

## Letters Opposing H.R. 200

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#### Letters from Individuals

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4. Gerri Jannarone
5. Michael Megill
6. Nick Williams
7. Paul Dement
8. Steve Clayton
9. Thomas Pizzoni

JARED HUFFMAN  
2ND DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
WATER, POWER, AND OCEANS – RANKING MEMBER  
FEDERAL LANDS  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT  
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515–0502

December 6, 2017

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
1406 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
PHONE: (202) 225–5161  
FAX: (202) 225–5163  
WEBSITE: huffman.house.gov

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop,

I am writing today to ask that you not include legislation to amend and reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) on next week's full Committee markup agenda.

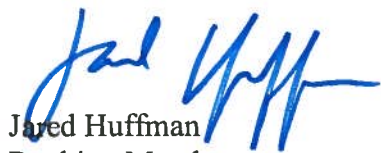
At a hearing on fisheries bill earlier this fall, Chairman Young pledged to work with me to develop legislation that would add reasonable flexibility to the MSA while also taking steps to modernize fisheries conservation and management. Since that hearing, we have met at a member level, and Republican and Democratic staff have been working diligently to negotiate such legislation. Given the importance of this issue, we should take time to get it right and not rush a bill that does not reflect this bipartisan effort, and which Members have not had time to review.

Recent attempts to reauthorize the MSA have failed when this Committee advanced bills that lacked broad bipartisan support and included poison pill provisions that had nothing to do with ensuring healthy fisheries and fishing communities. It would be a shame to see that happen again when we have made significant progress on finding a middle ground.

I see a path to a MSA reauthorization bill that can pass the Committee, the House, and the Senate on a bipartisan basis, but that path requires continued negotiation and ample opportunity for all Committee Members to review amended language and consult with constituents and stakeholders.

I appreciate your attention to this matter, and I look forward to working with you to develop a strong, bipartisan MSA reauthorization.

Sincerely,



Jared Huffman  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Water, Power, and Oceans

cc: Ranking Member Raúl Grijalva  
Chairman Doug Lamborn  
Chairman Emeritus Don Young

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JARED HUFFMAN  
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COMMITTEE ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
WATER, POWER, AND OCEANS – RANKING MEMBER  
FEDERAL LANDS

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT  
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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0502

December 8, 2017

Dear Congressman Young,

Thank you for your continued work on the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), and the diligent work of both your personal office staff and committee staff to sort through the many proposals for modernizing fisheries conservation and management. As we both know, only through consensus and compromise can the House of Representatives pass a fisheries bill that would be seriously considered by the Senate. I continue to wish to work with you, other members, and stakeholders for the passage of a bill that can be signed into law in 2018.

I appreciate the proposal provided by your staff that would incorporate a number of provisions from my discussion draft. These sections, which include modernizing data collection, equitable treatment of the Pacific territories, and a resolution to refinancing a federal loan to the West Coast groundfish fishery, are important provisions that Congress ought to consider in any MSA bill.

I am also encouraged to hear that you may be willing to consider removing the provisions altering the implementation of the Antiquities Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This would remove one of the major obstacles to bipartisan agreement on MSA reauthorization and I look forward to seeing a substitute amendment that accomplishes this.

I recognize that a core component of your legislation, which I know that many stakeholders want, is to provide flexibility to regional fishery management councils in how they develop rebuilding timelines and establish annual catch limits (ACLs). However, I am concerned that the language goes too far and risks unintended consequences that would undermine our nation's best-managed fisheries in the world. In the 2006 MSA reauthorization, we set this country on the course of rebuilding overfished stocks to healthy population levels. In place of Sections 204 and 303 of your latest draft (Sections 4 and 5 of H.R. 200 as introduced), I recommend language reflecting Sections 202 and 206 of my discussion draft. These changes would still offer significant new flexibility to the councils, while ensuring that ACLs are established and enforced based on a scientific understanding of the fisheries, the ecosystems, and changing ocean conditions.

To be clear, even with these changes we do not agree with each of the provisions in your new substitute text; these are my suggestions in the spirit of compromise, and the key points that would get us to a bill I would support and urge my Democratic colleagues to support in committee.

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I appreciate your continued leadership on this and many other issues throughout your service in the House, and look forward to working with you to develop a strong, bipartisan MSA reauthorization.

Sincerely,



Jared Huffman  
Vice Ranking Member, Natural Resources Committee

December 7, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop:

The undersigned organizations urge you to consider legislation to amend and reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) in a bipartisan manner. As such, **we ask that you *not* consider any MSA bills that lack bipartisan consensus.**

Broad support for sustainable fishing from members of both parties has been critical to the successes we have seen for our fisheries and the fishing communities that depend on them. In 1976, Congress had the foresight to pass the original MSA bill—the keystone law that laid the foundation to build our modern system of marine fishery management. This law was passed with overwhelmingly bipartisan support. This bipartisan support continued in the next two reauthorizations in 1996 and 2006.

At a hearing in the House Natural Resources Committee earlier this year, Congressman Don Young (R-AK), the author of one of the MSA bills, indicated his willingness to work with the Democratic counterparts on the Committee to reach bipartisan consensus on a bill that would continue to improve our system of fishery conservation and management.

We urge you to give the Committee the opportunity to work in a bipartisan fashion, just like all the previous MSA reauthorizations. Together, Congress can tackle the real challenges facing our fisheries, but this should not be rushed into the Committee markup this week. Please do not consider any legislation that does not have broad bipartisan consensus and would lead to significant loopholes in our system of fishery management.

Sincerely,

Conservation Law Foundation  
Earthjustice  
Environmental Defense Fund  
League of Conservation Voters  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Oceana  
Ocean Conservancy  
The Nature Conservancy



December 11, 2017

US House of Representatives  
Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Remove H.R. 200 and H.R. 3588 from the December 13 markup

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

We write to you as representatives of the seafood industry on the West Coast. We and our members are fishmongers, chefs, fishing guides, recreational anglers, and commercial fishermen. Our coalition represents a broad and comprehensive set of stakeholders who collectively comprise all aspects of our multi-billion dollar industry. Today we are deeply concerned about two harmful fisheries related bills that are scheduled for a markup at the Natural Resources Committee this week.

On Wednesday, the Committee is slated to consider H.R. 200 and H.R. 3588, two bills that would significantly weaken our nation's fisheries laws. Unfortunately, neither of these bills would reflect the forty years of Congressional stewardship of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. It is clear to us that H.R. 200 and H.R. 3588 do not represent the best choices for our industry or the seafood-loving public. Instead, they would lead us back to the days of overfishing and natural resource decline.

On behalf of our members, we implore you to reconsider the reckless pace at which H.R. 200 has been moving and remove it and the 'RED SNAPPER Act' from the markup calendar until further bipartisan discussions have taken place. These bills simply fail to pass scrutiny. They are not ready for floor consideration. By marking up these bills now, you are passing the buck to the Senate, where neither of them stand a chance. You are effectively admitting that you are incapable of crafting fisheries management legislation based on consensus or honest discussion. Our industry deserves better.

To honor the bipartisan spirit and wisdom that spawned the original versions of Magnuson-Stevens, we urge you ensure this reauthorization is derived from a bipartisan process. Our jobs, rural communities, customers and citizens depend on reliable fisheries management that have guided the last 20 years of species recovery, following the disastrous but necessary



emergency regulations needed to rebuild these once-depleted stocks of fish. Now is not the time to advance one-sided measures that fail to roll back time-tested methods that keeps our working waterfronts indeed working.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Bob Rees  
Executive Director  
Association of Northwest Steelheaders, Portland, OR

Grant Putnam  
President  
NW Guides and Anglers Association, Clackamas, OR

Noah Oppenheim  
Executive Director  
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, San Francisco, CA

Lyf Gildersleeve  
Founder/Owner  
Flying Fish Company, Portland, OR

Kevin Scribner  
Founder/Owner  
Forever Wild Seafood, Portland, OR



AMERICAN FLY FISHING TRADE ASSOCIATION

December 11, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop:

On behalf of the American Fly Fishing Trade Association, I am asking you not to include any Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act reauthorization or related legislation at the upcoming full Committee markup.

The hallmark of the Magnuson-Stevens Act has been the bipartisan approach to reauthorization. Anything less is ill-advised, dooms the process to unnecessary controversy and reflects poorly on the commitments made to work on this important legislation in a bipartisan manner.

Negotiations between members of your committee and committee staff are important and necessary to find consensus on improvements to the law while continuing the science-based conservation goals achieved over the last decade. There is plenty of time in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress to get it right, there is no need to act on this legislation until consensus can be reached.

I appreciate your consideration of our request and am happy to discuss this with your staff at anytime.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Bulis  
President

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*AFTTA advocates for and promotes the sustained growth of the fly fishing industry. By igniting consumer demand for products and services, providing businesses the tools to be successful, and advocating for access, protection and restoration of fishing waters, we will continue to enhance the passion and profitability of the sport of fly fishing.*



AMERICAN FLY FISHING TRADE ASSOCIATION

April 23, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: Opposition to H.R. 200, the *Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act***

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi:

The American Fly Fishing Trade Association (AFFTA) is writing to express our strong opposition to any efforts that would weaken the provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) that are responsible for preventing overfishing and recovering depleted fisheries. AFFTA opposes H.R. 200, the *Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act*, because it would undermine the MSA's science-based conservation provisions, which would negatively impact our members and the sport of saltwater fly fishing. We ask for your help to protect our industry by not bringing H.R. 200 to the floor for a vote.

AFFTA is the nation's largest fly fishing trade association and is dedicated to the sustained growth of the fly fishing industry. AFFTA's more than 900 members, including fly fishing retail stores, manufacturers, outfitters, guides and lodges, are a part of the \$900 million contributed annually to the U.S. economy by the fly fishing industry.<sup>1</sup> Our membership is largely comprised of "Main Street" small to medium-size businesses that form the heart of local communities across the nation, and saltwater fly fishing is the fastest growing segment of our industry. Abundant and well-managed ocean fish populations supported by healthy coastal and marine habitats are essential to the growth and vitality of our members and the fly fishing industry, both today and into the future.

Healthy, abundant fish populations form the basis for plentiful, high-quality recreational opportunities, particularly in a low-technology sport such as fly-fishing. The Magnuson-Stevens Act has been successful in recovering many depleted fisheries and significantly reducing the number of overfished fisheries, including fisheries like bluefish, mackerel and certain salmon runs that are vital to saltwater fly anglers.

H.R. 200, if enacted, would create exemptions to science-based annual catch limits, which would increase the risk of overfishing, and would allow rebuilding of depleted stocks to be delayed. These

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<sup>1</sup> Southwick Associates, Inc. Survey of U.S. Fly Fishing Retailers for the American Fly Fishing Trade Association, July 18, 2017, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sIDRkMq9GqwpS0dtEeZs3ALAYWO-2H35/view>

changes would reduce stock abundance, and thus reduce access to quality recreational opportunities, which would negatively impact our industry and our members.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you and to work toward a reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act that will strengthen federal fisheries, protect important marine habitats and safeguard our industry, now and for future generations.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Bulis, President  
American Fly Fishing Trade Association

December 12, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Don Young  
Chairman Emeritus  
Committee on Natural Resources  
2314 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization and Young Fishermen's Development Act (H.R. 2079)**

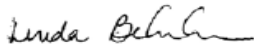
Dear Chairman Bishop and Chairman Emeritus Young,

Please find more than 700 signatures attached in support of the Young Fishermen's Development Act (H.R. 2079), which supports education and training for young people eager to continue America's commercial fishing tradition, and the sustainable fishing standards in the Magnuson-Stevens Act – skills that are critical to ensuring our young fishermen have productive fisheries to harvest. We urge you to advance bills such as this one that support our young fishermen and secure a bright future for fishermen across all gear types, sectors, and regions.

More specifically, we support science-based fisheries management legislation that mandates and funds comprehensive stock assessments, annual catch limits across all sectors, and accurate and timely catch accounting. We also support strong legislation that would prevent aquaculture from adversely affecting the marine environment, existing fisheries, and fishery dependent communities.

Thank you for safeguarding our nation's fisheries and for supporting the future of our young fishermen and the coastal communities that depend on them.

Linda Behnken



Executive Director  
Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association

Shannon Carroll



Deputy Director  
Alaska Marine Conservation Council

<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>Hometown</b>	<b>State</b>
May	Agoya	Alakanuk	AK
Christopher	Wertz	Anchor Point	AK
Alan	Welsh	Anchorage	AK
Bruce	Rein	Anchorage	AK
Daniel	Consenstein	Anchorage	AK
David	Fleming	Anchorage	AK
Donna	Walker	Anchorage	AK
Ernest	Weiss	Anchorage	AK
Jennifer	Williams	Anchorage	AK
Kayla	Schammer	Anchorage	AK
Laura	Delgado	Anchorage	AK
Noah	Sunflower	Anchorage	AK
Nora	Miller	Anchorage	AK
Nyssa	Baechler	Anchorage	AK
Paul	Wayner	Anchorage	AK
Rhonda	Wayner	Anchorage	AK
Seth	Steben	Anchorage	AK
Tim	Miller	Anchorage	AK
Zachary	Hill	Anchorage	AK
Courtney	Schumer	Anchorage	AK
Iris	Blakeslee	Anchorage	AK
Shannon	Carrol	Anchorage	AK
Benjamin	Kramer	Copper Center	AK
Peter	Kramer	Copper Center	AK
Charles	Russell	Cordova	AK
Jacob	Hand	Cordova	AK
Michael	Hand	Cordova	AK
Nelly	Hand	Cordova	AK
Sam	Mavchalvt	Cordova	AK
Zeke	Brown	Cordova	AK
Erin	Weaver	Craig	AK
Lauri	Rootvik	Dillingham	AK
Conner	Johns	Dillingham	AK
Lindsay	Layland	Dillingham	AK
Sonja	Rootvik	Dillingham	AK
Verner	Wilson	Dillingham	AK
Marisa	Morgan	Douglas	AK

Erik	Kubiak	Eagle River	AK
Madeline	Joranovich	Fairbanks	AK
Madeline	Javanovich	Fairbanks	AK
Caroline	Edelman	Gustavus	AK
Dan	Zuchrist	Gustavus	AK
Ann	Obenlither	Homer	AK
Cody	Lightsey	Homer	AK
Dawn	Marlin	Homer	AK
Donald	Lane	Homer	AK
Hannah	Heimbuch	Homer	AK
James	Labelle	Homer	AK
James	Reid	Homer	AK
Madeleine	Lightsey	Homer	AK
Margaret	Bursch	Homer	AK
Marissa	Wilson	Homer	AK
Matthew	Alward	Homer	AK
Melissa	Malcolm	Homer	AK
Monica	Stockburger	Homer	AK
Morgan	Edminster	Homer	AK
Niko	Mogar	Homer	AK
Nyssa	Baechler	Homer	AK
Patrick	Lane	Homer	AK
Richy	Bigley	Homer	AK
Sierra	Wyble	Homer	AK
Angela	Lunda	Juneau	AK
Brittany	Oman	Juneau	AK
Bruce	Tenney	Juneau	AK
Cassandra	Joos	Juneau	AK
Cheryl	Yankee	Juneau	AK
Elizabeth	Figus	Juneau	AK
Forrest	Bowers	Juneau	AK
Greg	Smith	Juneau	AK
Hollis	Handler	Juneau	AK
James	Brooks	Juneau	AK
Jennifer	Lindley	Juneau	AK
Keith	Cox	Juneau	AK
Mary-Jane	Tenney	Juneau	AK
Megan	Chambers	Juneau	AK
Mike	Justa	Juneau	AK
Sommers	Cole	Juneau	AK

Ann	Robertson	Juneau	AK
Melanie	Kadake	Kake	AK
Seth	Darsney	Kenai	AK
Tomi	Marrs	Ketchikan	AK
Brenda	Wilson	King Cove	AK
Warren	Wilson	King Cove	AK
Alexus	Kwachka	Kodiak	AK
Celeste	Beck-Goodell	Kodiak	AK
Dana	Roz	Kodiak	AK
Darius	Kasprzak	Kodiak	AK
David	Kubiak	Kodiak	AK
David	Kubiak	Kodiak	AK
Debra	Kubiak	Kodiak	AK
Elisha	Jones	Kodiak	AK
Gerard	Buckey	Kodiak	AK
Hailey	Thompson	Kodiak	AK
Jaime	Flours	Kodiak	AK
Meagan	Christenson	Kodiak	AK
Michael	Johnson	Kodiak	AK
Peter	Thompson	Kodiak	AK
Seth	White	Kodiak	AK
Stosh	Anderson	Kodiak	AK
Vlad	Emert	Kodiak	AK
Reid	Magdanx	Kotzebue	AK
Seth	Steben	Koyukuk	AK
Dominic	Adams	Naknek	AK
Everett	Thompson	Naknek	AK
Megan	Matthieu	Palmer	AK
Michelle	Mossman	Palmer	AK
Allan	Mathisen	Petersburg	AK
Heidi	Berg	Petersburg	AK
Marissa	Nilsen	Petersburk	AK
Suzanne	Evanosh	Pilot Point	AK
Dan	Gobsuran	Seattle	AK
Chance	Calliee	Seldovia	AK
Eugene	Anderson	Seward	AK
John	Caffey	Seward	AK
Kayleigh	Pavlin	Seward	AK
Ken	Cardwell	Seward	AK
Laura	Schneider	Seward	AK



Adrinne	Wilber	Sitka	AK
Alec	Petty	Sitka	AK
Alyssa	Russel	Sitka	AK
Amy	Volz	Sitka	AK
Andrew	Callistan	Sitka	AK
Andus	Znamenski	Sitka	AK
Annika	Ord	Sitka	AK
Anthony	Mahovich	Sitka	AK
Anthony	Vlabauch	Sitka	AK
Ashia	Lane	Sitka	AK
Becky	Martello	Sitka	AK
Ben	Lawrie	Sitka	AK
Bill	Davidson	Sitka	AK
Brian	Street	Sitka	AK
Carina	Nichols	Sitka	AK
Carina	Nichols	Sitka	AK
Carolyn	Nichols	Sitka	AK
Cathryn	Klismeter	Sitka	AK
Cecilia	Dumokher	Sitka	AK
Celeb	Robbins	Sitka	AK
Chandler	O'Connell	Sitka	AK
Charlie	Wilber	Sitka	AK
Cindy	Ellauk	Sitka	AK
Claire	Sanchez	Sitka	AK
Dan	Bellman	Sitka	AK
Dan	Gunn	Sitka	AK
Dave	McFadden	Sitka	AK
Desra	Bruskafer	Sitka	AK
Duncal	Coltharp	Sitka	AK
Elizabeth	Herenden	Sitka	AK
Elliot	Anderson	Sitka	AK
Emily	Bristol	Sitka	AK
Emma	Eson	Sitka	AK
Eric	Jondka	Sitka	AK
Eva	Fish	Sitka	AK
Even	Love	Sitka	AK
Frances	Anderson	Sitka	AK
Gary	McMaster	Sitka	AK
George	Burnstein	Sitka	AK
Gregory	Filipek	Sitka	AK

Harvery	Brandt	Sitka	AK
Hawk	Moore	Sitka	AK
J. Perry	Edwards	Sitka	AK
Jacqueline	Foss	Sitka	AK
James	Swift	Sitka	AK
Jason	Gjirtsen	Sitka	AK
Jeff	Farvanz	Sitka	AK
Jen	Macdonald	Sitka	AK
Jerry	Dzugan	Sitka	AK
Jessica	Robbins	Sitka	AK
Jim	Bleib	Sitka	AK
Jonathan	Kreiss-Tomkins	Sitka	AK
Joshua	Sachsomer	Sitka	AK
Judith	Reis	Sitka	AK
Julie	Platson	Sitka	AK
Justin	Olbrich	Sitka	AK
Kara	Sadowski	Sitka	AK
Kari	Sagel	Sitka	AK
N			
Kelli	Leanard	Sitka	AK
Kelsie	Barbour	Sitka	AK
Lauren	Wild	Sitka	AK
Lauren	Divine	Sitka	AK
Lauren	Bell	Sitka	AK
Leah	Weinberg	Sitka	AK
Lillian	Owens	Sitka	AK
Linda	Danner	Sitka	AK
Lisa	Herwald	Sitka	AK
Loyd	Platson	Sitka	AK
Maia	Mares	Sitka	AK
Marola	Strand	Sitka	AK
Mary	Chambers	Sitka	AK
Mary	Murray-Jenkins	Sitka	AK
Mike	Martello	Sitka	AK
Nancy	Behnken	Sitka	AK
Nancy	Leckrec-Davidson	Sitka	AK
Nate	Sievet	Sitka	AK
Patricia	Dick	Sitka	AK
Paulla	Hardy	Sitka	AK
Phillipp	William	Sitka	AK

Rebecca	Paulson	Sitka	AK
Renee	Treflor	Sitka	AK
Richard	Curran	Sitka	AK
Rio	Barklea	Sitka	AK
Rob	Allen	Sitka	AK
Ryan	Nichols	Sitka	AK
Sam	Skaggs	Sitka	AK
Sarah	Jordan	Sitka	AK
Scott	Vorrath	Sitka	AK
Steve	Hutchinson	Sitka	AK
Steven	Ramp	Sitka	AK
Tad	Fusher	Sitka	AK
Terry	Perensovich	Sitka	AK
Tracy	Pedersen	Sitka	AK
Trista	Patterson	Sitka	AK
Val	Johnson	Sitka	AK
Valerie	Edwards	Sitka	AK
Veronica	Pedula	Sitka	AK
Victoria	Corran	Sitka	AK
Willow	Moore	Sitka	AK
Andrew	Murphy	Sitka	AK
Bella	Lautimore	Sitka	AK
Betsy	Salmon	Sitka	AK
Brian	Massey	Sitka	AK
Caitlin	Woosey	Sitka	AK
Callie	Simmons	Sitka	AK
Erin	Macdonald	Sitka	AK
Greta	Healy	Sitka	AK
James	Hughes	Sitka	AK
Jane	Sullivan	Sitka	AK
Jeff	Bunn	Sitka	AK
Kaitlin	Purdom	Sitka	AK
Karen	Christner	Sitka	AK
Kari	Johnson	Sitka	AK
Kate	Mullin	Sitka	AK
Kent	Baiknaw	Sitka	AK
Monica	Kim	Sitka	AK
Patricia	Lehman	Sitka	AK
Ronda	Anderson	Sitka	AK
Sean	Hovik	Sitka	AK

Sophie	Netheral	Sitka	AK
Steve	Fish	Sitka	AK
Tyler	Henegan	Sitka	AK
David	Hulien	Soldotna	AK
Ryan	Green	Tok	AK
Kaitlin	Kramer	Valdez	AK
Nick	Crump	Valdez	AK
Corey	Lonei	Wasilla	AK
Lillian	Demoski	Wasilla	AK
Rebecca	Kuznetsov	Wasilla	AK
Julie	Decker	Wrangell	AK
Julie	Decker	Wrangell	AK
Jessica	Robbins	Yakutat	AK
Jana	Suchy	Tucson	AZ
Jim	Miller	Empertino	CA
Cory	Johnson	Monrovia	CA
Chelsea	Carpenter	Monterey	CA
John	Pennisi	Monterey	CA
Jeremiah	O'brien	Morro Bay	CA
Trudy	O'brien	Morro Bay	CA
Mike	Harrison	San Pedro	CA
Tom	Bain	Santa Ana	CA
Mark	Dahon	Woodside	CA
Matt	Aboussie	Carbondale	CO
Matt	Aboussie	Carbondale	CO
Kinsey	Justa	Colorado Springs	CO
Karen	Hebert	Ottawa	ON
Amanda	Gladics	Astoria	OR
Paula	Altorfer	Boring	OR
Ethan	Cook	Portland	OR
Tyson	Rason	Portland	OR
Kirsty	Sterling	Salt Lake City	UT
Tim	Stanton	Arlington	VA
Clinton	Herman	Anacortes	WA
Samantha	MacIntyre	Anacortes	WA
Jason	Smith	Auburn	WA
Madison	Grandt	Bainbridge Island	WA
Maria	Drory	Bainbridge Island	WA
Chavell	Gallaway	Bellingham	WA
Desin	Farlow	Bellingham	WA

Elma	Burnham	Bellingham	WA
Kendall	Whitney	Bellingham	WA
Lindsie	Fraths	Bellingham	WA
Fred	Gilbert	Bothell	WA
Gary	Backman	Cathlamet	WA
David	Hilly	Dillingham	WA
Kristen	Pierce	Eazona	WA
Jan	Standaert	Edmonds	WA
Chuck	Ridley	Edmunds	WA
Jody	Simon	Edmunds	WA
Carl	Medhaug	Everett	WA
Karen	Zima	Gig Harbor	WA
Mitch	Collins	Hoquiam	WA
Alaska	Braneau	Issaquah	WA
Korak	Heryla	Kenmore	WA
Mike	Heryla	Kenmore	WA
Robin	Mills	Nordland	WA
Joe	Allen	Planet Earth	WA
Bonnie	Dodds	Port Angeles	WA
Kiera	Phipps	Port Angeles	WA
Sarah	Zarit	Port Angeles	WA
Amy	Grondin	Port Townsend	WA
Brandt	Peterson	Port Townsend	WA
Greg	Friedrichs	Port Townsend	WA
Miranda	Stach	Redmond	WA
Adam	Umstead	Seattle	WA
Agnieszka	Degener	Seattle	WA
Alex	Sweetzer	Seattle	WA
Alissa	Morino	Seattle	WA
Allison	Demmert	Seattle	WA
Amy	Oppfelt	Seattle	WA
Ariel	Carleton	Seattle	WA
Cale	Moutrone	Seattle	WA
Call	Nichols	Seattle	WA
Catherine	Maccabee	Seattle	WA
Charlotte	Billings	Seattle	WA
Cy	Philbrick	Seattle	WA
Darcy	Balcarce	Seattle	WA
Diane	Johnson	Seattle	WA
Duane	Petersen	Seattle	WA

George	Maccabee	Seattle	WA
Gidget	Ashley	Seattle	WA
Greg	Baker	Seattle	WA
Jared	Devries	Seattle	WA
Jeff	Kauffman	Seattle	WA
Jenny	Renee	Seattle	WA
Jeremy	Rosida	Seattle	WA
Karen	Kocinich	Seattle	WA
Kari	Walker	Seattle	WA
Kate	Anderson	Seattle	WA
Keith	Shako	Seattle	WA
Keith	Bey	Seattle	WA
Laruence	Womomisi	Seattle	WA
Lisa	Martinson	Seattle	WA
Mariko	Kobayashi	Seattle	WA
Mark	Vath	Seattle	WA
Phillipp	Snowden	Seattle	WA
Priscilla	Rivas	Seattle	WA
Rand	Meadows	Seattle	WA
Samantha	Foraker	Seattle	WA
Spencer	Harrera	Seattle	WA
Stephen	Keith	Seattle	WA
Steven	Do Muir	Seattle	WA
Stn	McTaggart	Seattle	WA
Ted	McDermott	Seattle	WA
Theresa	Capris	Seattle	WA
Tyler	Harris	Seattle	WA
Vikki	Simpson	Seattle	WA
William	Kandor	Seattle	WA
Chris	Mason	Tacoma	WA
Hilary	Nyberg	Tacoma	WA
Kyle	Antonelis	Vashon	WA
Luke	Peterson	Vashon	WA
Erika	Rootvik	Walla Walla	WA
Sonja	Rootvik	Walla Walla	WA
Lacey	Sawin	Westport	WA
Shannon	Grant	Westport	WA
Susanna	Lumley	White Swan	WA

