the millions of pounds of fish ‘that live and thrive upon the commons.’

“For many decades, archaeologists have agreed on an explanation known as the Clovis model. The theory holds that about 13,500 years ago, bands of big-game hunters in Asia followed their prey across an exposed ribbon of land linking Siberia and Alaska and found themselves on a vast, unexplored continent. The route back was later blocked by rising sea levels that swamped the land bridge. Those pioneers were the first Americans.”<sup>i</sup> Many, many moons ago the first inhabitants of what is now America harvested food for the villages from virgin forests and their seafood from pristine waters.



Could be catching mullet



The great mullet



Weir fishing as a team

Eating oysters is chronicled in Homer’s Iliad<sup>ii</sup> written 750 BC. Seafood has played an important part in the history of man and the development of cultures. It can always be sustainable by honest science.



Hector’s driver dies



Oyster boats at anchor



Man eating oyster

Fishing nets were used during the time Jesus selected four commercial net fishermen as his first disciples.<sup>iii</sup> Fish was a symbol used throughout the Scriptures as good. It still is a symbol of good.



Drying the nets over 2000 years ago



They could be harvesting mullet



Casting the net goes way, way back.

“George Washington once wrote of Mount Vernon that the ten miles of shoreline at his estate were “one entire fishery.”<sup>iv</sup>



George Washington crew landing shad



GW liked angling



Could be eating fish and giving thanks

Fishing in Florida for sustenance played an important role in civilizations from earliest time’s right up to the mid-1970s before big oil money decimated the Florida commercial fishing industry. Humanity’s last major source of food from the wild is seafood. It must not be reserved for those who think fishing for fun is more important than commercial fishing that puts fish on the market for all.



Spanish mackerel in 1960s for cafeterias



Red snapper for non-boaters



Mullet seining should be allowed

**IT IS TIME TO LET CITIZENS WHO CANNOT CATCH THEIR OWN SEAFOOD KNOW HOW MUCH OF THE COMMONLY OWNED SEAFOOD HAS ALREADY BEEN TAKEN AWAY FROM THEM. AND THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW IT.**

<sup>i</sup> <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/20/opinion/sunday/who-arrived-in-the-americas-first.html>

<sup>ii</sup> In the 16th book of Homer’s Iliad, one can read how that hot-tempered and dare-devil warrior, Patroclus, Achilles’ comrade-in-arms, mocks Cebriones, Hector’s charioteer, when he falls stone-dead to the ground, having had his forehead crushed by a jagged rock that Patroclus had so skillfully hurled at him, as his chariot charged towards him. “Ha! Quite an acrobat, I see, judging by that graceful dive! The man who takes so neat a header from a chariot on land could dive for oysters from a ship at sea in any weather and fetch up plenty for a feast. I did not know that the Trojans had such divers.” <https://theoystersmyworld.com/2017/04/22/oysters-in-ancient-greece/>

<sup>iii</sup> Matthew 4:18-22 New King James Version (NKJV)

Four Fishermen Called as Disciples

18 And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 19 Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” 20 They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

21 Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, 22 and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+4%3A18-22&version=NKJV>

<sup>iv</sup> The fishing venture in particular built upon Washington’s existing interests; he had grown up on the water and was certainly acquainted with the Potomac’s opportunities. Even in 1760, when Washington was still growing tobacco, he began testing the fishing grounds and wrote in his diary that he “hailed the Sein and got some fish,” seemingly by himself. <http://www.mountvernon.org/digital-encyclopedia/article/mount-vernon-fisheries/>