<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>
Stehanie	Maggard	Betsen	Fawsset
A.J.	Romkes	Bob	Leigh
Aaron	Johnston	Bobette	Rowe Slayle
Aaron	Berger	Bonnie	Nichols
Aaron	Vargas	Breanna	Kakaruk
Abigail	Bobbette	Brent	Dawson
Adam	Mackie	Brett	Harvey
Alana	Harris	Brett	Heicher
Alec	Pucket	Brian	Shachleton
Alex	Clarke	Bridate	Regnan
Alia	Willers	Bridget	Brunner
Alice	Main	Britt	Isbell
Alicia	Sidebottom	Brittney	Booton
Amalie	Couvillion	Brittyn	Werner
Amalie	Gus-Lauffer	Brooke	Itter
Amanda	Johnston	Bruce	Vadla
Amy	Haddow	Bryce	Mulholland
Amy	Katz	Buck	Jones
Amy	Woodruff	Caitlin	Rioran
Ana	Jager	Camilla	Dartrell
Andrea	Fenaughty	Carey	Werlein
Andrei	Lewich	Carlos	Magane
Andrew	Adler	Carly	Dennis
Andria	Budbill	Carly	Dalley-Bacer
angela	freeman	Carson	Odhner
Angela	Burright	Cathy	Carrow
Angela	Cruz	Cathy	Byars
Ann	Rembert	Cathy	Brown
Anne	Esposito	Cathy	Krynear
Anne	Vollensen	Chelsea	Carpenter
Arielle	Wiggin	Cherie	Tamilinson
Arrane	Oharra	Chrissie	Johnson
Ashley	Anhambault	Chrissie	Johnson
Audrey	Urede	Christie	Fong
Avery	Wolfe	Christopher	Larrick
Baroe	Hibch	Christopher	Creson
Becky	Hawley	Cierra	Carrigan
Ben	Taylor	Clark	Whitney

clay	hurt	Emily	Tracey
Clinton	Draper	Emma	Anderson
Clinton	Harmiun	End	Hinricks
Clotilde	Serverin	Erica	Jonathan
Colleen	Fisk	Erik	Velsko
Connie	Melondov	Erik	Sheagren
Connor	Sheagren	Erik	Velsko
Coral	Letrosius	Erik	Pederson
Corey	Wainn	Erin	Carrick
Cori	Currier	Esme	Brudiz-Janigo
Crimp	James	Esther	Kennedy
Dade	Colberg	Eva	Adams
Daisy	Newharth	Gabriel	Watts
Daniel	Bissinger	Gail	Rousscao
Dave	Irvine	Garrett	Rosenkrans
Dawn	Seagraves	Geoff	Geier
Deana	Mitchell	Georgeanna	Heaverley
Deb	Rorsburn	Gina	Gevvage
Deborah	Oudiz	Gwendeline	Lander
Debra	Erosky	Hailey	Hughes
Denre	Kitchin	Halen	Hernandez
Deraya	Devolld	Hannah	Long
Desince	Liepa	Hannah	Puterbaugh
Devin	Putney	Hannah	Heimsuch
Diane	Agayer	Haurie	Cowgill
Dirck	Rosenkrans	Heather	Hooper
DJ	Reyes	Heather	Krawiee
Don	Kilgore	Hedy	Eischeid
Don	Mortinson	Heidi	Koehler
Dwight	Jones	Henry	Loeffler
Elin	Johnson	Hilary	Brant
Elisa	Russ	Holly	Astor
Eliz	Predio	Hope	Quinn
Elizabeth	Tseney	Hunter	Kratz
Elizabeth	Appleby	Ingrid	Petrie
Elizabeth	Parsens	Iris	Beatondoyle
Ellie	Schmidt	Isa	Navarno
Emily	Brockman	Jacky	Graham
Emily	Barry	Jade	Aldridge
Emily	Aiuppa	James	Easler



Jane	McHale	Kaye	Waldsmith
Jason	Harris	Ken	Landfield
Jeahola	Stewart	Kevin	Duff
Jeanne	Manson	Kimberlee	Shakari
Jeff	Sires	Kimberlee	Laif
Jeff	Schoch	kkystue	Lenela
Jen	Beatte	Kristen	schmitz
Jenne	White	Kristen	Sullivan
Jennifer	Liepa	Kristen	Wilkin
Jeremy	Petrie	Kristi	Larson
Jess	Sausfield	Kristin	Starr
Jessica	Eason	Kristin	Lecy
Jessica	Adler	Kristoffer	Gills
Jessica	Mulvey	Kyes	Williamson
Jessica	Knoth	Kyle	Ridley
Joe	Zych	Kyle	Kuer
Joe	Trutter	Lacey	Velsko
John	Brackett	Lara	Menegazzo
John	Bacher	Larry	Battles
john	matthews	Laura	Majorski
John	Duke	Lauren	Hartman
John	Cate	Lee	Young
John	Valikonic	Leesa	Cobb
Jordan	Dewitt	Leo	Zimmer
Joseph	Comiskaj	Levei	Trent
Josh	Randich	Lindsey	Dammrose
Josh	Bezoue	Lindsey	Miller
Josh	Warnick	Liz	Snyder
Joshua	Vo	Liz	Diament
Jul	Smith	Lora	Harroff
Justin	Ridley	Lorraine	Embreston
Kailynn	Rowell	Lucia	Woofter
Karen	Fenaughty	madeline	mauner
Karin	Holbrook	Maggie	Zych
Kat	Haber	Maggie	Bursch
Kate	Drefke	Marcos	Gulin
Kathleen	Sorensen	Maren	Miller
Katie	Chicojay	Mario	Benassi
Katre	Krayewshki	Marissa	Wilson
Katy	Hudler	Mark	Lofstead

Mark	Welch	Nicole	Lynch
Martha	Mckinney	Nicole	Uyil
Martine	Moore	Nikki	Rich
Mary	Groark	O'Brien	Jeremiah
Mary	Richardson	Oceanna	Kerr
Mary	Hunt	Oliver	Basch
Mary	Beavelion	Paul	Thomas
Mary	Fulleum	Paul	Thomas
Mat	Brown	Pauli	Iida
Matther	Arnold	Peggy	Finnegan
Matthew	Prescott	Penny	Vadla
Mayumi	Niimi	Peter	Wedin
McKenzie	Hill	Rachael	Todd
Meezie	Hermausen	Raelynn	Smith
Megan	Moravec	Ralph	Hammershort
Megh	Barnett	Reba	Hachin
Melissa	Clark	Reba	Terry
Melissa	Hurt	Remie	Murray
Melly	O	Rhonda	Gould
Michael	Gavillot	Ricky	Pico
Michael	Burke	riley	walters
Michael	Cotia	Rio	Mattole
Michael	Derr	Rob	Finlayson
Michael	Mahmood	Robert	Gibbs
Michael	Wulbenhorst	Robert	Winter
Michelle	Kitchin	Robert	Corenzane
Michelle	Stubblefield	Robin	Mcknight
Mike	Pawlousle	Robin	Deth
Mike	Van De Grift	Robyn	Lumb
Mike	Shirley	Roger	Perry
Mikey	Sparkma	Ross	Hyde
Molly	Miller	Ryan	Yetto
Monica	Tyler	Sally	Gumliclepur
Nancy	Burke	Sam	Williams
Nanny	Eyrand	Samantha	Baker
Natali	Lonei	Sandra	Logan
Natalie	Benassi	Sandy	Grom
Nate	Truman	Sara	Brey
Nell	Salisbury	Sarah	Wallace
Nico	Castellno	Sarah	Nelson

Sarah Marrianau  
Sarah Warnock  
Sarah Baker  
Sawyer Link  
Scarlet Beachy  
Scotlyn Srodes  
Sean Teacy  
Serith Hinline  
Shannon Fink  
Shara Kim  
Shari Milne  
Sharyl Seese  
Sherri Murprmel  
Shirley Fedora  
Shlomo Oherman  
Skye Leman  
Spericer Showalter  
Stan Walker  
Steve McShane  
Steven Howard  
Sunshine Gould  
Susan Mealy  
Susan Arseueau  
Susan Pacillo  
Susan Seaman  
Susan Carse  
Tara Stevens

Tatooski  
Taylor  
Ted  
Terri  
Terrie  
Thista  
Tim  
Tina  
Todd  
Tom  
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Tone  
Tony  
Traci  
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Tyler  
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Vanessa  
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Vickie  
Wayne  
Will  
Xoche  
Zachary  
Media  
Tienseh  
Ey Carl  
Bramel  
Elliott  
Graham  
Cowin  
Jess  
Petrie  
Harvey  
Thornhill  
Recciard  
Aruppa  
Davidson  
Uvaas  
Haursecker  
Wylde  
Duhrsen  
Vetsch  
Verhas  
Tinker  
Jones  
Taygan  
Harbison  
Nehus



December 12, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva:

I am writing on behalf of the Charter Fisherman's Association to express our strong opposition to the following legislation before your committee: H.R. 200 and H.R. 3588. Despite the tremendous progress in rebuilding fisheries nationwide, there are potentially jeopardizing changes being proposed to the Magnuson-Stevens Act that could devastate fishing communities and once depleted fish populations. Specifically the provisions that are responsible for the successful rebuilding of fisheries over the last 40 years.

The Charter Fisherman's Association is a federally permitted charter-for-hire industry trade association with the mission to ensure American public access to fishing, to engage and represent the charter-for-hire industry, and to ensure long-term sustainability of our fisheries. Our members are primarily comprised of independent, small business owners, many of whom have spent decades on the water and are deeply committed to sustainable fisheries. We have seen the successes of the Magnuson-Stevens Act first hand, and would like to highlight the following:

- The Magnuson-Stevens Act should continue to be bipartisan legislation. Fishing communities and business hang in the balance of this reauthorization and all stakeholders should have their concerns addressed.
- The law is uniquely designed to include fishermen throughout the process of designing regulations, promoting regional solutions to regional problems.
- The law is already flexible: most rebuilding plans are over the 10 year rebuilding timeline. — Also, fishermen can help develop management that works for them and increases their profitability and accountability.
- H.R. 200 – undermines the core parts of the law: Annual Catch Limits and rebuilding timelines. These are the reasons that we've seen rebounding fish populations, more stable/profitable fishing businesses, and more fish available to recreational fishermen.
- H.R. 3588 removes the private recreational sector of red snapper management from the conservation and fairness provisions of the MSA – those provisions are what make sure fish populations stay healthy and everyone has a chance to fish.

- Working together, in the Council process, to find solutions that work for all fishermen is the way to proceed – not breaking or changing the law so that a few can get more while everyone else gets less.

The Charter Fisherman's Association appreciates the opportunity to provide input and guidance on proposed revisions to the Magnuson Stevens Act, please feel free to reach out for additional information or perspective on these important fishery issues facing American small businesses.

Sincerely,



Shane Cantrell  
Executive Director, CFA  
[shane.Cantrell@icloud.com](mailto:shane.Cantrell@icloud.com)  
[512-639-9188](tel:512-639-9188)



December 12, 2017

Dear Members of Congress:

Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2) appreciates the opportunity to express our views on H.R. 200, Congressman Don Young's bill to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). Because of provisions that would weaken the law and revert to past fishery management practices that proved unsustainable for our nation's valuable commercial and recreational fisheries, we urge you to oppose this bill when it is considered either in committee or on the floor. The MSA has a strong track record in rebuilding depleted fisheries and ending overfishing. H.R. 200 rolls back key requirements in the current law responsible for this success and threatens hard-earned economic and sustainability gains.

Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2) is a national, nonpartisan group of business leaders who advocate for smart policies that are good for our economy and good for our environment. Our members have founded or funded more than 2,500 companies, created more than 600,000 jobs, and manage more than \$100 billion in venture and private equity capital. Our members know that smart ocean stewardship is essential to a strong economy. America's oceans, coasts and Great Lakes directly support millions of jobs and contribute more than twice the economic output of the entire farm sector.<sup>i</sup> The economic output of these valuable resources is greatly threatened without sustainable management policies.

Thanks to conservation policies added to the MSA during the 1996 and 2006 reauthorizations, many ocean fisheries around the country have recovered and are again playing a critical role in coastal economies. The number of overfished fish stocks and stocks subject to overfishing has been cut by more than half, and 43 fish stocks have been successfully rebuilt from previously depleted levels.<sup>ii</sup> U.S. commercial seafood landings set a 14-year record in 2011 (with a value of more than \$5 billion), and landings and values have remained similarly high, supporting 1.2 million jobs in 2015.<sup>iii</sup> Saltwater recreational fishing remains a key contributor to our economy, generating \$63 billion in sales and supporting an estimated 439,000 jobs in 2015.<sup>iv</sup>

The MSA's requirement to rebuild depleted fisheries in as short a period as possible, not to exceed ten years (with limited exceptions), has been particularly effective. A comprehensive review of rebuilding progress in 2010 revealed that two-thirds of fish stocks put in rebuilding plans had either rebuilt to healthy population levels or made significant rebuilding progress, providing estimated commercial dockside revenues of \$585 million annually—54% higher (adjusted for inflation) than before the rebuilding plans.<sup>v</sup> In 2011, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) estimated that the complete rebuilding of all U.S. stocks would generate an additional \$31 billion in seafood sales, support an additional 500,000 jobs, and increase by \$2.2 billion the revenue that fishermen receive at the dock.<sup>vi</sup>

We consider the MSA a strong example of successful bipartisan policies. Therefore, we are highly concerned about the drastic alteration of current law proposed in H.R. 200. These proposals would increase the risk of overfishing and compromise progress made in rebuilding. The proposals include removing rebuilding timelines through many broad exceptions, as well as removing the current mandate to prioritize rebuilding and long-term economic benefits over short-term economic gain. H.R. 200 also eliminates the requirement for annual catch limits and accountability measures for hundreds of fish stocks, including stocks that are overfished or subject to overfishing. We are concerned that weakening of the law will result in a return to boom-and-bust fishing, and derail the progress we have made in building up the long-term economic value of the country's ocean fisheries. We are also extremely troubled by the provisions of H.R. 200 that would undermine bedrock environmental laws such as the Antiquities Act and the Endangered Species Act, making it harder to ensure sustainable oceans management into the future.

The last two reauthorizations of the MSA have contributed to significant improvements in our fishing and coastal economies. We urge you to stay the course, to support sensible and sound fisheries management policies, and to reject efforts to undermine the progress made in this nation's fisheries management to date. Doing so will continue to pay dividends to the U.S. economy in perpetuity.

We appreciate your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Bob Keefe  
Executive Director  
E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs)

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#### REFERENCES

<sup>i</sup> National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), "Report on the U.S. Ocean and Great Lakes Economy," 2017, <https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/enow.html>; U.S. Department of Commerce. Bureau of Economic Analysis. Industry Economic Accounts Data, GDP-by-Industry and Input/Output, available at <http://www.bea.gov/industry/index.htm>. Please note that these numbers do not include multipliers.

<sup>ii</sup> Rebuilding statistics are as of September 2017. NOAA Fisheries, "Stock Status Updates," [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/fisheries\\_eco/status\\_of\\_fisheries/status\\_updates.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/fisheries_eco/status_of_fisheries/status_updates.html).

<sup>iii</sup> NOAA, U.S. seafood landings reach 14-year high in 2011 (September 19, 2012), [http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2012/20120919\\_fisheries2011report.html](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2012/20120919_fisheries2011report.html); NOAA Fisheries,

**Environmental Entrepreneurs • [www.e2.org](http://www.e2.org) • [facebook.com/e2.org](https://facebook.com/e2.org) • [@e2org](https://twitter.com/e2org)**

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**“Highlights from the Annual Report: Fisheries Economics of the United States, 2015,”**

**[http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/stories/2017/04/docs/feus2015\\_fs\\_final3\\_web.pdf](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/stories/2017/04/docs/feus2015_fs_final3_web.pdf)**

**<sup>iv</sup> NOAA Fisheries, “Fisheries Economics of the United States, 2015,”**

**May 2017, <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/data/fisheries-economics-united-states-report-2015>.**

**<sup>v</sup> Natural Resources Defense Council, “Bringing Back the Fish,” 2013, <https://www.ndc.org/resources/bringing-back-fish-evaluation-us-fisheries-rebuilding-under-magnuson-stevens-fishery>.**

**<sup>vi</sup> Written Statement of Eric Schwaab, National Marine Fisheries Service, “Eight Bills That Would Amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act,” Before the House Committee on Natural Resources,” December 1, 2011,**

**[www.legislative.noaa.gov/Testimony/Schwaab120111.pdf](http://www.legislative.noaa.gov/Testimony/Schwaab120111.pdf).**





## FISHING COMMUNITIES COALITION

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

December 11, 2017

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

On behalf of the Fishing Communities Coalition (FCC) and our members, we are writing to you today concerning the upcoming House Natural Resources Committee (Committee) markup of Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) legislation, and to outline the principles that we believe are needed to guide any MSA reauthorization legislation. The FCC is a coalition of community-based, small-boat commercial fishing organizations who share a strong commitment to sound conservation and sustainable management of America's fishery resources. We provide a unified, national voice for our members who represent the interests of more than one thousand fishermen and dozens of coastal communities in the U.S.

Fishermen and fishing communities are wholly dependent on productive fish populations and healthy ecosystems. During the MSA reauthorization process, we have an opportunity to build on past successes and ensure our fisheries and fishing communities continue to recover and flourish. Traditionally, the MSA reauthorization process has been a true bipartisan effort and, based on the comments made during the Committee's last MSA hearing on September 26, we were encouraged that this would once again be the case. Unfortunately, we now understand that discussions to create a bipartisan consensus bill have been stalled. We strongly urge the Committee to delay the markup until bipartisan legislation is finalized.

Because bill language has not been made available to the public, we cannot at this time provide specific comments. Instead, we want to reaffirm the principles we believe must guide any reauthorization effort. Above all, we simply cannot have strong fishing communities in this country without robust and well-managed fish stocks and strong protections for marine ecosystems. It would be irresponsible to weaken our commitment to ending overfishing, rebuilding depleted stocks, protecting forage fish, and protecting sensitive habitat. Our fishing members, their families and their communities depend on a strong MSA that maintains and deepens that commitment. In short, our fishing businesses require sustained access to healthy fish stocks, not 'flexibility' that undermines long-term resource health.

[WWW.FISHINGCOMMUNITIESCOALITION.ORG](http://WWW.FISHINGCOMMUNITIESCOALITION.ORG)

203 Maryland Avenue NE | Washington, DC 20002 | Telephone: 202.737.1078 | Fax: 202.737.1245

To support our nation's fishermen, their communities, and our domestic fishing and seafood industries, a reauthorization bill must:

- Maintain strong, science-based management, including robust rebuilding timelines and annual catch limits for all major fisheries and across all sectors.
- Improve science through more frequent stock assessments, improving assessment of data-poor stocks and increasing collection of real-time information.
- Strengthen requirements to reduce bycatch, particularly of species that are fully allocated to other directed fisheries.
- Strengthen accountability through more comprehensive monitoring and more complete catch information from commercial, charter, and private angler fishing. No sector, including private anglers, should be exempt from accountability.
- Provide stability to fishing communities by providing access through community fishing associations for current fishermen and the next generation.
- Move towards ecosystem-based management by providing specific direction and requirements for councils to incorporate ecosystem-based management, including protections for forage fish.
- Include innovative and cost-effective approaches to monitoring and accountability, including more widespread use of electronic monitoring and reporting.

We appreciate the efforts of the Committee to reauthorize the MSA, but we respectfully urge the Committee to refrain from holding a markup on MSA legislation until a bipartisan consensus bill can be finalized. We believe this is achievable and look forward to working with you and your staff to craft such a bill.

Sincerely,



Linda Behnken  
Executive Director  
Alaska Longline Fishermen's  
Association



Shannon Carroll  
Fisheries Policy Director  
Alaska Marine Conservation  
Council



John Pappalardo  
Chief Executive Officer  
Cape Cod Commercial  
Fishermen's Alliance



Eric Brazer  
Deputy Director  
Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish  
Shareholders' Alliance



Lisa Damrosch  
Executive Director  
Half Moon Bay Groundfish  
Marketing Association



Ben Martens  
Executive Director  
Maine Coast Fishermen's  
Association



## UNITED FOR A HEALTHY GULF

330 Carondelet Street, 3<sup>rd</sup>, New Orleans, LA 70130  
Phone: 504.525.1528 Fax: 504.525.0833

December 6, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Bishop,

On behalf of our more than 25,000 members and supporters, I am writing to ask that you not include any Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) reauthorization legislation at next week's full Committee markup in order to allow negotiations between members of your Committee and staff to continue. Magnuson-Stevens is essential legislation that helps protect the natural resources of the Gulf of Mexico fishery, which generated 141,000 jobs and \$24.7 billion in sales in 2015.

Bipartisan support has been the hallmark of our federal fisheries law, and we believe it continues to be essential for the successful reauthorization of the MSA. As you are aware, MSA reauthorization has been a focus of your Committee for the past year, with a number of varying fishery management bills introduced since January.

We understand that negotiations between members of your committee and staff have been taking place in an attempt to find common ground between these bills so as to achieve amicable improvements to the law while maintaining the science-based conservation goals we have been able to achieve over the last decade. It is important that we preserve and build upon the law's legacy of success during the reauthorization process – for the benefit of fishermen, seafood business owners, coastal communities, and all Americans who enjoy and rely on thriving and productive oceans. Gulf Restoration Network is committed to uniting and empowering people to protect and restore the natural resources of the Gulf Region and we urge Congress to continue in the tradition and spirit of Senators Magnuson and Stevens and not move to markup absent bipartisan support for achieving meaningful MSA reauthorization.

We appreciate your attention and consideration of our request. We continue to stand ready to work with all interested parties in developing a strong, bipartisan MSA reauthorization legislation.

Sincerely,

Raleigh Hoke  
Campagin Director



December 12, 2017

The Honorable John Thune  
 Chairman  
 Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation  
 U.S. Senate  
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
 Chairman  
 Committee on Natural Resources  
 U.S. House of Representatives  
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bill Nelson  
 Ranking Member  
 Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation  
 U.S. Senate  
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Raul Grijalva  
 Ranking Member  
 Committee on Natural Resources  
 U.S. House of Representatives  
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thune, Ranking Member Nelson, Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva:

We write to request your consideration of additional industry perspectives on the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). We represent companies involved in a variety of roles within the seafood supply chain, including suppliers, distributors, retail, restaurants, meal kits and food service companies. Sourcing and providing sustainable seafood is fundamental to our businesses, and we are committed to the highest standards of corporate and social responsibility. We have made significant investments to support seafood sustainability – in the United

States and abroad – and therefore we take great interest in any proposed changes that could weaken or undermine the MSA.

Over the last several months, your committees held several hearings to gather testimony and proposals related to reauthorization. We note that while a number of witnesses have been invited to testify, they predominantly represented harvesters, processors and recreational fishing interests. To our knowledge, there have been no witnesses representing the rest of the supply chain, and no representatives from foodservice companies, suppliers, distributors, retailers, restaurants or chefs. For that reason, we believe it is extremely important to provide the committees with this broader industry perspective as you consider legislation that could impact tens of thousands of jobs<sup>1</sup> across the United States.

While discussions surrounding the MSA reauthorization tend to focus on optimizing the harvest and management of our domestic fisheries, the statute has global influence. The MSA sets the bar for science-based management, transparency and accountability, and has influenced Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and other international bodies to adopt consistent measures and enforce them. International reforms will help mitigate global challenges with seafood, such as overfishing, food security, national security and human rights. With over 90% of seafood in the United States coming from imports, the MSA plays an important role to push international management toward more sustainable and transparent policies, and increase availability of products that achieve appropriate standards for environmental, legal and social responsibility demanded by U.S. consumers.

As you consider reauthorization of the MSA, we would like to offer the following recommendations:

1. **Maintain the U.S. competitive advantage in the marketplace.** U.S. fisheries are recognized as some of the best managed in the world, and this has created a competitive advantage for U.S. seafood products in the marketplace. Amendments to the MSA must ensure that U.S. fisheries continue this competitive advantage by maintaining or strengthening conservation standards, not weakening them.
2. **Maintain an appropriate balance between resource access and conservation.** Recent calls for additional access to fisheries resources must be balanced by the underlying conservation needs of the species and the ecosystem. We support increased access to U.S. fisheries where possible, but amendments to the MSA should not undermine the fundamental provisions of science-based management, particularly the requirements to end overfishing, rebuild stocks and ensure accountability through annual catch limits that are needed to maintain sustainable populations.
3. **Maintain the transparent, stakeholder-driven regional management system for federal stocks.** The MSA rests on the foundation of a regional approach to managing federal fish stocks that encourages the participation of relevant states, industry, recreational interests, scientists and

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<sup>1</sup> The recently published [Fisheries of the United States 2016](#) identifies over 26,000 jobs associated with U.S. seafood wholesalers. This full impact on U.S. jobs is likely significantly higher than this figure if you include jobs throughout the rest of the supply chain (retail, hotels, foodservice, restaurants, etc.).

the public. Congress should maintain this system and continue to direct management of federal stocks through this balanced and inclusive process.

4. **Support new programs to enhance market opportunities for U.S. sustainable seafood.** As the number of sustainable fisheries increases in the United States, there are new seafood products that meet the highest standards for sustainability but lack a local, regional or national market. We support amendments that would enhance marketing and community-based fishing initiatives (i.e., quota banks, community-supported fisheries), as well as increased priority and grant opportunities for related programs, such as training (i.e., observers), technology development (i.e., electronic monitoring, bycatch mitigation) and research (i.e., expand data collection, cooperative research). These programs will incentivize innovation, efficiency and opportunities to reduce costs and increase prices for sustainable U.S. fisheries.

The MSA has been remarkably successful in recovering and maintaining U.S. fisheries over the last decade, and we urge Congress to carefully consider any changes that would undermine U.S. fisheries management and lower the bar for global sustainability and competitiveness. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to continued discussions on MSA reauthorization.

Sincerely,



Maisie Ganzler  
Chief Strategy & Brand Officer  
Bon Appetit Management Company



Amy Keister  
Vice President, Consumer Engagement  
Compass Group



Horace G. Dawson, III  
Executive Vice President, External Relations and  
General Counsel  
Red Lobster Seafood Co



Isabelle Aelvoet  
Global Sustainability Director  
MARS Petcare



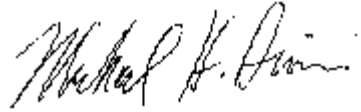
Ron Hall  
V.P. Procurement and Supply Chain  
Service Systems Associates, Inc.



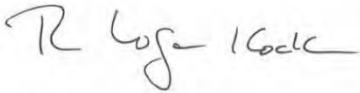
Brad Dickerson  
Chief Executive Officer  
Blue Apron



Brooke Buchanan  
Senior Vice President of Communications &  
Government Affairs  
Whole Foods Market



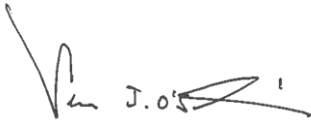
Michael Dimin  
Founding Director  
Sea to Table



R. Logan Kock  
Chief Sustainability Officer  
Santa Monica Seafood



Hamish Walker  
Director of Purchasing  
Seattle Fish Company



Sean O'Scannlain  
President & CEO  
Fortune Fish & Gourmet



John V. Young  
Operations Manager  
Euclid Fish Co.



Alexander G Pappas  
Vice President  
Ipswich Shellfish Group



Richard Stavis  
Chief Executive Officer  
Stavis Seafoods, Inc.



Allison Luettel  
Sustainability Coordinator  
J.J. McDonnell & Co., Inc.



December 11, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

On behalf of the nation's leading aquariums and our tens of millions of members and visitors, we are writing to express our strong opposition to H.R. 200 and other legislative proposals that would weaken science-based management measures in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

Our aquariums are committed to advancing science-based conservation of the nation's aquatic resources. As place-based institutions, we are also heavily invested in the health of our regional ecosystems, economies, and communities. The Magnuson-Stevens Act has become a global model of how management based on strong science is the best way to achieve this triple-bottom-line. The 2006 reauthorization of the Act ushered in a new era of science-based management of our nation's fisheries. These reforms, which were enacted with strong bipartisan support and signed into law by President George W. Bush, helped reverse historical declines in our nation's fisheries, cut the number of over-fished stocks by half, and dramatically increased the volume of seafood landings and recreational fishing trips. These changes are continuing to provide significant economic benefits in many of our coastal communities.

H.R. 200 threatens to derail these achievements by undermining the role of science in U.S. fisheries management. The Magnuson-Stevens Act's science-based management measures—including rebuilding timelines, annual catch limits and accountability measures—underpin



the progress that has been made in increasing fish populations and revitalizing fishing communities. For these reasons, we urge you not to weaken these measures, and instead, to focus on ways to strengthen the long-term sustainability of our nation's fishery resources and coastal economies.

Sincerely,



Mike Schaadt  
Director  
Cabrillo Aquarium



Dennis Pate  
CEO  
Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium



Roger Germann  
President and CEO  
Florida Aquarium



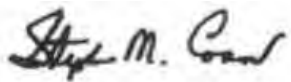
Bridget Coughlin  
President and CEO  
Shedd Aquarium



Julie Packard  
Executive Director  
Monterey Bay Aquarium



Kevin Mills  
CEO  
South Carolina Aquarium



Stephen M. Coan  
President and CEO  
Mystic Aquarium



Keith Sanford  
President and CEO  
Tennessee Aquarium



John Racanelli  
President and CEO  
National Aquarium



Tom Schmid  
President and CEO  
Texas State Aquarium



Donna K. Hazard  
Interim President & CEO  
New England Aquarium



Cynthia Whitbred-Spanoulis  
Executive Director  
Virginia Aquarium &  
Marine Science Center Foundation



December 6, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Bishop,

On behalf of our diverse network of members, I am writing to ask that you not include any Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) reauthorization legislation at next week's full Committee markup in order to allow negotiations between members of your Committee and staff to continue.

Bipartisan support has been the hallmark of our federal fisheries law, and we believe it continues to be essential for the successful reauthorization of the MSA. As you are aware, MSA reauthorization has been a focus of your Committee for the past year, with a number of varying fishery management bills introduced since January.

We understand that negotiations between members of your committee and staff have been taking place in an attempt to find common ground between these bills so as to achieve amicable improvements to the law while maintaining the science-based conservation goals we have been able to achieve over the last decade. It is important that we preserve and build upon the law's legacy of success during the reauthorization process – for the benefit of fishermen, seafood business owners, coastal communities, and all Americans who enjoy and rely on thriving and productive oceans. The Marine Fish Conservation Network urges Congress to continue in the tradition and spirit of Senators Magnuson and Stevens and not move to markup absent bi-partisan support for achieving meaningful MSA reauthorization.

We appreciate your attention and consideration of our request. We continue to stand ready to work with all interested parties in developing a strong, bipartisan MSA reauthorization legislation.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Vandermark  
Executive Director

---

*The Marine Fish Conservation Network (Network) is a coalition of commercial and recreational fishing associations, regional and national conservation groups, aquaria, and marine science organizations committed to sustaining fish populations, healthy marine ecosystems, and robust fishing communities. We believe that Congress must continue to sustain and improve our federal fisheries policy, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), to ensure that all Americans can benefit from productive fisheries and healthy and resilient marine ecosystems for generations to come.*



250 Delaware Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
716-858-5000  
www.delawarenorth.com

December 6, 2017

The Honorable John Thune  
Chairman  
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bill Nelson  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Raul Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thune, Ranking Member Nelson, Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva:

We write to request your consideration of additional industry perspectives on the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). We represent companies involved in a variety of roles within the seafood supply chain, including suppliers, distributors, retail, hotels and resorts, meal kits and food service companies. Sourcing and providing sustainable seafood is fundamental to our businesses, and we are committed to the highest standards of corporate and social responsibility. We have made significant investments to support seafood sustainability – in the United States and abroad – and therefore we take great interest in any proposed changes that could weaken or undermine the MSA.

Over the last several months, your committees held several hearings to gather testimony and proposals related to reauthorization. We note that while a number of witnesses have been invited to testify, they predominantly represented harvesters, processors and recreational fishing interests. To our knowledge, there have been no witnesses representing the rest of the supply chain, and no representatives from foodservice companies, suppliers, distributors, hotels and resorts, retailers, or chefs. We respectfully request that your committees consider a broader diversity of industry perspectives before you proceed with legislation that could impact tens of thousands of jobs<sup>1</sup> across the United States.

While discussions surrounding the MSA reauthorization tend to focus on optimizing the harvest and management of our domestic fisheries, the statute has global influence. The MSA sets the bar for science-based management, transparency and accountability, and has influenced Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and other international bodies to adopt consistent measures and enforce them. International reforms will help mitigate global challenges with seafood, such as overfishing, food security, national security and human rights. With over 90% of seafood in the United States coming from imports, the MSA plays an important role to push international management toward more sustainable and transparent policies, and increase availability of products that achieve appropriate standards for environmental, legal and social responsibility demanded by U.S. consumers.

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<sup>1</sup> The recently published *Fisheries of the United States 2016* identifies over 26,000 jobs associated with U.S. seafood wholesalers. This full impact on U.S. jobs is likely significantly higher than this figure if you include jobs throughout the rest of the supply chain (retail, hotels, foodservice, restaurants, etc.).



As you consider reauthorization of the MSA, we would like to offer the following recommendations:

**1. Maintain the U.S. competitive advantage in the marketplace.** U.S. fisheries are recognized as some of the best managed in the world, and this has created a competitive advantage for U.S. seafood products in the marketplace. Amendments to the MSA must ensure that U.S. fisheries continue this competitive advantage by maintaining or strengthening conservation standards, not weakening them.

**2. Maintain an appropriate balance between resource access and conservation.** Recent calls for additional access to fisheries resources must be balanced by the underlying conservation needs of the species and the ecosystem. We support increased access to U.S. fisheries where possible, but amendments to the MSA should not undermine the fundamental provisions of science based management, particularly the requirements to end overfishing, rebuild stocks and ensure accountability through annual catch limits that are needed to maintain sustainable populations.

**3. Maintain the transparent, stakeholder-driven regional management system for federal stocks.** The MSA rests on the foundation of a regional approach to managing federal fish stocks that encourages the participation of relevant states, industry, recreational interests, scientists and the public. Congress should maintain this system and continue to direct management of federal stocks through this balanced and inclusive process.

**4. Support new programs to enhance market opportunities for U.S. sustainable seafood.** As the number of sustainable fisheries increases in the United States, there are new seafood products that meet the highest standards for sustainability but lack a local, regional or national market. We support amendments that would enhance marketing and community-based fishing initiatives (i.e., quota banks, community-supported fisheries), as well as increased priority and grant opportunities for related programs, such as training (i.e., observers), technology development (i.e., electronic monitoring, bycatch mitigation) and research (i.e., expand data collection, cooperative research). These programs will incentivize innovation, efficiency and opportunities to reduce costs and increase prices for sustainable U.S. fisheries.

The MSA has been remarkably successful in recovering and maintaining U.S. fisheries over the last decade, and we urge Congress to carefully consider any changes that would undermine U.S. fisheries management and lower the bar for global sustainability and competitiveness. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to continued discussions on MSA reauthorization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Debbie R. Friedel".

Debbie R. Friedel  
Delaware North, Director of Sustainability

December 11, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop:

The House Committee on Natural Resources is considering full committee mark up on H.R. 200 *Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act* next Wednesday, December 13, 2017. **We the undersigned individuals and organizations urge the House Committee on Natural Resources not to proceed with mark ups of this legislation or any fisheries legislation until ongoing bipartisan negotiations can be concluded.**

The 2006 *Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act* passed both chambers of Congress with broad support from both sides of the aisle. The strength of the 2006 reauthorization bill is a testament to the bipartisan law's agreed upon mandates to end overfishing using science-based annual catch limits that inform rebuilding timelines. Though the law does have some weaknesses, the strength of its mandates is reflected in many of the nation's fisheries that were deemed overfished or experiencing overfishing having recovered or been pulled from the brink of depletion. Bipartisan discussion and agreement is the key to this success and what has made the *Magnuson-Stevens Act* an international model of responsible and science-based fisheries management.

H.R. 200, H.R. 2023, and H.R. 3588 do not have bipartisan support and roll back many of mechanisms that have rebuilt our fisheries. From constituents in American fisheries—commercial, for-hire, and recreational—to legislators on both sides of the aisle, the general consensus is that these reauthorization bills are not ready for mark up and do not have the necessary bipartisan support for constituent buy in. **Therefore we the undersigned urge that the House Committee on Natural Resources not convene mark up on the aforementioned bills while a possible bipartisan agreement is under discussion.**

Sincerely,

Lucas Bissett  
Rec Angler  
Slidell, La

Rocky Thickstun  
Rec Angler  
St. Bernard, La

Bailey Short  
Rec Angler  
Baton Rouge, La

Jonathan Allen  
Rec Angler  
Slidell, La

Stephanie McKay  
Rec Angler  
Dallas, TX

Brandon Keck  
Rec Angler  
New Orleans, La

Ryan Prewitt  
Rec Angler  
New Orleans, La

Miles LaRose  
Rec Angler  
Metarie, La

Bruce Ruben  
Rec Angler  
Tallahassee, FL

Greg Moon  
Rec Angler  
St. Bernard, La

Austin Langley  
Rec Angler  
Baton Rouge, La

Will Brown  
Rec Angler  
Dallas, TX

Ken Leonczyk  
Rec Angler  
Dallas, TX

Dennis McKay  
Rec Angler  
Alabama

John Royall  
Rec Angler  
Galveston, TX

Lise Lozelle  
Rec Angler  
Austin, TX

Will Geraghty  
Charter Captain  
Naples, FL

Brandon Shuler  
Rec Angler  
St Petersburg, FL

Sara Snader  
Rec Angler  
St Petersburg, FL

Andrew Tanswai  
Rec Angler  
Boca Ciega, FL

Scott Orsini  
Rec Angler  
St Petersburg, FL

Taylor Norton  
Rec Angler  
St Petersburg, FL

Laura Hum  
Rec Angler  
St Petersburg, FL

Damon Moore  
Rec Angler  
Brandenton, FL

Evan Smith  
Rec Angler  
Tampa, FL

Nat Pineriro  
Rec Angler  
St Petersburg, FL

Dylan Strickland  
Rec Angler  
Tarpon Springs, FL

Victoria Myers  
Rec Angler  
St Petersburg, FL

Jaycie Newton  
Rec Angler  
Fort Myers, FL

Justine Riveria  
Rec Angler  
Ocala, FL

Luke Stanton  
Rec Angler  
Cocoa Beach, FL



November 27, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva:

Last year during the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Management Act (MSA), the Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee passed a unanimous resolution calling on Congress to strengthen and reauthorize the MSA.

Today, on behalf of the 25 independent Audubon chapters and the 35,000 members of our Audubon network here in Washington, we are writing to urge you to protect the MSA by opposing any legislation that would undermine the Act's core conservation provisions. Audubon Washington is the field office of the National Audubon Society.

In particular, we ask you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, which would undermine years of strong science-based management. These bills would increase the risk of overfishing and threaten the progress we've made rebuilding and stabilizing vulnerable fish populations.

Here on the West Coast, for example, **seven species of ground fish have been rebuilt years ahead of schedule because of the MSA.** The MSA also has been essential to protecting forage fish, which are a critical link in the marine food chain — they provide a vital food source for larger fish such as salmon; marine birds such as tufted puffins, western grebes, and surf scoters; and marine mammals such as harbor porpoises and Orcas. Thanks to the MSA, a variety of local species including lingcod and petrale sole are now bigger and more widely dispersed — evidence that strong fisheries management can work.

H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would extend the timelines for plans to rebuild vulnerable fish populations, delaying when fishermen would benefit from a fully healthy stock. They would exempt many fish populations from science-based annual catch limits designed to prevent overfishing. H.R. 2023 in particular would allow this exemption for the substantial majority of managed fish populations.

With your leadership, reauthorization of the MSA must be bipartisan and based on scientific research. It must continue to uphold and expand conservation provisions that are working. Any legislation must ensure our nation will manage its fisheries for the greatest benefit of all, including future generations.

For these reasons, we urge you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, and any other legislation that would undermine the conservation provisions that have been critical to the success of the MSA for decades.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gail Gatton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gail Gatton  
VP and Executive Director



November 27, 2017

The Honorable Raul Grijalva, Ranking Member  
U.S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee  
1511 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Grijalva:

Last year during the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Management Act (MSA), the Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee passed a unanimous resolution calling on Congress to strengthen and reauthorize the MSA.

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Sincerely,

Gail Gatton  
VP and Executive Director



July 12, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

Nearly 300 chefs, restaurateurs and seafood suppliers from 24 states<sup>1</sup> signed onto the attached letter, stating their unequivocal support for a strong fisheries management system that addresses 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges. Changing ocean conditions, loss of vital habitat, and protection of the base of the food chain all need to be addressed by regional fishery managers.

Despite the need for improvements, our fisheries represent some of the best managed fisheries in the world. Our businesses depend on the availability of sustainably caught seafood from U.S. waters. For this reason, we are not only strongly supportive of efforts to modernize fisheries law, but also opposed to any efforts to weaken it – including H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, but also any other similar bills. We are concerned that any steps backwards could lead to overfishing, reducing our access to the products that our customers have come to expect.

This Congress, please oppose any efforts that will take our fisheries backwards and support those efforts that will carry us into the future.

Linda

Linda Di Lello Morton

Terra Plata  
Co-founder  
[linda@terraplata.com](mailto:linda@terraplata.com).  
Seattle, WA 98122

cc: House Natural Resources Committee members and staff

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<sup>1</sup> Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas and Washington

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

As chefs, restaurateurs, grocers, and restaurant seafood suppliers we depend on healthy ocean ecosystems, sustainable seafood, and abundant fish populations. Today, we write to encourage your support for advancing a more comprehensive fishery management approach when the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act is next reauthorized. This kind of big picture fishery management is good for fish, fishermen, and businesses that depend on fish, including the ones that provide seafood at restaurants across the United States.

The current U.S. fisheries management system emphasizes establishing fishing rules on individual populations or groups of similar populations. Although improvements to the law in 1996 and 2006 have helped to end overfishing on many species and to rebuild a number of depleted populations, they do not address the bigger picture. Taking a big picture approach, factoring the knowledge we have about what each species eats, where it lives and what it depends upon is a critical next step in advancing good management. As Congress moves forward to consider further updates to the Magnuson-Stevens Act, it is important to not only maintain our management successes but also build on them to make sure fish are managed as part of the larger ocean environment and to reinforce our fisheries against emerging and ongoing threats such as loss of habitat.

Specifically, we should strengthen the Magnuson-Stevens Act to better protect essential fish habitats, minimize the incidental catch of fish and other wildlife, and account for the critical role that forage fish play as prey for other fish and wildlife. We should analyze and understand the impact of fishing before opening or expanding fisheries or accessing new areas. And, we should develop plans that establish a road map for broadening the scope of managing fish populations, so we factor in the important interactions among fish populations, other marine wildlife, and habitats of the ocean ecosystem.

By incorporating a big-picture approach to fisheries management, Congress can safeguard our ocean resources and coastal communities for the long-term benefit of our customers and your constituents.

As an influential member, representing a state known for some of the best fisheries in the world, you have the opportunity to contribute in a critical and substantial way. It is our hope that you will wholeheartedly embrace such a pivotal leadership role and champion ecosystem based fisheries management in the reauthorization of Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Thank you for considering our views. We look forward to working with you to advance stronger, healthier fisheries that can benefit our communities from ocean to plate.

Adam Green, Chef  
Fez Restaurant & Bar  
Phoenix, AZ

Jackson & Kevin Kelly, Owners  
Bliss ReBAR  
Phoenix, AZ

Kevan Kiefer, Chef  
Corduoy  
Phoenix, AZ

Mario Pineda, Chef  
Bliss ReBAR  
Phoenix, AZ

Mark Dillon, Owner  
Fez Restaurant & Bar  
Switch  
Corduoy  
Pizza People Pub  
Phoenix, AZ

Mark Howard, Owner  
Fez Restaurant & Bar  
Bliss ReBAR  
Phoenix, AZ

Tim & Marybeth Scanion, Owners  
Pizza People Pub  
Phoenix, AZ

Tom Jetland, Owner  
Fez Restaurant & Bar  
Switch  
Corduoy  
Pizza People Pub  
Phoenix, AZ

Suzanne Goin, Chef/Owner  
Larder Baking Company & Restaurants  
Lucques  
Tavern  
a.o.c  
Los Angeles, CA

Seamus Gibney, Executive Chef  
Pier 23  
San Francisco, CA

Michael Botello, Owner  
Wally's Desert Turtle  
Rancho Mirage, CA

Soerke Peters, Chef/Owner  
Basil Seasonal Dining  
Carmel By The Sea, CA

Albert Serrano, Chef  
Bluewater Grill  
Coronado, CA

Evan Cruz, Executive Chef  
San Diego Marriott Del Mar/ Arterra Restaurant &  
Outdoor Lounge  
San Diego, CA

Trey Foshee, Executive Chef & Partner  
George's at the Cove  
Galaxy Taco  
La Jolla, CA

Shihomi Borillo, Owner  
Azuki Sushi  
Artisan Bento  
San Diego, CA

Jeff Jackson, Executive Chef  
Lodge at Torrey Pines- A.R. Valentien Restaurant  
La Jolla, CA

Matt Gordon, Executive Chef/ Owner  
Urban Solace  
Solace and the Moonlight Lounge  
Encinitas, CA

Davin Waite, Chef Owner  
The Whet Noodle  
Wrench and Rodent Seabasstropub  
Oceanside, CA

Jason Knibb, Executive Chef  
Grande Colonial, NINE-TEN Restaurant  
La Jolla, CA

Mourad Jamal, Executive Chef  
Poseidon on the Beach  
Del Mar, CA

Nikki Martin, Chef/Actress  
Food Network  
Hollywood, CA

Nathan Lyon, Host  
Growing A Greener World; Good Food America  
with Nathan Lyon  
Los Angeles, CA

Michael McGeath, Owner  
Brooklyn Girl Eatery  
San Diego, CA

Sammy Monsour,  
Preux & Proper  
Los Angeles, CA

Kim Muller  
B/O/T/H Consulting  
Manhattan Beach, CA

Cindy Pawlcyn, Founder & Owner  
Mustards Grill  
Cindy's Backstreet Kitchen  
Napa Valley, CA

Rob Ruiz, Chef & Owner  
The Land and Water Company  
Carlsbad, CA

Andrew Spurgin, Chef/Owner  
Andrew Spurgin: Bespoke event styling & menu  
design  
San Diego, CA

Gordon Drysdale, Culinary Director  
Scoma's  
San Francisco, CA

Jason Azevedo,  
Hock farm craft &I provisions  
Sacramento, CA

Jason McLeod, Executive Chef & Partner  
Ironside Fish & Oyster  
San Diego, CA

Dustin Summerville, Founder  
Harney Sushi Restaurants  
San Diego, CA

Ricardo Heredia, Executive Chef & Owner  
Kitchen Mafioso  
San Diego & Los Angeles, CA

Alisha Lumea,  
Polished Brands  
San Francisco, CA

Mark Dommen, Head Chef & Partner  
One Market Restaurant  
San Francisco, CA

Patty Unterman, Chef & Owner  
Hayes Street Grill  
San Francisco, CA

Mary Sue Milliken, Chef and Co-Owner  
The Border Grill  
Santa Monica, CA

Susan Feniger, Chef and Co-Owner  
The Border Grill  
Santa Monica, CA

John Ash, Chef & Owner  
John Ash & Co  
Santa Rosa, CA

Raymond Ho, Chef and Co-Founder  
Tataki Sushi Bars  
San Francisco, CA

Kin Lui, Chef and Co-Founder  
Tataki Sushi Bars  
San Francisco, CA

Casson Trenor, Co-Founder  
Tataki Sushi Bars  
San Francisco, CA

Jeff Krivokopich  
Guckenheimer  
Venice Beach, CA

Stephen Zwick  
zitecture  
West Los Angeles, CA

Christian Graves, Executive Chef  
Panzano  
Denver, CO

Brianne Bowdish  
Cart driver  
Denver, CO

Jeffrey Lammer,  
RootdownDIA  
Denver, CO

Todd Rymer  
Colorado Mountain College  
Edwards, CO

Mark R. Leopoldino, Owner  
Bill's Seafood  
Westbrook, CT

Elena Fusco, Chef  
Bin 100  
Milford, CT

Adam Young, Owners  
Sift Bakeshop  
Mystic, CT

Lisa Arsenault, Chef  
Lis Bake Shop  
Mystic, CT

Elizabeth Alina, Chef  
Karma Kitchen Mystic & Juicery  
Mystic, CT

Ken Lin, Chef  
Workery in Mystic  
Mystic, CT

Nora Pouillon, Chef and Owner  
Restaurant Nora  
Washington, DC

David Rashty, Executive Chef  
Jack's- Farm to Fork @ The Pinkshell Beach Resort  
and Marina  
Fort Myers Beach, FL

Jack Boykin, Owner  
Pink Shell Beach Resort & Marina-Jack's Farm to  
Fork & Bongos Bea hide Grille  
Ft Myers Beach, FL

Bob Statler, Owner/Founder  
Food Island  
Hobe Sound, FL

Persefoni Nicolosi, Director of Operations  
Blu Mangrove Grill  
Palmetto, FL

David Curran, Chef  
Hitched and Honey  
Sarasota, FL

Isaac Johnson, Chef  
Lila  
Sarasota, FL

Patrick Loughrey, Owner/Designer/Writer/Producer  
TastyRoyProductions  
Sarasota, FL

Stephen Phelps, Chef  
Indigenous  
Sarasota, FL

Alex Gazdik, Manager  
Red Mesa Mercado  
St. Petersburg, FL

Cameron Bolonski, Manager  
Casita Taqueria  
St. Petersburg, FL

Casey Petrauskas, Manager  
The Burg Bar and Grill  
St. Petersburg, FL

Danny Autrey D, Manager  
Engine Rose  
St. Petersburg, FL

Denise Backnell, Manager  
Leafy Greens Cafe  
St. Petersburg, FL

Jason Dudney, Manager  
Bodega  
St. Petersburg, FL

Jerry Rice, Owner/Chef  
Kissin' Cuzzins Restaurant  
St. Petersburg, FL

Paul Renner, Owner/Chef  
Kissin' Cuzzins Restaurant  
St. Petersburg, FL

Jillian Lund Frer, Owner  
Chattaway  
St. Petersburg, FL

John Reutz, Manager  
400 Beach Seafood and Taphouse  
St. Petersburg, FL

Travis Zalewski, Manager  
400 Beach Seafood and Taphouse  
St. Petersburg, FL

Kevyn Kerrivan, Manager  
Ricky P's Orleans Bistro  
St. Petersburg, FL

Matthew Bronkema, Manager  
Ferg's Sports Bar & Grill  
St. Petersburg, FL

Natalie Widlak, Manager  
Kings's Street Food Counter  
St. Petersburg, FL

Rachel Lawhorn, Manager  
Engine#9 Bar & Grill  
St. Petersburg, FL

Rodney Contreras, Manager  
Gratzzi Italian Grille  
St. Petersburg, FL

Sean Hannon, Manager  
Stations House  
St. Petersburg, FL

Sierra Emory, Manager  
Rowdies Den  
St. Petersburg, FL

Teerapong Polrat, Manager  
The Lemon Grass Tapas  
St. Petersburg, FL

Tom Woodard, Owner  
Pom Pom's Teahouse & Sandwicheria  
St. Petersburg, FL

Tony Harahan, Manager  
Hawkers Asian Street Fare  
St. Petersburg, FL

Tracy Asalita, Owner  
The Queens Head  
St. Petersburg, FL

Terry Koval, Chef  
Wrecking Bar Brewpub  
Atlanta, GA

Mathew Green, Director of Culinary Operations  
Blue Orbit  
Duluth, GA

Ed Kenney, Chef & Owner  
Town Hospitality Group  
Mahin & Sun  
Town  
Kaimuki Superette  
Mud Hen Water  
Honolulu, HI

Ann Reed,  
Iowa State University  
Ames, IA

Grant Tipton, Chef  
T3 Culinary  
Antioch, IL

Bruce Sherman, Chef & Partner  
North Pond Restaurant  
Chicago, IL

Dan Rosenthal, Owner/Founder  
Sopraffina  
Chicago, IL

John Mark Stanley  
Illinois Institute of Art - Chicago  
Chicago, IL

Paul Fehribach, Chef and Co-owner  
Big Jones  
Chicago, IL

Alfredo Manzanares, Chef  
Catahoula Hotel  
New Orleans, LA

Dana Honn, Chef and Co-Owner  
Carmo: A Tropical Café  
New Orleans, LA

Isaac Toups, Chef and Owner  
Toups Meatery  
New Orleans, LA

Kerry Heffernan, Chef  
Seaworthy (NOLA), Grand Banks (NY)  
New Orleans, LA

Nina Compton, Chef  
Compère Lapin  
New Orleans, LA

Ryan Prewitt, Chef, Partner  
Pêche Seafood Grill  
New Orleans, LA

Stephen Stryjewski, Chef, Partner  
Cochon  
Cochon Butcher  
Pêche Seafood Grill

Calcasieu Rooms  
New Orleans, LA

Dickie Brennan Jr, Chef  
Dickie Brennan and Company  
New Orleans, LA

Lauren Brennan Brower, Owner  
Dickie Brennan and Company  
New Orleans, LA

Steve Pettus, Managing Partner  
Dickie Brennan and Company  
New Orleans, LA

Leah Chase, Owner and Executive Chef  
Dooky Chase's  
New Orleans, LA

Susan Spicer, Owner and Executive Chef  
Bayona  
New Orleans, LA

Johnny Sheehan, Chef  
Liquid Art House  
Boston, MA

Peter Davis, Chef  
The Charles Hotel/ Henrietta's Table  
Cambridge, MA

Carolyn Johnson, Chef  
80 Thoreau  
Concord, MA

Richard Garcia, Chef  
Crescent Hotels & Resorts  
Kingston, MA

Michael Leviton, Chef  
Sustainable Food Systems Consulting Group  
Lexington, MA

Jesse Ferriter  
Smith College  
Northampton, MA

John Lawrence, Owner  
Peppers Fine Catering  
Northborough, MA

Jes Childers, Chef  
New World Tavern  
Plymouth, MA

Matt Hennessey, Owner  
Driftwood Publick House and Oysteria  
Plymouth, MA

Abdus Shakur, Chef and Culinary Arts Instructor  
East Weymouth, MA

Corbin Evans, Chef and Owner  
Oxford Canteen  
Oxford, MS

Vishwesh Bhatt, Executive Chef  
SNACKBAR  
Oxford, MS

William Dissen, Owner and Executive Chef  
The Marketplace Restaurant  
Asheville, NC

Clark Barlowe, Chef and Owner  
Heirloom Restaurant  
Charlotte, NC

Michael Beers, Chef  
Gracie K's  
Statesville, NC

Corey Fletcher, Chef and Owner  
Revival Kitchen and Bar  
Concord, NH



Brent Hazelbaker, Chef  
Earth's Harvest Kitchen and Juicery  
Dover, NH

Mary Ann Esposito, Chef/Host  
PBS Ciao Italia with Mary Ann Esposito  
Durham, NH

Catherine Brown, Chef  
DiCocoa's Market Bakery  
Errol, NH

Jeff Alberti, Executive Chef  
Tuckers Tavern  
Beach Haven, NJ

Peyton Johnson, Chef de Cuisine  
Daddy O Restaurant  
Brant Beach, NJ

Jeff Alberti, Executive Chef  
Plantation Restaurant  
Harvey Cedars, NJ

Mattias Gustafsson, Executive Chef; Co-Owner  
Madame Claude Bis  
Jersey City, NJ

DeAnna Paterra, Chef and Co-Owner  
DeAnna's Restaurant  
Lambertville, NJ

Lisa Nichols, Co-Owner  
DeAnna's Restaurant  
Lambertville, NJ

Adam Rose, Chef and Owner  
Villalobos  
Montclair, NJ

Marc Oshima, Chief Marketing Officer  
AeroFarms  
Newark, NJ

Ariane Duarte, Chef / Owner  
Ariane Kitchen & Bar  
Verona, NJ

Greg Honachefsky, Chef / Owner  
The Bi-catch Cafe  
Dorchester, NJ

Steven Soltz, Professor - Culinary Arts Dept  
College of So. NV  
Las Vegas, NV

Dorothy Yang  
Purple Kale Kitchenworks  
Brooklyn, NY

Jacob Tupper, Fishmonger  
Greenpoint Fish/MP Fish  
Sea To Table  
Brooklyn, NY

Michael Dimin, Founding Director  
Sea to Table  
Brooklyn, NY

Julie Levin, Chef  
Nardin Academy  
Buffalo, NY

Samantha Buyskes, Former Executive Chef  
Kindred Fare  
Geneva, NY

Judith Klinger, Founder  
World-Eats  
New York, NY

Kathy Zeiger, Founder  
Artwalk Hamptons  
New York, NY

Kerry Heffernan, Chef  
Grand Banks  
New York, NY

Lilli Donahue, Community Manager  
Culinary Agents  
New York, NY  
Matt Griffin, Executive Chef  
Happy Cooking Hospitality  
Fedora  
Bar Sardine  
New York, NY

Michael-Ann Rowe,  
Emmy® Award-Winning television personality,  
food & travel journalist; a culinary advocate,  
specializing in seafood.  
Off the Beaten Palate Productions  
New York, NY

Rachel Palczynski, General Manager  
Rouge Tomate Chelsea  
New York, NY

Suzannah Schneider, Sustainability Connector  
Katchkie Farm / Great Performances  
New York, NY

Carl Salamone, Vice President for Seafood  
Sustainability  
Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.  
Rochester, NY

Pamela Lynch, Associate Professor of Biology  
Suffolk County Community College  
Selden, NY

Amy Paul, Director  
Edible Ohio Valley  
Cincinnati, OH

Derek dos Anjos, Chef/Owner  
The Anchor  
Cincinnati, OH

Lilly Burdsall, Chef and Manager  
Midwest Culinary Institute at Cincinnati State  
College  
Cincinnati, OH

Douglas Katz, CEO/Chef  
Fire Spice Company and fire food and drink  
Cleveland, OH

Gian Mercurio,  
Greenwillow Grains  
Brownsville, OR

Maylin Chavez Navarro, Chef/Owner  
Olympia Oyster Bar  
Portland, OR

Russell Ruscigno,  
Slow Food Portland  
Portland, OR

Lyf Gildersleeve, Owner  
Flying Fish Company - Sustainable Seafood  
Portland, OR

David Joachim, Author/Editor  
Joachim Ltd  
Center Valley, PA

Zach Grainda, Executive Chef  
White Dog Cafe  
Haverford, PA

Vince Alberici, Chef Consultant  
Seviche  
Poros  
Sonoma  
Nola on the Square  
Havertown, PA

George Bush,  
The Summit Restaurant  
New Milford, PA

Anthony Bonett, Executive Chef  
Moshulu  
Philadelphia, PA

Yves Carreau, Chef and Proprietor  
Perlé  
Seviche  
Poros  
Sonoma  
Nola on the Square  
Pittsburgh, PA

Ralph P Fernandez, Executive Chef  
Autograph Brasserie  
Wayne, PA

Dan Stern, Chef  
R2L  
Philadelphia, PA

David Dadekian, President and Writer/Editor  
Eat Drink Rhode Island  
Coventry, RI

Chef Bill Idell, Assistant Dean of the College of  
Culinary Arts  
Johnson and Wales University  
Providence, RI

Liam Kimball, General Manager, Business  
Operations  
Juilians  
Providence, RI

Meghan Brennan, Executive Chef  
The Square Peg  
Warren, RI

Bill Idell, Assistant Dean  
Johnson and Wales University – College of  
Culinary Arts  
Providence, RI

Kaza Kondo, Executive Chef  
Wara Wara  
Providence, RI

Rick Farmer  
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital  
Memphis, TN

Wally Kinney, Partner  
Cafe Blue  
Bee Cave, TX

Crystal Laramore, Owner / Executive Chef  
Crystal's Bistro  
Cold Spring, TX

Felipe Gonzalez, Executive Chef / Executive Sous  
Chef  
Shearn's: Moody Gardens Hotel, Spa and  
Convention Center  
San Luis Steakhouse: The San Luis Resort &  
Conference Center  
Galveston, TX

Paco Vargas, Executive Chef and Co-Owner  
Rudy & Paco's  
Galveston, TX

Ricky Craig, Co-Owner and Chef  
Harborside Mercantile  
Galveston, TX

Jack Tyler, Chef, Writer, and Photographer  
Culinary Houston  
Houston, TX

David Skinner, Co-Owner and Executive Chef  
Eculent  
Kemah, TX

Jason Loban, Executive Chef  
Sulphur Springs Country Club  
Sulphur Springs, TX

Nancy Manlove, Executive Chef and Owner  
Personal Chef; Host: I45NW Cooking Show  
Texas City, TX

Casey Gaido, Executive Chef  
Gaido's Restaurant  
Galveston, TX

Mark Schneider, Texas Chef's Association  
President  
Department Chair Culinary Arts, Texas State  
Technical College  
Waco, TX

Michael Wards, Executive Chef / Owner  
The Austin Artisan  
Austin, TX

Alan McArthur, Owner  
McArthur's  
Lakeway, TX

Al Lopez, Executive Chef  
McArthur's  
Lakeway, TX

Ben Nathan, Executive Chef / Partner  
Cafe Blue  
Austin, TX

Johnny Smecca, Partner  
Saltwater Grill  
Sky Bar | Steak & Sushi  
Little Daddy's Gumbo Bar  
NONNO TONY'S  
The Gumbo Diner  
Taquilo's  
Galveston, TX

Erkem Hyseni, Owner/Chef  
Adriatic Cafe  
Jersey Village, TX

Haythem Dawlett, Owner  
Floyd's on the Water  
Texas City, TX

Trace Benno, Chef/Owner  
Benno's Cajun Seafod  
Galveston, TX

Jimmy McClure, Chef/Owner  
Jimmy's on the Pier  
Galveston, TX

Jim Watkins, Chef & Director  
Food Services Bastyr University  
Kenmore, WA

Holly Smith, Chef/Owner  
Cafe Juanita  
Kirkland, WA

Brian Canlis and Mark Canlis, Owners  
Canlis  
Seattle, WA

Diane LaVonne, Founder/Owner  
Diane's Market Kitchen  
Seattle, WA

Eric Tanaka, Executive Chef & Managing Partner  
Tom Douglas Restaurants  
Seattle, WA

Johnathan Sundstrom, Chef/Owner  
Lark Restaurant  
Seattle, WA

Joshua Henderson, Chef & Proprietor  
Huxley Wallace Collective  
Westward  
State  
Saint Helens  
Bar Noroeste Taqueria  
Vestal  
Poulet Galore  
Cantine  
Scout PNY  
The Nest  
Seattle, WA

Mick Heltsley, Owner  
Agua Verde Café  
Seattle, WA

Tamara Murphy, Chef/Co-Founder  
Terra Plata  
Seattle, WA

Linda Di Lello Morton, Co-Founder  
Terra Plata  
Seattle, WA

Maria Hines, Chef & Owner  
Maria Hines Restaurants  
Tilth  
Golden Beetle  
Agrodolce  
Seattle, WA

Toby Eidem, GM/Owner  
Corbett Fish House  
Vancouver, WA

Jon Rowley  
Jon Rowley & Associates  
Vashon, WA

Robin Leventhal, Chef-Instructor  
Wine Country Culinary Institute  
Walla Walla, WA

Robin Leventhal, Chef-Instructor  
Crave Catering & Consulting  
Walla Walla, WA

Roy Breiman, Corporate Culinary Director  
Coastal Hotels  
Bellevue, WA

Bruno Feldeisen, Executive Chef  
Semiahmoo Resort  
Blaine, WA

Riley Starks, Partner  
Lummi Island Wild Co-op  
Bellingham, WA

Kären Jurgensen, Chef Instructor  
Seattle Culinary Academy & Quilliscut Farm  
School  
Seattle, WA

Jason Stoneburner, Chef Partner  
Stoneburner  
Seattle, WA

Stacey Hettinger, Chef & Owner  
Geraldine's Counter  
Seattle, WA

Gary Snyder, Owner  
Heyday  
Seattle, WA

Brendan McGill, Chef/Owner  
Hitchcock  
Bainbridge Island, WA

Carla Leonardi, Chef/Owner  
Cafe Lago  
Seattle, WA

Joe Bayley, Chef  
Munchery  
Seattle, WA

Zoi Antonitsas, Chef  
Jarr and Co  
Seattle, WA

Mike & Liz McConnell, Owners  
Via Tribunali  
Seattle, WA

David Burger, Executive Director  
Stewardship Partners  
Seattle, WA  
Ethan & Angela Stowell, Owners & Chef (Ethan)  
Stowell Restaurants  
Seattle, WA

Matt Dillon, Chef/Owner  
Sitka & Spruce  
Bar Ferdinand  
The Corson Building  
The London Plane  
The Old Chaser Farm  
Seattle, WA

William Belickis, Chef/Owner  
Mistral Kitchen  
Seattle, WA

Dre Neeley & Pepa Brower, Chef & Owners  
Gravy Vashong  
Vashon, WA

Jason LaJeunesse, Chef  
Earnest Loves Agnes  
Seattle, WA

Marius Arbune, Chef  
Cornuto  
Seattle, WA

Sieb & Jen Jurriaans, Chef & Owner  
Prima Bistro  
Langley, WA

Alex Wilson, Chef  
Odd Fellows  
Seattle, WA

Walter Edward, Chef/Consultant  
University Club  
Seattle, WA

Blain Wetzel, Chef  
Willows Inn  
Lummi Island, WA

November 7, 2017

Dear Members of Congress:

As chefs, restaurateurs, and seafood dealers, a reliable supply of sustainable, U.S.-caught, healthy fish is crucial to the success of our businesses. We need strong federal laws, like the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA), to ensure we will continue to be able to provide high quality food to our customers. Please help us defend this important law by opposing efforts to weaken it.

Over the years, Congress has amended the MSA to make it stronger and better, and the results show it has been a success. Overfishing has virtually ended in the United States and we have rebuilt dozens of previously-depleted fish species. Key ingredients to this success include:

- Annual catch limits (ACLs), commonly known as quotas, which were added in 2006 to end the problem of continued overfishing;
- Providing a full range of tools - including catch shares - to stakeholders and regional decision makers;
- Requiring regulations be based on the best available science and not contradicting the recommendations of science and statistical committees that advise regulators; and
- Setting reasonable deadlines for rebuilding fish populations, so that they do not linger in a depleted purgatory for decades without returning to full health and sustainability.

Unfortunately, bills being considered now such as H.R. 200, H.R. 2023, and S. 1520 would undermine these essential conservation standards. We urge you to oppose them unless they are stripped of the problematic provisions that undercut the safeguards identified above.

Many of our establishments serve red snapper, which is popular, tasty and now widely available after being rare for many years. Another bill, H.R. 3588, would give Gulf of Mexico states the authority to regulate private anglers' fishing for Gulf of Mexico red snapper. We have heard that anglers need a fix for what is clearly a broken system, but without adequate conservation standards to make sure that private anglers don't far exceed their quota (as they've done in the past), H.R. 3588 could inadvertently result in significant overfishing and deprive our customers of one of their favorite fish.

We are food people, not lobbyists. But we know that healthy fish populations benefit everyone, and we ask for your help in protecting the fundamental conservation standards in federal law that allow us to serve healthy, sustainable, U.S.-caught seafood to millions of Americans. Thank you for considering our views.

Very truly yours,

## **ALABAMA**

### **Pete Blohme**

Panini Pete's, Sunset  
Pointe and Ed's Seafood  
Shed

### **Leonardo Maurelli III**

Ariccia Trattoria

### **Eric Rivera**

Vintage Year

### **Samuel T. Spencer**

ACF American Culinary  
Federation

### **Matt Waterman**

Gulf Coast Chef  
Consulting

## **ALASKA**

### **Kirsten Dixon**

Tutka Bay Lodge Alaska

### **Mandy Dixon**

Within the Wild

## **ARIZONA**

### **Danielle Leoni**

The Breadfruit & Rum Bar

## **ARKANSAS**

### **Matthew McClure**

The Hive

## **CALIFORNIA**

### **James Cho**

Kpop Café

### **Michael Cimarusti**

Providence Restaurant

### **Matthew Dolan**

Twenty Five Lusk

### **Dory Ford**

AQUA TERRA Culinary

### **Sarah Forman**

Lyon Media Group

### **Erik Hopfinger**

Finger Food

### **Jennifer Jenks**

L.O.S.T. Foods

### **Martha Michelle Lainez**

Chef Michelle and  
Company

### **Josh Loeb**

Rustic Canyon

### **Dominick Maietta**

Coqueta Restaurant

### **Ryan McIlwraith**

Absinthe Group

### **Anjan Mitra**

DOSA

### **Samuel Monsour**

Preux & Proper

### **Chris Pastena**

Chop Bar

### **Michael Poompan**

Executive Chef

### **Jessica Sackler**

Calavera

### **Anna Serridge**

Private Chef

### **Gustavo Romero Veytia**

Calavera Restaurant

### **Cynthia Walter**

Passionfish

### **Ted Walter**

Passionfish

## **COLORADO**

### **Adam Branz**

Crafted Concepts Denver

### **Derek Figueroa**

Seattle Fish Company

### **Jennifer Jasinski**

Crafted Concepts

### **Sheila Lucero**

Jax Fish House

### **Lauren Nischan**

Changing Tastes

### **Paul C. Reilly**

Beast + Bottle

### **Andrew Treble**

Lindblad Expeditions

### **Hamish Walker**

Seattle Fish Company

## **CONNECTICUT**

### **Bun Lai**

Miya's

### **Michel Nischan**

Wholesome Wave

### **Jacques Pepin**

Chef, Author, Host

## **FLORIDA**

### **Jonathan Atanacio**

Epicurean Hotel

### **Greg Baker**

The Refinery, Fodder &  
Shine



**Cliff Barsi**  
Inside the Box Café

**Peter Bates**  
Metropolitan Ministries  
Culinary Instructor

**Geraldo Bayona**  
Columbia Restaurant  
Group

**Jason Cline**  
Poke Rose

**Robert Dickey**  
Celebrity Cruises

**Alex Kidman**  
Sip85

**Eric Lackey**  
Ulele

**Steve Phelps**  
Indigenous

**Hari Pulapaka**  
Cress Restaurant, Stetson  
University

**Nick Ruland**  
Fishmonger Restaurant

**Allen Susser**  
Chef Allen's

**Pamela Wellborn**  
Destin Ice Market 30A

## **GEORGIA**

**Nick Leahy**  
Saltyard

## **HAWAII**

**Kimi Abbott Jackson**  
Island Naturals

**Lee Anne Wong**  
Koko Head Cafe

## **ILLINOIS**

**Paul Fehribach**  
Big Jones

**Sean O'Scannlain**  
Fortune Fish & Gourmet

**Nicole Pederson**  
Found, The Barn

**Hipolito Sanchez**  
Slow Motion for Meat

## **INDIANA**

**Ryan Nelson**  
Late Harvest Kitchen

## **KANSAS**

**Ty Armstrong**  
J. Wilson's

## **KENTUCKY**

**Justin Dean**  
Madhouse Vinegar Co.

**Anthony Lamas**  
Seviche: A Latin  
Restaurant

**Annie Pettry**  
Decca

## **LOUISIANA**

**Haley Bitterman**  
Ralph Brennan Restaurant  
Group

**PJ Haines**  
American Roadshow,  
Food Drunk

**Ryan Prewitt**  
Peche Seafood Grill

## **MARYLAND**

**Allison Luettel**  
J.J. McDonnell

**Steve Vilnit**  
JJ McDonnell & Co., Inc

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

**Sara Jenkins**  
Nina June

**Michael Leviton**  
Region Foodworks LLC

**Ezra Lewis**  
Happy Cooking

**Steven Poots**  
Bourbon

## **MICHIGAN**

**Eric Benedict**  
Citizen

**Tamara Young**  
Great Lakes Chef Catering  
Services

## **MISSISSIPPI**

**Sean Desporte**  
Desporte & Sons Seafood

**Derek Emerson**  
Walker's Drive In, Eat  
Local Inc.

**Ted Luke**  
St. Michaels Fuel & Ice

**Hiram McCall**  
The Ole Biloxi Fillin Station

**Denis Trochesset**  
The Reef, Salute Italian

**Nick Wallace**  
Nick Wallace Culinary

## **NEVADA**

**Jaime Covarrubias**  
Border Grill Forum Shops

**Mary Sue Milliken**  
Border Grill Restaurants  
and Truck

**Rick Moonen**  
RM Seafood

**Brett Uniss**  
B&B Ristorante

## **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**Matt Louis**  
Moxy, The Franklin Oyster  
House

## **NEW JERSEY**

**David LaBarre Martocci**  
TAKA Restaurant

## **NEW YORK**

**Sanja Blazevic**  
STARR Restaurants

**Floyd Cardoz**  
Paowalla

**Venus Cheung**  
STARR Restaurants

**Tom Colicchio**  
Crafted Hospitality

**Christopher Cryer**  
Seamore's, Rigor Hill  
Hospitality

**Sharon Franke**  
Les Dames d'Escoffier

**Matthew Griffin**  
Fedora, Bar Sardine,  
Happy Cooking

**Kerry Heffernan**  
Grand Banks, Pilot, Island  
Oyster, Seaworthy

**Jin Kang**  
Fedora

**Nick Perkins**  
Hart's

**Bianca Piccillo**  
Mermaid's Garden

**Braden Reardon**  
Adelphi Hospitality

**Eric Rhee**  
Point Seven Labs

**Paul Sale**  
Ace Hotel

**Barbara Sibley**  
La Palapa

**Bill Telepan**  
Oceana Restaurant

**Mark Usewicz**  
Mermaid's Garden

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

**Katie Button**  
Cúrate, Nightbell

**Teddy Diggs**  
Il Palio

**William Dissen**  
The Market Place  
Restaurant, Haymaker  
Restaurant

## **OHIO**

**Ben Bebenroth**  
Spice Kitchen + Bar

**Douglas Katz**  
fire food and drink

**Nathan Mantia**  
Tela Bar and Kitchen

**Karen Small**  
Flying Fig, Market at the  
Fig

## **OKLAHOMA**

**Michael Funk**  
Polo Grill

**Robert Merrifield**  
Polo Grill

## **OREGON**

**Scott Dolich**  
Park Kitchen

**Cathy Whims**  
Nostrana, Oven and  
Shaker

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

**Jeff Gilmore**  
Carlisle Country Club

**Penny Lerner**  
Taste of Tennis, AYS  
Sports Marketing

## **RHODE ISLAND**

**Derek Wagner**  
nicks on broadway / Chefs  
Collaborative

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

**Vanessa Bialobreski**  
F2T Productions

**Bertrand Gilli**  
Ristorante Divino

**Drew Hedlund**  
Fleet Landing

**Lou Hutto**  
LowCo Barbecue

**Teryi Youngblood Musolf**  
Ballentine Equipment Co.,  
Inc.

**Kristian Niemi**  
Off Menu Lyd

**Charley Scruggs**  
Tallulah

**Jack Waiboer**  
Brice's Country Store

## **TEXAS**

**Kellen "KJ" Bradford**  
Bradford Management  
Group

**James Canter**  
Guerrilla Gourmet

**Chris Clark**  
Texas State Aquarium,  
Water's Edge Catering

**Mike Dean**  
BLVD Seafood

**Alvin Foster**  
Seafood Company

**Hector McLoughlin**  
Poke Now Restaurants

**Hugo Ortega**  
H Town Restaurant Group

**Caesar Ortiz**  
Eberly Operating LLC

**Leslie Peart**  
Texas State Aquarium

**Zelina Rodriguez**  
Compass Group Eurest at  
Flint Hills

**Carlie Stith**  
Coastal Bend TCA, ACF,  
Del Mar College

**Paula Szczepanek**  
Corpus Christi  
Independent School  
District

## **VIRGINIA**

**Jeff Deloff**  
Threepenny Cafe

**Heidi Hanson**  
Warner Hanson Television

**Nathan Lyon**  
Lyon Media Group

## **WASHINGTON**

**Nathan Batway**  
Hotel Sorrento

**Luis Brambila**  
Bar Dojo

**Chris Bryant**  
Wildfin American Grill

**Mindy Cushing**  
Dunbar Room

**Jim Drohman**  
Le Pichet and Cafe Presse

**Daniel Ecklor**  
Hotel Sorrento

**Maria Hines**  
Tilth

**Morgan Jefferies**  
Hotel Sorrento

**Michael Johnson**  
First & Goal Hospitality

**Larry L. Mellum**  
Pike Place Chowder Co.

**Austin Navarre**  
Chelsea Farms Oyster Bar

**Bill Ranniger**  
Duke's Seafood and  
Chowder

**Katherine Wentworth**  
Hotel Sorrento

**Mike West**  
Hotel Sorrento, Dunbar  
Room

December 12, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

As restaurateurs, chefs, and seafood suppliers, we are proud to work with U.S. fishermen to source fresh, local seafood. While we hail from different cities and states, serve different cuisines, and represent businesses both big and small, we all have one thing in common: we rely on healthy, sustainable U.S. fisheries to keep our businesses going. This is why we urge you to reject efforts to undermine our federal fisheries law, the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Americans consume close to five billion pounds of seafood each year. Now more than ever, they want to know that the seafood on their plate was sustainably caught and is healthy to eat. By sourcing from U.S. fisheries, we are able to meet our customers' demands, connect them to local fishermen, and strengthen working coastal economies. The domestic U.S. seafood industry—excluding imports—supported nearly 700,000 jobs and generated over \$26 billion in sales in 2015. In the Northeast alone (from Virginia to Maine), over 1,500 retail businesses and over 800 wholesale establishments employed nearly 12,000 workers in 2014. In our towns and cities, the promise of local, sustainable seafood draws tourists and supports our coastal communities and their way of life.

Our marine economy succeeds in large part thanks to the sustainable management of our nation's fisheries, which is the main goal of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. For decades, Magnuson-Stevens has used sound science and stakeholder input to end overfishing and rebuild fish populations. But recent legislative proposals threaten to move us backwards. These proposals would weaken fisheries management by exempting broad groups of species from science-based catch limits, allowing irresponsible delays in rebuilding of vulnerable and depleted populations, diminishing transparency and accountability, and generally watering down legal standards. Our businesses rely on healthy and abundant fisheries, and we cannot afford measures that turn the clock back to the days of widespread overfishing and depletion.

We urge you to defend sustainable fisheries management, and help fend off efforts to undermine it.

We appreciate your attention to this critical issue.

## **CONNECTICUT**

Bun Lai, Chef and Owner  
Miya's Sushi  
New Haven, CT

Robert Sader, Head Chef  
Ancient Mariner and AJ's Bistro  
Mystic, CT

William Craig, Partner  
Boothbay Lobster Company  
Stamford, CT

## **DELAWARE**

Chazz Alberti, Co-Founder  
Deft & Delicious, LLC  
Bellefonte, DE

## **ILLINOIS**

Rachel Veltman, Sales Representative  
Wixter Market  
Chicago, IL

## **KENTUCKY**

Jonathan Sanning, Chef  
Smithtown Seafood & Smithtown Seafood  
at the Summit at Fritz Farm  
Lexington, KY

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

Amanda Grace Davis, Director  
Our Wicked Fish  
South Deerfield, MA

Andy Cox, Director of Dining Services  
Smith College Dining  
Northampton, MA

Frank Zanti, Assistant General Manager  
Yankee Lobster  
Boston, MA

Josh Goldman, CEO  
Australis Aquaculture, LLC  
Turner Falls, MA

Michael Leviton, CEO  
Region FoodWorks  
Lexington, MA

Michael Tlusty, Associate Prof. of  
Sustainability  
University of Massachusetts at Boston  
Boston, MA

Peter Davis, Chef  
Henrietta's Table, Charles Hotel  
Cambridge, MA

Peter McCarthy, Chef and Owner  
EVOO Restaurant  
Cambridge, MA

## **MARYLAND**

David Simpson, VP of Sales and Marketing  
Congressional Seafood  
Jessup, MD

Jonathan Pearlman, Vice President  
Congressional Seafood  
Jessup, MD

Tim Sughrue, Executive Vice President  
Congressional Seafood  
Jessup, MD

**MAINE**

Ben Conniff, President and Co-Founder  
Luke's Lobster  
Saco, ME/Brooklyn, NY

Cara Stadler, Chef and Owner  
Tao Yuan Restaurant  
Brunswick, ME

Chris Gould, Chef and Owner  
Central Provisions/Tipo Restaurant  
Portland, ME

Courtney Packer, General Manager  
Miyake Restaurant  
Portland, ME

Damian Sansonetti, Co-Owner and Chef  
Piccolo Restaurant  
Portland, ME

Frank Giglio, Chef and Owner  
Three Lily Provisions  
Thorndike, ME

Karl Sutton, Owner  
Bite into Maine  
Scarborough, ME

Lucas Myers, Owner & Operator  
O' Oysters, LLC  
South Portland, ME

Nina Murray, Owner  
Mill Cove Baking Co.  
Portland, ME

Orenda Hale, Owner  
Drifters Wife  
Portland, ME

Peter Hale, Owner  
Drifters Wife  
Portland, ME

Richard Frantz, Vice-President  
Andy's Old Port Pub  
Portland, ME

Sam Hayward, Chef and Co-Owner  
Fore Street  
Portland, ME

Sarah Sutton, Owner  
Bite into Maine  
Scarborough, ME

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Andrea Tomlinson, General Manager  
NH Community Seafood  
Newcastle, NH

Brendan Vesey, Chef and Owner  
Joinery Restaurant  
Newmarket, NH

David Vargas, Chef and Owner  
Vida Cantina  
Portsmouth, NH

Evan Hennessey, Chef and Owner  
Stages  
Dover, NH

Evan Mallett, Chef and Owner  
Black Trumpet and Ondine  
Portsmouth, NH and  
Belfast, ME

Michael Beers, Executive Chef  
New England Hotel Group  
North Conway, NH

### **NEW JERSEY**

George Mathis, Co-Owner  
Heritage Shellfish Co-Op  
Egg Harbor, NJ

### **NEW YORK**

Tom Colicchio, Chef and Owner  
Crafted Hospitality  
New York, NY

Aaron Lefkove, Co-Owner  
Littleneck  
Brooklyn, NY

Adam Geringer-Dunn, Co-Founder  
Greenpoint Fish & Lobster Co.  
Brooklyn, NY

Alan Someck, Director  
Green Hospitality Initiative, NYSRA  
New York, NY

Alexander Pincus, Co-Owner  
Grand Banks  
New York, NY

Alex Sorenson, Chef/Owner  
Blank Slate Kitchen  
Brooklyn, NY

Bianca Piccillo, Co-Founder  
Mermaid's Garden  
Brooklyn, NY

Carl Safina, President and Founder  
The Safina Center  
Setauket, NY

Charlie Gliwa, Partner  
Norman's Lionfish  
New York, NY

Christopher Cryer, Executive Chef  
Seamore's  
New York, NY

David Torchiano, Co-Owner  
Mayanoki  
New York, NY

Davis Herron, Director-Retail & Restaurant  
The Lobster Place  
New York, NY

Diana Choi, Staff  
Purple Kale Kitchenworks  
Brooklyn, NY

Dorothy Yang, Chef and Sustainability  
Coordinator  
Purple Kale Kitchenworks  
Brooklyn, NY

Gino Ruggiero, Chef and Owner  
Fiorella  
Rochester, NY

Jason Weiner, Chef and Co-Founder  
Almond Restaurants/L&W Oyster Co.  
Bridgehampton, NY

Jeffrey Yoskowitz, Co-Owner  
The Gefilteria  
Brooklyn, NY

Liz Neumark, CEO  
Great Performances  
New York, NY

Mary R Cleaver,  
President/Owner/Operator  
The Green Table, Cleaver Co.  
New York, NY

Michael Blake, Head Chef  
The Corporation of Yaddo  
Saratoga Springs, NY

Michael Chernow, Owner  
Seamore's  
New York, NY

Michael Dimin, Founding Director  
Sea to Table  
Brooklyn, NY

Mike Spindler, CEO  
FultonFishMarket.com  
Bronx, NY

Patti Jackson, Chef and Owner  
Delaware and Hudson  
Brooklyn, NY

Paul Greenberg, Author  
Four Fish and American Catch  
New York, NY

Peter Hoffman, Chef  
FarmerFare Cooking  
New York, NY

Peter Malinowski, Executive Director  
Billion Oyster Project  
New York, NY

Ronna Welsh, Owner  
Purple Kale Kitchenworks  
Brooklyn, NY

Sean Dimin, CEO  
Sea to Table  
Brooklyn, NY

Susan Atvell, Owner  
Kindred Fare  
Geneva, NY

#### **PENNSYLVANIA**

Amanda Bossard, Operations Manager  
Otolith Sustainable Seafood  
Philadelphia, PA

#### **RHODE ISLAND**

David Dadekian, President  
Eat Drink RI, LLC  
Coventry, RI

#### **VERMONT**

Doug Paine, Executive Chef  
Bleu Northeast Seafood  
Burlington, VT

#### **NATIONAL**

Bren Smith, Executive Director and CEO  
Greenwave  
Nationwide (US)





## THE DELAWARE RIVER SHAD FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

On behalf of our over 500 members, the Delaware River Shad Fishermen's Association strongly urges you to oppose any legislation, including H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, that would undermine the conservation provisions of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Stevens Act). Our members rely on healthy, abundant fish populations, especially of river herring and shad, and any legislation that would weaken their management should not move forward in this Congress.

H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would increase the risk of overfishing and threaten the progress we've made on rebuilding vulnerable fish populations. They would undermine years of strong science-based management that is helping stabilize fishing businesses and coastal communities.

These bills would extend the timelines for plans to rebuild vulnerable fish populations, delaying when fishermen would benefit from a fully healthy stock. They would exempt fish populations from the use of science-based annual catch limits designed to prevent overfishing. The Magnuson-Stevens Act is helping to end fishing at unsustainable rates and we strongly support policies and actions that protect the health and long term sustainability of our marine ecosystems.

Organizations like ours and individuals throughout the Delaware Valley work continually to improve habitat and water quality in the Delaware River and its tributaries, and good fisheries management is a critical part of this effort. We want our children and grandchildren to be able to fish in the same waters and have the same thrill we do, and have for generations, when they feel the tug on the end of the line.

The Delaware River Shad Fishermen's Association urges you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, and any other legislation that would undermine the conservation requirements that have been critical to the success of the Magnuson Stevens Act.

Sincerely,

R. M. Topping, President



December 7, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

On behalf of The Delaware River Yachtsmen's League we strongly urge you to oppose any legislation, including H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, that would undermine the conservation provisions of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Stevens Act). Our members rely on healthy, abundant fish populations, especially of river herring and shad and any legislation that would weaken their management should not move forward in this Congress.

H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would increase the risk of overfishing and threaten the progress we've made on rebuilding vulnerable fish populations. They would undermine years of strong science-based management that is helping stabilize fishing businesses and coastal communities.

These bills would extend the timelines for plans to rebuild vulnerable fish populations, delaying when fishermen would benefit from a fully healthy stock. They would exempt fish populations from the use of science-based annual catch limits designed to prevent overfishing. The Magnuson-Stevens Act is helping to end fishing at unsustainable rates and put our fish on the road to recovery. The signs of success for river herring and shad—more and bigger fish dispersed throughout a broader range—are evidence that strong fisheries management can work.

The Delaware River Yachtsmen's League is an organization that represents over 5,000 concerned voters that enjoy recreation boating along the Delaware River. Many of our members are avid fishermen and are impacted by these policies.

We urge you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, and any other legislation that would undermine the conservation requirements that have been critical to the success of the Magnuson Stevens Act.

Sincerely,  
Paul Jusino  
President  
D.R.Y.L.

December 7, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

We operate businesses that cater to clients who value healthy coasts and ocean wildlife. The ecotourism industry in California represents more than 125,000 jobs and over \$600 million in revenue per year. It is a vital part of our local economy. Ensuring sustainable fish populations and conserving marine resources are important to us and our customers. As Congress considers the next reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), we request your leadership to ensure it is updated to advance a big picture approach, which will better protect our natural resources and the economies that depend on them.

MSA is forty years old, and we've learned more about how to maintain productive ecosystems since then. MSA can be improved to help managers fully utilize the knowledge we have today and account for the big picture when making management decisions. This means conserving forage (or bait) fish, which is what other fish and wildlife eat, protecting where fish live (habitat), and reducing wasteful catch (bycatch), in addition to other priority actions

Bait fish form an essential link in the marine food webs and are necessary to ensure health fisheries and oceans, but the MSA does not guarantee conservation measures that account for this critical role. The law should be updated to conserve these important fish.

Additionally, ensuring healthy fish habitats is a critical component of sustainable fisheries management. It is important to address the impacts of certain types of fishing and other activities, such as pollution, in order to conserve habitats for fish. Therefore, the MSA needs to include greater protections of essential habitats, such as deep sea corals and spawning sites that fish need for reproduction, shelter, and growth.

People come to us because they want to see wildlife, but the MSA currently does not do enough to ensure bycatch is sufficiently minimized. Some fishing practices catch non-target wildlife including birds, sea turtles and non-targeted fish. We would like you to ensure that the law reduces this wasteful catch.

Coastal businesses and other enterprises that are involved in the ecotourism industry are impacted by how the U.S. manages fish populations under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. From tour operators to beachside restaurants, bed and breakfasts to dive shops, businesses like ours can benefit from a thoughtful bill that advances a big picture approach to fisheries management. Please understand that inclusion of big picture management principles in the next reauthorization of the MSA is critical to our continued economic success.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

We, the undersigned

**Sail Channel Islands**

Dan Ryder, Captain  
Oxnard, CA

**Channel Islands Outfitters, Inc.**

Fraser Kersey, CFO & Co-Founder  
Santa Barbara, CA

**Paddle Sports Center**

Fraser Kersey, CFO & Co-Founder  
Santa Barbara, CA

**Channel Islands Surfboards**

Evan Gambetta, Manager  
Santa Barbara, CA

**Harbor Breeze Cruises**

Amber Boyle, Vice President  
Long Beach, CA

**Deep Blue Scuba & Swim Center**

Matt Millikin, Manager  
Long Beach, CA

**Ventura Dive & Sport**

James Smith, Owner  
Ventura, CA

**Living Sea Images**

Marc Shargel, Founder & Photographer  
Felton, CA

**Epic SUP Adventures**

Austin Haggerty, Owner  
Santa Barbara, CA

**Santa Barbara Adventure Company**

Michael Cohen, Owner  
Santa Barbara, CA

**Shearwater Journeys, Inc**

Debra Shearwater, Owner  
Hollister, CA

**Blue Water Ventures**

Kim Powell, Owner, Operator & Naturalist  
Santa Cruz, CA

**Newport Landing Whale Watching**

Jessica Roame, Marine Education Specialist  
Newport Beach, CA

**Davey's Locker Sportfishing & Whale Watching**

Jessica Roame, Marine Education Specialist  
Newport Beach, CA

**Humboats Kayak Adventures**

Brian Saxton, Owner  
Eureka, Ca

**Beach Bungalow Inn and Suites**

Anna Patel, Owner  
Morro Bay, CA

**Pacifica Sailing Charters**

Mick Moore, Captain  
San Diego, CA

**Sail San Diego**

Captain Tim Hanley, Operations Manager  
San Diego, CA

**Matthew Meier Photography**

Matthew Meier, Underwater Photographer  
San Diego, CA

**Xplore Offshore**

Captain Russell Moore, Owner  
San Diego, CA

**Central Coast Sailing Charters**

Captain Mark Kocina, Owner  
San Luis Obispo, CA

**Malibu Divers**

Barbara Gentile-Crary, Owner  
Malibu, CA

**Tom Boyd Underwater Images**

Tom Boyd, Founder & Photographer  
Los Angeles, CA

**Kip Evans Photography**

Kip Evans, Founder & Photographer  
Pacific Grove, CA

**Central Coast Outdoors**

John Flaherty  
Los Osos, CA

**Raptor Dive Charters**

James Smith, Owner  
Ventura, CA

**Seas the Day QQ Adventures**

Dawn Lamb, Owner  
San Clemente, CA

cc: Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources

December 7, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

We operate businesses that cater to clients who value healthy coasts and ocean wildlife. The ecotourism industry in CT supports a vibrant tourist industry, vital to the growth of our local economy. Ensuring sustainable fish populations and conserving marine resources are important to us and our customers. As Congress considers the next reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), we request your leadership to ensure it is updated to advance a big picture approach, which will better protect our natural resources and the economies that depend on them.

MSA is forty years old, and we've learned more about how to maintain productive ecosystems since then. MSA can be improved to help managers fully utilize the knowledge we have today and account for the big picture when making management decisions. This means conserving forage (or bait) fish, which is what other fish and wildlife eat, protecting where fish live (habitat), and reducing wasteful catch (bycatch), in addition to other priority actions.

Bait fish form an essential link in the marine food webs and are necessary to ensure health fisheries and oceans, but the MSA does not guarantee conservation measures that account for this critical role. The law should be updated to conserve these important fish.

Additionally, ensuring healthy fish habitats is a critical component of sustainable fisheries management. It is important to address the impacts of certain types of fishing and other activities, such as pollution, in order to conserve habitats for fish. Therefore, the MSA needs to include greater protections of essential habitats, such as deep sea corals and spawning sites that fish need for reproduction, shelter, and growth.

People come to us because they want to see wildlife, but the MSA currently does not do enough to ensure bycatch is sufficiently minimized. Some fishing practices catch non-target wildlife including birds, sea turtles and non-targeted fish. We would like you to ensure that the law reduces this wasteful catch.

Coastal businesses and other enterprises that are involved in the ecotourism industry are impacted by how the U.S. manages fish populations under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. From tour operators to beachside restaurants, bed and breakfasts to dive shops, businesses like ours can benefit from a thoughtful bill that advances a big picture approach to fisheries management.

Please understand that inclusion of big picture management principles in the next reauthorization of the MSA is critical to our continued economic success.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

**Candlewood Stand Up Paddleboard**

Kristin Hart  
New Fairfield, CT

**Scuba Shack**

Ed & Ginamarie Hayes  
Rocky Hill, CT

**Paddle Mystic**

Jeff Jodoin  
Mystic, CT

**Tidal River Clothing Co.**

James Verni  
Mystic, CT

**New England Dive LLC**

Jill Kobrin  
Wallingford, CT

**Bills Seafood**

Mark Leopoldino  
Westbrook, CT

**Bin 100**

Elena Fusco  
Milford, CT

**Sift Bakeshop**

Adam Young  
Mystic, CT

**Lisa Bakeshop**

Lisa Arsenault  
Cos Cob, CT

**Karma Kitchen Mystic & Juicery**

Elizabeth Alina  
Mystic, CT

**Workery in Mystic**

Ken Lin  
Mystic, CT

cc: Members of the House Natural Resources Committee

December 7, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

We operate businesses that cater to clients who value healthy coasts and ocean wildlife. The ecotourism and outdoor recreational industries in Florida represents tens of thousands of businesses and more than 329,000 direct jobs according to the Outdoor Industry Association. It is a vital part of our local economy. Ensuring sustainable fish populations and conserving marine resources are important to us and our customers. As Congress considers the next reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), we request your leadership to ensure it is updated to advance a big picture approach, which will better protect our natural resources and the economies that depend on them.

MSA is forty years old, and we've learned more about how to maintain productive ecosystems since then. MSA can be improved to help managers fully utilize the knowledge we have today and account for the big picture when making management decisions. This means conserving forage (or bait) fish, which is what other fish and wildlife eat, protecting where fish live (habitat), and reducing wasteful catch (bycatch), in addition to other priority actions.

Bait fish form an essential link in the marine food webs and are necessary to ensure health fisheries and oceans, but the MSA does not guarantee conservation measures that account for this critical role. The law should be updated to conserve these important fish.

Additionally, ensuring healthy fish habitats is a critical component of sustainable fisheries management. It is important to address the impacts of certain types of fishing and other activities, such as pollution, in order to conserve habitats for fish. Therefore, the MSA needs to include greater protections of essential habitats, such as deep sea corals and spawning sites that fish need for reproduction, shelter, and growth.

People come to us because they want to see wildlife, but the MSA currently does not do enough to ensure bycatch is sufficiently minimized. Some fishing practices catch non-target wildlife including birds, sea turtles and non-targeted fish. We would like you to ensure that the law reduces this wasteful catch.

Coastal businesses and other enterprises that are involved in the ecotourism and outdoor recreational industries are impacted by how the U.S. manages fish populations under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. From tour operators to beachside restaurants, bed and breakfasts to dive



shops, businesses like ours can benefit from a thoughtful bill that advances a big picture approach to fisheries management. Please understand that inclusion of big picture management principles in the next reauthorization of the MSA is critical to our continued economic success.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

**Captain Memo's Pirate Cruise**

Pam Wozencraft, Owner  
Clearwater Beach, FL

**Little Toot Tours**

Clearwater Beach, FL

**Sea Screammers of Clearwater**

Eric Spaulding, Owner  
Clearwater Beach, FL

**Encounters With Dolphins**

William Fineran, Owner  
Clearwater Beach, FL

**Calypso Queen Tours**

Phil Henderson, Owner  
Clearwater Beach, FL

**The Tropics Boat Tours**

Trisha Rodriguez, Owner  
Clearwater Beach, FL

**MEGA BITE Tour Boat**

Derrick and Darrel Lombardi, Owners  
Clearwater Beach, FL

**Kai Lani Catamaran**

Mike Judge, Owner  
Clearwater Beach, FL

**ParrotDise Express Boat Tours**

Jeff Gearheart  
Dunedin, FL

**Chute Em Up Parasail**

Caleb Mcclymont, Manager  
Clearwater Beach, FL

**Tampa Bay SUP Standup Paddle Boarding & Kayaking**

Kim Ward, Owner  
Safety Harbor, FL

**Carolina Mike's Kayaking Adventures**

Kim Ward  
Safety Harbor, FL

**High Times Parasail and Watersports**

Mark Ketlan, Manager/Owner  
Clearwater Beach, FL

**Around the Bend Nature Tours**

Karen Willey, Owner  
Bradenton, FL

**Parasail City**

Caleb Mcclymount, Owner  
Clearwater Beach, FL

**Riverfront Cruises**

James Cambell, Owner  
Fort Lauderdale, FL

**Jungle Queen Riverboat**

Mike Faber, Owner  
Fort Lauderdale, FL

**Carrie B Cruises**

Steve Thorton, Owner  
Fort Lauderdale, FL

**Riverfront Gondola Tours**

Captain's Roy and Lauralee Conklin  
Fort Lauderdale, FL

**Sea Life Kayak Adventures**

Tom McFarland, Owner  
Sarasota, FL

**Island Time Charter**

Captain Chet Soltak  
Sarasota, FL

**Atlantic Coast Kayak Company**

Kenneth A Myers  
Wilton Manors, FL

**Carmen's Kayaks**

Carmen Driscoll  
Pine Island, FL

**FunDay Tours**

Barbara Schenck  
Cocoa Beach, FL

**Motorized Kayak Adventures**

Bill Gibson  
Fort Pierce, FL

**Paddle Florida, Inc.**

Bill Richards  
Gainesville, FL

**South Florida Underwater Photographic Society**

Sam Hodge  
Fort Lauderdale, FL

cc: Members of the House Natural Resources Committee

December 7, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

We operate and represent businesses that cater to clients who value the health of our waters and the wildlife it sustains. The ecotourism industry in New Jersey is not only vital to our local economies, it is robust — for example, ecotourism in Cape May County alone represents a \$544 million industry. And, these benefits extend far beyond our coastal waters to include the major rivers and estuaries which serve as the spawning areas for species such as sturgeon and shad.

Ensuring sustainable fish populations and conserving marine resources are important to us and our customers.

As Congress considers the next reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), we request your leadership to ensure it is updated to advance a big picture approach, which will better protect our natural resources and the economies that depend on them.

MSA is forty years old, and since its enactment we've learned more about how best to maintain productive ecosystems. MSA can be improved to help managers fully utilize the knowledge we have today and account for the big picture when making management decisions. This means conserving forage (or bait) fish, which is what other fish and wildlife eat, protecting where fish live (habitat), and reducing wasteful catch (bycatch), in addition to other priority actions.

Bait fish form an essential link in the marine food webs and are necessary to ensure healthy fisheries and oceans, but the MSA does not guarantee conservation measures that account for this critical role. The law should be updated to conserve these important fish.

Additionally, ensuring healthy fish habitats is a critical component of sustainable fisheries management. It is important to address the impacts of certain types of fishing and other activities, such as pollution, in order to conserve habitats for fish. Therefore, the MSA needs to include greater protections of essential habitats, such as deep sea corals and other spawning sites that fish need for reproduction, shelter, and growth.

People come to us because they want to see wildlife, but the MSA currently does not do enough to ensure bycatch is sufficiently minimized. Some fishing practices catch non-target wildlife including

birds, sea turtles and non-targeted fish. We would like you to ensure that the law reduces this wasteful catch.

Coastal and river-based businesses and other enterprises that are involved in the ecotourism industry are impacted by how the U.S. manages fish populations under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. From tour operators to beachside restaurants, bed-and-breakfasts to dive shops, businesses like ours can benefit from a thoughtful bill that advances a big picture approach to fisheries management. Please understand that inclusion of big picture management principles in the next reauthorization of the MSA is critical to our continued economic success.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

**Bend The Rod and Island Girl Charters**

Scott Krawiec, Owner  
Cape May, NJ

**Bike Lambertville**

Lloyd Davis, Chairman  
Lambertville, NJ

**Center for Aquatic Sciences at Adventure Aquarium**

Brian DuVall, President & CEO  
Camden, NJ

**Delaware River Towns Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau**

Glenn Davis, President & David Morgan,  
Executive Director  
Lambertville, NJ

**Frenchtown Business & Professional Association**

Molly Sumridge, President  
Frenchtown, NJ

**Greater Newark Convention & Visitors Bureau**

Bob Provost, Acting President / CEO  
Newark, NJ

**The Inn at Lambertville Station**

Dan Whitaker, Owner  
Lambertville, NJ

**Jenkinson's Aquarium**

Cindy Claus, Director  
Point Pleasant Beach, NJ

**NJ Campground Owners Association**

Joann DeVescio, Executive Director  
Marmora, NJ

**Pequest Valley Farms**

Richard Vohden, Owner  
Andover, NJ

**Pinelands Adventures**

Rob Ferber, Director  
Shamong, NJ

**Pure Energy Cycling**

Arounkone Sananikone, Owner  
Lambertville, NJ

cc: Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources



The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

October 30, 2017

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

On behalf of our more than 20,000 members and more than 60,000 supporters, Environment New Jersey strongly urges you to oppose any legislation, including H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, that would undermine the conservation provisions of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Stevens Act). Our members rely on healthy, abundant fish populations, especially of menhaden and any legislation that would weaken their management should not move forward in this Congress.

H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would increase the risk of overfishing and threaten the progress we've made on rebuilding vulnerable fish populations. They would undermine years of strong science-based management that is helping stabilize fishing businesses and coastal communities.

These bills would extend the timelines for plans to rebuild vulnerable fish populations, delaying when fishermen would benefit from a fully healthy stock. They would exempt fish populations from the use of science-based annual catch limits designed to prevent overfishing. The Magnuson-Stevens Act is helping to end fishing at unsustainable rates and put menhaden on the road to recovery. The signs of success for menhaden—more and bigger fish dispersed throughout a broader range—are evidence that strong fisheries management can work.

Good fisheries management is important for the long-term ecological health of New Jersey's recreational and commercial fishing industry, as well as being a strong engine for our Shore tourism economy. We need a strong regional program – we cannot do this on the state level alone. We also need to ensure that not only we accrue the long-term benefits of a strong fisheries

program, but also we put faith in the program that has proven successful as possible and bases ecological health on sound science and peer-reviewed analysis.

Environment New Jersey urges you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, and any other legislation that would undermine the conservation requirements that have been critical to the success of the Magnuson Stevens Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug O'Malley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".

Doug O'Malley  
Environment New Jersey Director  
Trenton, NJ

# Environmental Justice

environmentaljustice.org | 2633 64<sup>th</sup> Ave Oakland, CA 94605 | (415) 283-7957

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop, Chairman  
The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva, Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

Environmental Justice strongly urges you to oppose any legislation, including H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, that would undermine the conservation provisions of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Stevens Act). Our members rely on healthy, abundant fish populations, especially of regionally important fish and any legislation that would weaken their management should not move forward in this Congress.

H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would increase the risk of overfishing and threaten the progress we've made on rebuilding vulnerable fish populations. They would undermine years of strong science-based management that is helping stabilize fishing businesses and coastal communities.

These bills would extend the timelines for plans to rebuild vulnerable fish populations, delaying when fishermen would benefit from a fully healthy stock. They would exempt fish populations from the use of science-based annual catch limits designed to prevent overfishing. The Magnuson-Stevens Act is helping to end fishing at unsustainable rates and put local species on the road to recovery. The signs of success for local species—more and bigger fish dispersed throughout a broader range—are evidence that strong fisheries management can work.

Environmental Justice urges you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, and any other legislation that would undermine the conservation requirements that have been critical to the success of the Magnuson Stevens Act.

Sincerely,



Jose Chesmore  
Director of Communications  
Environmental Justice

December 7, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

As Gulf of Mexico commercial fishermen, charter-for-hire business owners, seafood distributors and restaurant owners we oppose any legislation or congressional action that would undercut fishery conservation measures essential to our region's coastal economies. We are particularly concerned about H.R. 200, H.R. 2023 and H.R. 3588. These bills include harmful provisions that would reverse the progress made in rebuilding red snapper and hinder efforts to ensure fisheries management is grounded in strong science and accountability.

Specifically, we are most concerned with:

- Weakening the application of the Magnuson Stevens Act's national conservation and management standards for red snapper and other fish caught in the Gulf of Mexico. (H.R. 200, H.R. 2023 and H.R. 3588)
- Repealing the legal requirement for separate quotas for commercial and recreational fisheries and specific management action when catch limits are reached. (H.R. 2023 and 3588)
- Extension of state maritime boundaries. Recent proposals to expand boundaries for recreational fishing, including one based on depth or distance, have not been analyzed for their effects on conservation, management, and enforcement. We are concerned that such changes would harm red snapper's rebuilding progress and affect our fishing livelihoods. (H.R. 200 and H.R. 3588)
- Provisions that would limit and interfere with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's ability to develop and implement management programs supported by fishery participants to meet their needs, including rationalization.. (H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023)

These proposals could put red snapper's rebuilding at risk, take away fish from our charter clients and restaurant patrons and jeopardize our seafood supply chain. The Magnuson-Stevens Act is helping to end fishing at unsustainable rates. The signs of success for Gulf red snapper—more plentiful and bigger fish dispersed throughout a broader range—are evidence that the federal law works.

We strongly urge you to oppose any federal legislation that threatens red snapper's progress, puts our species at risk of overfishing, and denies us the economic benefits of a healthy population.

Sincerely,



David Walker  
Captain  
Walker Fishing Fleet, Inc.  
Andalusia, AL

Brian Swindle  
Capt/Owner/Operator  
Charterboat Deliverance  
Dauphin Island, AL

John Zukley  
Owner  
Miss Patti's Seafood, LLC  
Dauphin Island, AL

Susan Boggs  
Owner  
Reel Surprise Charters  
Orange Beach, AL

Tom Ard  
Owner  
Fairwater Charters  
Orange Beach, AL

Aaron D Mays  
Owner  
Good Times Charters, Inc.  
Beverly Hills, FL

Jillian Price  
Pier 22 Restaurant  
Brandenton, FL

Johnny McKinney  
J & J Barbeque  
Bradenton, FL

Michael Amers  
Popi's Place Greek Restaurant  
Bradenton, FL

Tony Tear  
Thai Wasabi Sushi Bar  
Bradenton, FL

Brad Gorst  
Owner, Captain  
Gulfstream Fishing Charters  
Clearwater, FL

Chad Haggert  
Double Eagle Headboat and Charters  
Clearwater, FL

Dave Stillwell  
Commercial Vessel Owner  
Clearwater, FL

Eric Spaulding  
Queen Fleet Headboat and Charters  
Clearwater, FL

Erin Grebenev  
Wild Seafood Company  
Clearwater, FL

Ian Schook  
Frenchy's Wholesale Seafood  
Clearwater, FL

Jesse Mayer  
Charter Captain  
Clearwater, FL

Mark Bryant  
Fisherman  
Tom Cat 2 Charters  
Clearwater, FL

Mike Colby  
Charter Captain  
Clearwater, FL

Richard B. Gorst  
Captain/Manager  
Gulfstream Fishing Vessels inc.  
Clearwater, FL

Steve Benell  
Owner/Operator  
Scales N Tails Charters  
Clearwater, FL

Steve Maisel  
Commercial Vessel Owner  
Clearwater, FL

Tommy Schook  
Frenzy's Seafood Restaurants  
Clearwater, FL

Tyler Larrine  
Seafood Distributor  
Clearwater, FL

Glen Brooks  
Commercial Vessel Owner  
Cortez, FL

Jessi Reed  
Commercial Captain  
Cortez, FL

Thomas Danby  
Commercial Captain  
Cortez, FL

Jim Green  
Captain  
Party Boat American Spirit  
Destin, FL

Sixty East Italian Cucina  
Ellenton, FL

Jeff Tilley  
Paradise Fisheries  
Englewood, FL

Ralph Andrew  
Owner  
Raft Inc.  
Ft Myers, FL

Roger Lemke  
Owner  
FV B&S  
Ft Myers, FL

Nick Ruland  
Owner  
Fishmonger Rest  
Ft Myers Bch, FL

Ralph Hawkins  
Sea Legs Deep Sea Fishing  
Hollywood, FL

Frank Chivas  
President  
Baystar Restaurant Group & Direct Seafoods  
Indian Shores, FL

Michael K. Daniels  
Deck Hand  
Largo, FL

Rick Swager  
Seafood Distributor  
Largo, FL

Robert Carter  
Commercial Captain  
Largo, FL

Ernest Davi  
Commercial Vessel Owner  
Lecanto, FL

Valerie Sirch  
Shareholder  
Lloyd, FL

Russell Underwood  
Captain and Owner of 10 Commercial  
Fishing vessels  
Norman B. Company  
Lynn Haven, FL

Brian Lewis  
Commercial Vessel Owner  
Madeira Beach, FL

Dean Pruitt  
Commercial Vessel Owner  
Madeira Beach, FL

Tom Kane  
Charter Captain  
Madeira Beach, FL

Jason Delacruz  
CEO  
Wild Seafood Co.  
Maderia Beach, FL

Kellen Ankeum  
Charter Captain  
Maderia Beach, FL

Scott Childress  
G & S Fishing, LLC  
New Port Richey, FL

William Ward  
Captain's Finest Seafood, Inc.  
Palmetto, FL

Lisa Leatherberry Schmidt  
Owner  
Bohica Fishing Inc.  
Palm Harbor, FL

Donald Chumney  
Captain/ Owner  
Fishing Vessel Diane  
Palmetto, FL

Kyle Brinkley  
The Clam House  
Palmetto, FL

Billy Archer  
Captain  
Seminole Wind/Charterfisherman Assoc.  
Panama City, FL

Jerry C Anderson  
100 Ton Licensed Captain  
Anderson Brothers Deep Sea Fishing, Inc.  
Panama City, FL

Jessica Harris  
Panama City, FL

John T. Harris  
Fisherman  
F/V St. Andrew Bay - Challenger Inc.  
Panama City, FL

Rick and Dea Gullet  
Gulley's Seafood  
Parrish, FL

Larry Huntley  
Commercial Vessel Owner  
Pensacola, FL

Larry T. Huntley  
Commercial Fisherman and  
Red Snapper IFQ Holder  
Luke's Fishing Company  
Pensacola, FL

Daniel Henderson  
Seafood Distributor  
Pinellas Park, FL

Keith Brandy  
Commercial Captain  
Pinellas Park, FL

Jay Lucas  
Commercial Captain  
Port Charlotte, FL

J.T. Junwu Zhao  
Yummy House China Bistro  
Sarasota, FL

Alex Slattery  
Commercial Captain  
Seminole, FL

Charles Drew  
Commercial Captain  
Semilnole, FL

Joe Tessa  
Commercial Captain  
Semilnole, FL

John Lucas  
Seafood Distributor  
Semilnole, FL

Kenneth Keen  
Charter Captain  
Semilnole, FL

Nick Carter  
Commercial Captain  
Semilnole, FL

Edward Maccini  
Owner  
F/V J.U.M.A.  
Seminole, FL

Viroon Charaenmity  
Osaka Sushi and Thai Restaurant  
Seminole, FL

Clyde and JoAnn Daughtry  
Owners  
Dealers Choice  
Sopchoppy/Carrabelle, FL

Jim Clements  
Commercial Fisherman  
Nome  
St. Pete, FL

Adam Wintrich  
Sea Porch Café at the Don Cesar Resort  
St. Pete Beach, FL

Jerry Rice  
Kissin' Cuzzins  
St. Pete, FL

Boone Trien  
Siam Garden's Thai Restaurant  
St. Petersburg, FL

Dan Harvey  
Harvey's 4th St. Grill  
St. Petersburg, FL

Jillian Lund Fer  
Chattaway Grill  
St. Petersburg, FL

James Zurbrick  
Owner, Tides Up Fisheries LLC  
President, Fish For America USA  
Steinhatchee, FL

Paul Reeves  
Owner  
Reeves Fishing Inc.  
Steinhatchee, FL

Casey Gonzmart  
The Columbia Restaurant  
Tampa, FL

Eric Lackey  
Ulele Restaurant  
Tampa, FL

Brad Kenyon  
Vice President  
Florida Family Fisheries  
Tarpon Springs, FL

Dawn Kenyon  
President  
Florida Family Fisheries  
Tarpon Springs, FL

Mark Kilgore  
Dolphin Deep Sea Fishing-Captain  
Tarpon Springs, FL

cc: Members of the House Natural Resources Committee

November 13, 2017

Dear Member of Congress,

We, the undersigned West Coast commercial fishermen, charter boat captains, fishing guides, and seafood distributors oppose federal fishery management legislation that would hurt our businesses and weaken the conservation and stewardship of Pacific Ocean fisheries. Specifically we urge you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, legislation introduced in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress that would undermine the conservation provisions of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

**H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023** would undo years of progress in U.S. fisheries management by exempting fish species from science-based annual catch limits and delaying the rebuilding of overfished populations. Catch limits and rebuilding plans authorized under the Act work to prevent overfishing and to allow fish populations that have been overfished to rebound to healthy levels. These provisions help to stabilize fishing businesses and coastal communities and should not be weakened.

Rebuilding timelines have been especially vital to the recovery of West Coast groundfish populations, the collapse of which led to a fishery disaster declaration as recently as 2000. After more than a decade of successful rebuilding efforts, West Coast groundfish stocks are now greatly improved. The changes proposed in both H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would make success stories such as this far less likely.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act is helping to improve the sustainability of America's fisheries. Here on the West Coast, regional managers acted decisively in the early 2000's and set 10 species of groundfish on the road to recovery. Seven of these have been rebuilt as of June 2017, some of them years ahead of schedule. These signs of success for groundfish in particular—more and bigger fish dispersed throughout a broader range, allowing for a revitalized fishery off the West Coast – are evidence that the law works to prevent and reverse overfishing, rebuild vulnerable fish stocks, and keep fishermen on the water for the long term.

We urge you to oppose H.R. 200, H.R. 2023, and any other legislation which would undermine successful conservation tools in the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Sincerely,

Christian Resetarits  
Owner  
Charity Fisheries inc.  
Anchorage, Alaska

Kelly Stier  
Fisherman, 25 years in Bristol Bay  
F/V Honey Badger, Loki Ent. Inc.  
Anchorage, Alaska

Kent Anderson  
Owner  
Alaska Salmon Camp Inc.  
Bristol Bay, Alaska

Matt Luck  
Owner/Fisherman  
Pride of Bristol Bay  
Bristol Bay, Alaska

Larry Christensen  
Captain, Owner (43rd year)  
F/V LYRA  
Bristol Bay, Alaska

Konrad Schaad  
Commercial Fisherman  
F/V Skua  
Homer, Alaska

Tristan Pettigrew  
Commercial Fisherman  
Pettigrew & Sons LLC  
Naknek, Alaska

Dick Ogg  
Commercial Fisherman  
F/V Karen Jeanne  
Bodega Bay, California

Shane Yellen  
Angler  
Carslbad, California

Andrea Linton  
Manager, Natural Products Division  
Crown Prince  
City of Industry, California

John Bearden  
Commercial Fisherman  
F/V Stormy II  
Crescent City, California

Bob Borck  
Commercial Fisherman  
F/V Belle J II  
Eureka, California

Dave Bitts  
Commercial Fisherman  
F/V Elmarue  
Eureka, California

Vivian Helliwell  
Commercial Fisherman  
F/V Corregidor  
Eureka, California

David Helliwell  
Commercial Fisherman  
F/V Corregidor  
Eureka, California

Jake McMaster  
Commercial Fisherman  
F/V Captain Banjo  
Eureka, California

Kurt Henry  
Commercial Fisherman  
F/V Mary C  
Eureka, California

Jerry Laugh  
Commercial Fisherman  
F/V Mary C  
Eureka, California

Harrison Ibach  
Commercial Fisherman  
F/V Oceana  
Eureka, California

Jim Bishop  
Commercial Fisherman  
F/V Rubicon  
Eureka, California

Scott Crebs  
Commercial Fisherman  
F/V Calypso  
Eureka, California

Ken Bates  
Commercial Fisherman  
F/V Ironic  
Eureka, California

Don Marshall  
President  
Small Boat Commercial Salmon  
Fishermen's Association  
Half Moon Bay, California

Michael Gilmour  
Angler  
Huntington Beach, California

Rick Evans  
Salesman  
Ocean Imports  
Huntington Beach, California

Don Orr  
Owner  
iVenture  
Huntington Beach, California

Sally L. Kurz  
Laguna Niguel, California

Jeffrey Morris  
Angler  
Lake Arrowhead, California

Dan Silver, MD  
Executive Director  
Endangered Habitats League  
Los Angeles, California

Keith Jones  
Recreational Angler  
Los Angeles, California

Alan Lovewell  
CEO, Cofounder  
Real Good Fish  
Moss Landing, California

Claire S. Chambers  
Murrieta, California

Robert Ortiz  
Angler  
Novato, California

David Ackerman  
President  
Gold Country Fly Fishers  
Novato, California

Maureen O'Neal  
Angler  
Portland, California

Kim McAlister  
Angler  
San Diego, California

Larry Collins  
President  
San Francisco Crab Boat Owners Association  
San Francisco, California

Barbara Emley  
Commercial Fisherman  
F/V Autumn Gale  
San Francisco, California

Jason Blower  
Office Manager  
Pioneer Pacing  
Santa Ana, California

Mike McCorkle  
President  
Southern California Trawlers Association  
Santa Barbara, California

Bob Ciapponi  
President  
Bogner Sheet Metal  
Santa Cruz, California

Ralph Carrasco  
Sports Fisherman  
Coastside Fishing Club & Monterey  
Bay Salmon and Trout Proj  
Santa Cruz, California

David A. Hodges  
Sport Fisherman, Retired  
Santa Rosa, California

Martin Firestein  
Angler  
Studio City , California

Pat Abel  
Pat Abel's Guide Service  
Tillamook, California

Donald Tippie  
Angler  
Torrance, California

Bob Heitzman  
Commercial Fisherman  
F/V Jumpin' Jack  
Trinidad, California

Taran White  
Commercial Fisherman  
F/V Thunder and F/V Tectonic  
Sandpoint, Idaho

Corey Boone  
Commercial Fisherman  
F/V Bracor Bay  
Missoula , Montana

Jerre Munson  
Owner  
Takin' Line Guide Service  
Carlton, Oregon

Tom Hester  
Owner  
Poulsen Cascade Tackle, LLC  
Clackamas, Oregon

Annie Pollard  
Owner  
7 Devils Brewing Co.  
Coos Bay, Oregon

Chris Daughters  
Owner  
The Caddis Fly Angling Shop  
Eugene, Oregon

Dale Ballard  
Owner  
Fin Reaper Guide Service  
Mollala, Oregon

Abigail DeYoung  
Guide  
Northwest Ecotours  
Newport, Oregon



George Krumm  
Angler  
Oregon City, Oregon

Lyf Gildersleeve  
Owner  
Flying Fish Seafood Company,  
Oyster Bar and Meat Monger  
Portland , Oregon

Jo-Ann Kosek  
President/Owner  
Natural Sales NW  
Portland , Oregon

Kevin Newell  
Guide  
Total Fisherman Guide Service  
Portland , Oregon

Phil Pirone  
President  
Pro-Cure Inc.  
Salem, Oregon

Jeff Perin  
Owner  
Fly Fisher's Place  
Sisters , Oregon

John Kirby  
Owner  
Ancient Mariner Guide Service  
Tillamook, Oregon

Bob Rees  
Owner  
Bob Rees' Oregon Fishing Guide Service  
Tillamook, Oregon

Doug Rees  
Owner  
The Guides Forecast  
Tillamook, Oregon

Kent Anderson  
Guide  
Anderson's Outdoors LLC  
Welches, Oregon

Brad Staples  
Owner  
Western Fishing Adventures Ltd.  
West Linn, Oregon

Tim Shelmerdine  
Owner  
Oregon Pelagic Tours  
West Linn, Oregon

Joel La Follette  
Owner  
Royal Treatment Fly Fishing  
West Linn, Oregon

Andrea Felan  
San Antonio, Texas

Brad Throssell  
Angler  
Bellevue, Washington

Riley Starks  
Owner  
Lummi Island Wild  
Lummi Island, Washington

Amanda Grondin  
Owner/Operator  
Duna Fisheries LLC  
Port Townsend, Washington

Greg Friedrichs  
Owner/Operator  
F/V Duna  
Port Townsend, Washington

Peter Knutson  
Owner  
Loki Fish Company  
Seattle, Washington

Gary Smith  
Angler  
Redmond, Washington

Robert Alverson  
Manager  
Fishing Vessel Owners' Association  
Seattle, Washington

Mark Titus  
Owner  
The Breach/The Wild  
Seattle, Washington

Dave McCoy  
Owner  
Emerald Water Anglers  
Seattle, Washington

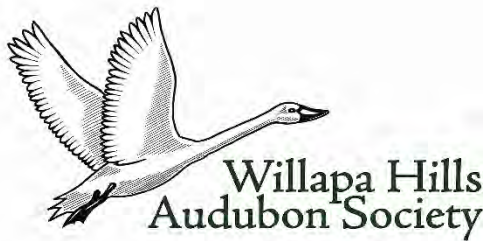
Jason Rolfe  
Angler  
Emerald Water Anglers  
Seattle, Washington

Susanna Schultz  
Marketing Director  
Central Co-op  
Seattle, Washington

Jim Riggle  
Commercial Fisherman  
F/V Beast Mode  
Seattle, Washington

Trudy Bialic  
Director of Public Affairs  
PCC Natural Markets  
Seattle, Washington

Sam Lincoln  
Angler  
Emerald Water Anglers  
Seattle, Washington



P.O. Box 399  
Longview, WA 98632

Congressman Rob Bishop  
Chairman, Natural Resources Committee  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Congressman Raul Grijalva  
Ranking Member, Natural Resources Committee  
1511 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

Willapa Hills Audubon Society's (WHAS) mission is to support ecologically responsible ways of life, to help maintain biologically diverse habitats, and to promote environmental understanding and enjoyment of nature. In 2015 and 2016 we wrote to ask you to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Management Act (MSA), the nation's preeminent fisheries management law. Today, we write to ask you to strongly oppose legislation that would undermine the MSA.

Specifically, we urge you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, which would weaken the management of fisheries across the country. These two bills would increase the risk of overfishing and threaten the progress we've made rebuilding vulnerable fish populations. They would undo years of strong science-based management that is helping stabilize fishing businesses and coastal communities.

H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would extend the timelines for plans to rebuild at-risk fish populations, delaying when fishermen would benefit from a fully healthy stock. They also would exempt many fish populations from science-based annual catch limits designed to prevent overfishing. H.R. 2023 in particular would allow this exemption for the substantial majority of managed fish populations.

For 40 years, the MSA has helped end fishing at unsustainable rates and has put a variety of local species on the road to recovery. Here on the West Coast, for instance, seven species of ground fish have been rebuilt years ahead of schedule because of the MSA — strong evidence that fisheries management can work.

With today's technology and science, we thankfully know much more about fish populations and the ecosystems they inhabit than we did in 1976 when the MSA was enacted. The science-based provisions of the MSA have meant that forage fish such as herring, smelt, saury, sand lance, and krill have the potential to rebound. That's good news since these tiny schooling fish form a critical link in the marine food chain, providing an energy-rich food source for larger fish such as salmon; marine birds such as marbled murre-

lets, tufted puffins, western grebes, and surf scoters; and marine mammals such as harbor porpoises. Even Orca whales rely on forage fish since they support salmon, which in turn are food for whales. The MSA isn't just about protecting fish — it's about protecting a range of wildlife up the food chain as well.

With your leadership, the MSA will not be threatened by H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023. By supporting strong, science-based policies and upholding essential conservation provisions in the MSA, you can ensure that the nation will manage its fisheries for the greatest benefit of all, including future generations. Healthy coastal areas, habitats, and fisheries are so critical to the Washington State economy and our way of life. Our marine ecosystem, including forage fish, is threatened by overfishing, habitat destruction, warming ocean waters, and countless other stressors and need protection now.

**We urge you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 and any other legislation that threatens the MSA's big-picture, science-based approach to managing our nation's marine and fish populations.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlotte C. Persons". The ink is dark and the signature is written in a fluid, connected style.

Charlotte C. Persons  
Conservation Committee



# Wild Fish Conservancy

N O R T H W E S T

S C I E N C E   E D U C A T I O N   A D V O C A C Y

November 9, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

On behalf of our 226 active members, Wild Fish Conservancy strongly urges you to oppose any legislation, including H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, that would undermine the conservation provisions of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Stevens Act). Our members rely on healthy, abundant fish populations, especially of wild Pacific salmon, and numerous ground fish species including rockfish, Pacific halibut, Pacific cod, and sablefish. Any legislation that would weaken their management should not move forward in this Congress.

H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would increase the risk of overfishing and threaten the progress we've made on rebuilding vulnerable fish populations. They would undermine years of strong science-based management that is helping stabilize fishing businesses and coastal communities.

These bills would extend the timelines for plans to rebuild vulnerable fish populations, delaying when fishermen would benefit from a fully healthy stock. They would exempt fish populations from the use of science-based annual catch limits designed to prevent overfishing. The Magnuson-Stevens Act is helping to end fishing at unsustainable rates and put species such as numerous depressed and ESA-listed west coast rockfish on the road to recovery. The signs of success for many west coast rockfish species - more and bigger fish dispersed throughout a broader range—are evidence that strong fisheries management can work.

Wild Fish Conservancy advocates for scientifically sound and risk-averse management of native freshwater and marine fishes and the ecosystems on which they depend. The benefits of sustainable fisheries to present and future generations of local communities and society at large critically depend on independent scientific stock analysis and advice based firmly on the precautionary approach. H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would significantly weaken current provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) that incorporate many of the principles of the precautionary approach that are essential to prevent overfishing and secure the prompt, timely rebuilding of overfished stocks to robust sustainable levels of abundance and diversity that are essential to enabling fish stocks to persist in the face of challenges from rapidly changing environments. Both pieces of proposed legislation are ill-considered and would fail to further the fundamental purposes of the MSA.

Wild Fish Conservancy urges you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, and any other legislation that would undermine the conservation requirements that have been critical to the success of the Magnuson Stevens Act.

Sincerely,

Kurt Beardslee  
Executive Director  
Wild Fish Conservancy



December 7, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

Washington Wildlife Federation has a long history of bringing together conservation-minded hunters, fishers and outdoor enthusiasts to advocate for state and federal policies that ensure healthy fish and wildlife populations for future generations. We believe a balanced and healthy marine ecosystem benefits all of us who live in the Pacific Northwest. That's why we are writing you today.

We're concerned that H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 and other bills in the pipeline would significantly undermine the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the primary law governing management of U.S. ocean fish. We strongly urge you to oppose these bills.

H.R. 200 and 2023 would increase the risk of overfishing and undermine years of strong science-based management helping stabilize fishing businesses and coastal communities. These bills would extend the timelines for plans to rebuild vulnerable fish populations, delaying when fishermen would benefit from a fully healthy stock. They also would exempt many fish populations from science-based annual catch limits designed to prevent overfishing.

For 40 years, the MSA has helped end fishing at unsustainable rates and has put a variety of species on the road to recovery. Across the country, 43 fish populations have been rebuilt since 2000, and the number of stocks subject to overfishing has decreased by nearly two-thirds. Here on the West Coast, seven species of ground fish have been rebuilt years ahead of schedule because of the MSA. We also have the MSA to thank for healthier populations of Coho salmon on the Washington coast in Queets and the Western Strait of Juan de Fuca. That's news to celebrate here in the Pacific Northwest, fondly known as Salmon Nation.



Without sustainable fish populations, we cannot guarantee healthy fish populations for future generations. Policymakers must shift to big-picture fisheries management to enhance the productivity of our oceans, and reject efforts to undermine the law's conservation measures. Our oceans and people like me depend on it.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Mark Quinn  
Vice President



December 7, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

On behalf of our members, LEAF (Leaders for Environmental Studies at Fairfield University) strongly urges you to oppose any legislation, including H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, that would undermine the conservation provisions of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Stevens Act). Our organization focuses on ensuring that the Connecticut marine ecosystem is well managed. This means relying on healthy, abundant fish populations, from the small forge fish to their bigger predator, the Black Sea Bass. Any legislation that would weaken the Connecticut marine ecosystem management should not move forward in this Congress, and H.R. 200 % H.R. 2023 would do just that.

H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would increase the risk of overfishing and threaten the progress we've made on rebuilding vulnerable fish populations. They would undermine years of strong science-based management that is helping stabilize fishing businesses and coastal communities.

These bills would extend the timelines for plans to rebuild vulnerable fish populations, delaying when fishermen would benefit from a fully healthy stock. They would exempt fish populations from the use of science-based annual catch limits designed to prevent overfishing. The Magnuson-Stevens Act is helping to end fishing at unsustainable rates and put Black Sea Bass on the road to recovery. The signs of success in for Black Sea Bass—more and bigger fish dispersed throughout a broader range—are evidence that strong fisheries management can work.

As an University located on the Long Island Sound, the health of our oceans and fisheries are important issues for us. The past few years has seen many of our members speak out on the threats to our oceans and fisheries. As a result we urge you to oppose legislation such as H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023. These bills would pose a threat to success and progress we have made in rebuilding our fish stocks in the Long Island Sound. the unstable fishing practices (firm overfishing limits) that the Magnuson - Stevens Act is mitigating, are the reasons why the health of our fisheries are improving. Please do not jeopardize this.

The LEAF urges you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, and any other legislation that would undermine the conservation requirements that have been critical to the success of the Magnuson Stevens Act.

Sincerely,

Haleigh Doherty

LEAF President





New Jersey Audubon

Government Relations

172 W State Street • Trenton, New Jersey 08608 • (609) 392-1182

December 8, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

New Jersey Audubon strongly urges you to oppose any legislation, including H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, that would undermine the conservation provisions of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Stevens Act).

New Jersey Audubon is a privately supported nonprofit, statewide membership organization with over 18,000 members. Founded in 1897 and one of the oldest Audubon societies, NJA is independent from National Audubon Society and has a mission of connecting people with nature and stewarding the nature of today for the people of tomorrow. NJA is committed to the preservation of natural habitats and the protection of birds, mammals, and other animals and plants, especially threatened and endangered species.

Shorebirds rely on healthy, abundant fish populations and any legislation that would weaken management should not move forward in this Congress. H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would increase the risk of overfishing and threaten the progress we've made on rebuilding vulnerable fish populations, particularly the Atlantic Menhaden, by extending the timelines for plans to rebuild vulnerable fish populations, delaying when fishermen would benefit from a fully healthy stock. Additionally, they would exempt fish populations from the use of science-based annual catch limits designed to prevent overfishing.

Osprey, listed as threatened in New Jersey (breeding population), depends heavily on this small, energy-rich fish that plays an important role in the marine food web. A 2009 study investigating diet composition in the Chesapeake Bay found that menhaden represented less than 24 percent of the diet of ospreys in Mobjack Bay, compared to more than 70 percent in the 1980s due to the menhaden population decline. The population decrease of energy-rich Atlantic Menhaden has also resulted in reduced survival to fledging.

Menhaden's role as sustenance for New Jersey's birds contributes significant economic and ecological value to the Atlantic coast. According to *Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis: Addendum to the 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation* (amended July 2009), birdwatchers generated a total of \$82 billion with an additional \$11 billion in local, state and federal tax dollars that year. Birdwatching, along with other business activities dependent on the availability of menhaden, expands economic opportunities for coastal communities throughout New Jersey. H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would undermine years of strong science-based management that is helping stabilize fishing businesses and coastal communities.



**New Jersey Audubon**

*Government Relations*

172 W State Street • Trenton, New Jersey 08608 • (609) 392-1182

The Magnuson-Stevens Act is helping to end fishing at unsustainable rates and put forage fish on the road to recovery. The signs of success for more and bigger fish dispersed throughout a broader range are evidence that strong fisheries management can work.

New Jersey Audubon urges you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, and any other legislation that would undermine the conservation requirements that have been critical to the success of the Magnuson Stevens Act. You can contact Kelly Mooij, Vice President of Government Relations for New Jersey Audubon, at 609-400-3842 or [kelly.mooij@njaudubon.org](mailto:kelly.mooij@njaudubon.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Kelly Mooij  
Vice President, Government Relations  
New Jersey Audubon



October 27, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

On behalf of our 19,272 members, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network strongly urges you to oppose any legislation, including H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, that would undermine the conservation provisions of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Stevens Act). Our members rely on healthy, abundant fish populations, especially of Atlantic sturgeon, American shad and striped bass and any legislation that would weaken their management should not move forward in this Congress.

H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would increase the risk of overfishing and threaten the progress we've made on rebuilding vulnerable fish populations. They would undermine years of strong science-based management that is helping stabilize fishing businesses and coastal communities.

These bills would extend the timelines for plans to rebuild vulnerable fish populations, delaying when fishermen would benefit from a fully healthy stock. They would exempt fish populations from the use of science-based annual catch limits designed to prevent overfishing. The Magnuson-Stevens Act is helping to end fishing at unsustainable rates and put the sturgeon, shad and striped bass on the road to recovery. The signs of success for these and bigger fish dispersed throughout a broader range—are evidence that strong fisheries management can work.

The protections that the Magnuson Stevens Acts provide result in jobs and economic stability through licensing and tourism. It has been determined that in the Upper Delaware alone, wild trout fishing resulted in \$17.69 million for local business revenue in 1996, that there was \$7.25 million of spending by anglers in Delaware County, New York alone, and that about 41% of this spending remained in the local communities surrounding the tail water fisheries area (Hancock, Deposit, Walton, and Village of Downsville). The cycling of this 41% of angler expenditures in the region ultimately results in \$29.98 million in local economic activity. Research has also shown that revenues generated by anglers in this region supported 348 jobs with total wages of \$3.65 million; and provided \$719,350 in local taxes. Other research has shown that multiple towns in the New York reaches of the Delaware River Watershed are benefiting from the clean water and resulting healthy fish populations found in tributary streams.

DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK  
925 Canal Street, Suite 3701  
Bristol, PA 19007  
Office: (215) 369-1188  
fax: (215) 369-1181  
drm@delawareriverkeeper.org  
www.delawareriverkeeper.org

The Beaverkill and Willowemoc Rivers are credited with providing towns such as Roscoe and Livingston Manor with \$10 million in annual expenditures from their sport fishery. Friends of the Upper Delaware have reported that the world famous upper Delaware River is a dynamic tourism and economic engine that has not yet reached its potential. They estimate that fly-fishing in the region could generate \$58 million per year in economic activity, creating new jobs with virtually no infrastructure or environmental threat, for which there is already a trained work force and where control would remain local.

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network urges you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, and any other legislation that would undermine the conservation requirements that have been critical to the success of the Magnuson Stevens Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maya K. van Rossum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Maya van Rossum  
the Delaware Riverkeeper

September 25, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva

The Mid-Atlantic recreational anglers, charter-for-hire business owners, commercial fishermen, and seafood distributors listed below strongly oppose weakening the the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) and its conservation provisions, as proposed in H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023. For years, the Magnuson-Stevens Act has been working to build healthier fish populations through science-based catch limits and rebuilding plans, leading to more stable businesses and stronger coastal economies. We should not retreat from the provisions that have worked for our region and our communities.

H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 seek to undo years of progress in U.S. fisheries management by undermining the successful conservation provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. These bills would increase the risk of overfishing, and halt progress in rebuilding efforts for depleted fish populations. For example, H.R. 2023 significantly restricts the use of science-based annual catch limits designed to prevent overfishing by making them optional for the vast majority of managed stocks.

Mid-Atlantic black sea bass, bluefish, and scup are important species that support thousands of regional jobs and generate millions of dollars of broad economic benefits to coastal communities. Each one was successfully rebuilt from depleted levels due to the Magnuson-Stevens Act's conservation requirements. The legislative proposals mentioned above could jeopardize those gains and limit progress in rebuilding vulnerable fish populations, which would result in more economic hardships for fishery-related businesses in our region.

We urge you to oppose any effort to undermine the conservation provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, including H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023. The conservation tools established under the Act are critical to ongoing efforts to eliminate overfishing, restore fish populations to healthy levels, and promote improved stability for coastal communities that depend on commercial and recreational fisheries.

cc: Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
NY, NJ, DE, MD, PA, VA and NC Delegations

Rich King,  
Angler & Owner  
Delaware Surf Fishing  
Millsboro, DE

Thomas J Littleton  
New Castle County, DE

Theresa Fitty  
Angler  
Sussex County, DE

Brian Blackburn  
Angler  
New Castle County, DE

Dean Herfindahl  
Angler  
New Castle County, DE

Jerry Bellistri  
Angler  
Sussex County, DE

Tyler O'Neal  
Sales Rep, Winter Equipment  
Smyrna, DE

Janell Kellogg  
Angler  
Sussex County, DE

Kim Bowden  
Angler  
Sussex County, DE

Ken Sharp  
Angler  
New Castle County, DE

Dan Duranko  
Angler  
Sussex County, DE

Neil Guercio  
Angler  
Sussex County, DE

Ed Dobbins  
Angler  
Sussex County, DE

Steven Dalphon  
Angler  
New Castle County, DE

Verity L. Watson  
Angler  
Sussex County, DE

Dominic Prestipino  
Angler  
Sussex County, DE

Joey Furtak  
Angler  
New Castle County, DE

Toni Feldman  
Angler  
Clayton, DE

Susan Brennan  
Angler  
Sussex County, DE

Gordon M. Law  
Business Owner/Angler  
Sussex County, DE

William Buckworth  
Angler  
Sussex County, DE

Sean Erickson  
Angler  
New Castle County, DE

Glenn A. Taylor  
Angler  
New Castle County, DE

Raymond Provost  
Angler  
Dover, DE

Francis Loretangeli  
Angler  
Greenwood, DE

Barry Matus  
Angler  
Delaware Surf Fishing  
Sussex County, DE

Brett Cavanaugh  
Angler  
New Castle County, DE

Steve Johnson  
Angler  
Sussex County, DE

Alex Tkachuk  
Angler  
Dover, DE

Tom Spence  
Angler  
Delaware Mobile Surf Fisherman  
New Castle County, DE

Jeffrey Thompson  
Angler  
Kent County, DE

Mike Swain  
Angler  
Wilmington, DE

Tom Deptula  
Chef  
Sussex County, DE

John Coverly Jr  
Angler  
New Castle County, DE

Bonita MacLean  
Angler  
Sussex County, DE

Josh Dickson  
Angler  
Sussex County, DE

Raymond Provost  
Angler  
Kent County, DE

Linda Rosenberg  
Sussex County, DE

Sarah F Pierce  
New Castle County, DE

Michael Eckert  
Angler  
Milford, DE

Ronald Bowman  
Angler  
Lincoln, DE

William Cubbage  
Angler  
Kent County, DE

Eugene Hansen  
Angler  
Frankford, DE

Roy Miller  
Angler  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Sussex County, DE

John Lamar  
Angler  
Sussex County, DE

Richard J Bennett  
Angler  
Sussex County, DE

Frank Danner  
Fisherman  
Saltwater Fly Anglers of Delaware  
Kent County, DE

Ron Dimaulo  
Angler  
Sussex County, DE

Ed Matarese  
Recreational Angler  
New Castle County, DE

Jennifer Lee Bedell  
COO, Total Outdoor Solutions, LLC  
Sussex County, DE

Robert W Bryan  
Angler  
Sussex County, DE

Ron M Smith  
Angler  
Saltwater Fly Anglers of Delaware  
Sussex County, DE

C Revak  
Sussex County, DE

Steve Selway  
Angler  
Sussex County, DE

Pete Sullivan Delaware  
Angler/Beach and Kayak  
Sussex County, DE

Kathy Herlehy Douglass  
Angler  
New Castle County, DE

Michael K. Towe  
Surf Fisherman  
Delaware Mobile Surffishermen  
New Castle County, DE

Keith Churchill  
Angler  
New Castle County, DE

James Wersinger  
Fisherman  
New Castle County, DE

Mark Chaump  
Angler  
New Castle County, DE

Kristie Thomas  
Angler  
New Castle County, DE

Guy W. Doron III  
Angler  
Doron Contracting LLC  
Smyrna, DE

Bill Courtney  
Angler  
Ocean View, DE

Jason Pennington  
Angler  
New Castle County, DE

Chris Shipp  
Sussex County, DE

Wanda Kucek  
Felton, DE

John Mc Falls  
Recreational Fisherman  
Berlin, MD

Mark Eustis  
Coastal Ecosystems Investigator  
Davidsonville , MD

Charles Boecker  
Angler  
Baltimore County, MD



Molly O'Brien  
Angler  
Brookeville, MD

Anthony Friedrich  
Saltwater Angler  
Eastern Shore, MD

Krista Snyder  
Angler  
Charlestown, MD

Stephen Sirochman  
Angler  
North East, MD

Trey Blackiston  
Angler  
Chestertown, MD

Lew Armistead  
Angler  
Hollywood, MD

Jack Spruill  
Angler  
Spruill Farm Conservation Project  
Roper, NC

Frank Yelverton  
Executive Director  
Cape Fear River Watch  
Wilmington, NC

Paul Dement  
Angler  
Middletown, NJ

John Tully  
Angler  
Member Belmar Fishing Club  
Spring Lake Heights, NJ

Nick Williams  
Angler  
Deputy Mayor Neptune  
Neptune, NJ

Michael Vernick  
Angler  
Ocean, NJ

Michael McGill  
Angler  
Little Silver, NJ

Michael DeLamater  
Angler  
Belmar, NJ

Tom Pizzonia  
Angler/Chef  
Asbury Park, NJ

Don Simonds  
Angler  
Harmony, NJ

Jacob Bishop  
Angler  
Ocean, NJ

Steve Clayton  
Angler  
Ocean, NJ

Chris Siciliano  
Angler  
Ocean, NJ

Melissa Britton  
Angler  
Burlington, NJ

Joe Newton  
Angler  
Willingboro, NJ

Al Franchetta  
Angler  
Millville, NJ

Fred Lentz  
Angler  
Pittsgrove, NJ

Mehdi Bozorgmehy  
Angler  
New York, NY

Kerry Heffernan  
Angler/Chef  
New York, NY

Bryan Goulart  
Angler  
Easthampton, NY

Joel Filner  
Angler  
Salty Flyrodders of NY  
New York, NY

David Blinken  
Angler  
Easthampton, NY

Richard Ruggiero  
Angler  
New York, NY

Ricky Davis  
Angler  
Poughkeepsie, NY

Julius Morton  
Angler  
West Chester, NY

Todd Pride  
Lead Management & Training Coach  
Mid-Atlantic Youth Anglers & Outdoors Prog  
Nottingham, PA

Elizabeth Stoner  
Angler  
Pittsburgh, PA

Dante Accurti, Sr.  
Angler  
Wormleysburg, PA

Dante Accurti, Jr.  
Angler  
Mechanicsburg, PA

Courtney Accurti  
Angler  
Wormleysburg, PA

Michael J.Ferko  
Angler  
Sewickley, PA

Michael A. Ferko  
Angler  
Venetia, PA

Kurt Knaus  
Angler  
Harrisburg, PA

Zachary Bates  
Angler  
Levittown, PA

Grae Buck  
Angler  
Harleysville, PA

Matt Becker  
Angler  
Finleyville, PA

Mike Topping  
Angler  
President, DE River Shad Fishermen's Assoc  
Bethlehem, PA

John Berry  
Angler  
Brd Member, DE River Shad Fishermen's Assoc  
Bethlehem, PA

Shawn Carroll  
Angler  
Chester County, PA

Patricia Morgan  
Angler  
Delaware County, PA

Delos F Page  
Recreational Angler  
Muncy, PA

Ryan Keown  
Angler  
Berks County, PA

Lee T Fulmer  
Angler  
Bechtelsville, PA

Mike Rhodes Surf  
Angler  
Delaware Surf Fishing  
Chester County, PA

David Pcholinski  
Carpenter/Surf Fisherman  
West Mifflin, PA

John Mumper  
Angler  
Union County, PA

Mike Anderson  
Angler  
Chester County, PA

Henry Busby  
Surf Fisherman  
Chester County, PA

Dan Duffy  
Surf Fisherman  
State College, PA

Paul S. Smith  
Angler  
Lebanon, PA

Sharon June  
Angler  
Glen Mills, PA

Grae Buck  
Angler  
Harleysville, PA

Jessica Moldofsky  
Angler  
Harleysville, PA

Maurice Hudson  
Angler  
Broomall, PA

Rachel Roberts  
Angler  
Nottingham, PA

Curt Ashburn  
Angler  
Nottingham, PA

Judy Ashburn  
Angler  
Nottingham, PA

Analyse Gaspich  
Angler  
Palmyra, PA

Tom Best  
Angler  
Philadelphia, PA

John Henning  
Angler  
Lansdale, PA

Curtis W. Tomlin  
Angler & Vice President  
Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association  
Mechanicsville, VA

Thomas A. Miller  
Saltwater Fisherman, Brd Member, Rivers of  
Virginia (FORVA), Legislative Affairs  
Roanoke , VA

Benjamin R. Ferko  
Angler  
Fairfax, VA

John Bello  
Angler  
Asburn, VA



## CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY

October 30, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on National Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Chairman  
Committee on National Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

On behalf of our *more than 930,000* members, Center for Food Safety strongly urges you to oppose any legislation, including H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, that would undermine the conservation provisions of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Stevens Act). Our members rely on healthy, abundant wild fish populations, especially of wild Pacific Salmon and any legislation that would weaken their management should not move forward in this Congress.

H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would increase the risk of overfishing and threaten the progress we've made on rebuilding vulnerable fish populations. They would undermine years of strong science-based management that is helping stabilize fishing businesses and coastal communities.

These bills would extend the timelines for plans to rebuild vulnerable fish populations, delaying when fishermen would benefit from a fully healthy stock. They would exempt fish populations from the use of science-based annual catch limits designed to prevent overfishing. The Magnuson-Stevens Act is helping to end fishing at unsustainable rates and put Salmonids on the road to recovery. The signs of success for Pacific Salmon—more and bigger fish dispersed throughout a broader range—are evidence that strong fisheries management can work.

Strong fisheries management is integral to protecting robust populations of important wild species, like Pacific Salmon, and ensuring a safe, healthy, and sustainable food supply. Wild salmon populations are already at risk from several human activities, in particular the proliferation of intensive ocean-based aquaculture production of industrially-bred and genetically engineered Salmonids. Pollution from these facilities, including the millions of industrial fish that may escape in a single year, can decimate wild species populations, undermining the livelihoods of fishing communities and the agency of consumers seeking healthy, wild-caught salmon for their families.

Center for Food Safety urges you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, and any other legislation that would undermine the conservation requirements that have been critical to the success of the Magnuson Stevens Act.

Sincerely,

Andrew Kimbrell  
Founder & Executive Director  
Center for Food Safety

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November 9, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

On behalf of our members in every part of Washington state, Food Action strongly urges you to oppose any legislation, including H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, that would undermine the conservation provisions of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Stevens Act). Our members rely on healthy, abundant fish populations, especially of salmon and any legislation that would weaken its management should not move forward in this Congress.

H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would increase the risk of overfishing and threaten the progress we've made on rebuilding vulnerable fish populations. They would undermine years of strong science-based management that is helping stabilize fishing businesses and coastal communities.

These bills would extend the timelines for plans to rebuild vulnerable fish populations, delaying when fishermen would benefit from a fully healthy stock. They would exempt fish populations from the use of science-based annual catch limits designed to prevent overfishing. The Magnuson-Stevens Act is helping to end fishing at unsustainable rates and put our salmon on the road to recovery. The signs of success for salmon—more and bigger fish dispersed throughout a broader range—are evidence that strong fisheries management can work.

Healthy fish populations are vital for our fisherman, for our Indian neighbors and for the entire ecosystem. It is also indispensable to a healthy, just and sustainable food system for us all. Natural salmon are an essential component for a truly sustainable Washington - environmentally, culturally and economically. We have an absolute responsibility to hand over to future generations healthy salmon populations

Food Action urges you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, and any other legislation that would undermine the conservation requirements that have been critical to the success of the Magnuson Stevens Act.

Sincerely,

Russ Lehman  
ED, Food Action  
220 2nd Ave S Box 3  
Seattle, WA 98104

October 30, 2017

Cheryl Dahle  
Founder  
Future of Fish



The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of our network of seafood industry entrepreneurs and innovators, Future of Fish strongly urges you to oppose any legislation, including H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, which would undermine the conservation provisions of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Stevens Act). Responsible industry players rely on healthy, abundant fish populations, whose protection discourages bad actors and from over-exploiting the oceans and gaining unfair advantage. Any legislation that would weaken fisheries management **should not** move forward in this Congress.

H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would increase the risk of overfishing and threaten the progress we've made on rebuilding vulnerable fish populations. They would undermine years of strong science-based management that is helping stabilize fishing businesses and coastal communities.

These bills would extend the timelines for plans to rebuild vulnerable fish populations, delaying when fishermen would benefit from a fully healthy stock. They would exempt fish populations from the use of science-based annual catch limits designed to prevent overfishing. The Magnuson-Stevens Act is helping to end fishing at unsustainable rates and put our national fisheries on the road to recovery.

Fisheries protection is good for industry, as it preserves the resource to support marine economies and livelihoods in communities across our coastlines for years to come. Weakening these protections is short sighted and dangerous to our national economic interests.

The Future of Fish urges you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, and any other legislation that would undermine the conservation requirements that have been critical to the success of the Magnuson Stevens Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryl Dahle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cheryl Dahle  
Founder  
Future of Fish

**CITIZENS  
CAMPAIGN**  
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



[www.citizenscampaign.org](http://www.citizenscampaign.org)

□ 225A Main Street • Farmingdale, NY 11735

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□ 744 Broadway • Albany, NY 12207

518-772-1862

□ 733 Delaware Road, Box 140 • Buffalo, NY 14223

716-831-3206

□ 2000 Teall Avenue, Suite #204 • Syracuse, NY 13206

315-472-1339

□ 2404 Whitney Avenue, 2nd Fl. • Hamden, CT 06518

203-821-7050

Empowering Communities, Advocating Solutions.

October 30, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva:

On behalf of Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE), I am writing to respectfully urge you to oppose any efforts to undermine conservation provisions of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Stevens Act). CCE is an 80,000 member, non-profit organization that empowers communities and advocates solutions that protect our shared environment and public health in New York and Connecticut.

CCE strongly urges you to oppose any legislation (including H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023) that would undermine Magnuson Stevens Act. The residents and economy of New York and Connecticut rely on healthy, abundant fish populations, especially in Long Island Sound. The Sound is a critical economic engine for New York and Connecticut, generating more than \$17 billion annually for our regional economy through tourism, commercial fishing, recreational boating and other industries. H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would increase the risk of overfishing and threaten the progress we've made on rebuilding vulnerable fish populations. These bills would undermine years of strong, science-based management that is helping stabilize fishing businesses and coastal communities.

These bills would extend the timelines for plans to rebuild vulnerable fish populations, delaying when fishermen would benefit from a fully healthy stock. They would exempt fish populations from the use of science-based annual catch limits designed to prevent overfishing. The Magnuson-Stevens Act is helping to end fishing at unsustainable rates and put many of our fish species (including striped bass, winter flounder, black sea bass, sea trout and many others) on the road to recovery. These success indicators for many of our native fish species are evidence that strong fisheries management can work.

In conclusion, CCE respectfully urges you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, along with any other legislation that would undermine those conservation requirements that have been critical to the success of the Magnuson Stevens Act.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Esposito

Executive Director



Dear Members of Congress,

The undersigned scientists write to urge you to oppose H.R. 200 and any other legislative efforts that would weaken science-based management of U.S. marine fish populations, so that current and future generations of Americans can enjoy fishing and healthy oceans teeming with fish for years to come.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) is the primary law governing marine fisheries management in U.S. federal waters. Congress passed the original law in 1976 to phase out foreign fishing in U.S. waters and to promote domestic fishing opportunities. In 1996 and 2006, the MSA was amended to strengthen its conservation provisions and ensure scientific advice provided the basis of fishery management decisions. These changes have enabled the United States to become a global leader in well-managed and profitable fisheries, with over 40 domestic fish stocks rebuilt since 2000. Preventing overfishing with science-based sustainable catch limits and timely rebuilding of fish populations that are depleted, as required under the MSA, are fundamental to good management of fishery resources and should be maintained to continue improving the health of our nation's fisheries.

Yet, several pieces of legislation have been introduced this Congress that would unwind science-based conservation of U.S. marine fish populations. Chief among them is H.R. 200, which undermines the cornerstones of MSA's success in a number of ways, including weakening or eliminating science-based management requirements and reducing the quality of science used in management decisions.

First, H.R. 200 will weaken the MSA's successful recovery of depleted fish populations by establishing broad loopholes that effectively eliminate the requirement for managers to set reasonable and scientifically based rebuilding timelines. Decades of fisheries science shows that in order to succeed in rebuilding overfished stocks, managers must implement strong and timely management measures based on sound science.

Second, H.R. 200 would increase the risk of overfishing by removing the requirement for science-based annual catch limits for many species, including some that may be overfished or subject to overfishing. Annual catch limits are vital to the health of fish populations and provide the guardrails to make and keep fisheries sustainable. Removal of these key management tools will hurt our fisheries, our oceans and the U.S. economy.

Third, H.R. 200 undermines crucial environmental laws such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Antiquities Act. It is unacceptable to exempt fishery management plans from the bedrock requirements of NEPA that provide for public participation in management and adequate analysis of decision-making. The

MSA is effective at managing fisheries, but is not designed to achieve broader ocean management objectives, particularly with regard to maintaining the biological integrity of protected species and populations, or protecting special places and ecosystems. These essential laws must continue to preserve marine species and habitats, and to strongly protect our country's marine national monuments, i.e., our nation's blue parks.

Lastly, H.R. 200 and other legislative proposals roll back science-based management and lessen accountability in recreational fisheries. Recreational fisheries across the country are already able to use flexible management strategies so long as they comply with annual catch limits and ensure accountability for their catches. It is essential that recreational fisheries continue to be accountable for the fish they remove from the ocean to ensure future opportunities for recreational anglers and other resource users.

The last version of this bill was opposed by over 170 organizations, representing fishermen, business owners, chefs and community leaders. We, the undersigned scientists, similarly urge Congress to oppose H.R. 200 and other legislation that would weaken science-based management and the health of U.S. fish populations, and exempt fisheries managers from complying with other laws that protect our ocean resources.

Dr. Jane Lubchenco  
Distinguished Professor  
Oregon State University

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Union of Concerned Scientists

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Max McGraw Professor of Global  
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Dr. Blaine Griffen  
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Virginia Institute of Marine Science,  
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Dr. James Cowan  
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Dr. Jean Boal  
Professor  
Millersville University of Pennsylvania

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Professor  
University of British Columbia, Vancouver,  
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Wadsworth endowed chair in conservation  
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Dr. Barbara Brennessel  
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Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment

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Professor Emerita of Biology  
Saint Francis University

Dr. Paul Spitzer  
Independent scientist

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Managing Director  
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Dr. John Cannon  
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University of Miami

Dr. Kevin Feldheim  
Lab Manager  
Field Museum

Dr. Craig Benkman  
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Dr. Michael LaBarbera  
Emeritus Professor  
University of Chicago

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Dr. Justine Whitaker  
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Dr. John Waldman  
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Dr. Shannon Albeke  
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Lucie Hazen  
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State of Florida

Shanae Allen  
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FL Fish and Wildlife Research Institute

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Biological scientist  
State of Florida

Holly Turner  
HCRHS

Drew Martin  
Conservation Chair  
Loxahatchee Group

March 12, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Opposition to H.R. 200 and other bills that weaken Magnuson-Stevens Act's conservation provisions

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi:

The undersigned organizations and individuals are united in their opposition to H.R. 200, a bill to reauthorize and amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). The Magnuson-Stevens Act is working to restore fish populations and the coastal communities that depend on them. If enacted, H.R. 200 would threaten this success and the future of healthy fish populations and sustainable fisheries. It would significantly weaken the law's conservation provisions by creating loopholes, watering down legal standards, and decreasing accountability.

The previous two Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorizations in 1996 and 2006 were supported by an overwhelming bipartisan majority of Congress and have proved effective at ending overfishing and rebuilding depleted fish populations. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 43 commercially and recreationally important fish stocks have rebuilt to healthy population levels since 2000, leading to more fish in the water and better fishing opportunities.

H.R. 200 is the House's third attempt to craft a partisan reauthorization bill in recent years. The two previous versions gained no traction in the Senate. H.R. 200's provisions would undermine the science-based conservation tools in the current law that are at the root of so much of the success in preventing overfishing, restoring still-depleted fish populations, and stabilizing coastal communities harmed by decades of overfishing. The proposed changes are so harmful that they outweigh any positive provisions in H.R. 200, such as the inclusion of subsistence fishing in the Act. Among other damaging provisions,

H.R. would:

- Roll back the law's successful rebuilding requirements, including establishing broad loopholes that effectively remove reasonable time limits and allowing short-term economic concerns to undermine the long-term economic and ecological health of the nation's fish and fisheries (Sec.303).
- Increase the risk of overfishing by removing the law's requirement for annual catch limits for potentially hundreds of species, including some that may be overfished or subject to overfishing (Sec. 204).
- Roll back science-based management and lessen accountability of recreational fisheries (Section 203).
- Undermine bedrock environmental laws like the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, and the Antiquities Act (Sec. 302 & 307). These attacks on foundational environmental laws are needlessly hindering the reauthorization process.

Additionally, the undersigned organizations are opposed to any efforts in other introduced legislation (such as H.R. 2023, H.R. 3588) that would dismantle the core conservation standards of the Magnuson-Stevens Act under the guise of flexibility. The law already provides the flexibility to tailor regionally specific solutions. In addition, catch limits are working, with overfishing at an all-time low. Enacting legislation that increases the

risk of overfishing and rolls back rebuilding and accountability requirements would threaten the remarkable progress we have made and would take us back to the days of cascading fishery disasters and plummeting fish populations.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act is working to restore and safeguard our nation's fish populations, marine environment and fishing communities. Instead of proceeding with H.R. 200 or other efforts to undermine the Magnuson-Stevens Act, we urge the House to work together to find broadly supported bipartisan solutions to the remaining challenges of fisheries management. To help ensure future generations can enjoy healthy fish populations, Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization should build on the progress we have made, not lower the bar for management success. We urge you to oppose any House floor consideration of H.R. 200 and any similar efforts to undermine U.S. fisheries.

Sincerely,

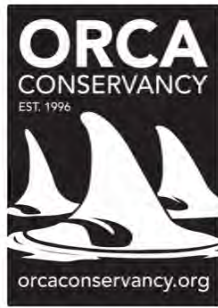
### **Organizations**

- Alaska Wilderness League
- Animal Welfare Institute
- Audubon New York
- AZUL
- California Marine Sanctuary Foundation
- Center for American Progress
- Cetacean Society International
- Citizen's Campaign for the Environment
- Coastal Conservation League
- Connecticut Ornithological Association (COA)
- Conservation Lands Foundation
- Conservation Law Foundation
- CT Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Earthjustice
- Endangered Species Coalition
- Environmental Defense Center
- Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)
- EPCF - Global Climate Disruption
- Florida Wildlife Federation
- Flying Fish Company - Sustainable Seafood
- Friends of Atascadero Wetlands
- Friends of the Earth
- Greenpeace
- Group for the East End
- Gulf Restoration Network
- Humane Society Legislative Fund
- Humane Society of the United States
- Inland Ocean Coalition
- Institute for Ocean Conservation Science
- International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute
- Klamath Forest Alliance
- League of Conservation Voters
- Madrone Audubon Society
- Marine Conservation Institute
- Milwaukee Riverkeeper
- Mission Blue
- Morro Coast Audubon Society
- National Audubon Society
- National Geographic Pristine Seas
- National Marine Sanctuary Foundation
- National Ocean Protection Coalition
- National Parks Conservation Association
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- New Jersey Sierra Club
- Northwest Environmental Defense Center
- Ocean Conservancy
- Ocean Conservation Research

- Ocean Defenders Alliance
- Ocean River Institute
- Oceana
- Operation SPLASH
- Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition
- Pacific Environment
- Restore America's Estuaries
- San Fernando Valley Audubon Society
- SandyHook SeaLife Foundation
- Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society
- Save Our Shores
- Save the Bay
- Save the Sound
- Sea and Sage Audubon Society
- Seacoast Science Center
- Sierra Club National Marine Team
- Surfrider Foundation
- Sustainable Oceans Alliance
- The Ocean Foundation
- The Ocean Project
- The Pew Charitable Trusts
- The Safina Center
- The Wilderness Society
- Turtle Island Restoration Network
- Waterkeeper Alliance
- Western Sonoma County Rural Alliance
- WILDCOAST

**Individuals**

- John M. Bridgeland  
Former Director, White House  
Domestic Policy Council  
President George W. Bush



December 7, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

As an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit, Orca Conservancy currently represents more than 20,000 members and supporters, and collaborates with some of the world's top research institutions and environmental groups to address the most critical issues now facing wild orcas. The organization's urgent attention is on the population of critically endangered Southern Resident killer whales (SRKWs).

We strongly urge you to oppose any legislation, including H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, that would undermine the conservation provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

Northwest salmon have been threatened for decades, beginning in the 1940s when gold miners destroyed critical spawning habitat. Since then, overfishing, dams and culverts, logging, urbanization, and engineering of stream channels have contributed to further population declines for our region's most iconic fish.

Salmon declines spell disaster for endangered SRKWs, which depend on abundant populations of Chinook salmon for their survival, social cohesion and reproductive success.<sup>1</sup> Experts anticipate that climate change and ocean acidification will contribute to further significant declines in regional salmon abundance during the coming decades, impeding SRKW recovery.<sup>2</sup>

After more than a decade of federal protection, the SRKW population has yet to show signs of significant recovery, with 76 members total as of October 2017 — *TWELVE* members fewer than when they were initially listed as endangered. This critically endangered population's survival remains in question and is far from guaranteed.<sup>3</sup> The SRKW population needs to exceed 150 mem-

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<sup>1</sup> Center for Biological Diversity, Petition to Revise the Critical Habitat Designation for the Southern Resident Killer Whale (*Orcinus orca*) under the Endangered Species Act 5 (Jan. 16, 2014).

<sup>2</sup> See, e.g. Lisa G. Crozier et al., Predicting Differential Effects of Climate Change at the Population Level with Life-Cycle Models of Spring Chinook Salmon, 14 GLOBAL CHANGE BIOLOGY 236, 237, 247 (2008) (predicting that global warming and changing ocean conditions will lower survival and fertility among all populations of Pacific salmon (*Oncorhynchus* spp.)).

<sup>3</sup> Olesiuk, P. F., M. A. Bigg and G. M. Ellis. 1990. Life history and population dynamics of resident killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) in the coastal waters of British Columbia and Washington State. Report of the International Whaling Commission (Special Issue 12):209-243. Estimates neonate mortality between 37-50%.



bers to be down-listed from its status as endangered, and would need to grow far more to reach historical levels estimated at 225-300<sup>4</sup>, or more likely 1-2,000.

Any legislation that would weaken the management of West Coast fisheries, including salmon, should not move forward.

Orca Conservancy opposes H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, which would increase the risk of overfishing and threaten the progress we've made on rebuilding vulnerable fish populations. They would undermine years of strong science-based management that is helping stabilize fishing businesses and coastal communities.

These bills would extend the timelines for plans to rebuild vulnerable fish populations, delaying when fishermen would benefit from a fully healthy stock. They also would exempt many fish populations from science-based annual catch limits designed to prevent overfishing; H.R. 2023 would allow this exemption for the substantial majority of managed fish populations.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act is helping end fishing at unsustainable rates and put a variety of local species on the road to recovery. Here on the West Coast, for instance, seven species of ground fish have been rebuilt years ahead of schedule because of the Magnuson-Stevens Act — strong evidence that fisheries management can work.

Based on the natural history and behavior of the endangered SRKWs it is imperative that prey species, specifically Chinook salmon, are of sufficient quality and quantity to support not only individual growth, reproduction, and development, but the overall growth of this population. Prey depletion is recognized as one of the major threats to the survival and recovery of the SRKW community, and rebuilding depleted salmon stocks is a top priority for the population.<sup>5</sup>

We urge you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, and any other legislation that would undermine the conservation requirements that have been critical to the success of the Magnuson Stevens Act.

Sincerely



Shari L. Tarantino  
President, Board of Directors

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<sup>4</sup> Palo (1972) put forth a tentative estimate of 225- 300 whales for Puget Sound and the Georgia Basin in 1970 (Palo, G. J. 1972. Notes on the natural history of the killer whale *Orcinus orca* in Washington State. Murrelet 53:22-24)

<sup>5</sup> National Marine Fisheries Service. 2008. Recovery Plan for Southern Resident Killer Whales (*Orcinus orca*). National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region, Seattle, Washington.



**SEAFOOD HARVESTERS OF AMERICA**  
FISHERMEN UNITED FOR ACCOUNTABLE AND THRIVING FISHERIES

September 28, 2017

The Honorable Doug Lamborn, Chairman  
The Honorable Jared Huffman, Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources - Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans  
1522 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Lamborn and Ranking Member Huffman,

On behalf of the Seafood Harvesters of America, I write to express our support for your efforts to modernize and strengthen the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA). We were encouraged by the overall tone of the hearing this week, and echo the sentiments expressed by the witnesses in support of maintaining the Act's core conservation provisions and accountability standards, such as annual catch limits, upon which the long-term viability of our fisheries depend.

The Harvesters represent an array of commercial fishing organizations and fishermen across the nation. Our members are privileged to go to sea every day, bringing to market healthy, domestic, sustainable seafood. Our ability to provide domestic, wild-caught fish to the American public requires healthy marine ecosystems, sustainably managed fish stocks and accountability measures to ensure that we are harvesting responsibly. Given that the seafood supply chain generates over \$200 billion in sales and supports 1.6 million jobs, we encourage you to take a measured, deliberate, bipartisan approach to the reauthorization of the MSA. There is much at stake and we encourage you to preserve the fundamental conservation mandates and accountability measures for all fishing sectors and uphold the Councils ability to utilize the full suite of management options at their disposal.

While America has the best managed fisheries in the world, we acknowledge that there is still room for improvement. We believe that the modernization and streamlining of fishery information systems is critical to provide more timely science for better management decisions. Unfortunately, existing systems are built using technology and practices that are outdated, slow, incomplete, expensive and often inaccurate. If we are going to maximize a sustainable harvest, we need additional and better monitoring, accountability, and enforcement throughout our fisheries.

We hope you will work with us to improve the law through modernizing the data collections systems, innovating better ways to incorporate real-time data into stock assessments, while maintaining science-based catch limits to prevent overfishing, rebuild vulnerable fish populations and protect the safety and long-term stability of our fishing communities. Our fisheries and the entire seafood supply chain have benefited greatly from the bi-partisan progress made in the 1996 and 2006 MSA reauthorizations and we hope that you will continue that trend.

Thank you for your consideration, leadership and support for the commercial fishing industry.

Sincerely,

Kevin R. Wheeler  
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Rob Bishop  
cc: The Honorable Don Young  
cc: The Honorable Raul Grijalva

Seafood Harvesters of America | 3033 Wilson Blvd, Suite 765 | Arlington, VA 22201 | (703) 647-4136



November 3, 2017

The Honorable Doug Lamborn, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Water, Power & Oceans  
House Natural Resources Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Jared Huffman, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Water, Power, & Oceans  
House Natural Resources Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Lamborn and Ranking Member Huffman:

On behalf of the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance (Shareholders' Alliance), I write to you today to express our strong support for the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

The Shareholders' Alliance is the largest organization of commercial snapper and grouper fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico, with membership from Florida to Texas. We work hard to ensure that our fisheries are sustainably managed so our fishing businesses can thrive and our fishing communities can exist for future generations. We are the harvesters that provide much of the American public with a reliable source of domestically-caught wild Gulf seafood, and we do this through a philosophy that sustainable seafood and profitable fishing businesses depend on healthy fish populations.

The United States produces nearly 10 billion pounds of seafood annually, valued at over \$5 billion.<sup>1</sup> The Gulf of Mexico alone produces over \$850 million in commercial fisheries landing revenue.<sup>2</sup> U.S. consumers spent an estimated \$96 billion for fishery products in 2015.<sup>3</sup> Our jobs, our fishing communities, and our local and national economies thrive on sustainable seafood. To that end, the Magnuson-Stevens Act is the backbone that makes America a global leader in sustainable fisheries management. 41 fish stocks have been rebuilt since 2000.<sup>4</sup> Of the 235 managed stocks where the overfished status is known, 84% are not overfished; of the 316 managed stocks where the overfishing status is known, 91% are not undergoing overfishing.<sup>5</sup> More than 8 out of every 10 stocks managed under the Magnuson-Stevens Act are considered healthy. Our region – the Gulf of Mexico, has only three managed stocks that are overfished, and we have the distinction of being the *only* region in the United States where not a single primary managed species is undergoing overfishing.<sup>6</sup> This is a testament to the success of this landmark, bipartisan piece of legislation and is the very reason why we cannot let our guard down and risk rolling back the progress we've made over the last four decades.

On July 17, 2017, the House Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans (Subcommittee) held an oversight hearing entitled "*Exploring the Successes and Challenges of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.*" Four witnesses provided testimony that laid out their positions on the achievements and shortcomings of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. On September 26, 2017, the Subcommittee held a hearing on fisheries legislation. We appreciate the opportunity to offer counterpoints to some of the claims made during these hearings.

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<sup>1</sup> 2015 Fisheries Economics of the United States, National Marine Fisheries Service, p. 8.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, p. 9.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, p. 9.

<sup>4</sup> Summary of Stock Status for FSSI Stocks, 2016 Status of US Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Summary p. 1.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Summary of Stock Status for FSSI Stocks, 2016 Status of US Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Summary p. 6.

**Statement:** Magnuson-Stevens Act rebuilding timelines are too inflexible.

**Response:**

According to Section 304(e)(4) of the Magnuson Act:

*For a fishery that is overfished, any fishery management plan, amendment, or proposed regulations prepared pursuant to paragraph (3) or paragraph (5) for such fishery shall—*

*(A) specify a time period for rebuilding the fishery that shall—*

*(i) be as short as possible, taking into account the status and biology of any overfished stocks of fish, the needs of fishing communities, recommendations by international organizations in which the United States participates, and the interaction of the overfished stock of fish within the marine ecosystem; and*

*(ii) not exceed 10 years, except in cases where the biology of the stock of fish, other environmental conditions, or management measures under an international agreement in which the United States participates dictate otherwise;<sup>7</sup> (emphasis added)*

This built-in flexibility presently allows fishery managers to approve rebuilding timelines greater than 10 years in length due to a range of biological, economic, and/or social factors. Tailoring rebuilding timelines to meet the needs of stakeholders already exists, which is why many of our nation’s overfished stocks are already managed under rebuilding plans that exceed 10 years as can be seen in the table below.<sup>8</sup> Even the coveted Gulf of Mexico Red snapper is already experiencing the existing flexibility that the Magnuson-Stevens Act has to offer as it is in Year 12 of the current 27 year rebuilding plan. If the red snapper stock rebuilds by 2032 as intended, the stock will have been under a rebuilding program for over 40 years<sup>9</sup>. The MSA already provides substantial flexibility on rebuilding schedules.

This built-in flexibility presently allows fishery managers to approve rebuilding timelines greater than 10 years in length due to a range of biological, economic, and/or social factors. Tailoring rebuilding timelines to meet the needs of stakeholders already exists, which is why many of our nation’s overfished stocks are already managed under rebuilding plans that exceed 10 years as can be seen in the table below.<sup>10</sup>

Region	Species	Present Year	Total Rebuilding Time Period
South Atlantic	Red Porgy	Year 18	18 Years
Pacific	Cowcod	Year 17	19 Years
New England	Cape Cod / Gulf of Maine Yellowtail Flounder	Year 14	19 Years
New England	Georges Bank Cod	Year 14	23 Years
New England	Gulf of Maine Thorny Skate	Year 14	25 Years
New England	Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder	Year 11	26 Years
<b>Gulf of Mexico</b>	<b>Red Snapper</b>	<b>Year 12</b>	<b>27 Years</b>
Atlantic	Blacknose Shark	Year 4	30 Years
South Atlantic	Snowy Grouper	Year 12	34 Years
South Atlantic	Red Snapper	Year 7	35 Years
Pacific	Pacific Ocean Perch	Year 18	51 Years
New England	Atlantic Halibut	Year 14	52 Years
Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico	Sandbar Shark	Year 13	66 Years

<sup>7</sup> Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; May 2007; p. 92.

<sup>8</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2017 Update, Summary of Stock Status for FSSI Stocks, 2016 Status of US Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Table A.

<sup>9</sup> The Gulf Council first set a rebuilding target for red snapper under Amendment 1 to the Reef Fish FMP, which took effect in 1990 (<http://archive.gulfcouncil.org/Beta//GMFMCWeb/downloads/RF%20Amend-01%20Final%201989-08-rescan.pdf>).

<sup>10</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2017 Update, Summary of Stock Status for FSSI Stocks, 2016 Status of US Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Table A.

Pacific	Yelloweye Rockfish	Year 15	71 Years
Atlantic	Porbeagle Shark	Year 9	100 Years
Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico	Dusky Shark	Year 9	100 Years

**Statement:** Annual Catch Limits don't work for recreational fishermen.

**Response:**

Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) provide fishermen with the opportunity to fish at sustainable levels in a way that maximizes access while minimizing risk to the conservation of our shared fishery resources. Inherent in this management tool is the acknowledgement that exceeding science-based catch limits can reduce future opportunities, and that this should be avoided to the extent practicable. Indeed, Congress expressly amended the MSA in 2006 because it found that “overfishing is still occurring in a number of fisheries, even those fisheries under a rebuilding plan,” and that “[i]n many cases, this has resulted from failure of a plan to require adherence to scientifically-established mortality limits from one year to the next.”<sup>11</sup>

In our opinion, the Subcommittee was not presented with any viable data justifying why recreational quotas should be ignored. Witnesses alluded to challenges associated with recreational data collection and the timeliness of decision-making, which we acknowledge can complicate ACL management; however, this is not justification enough to exempt recreational fishermen from having a science-based conservation backstop in place to protect the fish they are targeting.

Three examples from the Gulf of Mexico demonstrate that recreational fishermen *can* abide by ACLs and improve the timeliness of data collection:

1. Between 2010 and 2016, recreational fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico successfully harvested up to 96% of their gag grouper quota without exceeding the recreational ACL.<sup>12</sup>
2. Starting in 2016, Louisiana’s LA Creel program uses weekly landings estimates to monitor and enforce a self-imposed red snapper quota for state waters recreational fishermen.<sup>13</sup>
3. The Gulf of Mexico Headboat Collaborative Pilot Program successfully took over 200,000 anglers fishing in 2014 and 2015 and through a combination of real-time reporting and quota management, succeeded in staying within its quotas, reducing discards and increasing access.<sup>14</sup>

**Statement:** Exempting Gulf of Mexico private anglers from ACLs will not hurt the commercial and charter/headboat fishing sectors.

**Response:**

The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires that an overall ACL be set each year for Gulf of Mexico red snapper and other reef fish and the current commercial, charter, and private angler quotas are based on this overall ACL. Exempting the private angler sector from ACLs will not exempt the other two sectors from their quotas. To the extent that a non-ACL alternative management system for private anglers results in them consistently catching more fish than their ACL-based quota would otherwise allow, the Gulf Council would be required to reduce the overall ACL to stay within the rebuilding timeline. This would reduce the commercial and charter/headboat sectors’ quotas, effectively penalizing those two sectors for overharvesting by private anglers. This is not fair.

The private angler catch can substantially affect the pace of rebuilding the red snapper stock. NMFS determined that its decision to re-open the private angler fishing season for just 39 additional days in 2017 “may delay the ultimate rebuilding

<sup>11</sup> S. Rep. 109-229 (2006) at 21.

<sup>12</sup> NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office, Gulf Recreational ACL Monitoring webpage, [http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable\\_fisheries/acl\\_monitoring/recreational\\_gulf/index.html](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/acl_monitoring/recreational_gulf/index.html), accessed July 25, 2017.

<sup>13</sup> 2016 Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper Recreational Season Length Estimates, NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office.

<sup>14</sup> Abbott, J. “Effects of the Two-Year Exempted Fishing Permit for the Gulf of Mexico Headboat Collaborative,” October 3, 2016.

of the stock by as many as 6 years.”<sup>15</sup> Legislation to separate Gulf red snapper private angler sector management from the Magnuson-Stevens Act’s ACL requirement exposes the commercial and charter/headboat fishing sectors negative impacts of private angler fishing.

**Statement:** The Magnuson-Stevens Act is too inflexible to address Gulf of Mexico recreational fishing needs.

**Response:**

It is the recreational fishing associations that are inflexible, not the Magnuson Act. Their insistence on extended, open access, derby-style fishing seasons is what is blocking progress for private anglers and causing management problems. The other sectors are working within their catch limits and addressing their management issues. It is time for private anglers to do the same thing.

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council) has the authority and flexibility under the Magnuson-Stevens Act to work with private anglers to and State officials to develop an alternative management system to provide fishing opportunities over a much longer portion of each year while improving accountability and catch data. The Gulf Council has been working with Gulf of Mexico charter/headboat sector vessel operators for the past few years to do just this so the recreational fishermen they serve will have improved access to Gulf red snapper and other species. The Gulf Council also has established a private angler working group to develop options for improving management of red snapper fishing for this sector and we encourage private anglers to participate in this process. In fact, each of the five Gulf States has initiated a state management plan with the Gulf Council, and work is underway on these proposals as we speak. When the Gulf Council’s membership is balanced to represent all fishing sectors, and those fishing sectors and the States work cooperatively with the Gulf Council, the Magnuson-Stevens Act enables the Gulf Council to produce workable fishery management proposals for all sectors.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act is a success story, demonstrating that public access, business objectives and conservation goals can all work hand-in-hand. We – the nation’s fishermen, seafood suppliers, and seafood-consuming public – have an obligation to protect the gains we’ve made and the recovery we’ve experienced in the last forty years. We owe it to ourselves and the next generation to pass on a natural resource legacy that ensures the future sustainable seafood and sustainable public access.

We welcome the opportunity to continue to work with you on this issue of national importance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Eric Brazer, Deputy Director  
Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders’ Alliance

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<sup>15</sup> 82 Fed. Reg. 27777, 27779 (June 19, 2017).



*Connecticut Chapter*  
*P.O. Box 270595*  
*West Hartford, Connecticut 06127*  
*[www.sierraclub.org/connecticut](http://www.sierraclub.org/connecticut)*

November 2, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

On behalf of our 8000 members, the Connecticut Chapter of the Sierra Club strongly urges you to oppose any legislation, including H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, that would undermine the conservation provisions of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Stevens Act). Our members recognize the importance of healthy, abundant fish populations, especially of short nosed sturgeon and any legislation that would weaken management should not move forward in this Congress.

H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would increase the risk of overfishing and threaten the progress we've made on rebuilding vulnerable fish populations. They would undermine years of strong science-based management that is helping stabilize fishing businesses and coastal communities.

These bills would extend the timelines for plans to rebuild vulnerable fish populations, delaying when fishermen would benefit from a fully healthy stock. They would exempt fish populations from the use of science-based annual catch limits designed to prevent overfishing. The Magnuson-Stevens Act is helping to end fishing at unsustainable rates and put Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon on the road to recovery. The signs of success for *the federally endangered sturgeon*—more and bigger fish dispersed throughout a broader range—are evidence that strong fisheries management can work.

The Connecticut Sierra Club urges you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, and any other legislation that would undermine the conservation requirements that have been critical to the success of the Magnuson Stevens Act.

Sincerely,

Martha Klein, Chapter Chair

Connecticut Sierra Club

P.O. Box 270595

West Hartford, CT

06127

**Phone: 860-236-4405 -- Email: [Connecticut.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:Connecticut.chapter@sierraclub.org)**



SIERRA  
CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

## NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

145 West Hanover St., Trenton, NJ 08618  
TEL: [609] 656-7612 FAX: [609] 656-7618  
[www.SierraClub.org/NJ](http://www.SierraClub.org/NJ)

October 18, 2017

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and 60,000 supporters, The New Jersey Sierra Club strongly urges you to oppose any legislation, including H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, that would undermine the conservation provisions of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Stevens Act). Our members rely on healthy, abundant fish populations, especially of fluke, flounder, menhaden, and other New Jersey Species. Any legislation that would weaken this management should not move forward in this Congress.

H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would increase the risk of overfishing and threaten the progress we've made on rebuilding vulnerable fish populations. They would undermine years of strong science-based management that is helping stabilize fishing businesses and coastal communities.

These bills would extend the timelines for plans to rebuild vulnerable fish populations, delaying when fishermen would benefit from a fully healthy stock. They would exempt fish populations from the use of science-based annual catch limits designed to prevent overfishing. The Magnuson-Stevens Act is helping to end fishing at unsustainable rates and put many species on the road to recovery. The signs of success for these species—more and bigger fish dispersed throughout a broader range—are evidence that strong fisheries management can work.

New Jersey is a coastal state and we bring in revenue from our fisheries and tourism along the coast. Jeopardizing fish stocks with put both sources of revenue at risk. We've lost other fisheries in our state such as cod and shrimp by overfishing in the past. Monkfish fisheries, as well as other species, have dropped substantially off our coasts. Summer flounder and menhaden were threatened when the Trump Administration overruled scientific limits. Pollution and overfishing are now threatening flounder numbers and other species. We can't afford to have additional threats to New Jersey's fisheries and that's what these bills would do.





SIERRA  
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## NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

145 West Hanover St., Trenton, NJ 08618  
TEL: [609] 656-7612 FAX: [609] 656-7618  
[www.SierraClub.org/NJ](http://www.SierraClub.org/NJ)

The New Jersey Sierra Club urges you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, and any other legislation that would undermine the conservation requirements that have been critical to the success of the Magnuson Stevens Act.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to call me at (609) 558-9100.

Sincerely,

Jeff Tittel  
Director  
New Jersey Sierra Club



December 7, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

On behalf of our Slow Food Seattle chapter, I'm writing to strongly urge you to oppose any legislation, including H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, that would undermine the conservation provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

Slow Food is a member-supported educational organization that envisions a food system based on the principles of quality and taste, environmental sustainability, and social justice – in essence, a food system that is good, clean, and fair. We seek to reconnect Americans with the people, traditions, plants, animals, fertile soils and waters that produce our food.

Many members and supporters of our Seattle-area community rely on healthy, abundant fish populations, especially of cod, sole and sablefish for their livelihoods. Any legislation that would weaken their management should not move forward in this Congress.

H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would undermine years of strong science-based management that is helping rebuild threatened fish populations and stabilize fishing businesses and coastal communities. They would extend the timelines for plans to rebuild vulnerable fish populations, delaying when fishermen would benefit from a fully healthy stock. They also would exempt fish populations from the use of science-based annual catch limits designed to prevent overfishing.

For 40 years, the MSA has helped end fishing at unsustainable rates and has put a variety of local species on the road to recovery. Here on the West Coast, for instance, seven species of ground fish have been rebuilt years ahead of schedule because of the MSA — strong evidence that fisheries management can work.

Slow Food members and supporters aim to inspire a transformation in food policy, production practices and market forces so that they ensure equity, sustainability and pleasure in the food we eat. Healthy, robust fisheries are such a critical piece of that vision, and we ask that you take a stand to protect them.

Please oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, and any other legislation that would undermine the conservation requirements that have been critical to the success of the MSA.

Sincerely,

Slow Food Seattle



P: (425) 378-0680 - E: [tunatunaseattle@gmail.com](mailto:tunatunaseattle@gmail.com)

December 7, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

On behalf of our several members, Fishing Vessel Seafoods strongly urges you to oppose any legislation, including H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, that would undermine the conservation provisions of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Stevens Act). Our members rely on healthy, abundant fish populations, especially of halibut and black cod and any legislation that would weaken their management should not move forward in this Congress.

H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would increase the risk of overfishing and threaten the progress we've made on rebuilding vulnerable fish populations. They would undermine years of strong science-based management that is helping stabilize fishing businesses and coastal communities.

These bills would extend the timelines for plans to rebuild vulnerable fish populations, delaying when fishermen would benefit from a fully healthy stock. They would exempt fish populations from the use of science-based annual catch limits designed to prevent overfishing. The Magnuson-Stevens Act is helping to end fishing at unsustainable rates and put halibut and black cod on the road to recovery. The signs of success for these species more and bigger fish dispersed throughout a broader range—are evidence that strong fisheries management can work.

It is also important that the United States be exemplary in its management of the resources in our domain. The world oceans shared resources must be managed into the future by a consortium of national interests which have shown that they are worthy of that responsibility. Conceding scientific advice to expedient political compromise and short term economic considerations suggests integrity for sale which on the world stage fosters distrust.

The Fishing vessel Seafood and Fishing Vessel St. Jude urge you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, and any other legislation that would undermine the conservation requirements that have been critical to the success of the Magnuson Stevens Act.

Sincerely,

Captain Joe Malley, CEO

December 7, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

We operate businesses that cater to clients who value healthy coasts and ocean wildlife. The ecotourism and outdoor recreational industries in Washington State represents tens of thousands of businesses and more than 227,000 direct jobs. It is a vital part of our local economy. Ensuring sustainable fish populations and conserving marine resources are important to us and our customers. As Congress considers the next reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), we request your leadership to ensure it is updated to advance a big picture approach, which will better protect our natural resources and the economies that depend on them.

MSA is forty years old, and we've learned more about how to maintain productive ecosystems since then. MSA can be improved to help managers fully utilize the knowledge we have today and account for the big picture when making management decisions. This means conserving forage (or bait) fish, which is what other fish and wildlife eat, protecting where fish live (habitat), and reducing wasteful catch (bycatch), in addition to other priority actions.

Bait fish form an essential link in the marine food webs and are necessary to ensure health fisheries and oceans, but the MSA does not guarantee conservation measures that account for this critical role. The law should be updated to conserve these important fish.

Additionally, ensuring healthy fish habitats is a critical component of sustainable fisheries management. It is important to address the impacts of certain types of fishing and other activities, such as pollution, in order to conserve habitats for fish. Therefore, the MSA needs to include greater protections of essential habitats, such as deep sea corals and spawning sites that fish need for reproduction, shelter, and growth.

People come to us because they want to see wildlife, but the MSA currently does not do enough to ensure bycatch is sufficiently minimized. Some fishing practices catch non-target wildlife including birds, sea turtles and non-targeted fish. We would like you to ensure that the law reduces this wasteful catch.

Coastal businesses and other enterprises that are involved in the ecotourism and outdoor recreational industries are impacted by how the U.S. manages fish populations under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. From tour operators to beachside restaurants, bed and breakfasts to dive shops, businesses like ours can benefit from a thoughtful bill that advances a big picture approach to fisheries management.

Please understand that inclusion of big picture management principles in the next reauthorization of the MSA is critical to our continued economic success.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of this important issue.

**Mountain Gear, Inc.**

Paul Fish, President  
Spokane Valley, WA

**Fishpond, Inc.**

John Land Le Coq, CEO/Founder  
Silverthorne, CO

**Northwest Guides & Anglers Association**

Grant Putman, President  
Tillamook, OR

**Holiday Sports Mart**

Mandy Dillard  
Burlington, WA

**Calyx Sustainable Tourism**

Heidi Siegelbaum, Former Owner  
Seattle, WA

**Dianna Denny Design**

Dianna Denny, Owner  
Port Townsend, WA

**Evergreen Escapes**

Jake Hauptert, Founder  
Seattle, WA

**American Alpine Institute**

Dunham Gooding, President  
Bellingham, WA

**Emerald Water Anglers, LLC**

Dave McCoy, Owner  
Seattle, WA

**Orca Network**

Howard Garrett, Board President  
Freeland, WA

**Orca Conservancy**

Shari Tarantino, President  
Seattle, WA

**Olympic Raft & Kayak**

Morgan Colonel, Owner  
Port Angeles, WA

**Filson Company**

Seattle, WA

**OnBoard Tours Whales**

Caroline Armon, Owner  
Friday Harbor, WA

cc: Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources

March 13, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan, Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Democratic  
Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, U.S Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Representative Pelosi,

As scuba diving businesses, we submit this letter urging you to oppose any reauthorization that damages the core conservation provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA). We are especially concerned about some of the provisions in H.R. 200, which would jeopardize our fisheries, destabilize coastal communities, and undermine America's ability to protect important ocean areas. Healthy fish populations are vital for the ocean environments that we, as diving businesses, depend on for our livelihoods and recreation. There are over 12 million active divers and snorkelers in the United States that drive \$11 billion in spending annually.

Healthy fish populations are an integral part of a robust marine ecosystem. The MSA, our nation's principal law governing our ocean fisheries, seeks to end overfishing, rebuild depleted fish stocks and maintain the U.S.'s fish populations now and into the future—and it's working. All decisions about federal fisheries management in the United States are made by a regional council and are designed to be guided by the best available science.

Through the MSA, we have seen more than 40 fish species come back from being depleted and overfishing rates drop to a historic low of 9%. The MSA also allows for the protection of habitats that are essential to the life cycles of fish, from coral reefs to kelp forests to rocky reefs, which are often popular dive locations.

Despite this progress, H.R. 200 and other efforts underway in Congress seek to undo much of these improvements by allowing decision makers to ignore the science that has been key to the successes that we have seen.

Our concerns include:

- Changing the requirements for depleted populations to be rebuilt in the shortest time possible to the shortest time practicable. The term "practicable" is imprecise and could lead to resource managers prioritizing short term concerns over long term sustainability
- Exempting many populations from science-based catch limits – including forage fish. These limits establish the maximum number of fish that can be caught each year while still preventing overfishing. By not setting a catch limit, there is a risk of removing too many fish from the environment. Forage fish form the basis of the food chain and provide a source of nutrition for some of our most iconic species, from whales to dolphins to sharks.
- Overriding several key environmental laws, including the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. Right now, these laws work together for the greatest protection of fish life and the environment, but this bill would have the MSA supersede these laws where marine fish are impacted.

While there are still challenges, the MSA is a successful law that works to protect fish, coastal communities and the business that depend on them.

We urge you to support businesses like ours and oppose harmful MSA reauthorization attempts such as H.R. 200.

Sincerely,

Steve Spivey, President  
Scuba And Archery Center, Inc.  
Hot Springs, AR

Bryce Rohrer, Owner  
Florida Shark Diving  
Palm Beach, FL

Michael L Taylor, President  
Ocean Extreme Dive and Travel Center  
North Little Rock, AR

Douglas Hammock, Owner  
H2O Below  
Pensacola, FL

Jeff Godfrey, Diving Safety Officer  
University of Connecticut  
Groton, CT

Brenda Mace, Owner  
Conch Republic Divers  
Tavernier, FL

Kristina Trotta, PADI IDC Staff Instructor  
Washington, DC

Marta Mullen, Owner  
Castaway SCUBA  
Oviedo, FL

Bill Lamp'l, Owner  
Grove Scuba  
Coconut Grove, FL

Cecelia A. Roycraft, President  
Dive Key West, Inc.  
Key West, FL

Lisa Mongelia, Owner  
H2O Addict Adventures LLC  
Cutler Bay, FL

Dave Carmichael, President  
Brownies Yachtdiver Stores  
Ft Lauderdale, FL

Vance Kondon, Assistant Manager  
Rainbow Reef Dive Center  
Key Largo, FL

Robert W. Eskew, Managing Member  
Blue Water Explorers of Southwest  
Florida, LLC  
Cortez, FL

Robert Holston, President  
Keys Association of Dive Operators  
Key West, FL

Colby Cline, Manager  
Crystal River Kayak Co. & Dive Center  
Crystal River, FL

TJ Konitzer, Owner  
Off the wall Adventures & Outfitters  
Lakeland/St. Pete Beach, FL

Cody Cummins, Manager  
Birds Underwater  
Crystal River, FL

Jessica S. Dawson, Vice President  
Scuba Marco  
Marco Island, FL

Kiki Dick, Scuba Diving Professional  
Scuba Network  
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Michael Olson, President  
Scuba School and Dive Center  
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Michael Goldberg, Owner  
Key Dives  
Islamorada, FL

Dan Lindley, Owner/ President  
Dive Charter  
Jacksonville, FL

Jennifer Kerr, Owner  
Sail Fish Scuba Dive Shop  
Key Largo, FL

Denise VandenBosch, Master  
Instructor/Dive&Training Director  
Captain Hooks Dive Center & Marina  
Marathon, FL

Marlene Quintana, Manager  
Ocean Safari Diving  
Miami, FL

Valerie Kevorikian, Owner, Operator  
Tarpoon Lagoon Dive Center  
Miami, FL

Donna Dornbos, Owner  
JND Scuba Center  
Palm Bay, FL

Chris Williams, Owner  
Jolly Roger Dive Charters  
Pensacola, FL

Vincenzo Varalla, Manager  
Scubatyme Charters  
Pompano Beach, FL

Michele Reed, Owner  
Discover Diving Dive Center LLC  
Port Orange, FL

Tracy Grubbs, Owner  
Spruce Creek Scuba  
Port Orange, FL

Peter Friedman, Owner  
Scuba Partners  
Stuart, FL

Jennifer Feller, owner  
The Playground Dive Shop  
Blue Springs, MO

Greg Thurmon, owner  
Mid Missouri Dive Center  
Fayette, MO

Alan Shaw, Proprietor  
Divers Equipment  
Kansas City, MO

Valerie Elliott, Owner  
Y-kiki Divers  
Saint Louis, MO

Diane Gasalberti, Manager  
Cedar Grove Divers Supply  
Cedar Grove, NJ

Joan Maddox, CEO  
American Diving Supply  
Egg Harbor Township, NJ

William Cleary, President  
East Coast Diving Center, inc  
Morganville, NJ

Dennis Santos, Owner  
Elite Divers  
Randolph, NJ

Ryan Hoffman, Open Water Scuba Diving  
Instructor  
Scuba Divers International  
New York, NY



Dan Benson, Former owner  
Jefferson State Dive Locker  
Klamath Falls, OR

B. Cerezo, President  
Puerto Rico Diving  
Rincon, PR

Tania A Puell, Owner  
Isla Nena Scuba  
Vieques, PR

James Wallace, Owner  
Black Hills Aquatic adventures LLC  
Rapid City, SD

Rebecca Morgan, President  
The Dive Shop  
Lufkin, TX

Sally Sowell, Owner  
Diver's Depot  
Nacogdoches, TX

Mark E. Sherman, Owner-Diver  
The Church Of Neptune, Diving and  
Maintenance Service  
Des Moines, WA

Ferenc Doner, Owner/Instructor  
Argonaut Diving  
Edmonds, WA

Annie Crawley, Founder  
Annie Crawley's Scuba Diving Camp  
Seattle, WA

Brian Wiederspan, Instructor  
Seattle, WA

David Todd, Diver  
REEF Volunteer Fish Surveyor/PDZA Diver  
Seattle, WA

Stewart Dulaney, President  
Mountain Bay Scuba  
Rock Springs, WY

David Bitts  
*President*  
Larry Collins  
*Vice-President*  
Lorne Edwards  
*Secretary &  
Treasurer*

**PACIFIC COAST FEDERATION  
of FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS**



Noah Oppenheim  
*Executive Director*  
Glen H. Spain  
*Northwest Regional Director*  
Vivian Helliwell  
*Watershed Conservation Director*  
**In Memoriam:**  
Nathaniel S. Bingham  
Harold C. Christensen  
W.F. "Zeke" Grader, Jr.

**Please Respond to:**

**California Office**

P.O. Box 29370  
San Francisco, CA 94129-0370  
Tel: (415) 561-5080  
Fax: (415) 561-5464

[www.pcffa.org](http://www.pcffa.org)

June 21, 2018

**Northwest Office**

P.O. Box 11170  
Eugene, OR 97440-3370  
Tel: (541) 689-2000  
Fax: (541) 689-2500

TO: The Honorable Members of the California, Oregon, and Washington Congressional Delegations

RE: H.R. 200 - OPPOSE

Dear Representative,

The Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA) is the largest organization of commercial fishermen on the West Coast, representing the interests of hundreds of family-owned commercial fishing operations who harvest and deliver fresh seafood to American consumers and for export. Collectively, we represent many thousands of family wage jobs and a West Coast commercial fishing industry that contributes billions of dollars to the U.S. economy.

On behalf of the hundreds of hard working commercial fishermen we represent, we are **OPPOSED to H.R. 200**. We urge you to oppose this bill when it is considered on the House floor next week and to instead support the development of environmentally-based fisheries legislation that will ensure the health of America's fish stocks for generations to come.

H.R. 200 is, fundamentally, a partisan commercial fishery management bill. However, the bill contains a version of the Modern Fish Act that our organization strongly opposes. The recreational fishery management language found in H.R. 200 would severely compromise federal agencies' ability to sustainably manage commercial and recreational fisheries. **H.R. 200 is simply not the appropriate vehicle for recreational fishery management reform.**

At its core, H.R. 200 makes significant unnecessary changes that would weaken the world class Federal fisheries management system outlined in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (MSA). The bill would contravene the scientific best practices of fishery management by creating broad loopholes that could, and would, be used to deplete vulnerable fish populations. by which fish stocks could be exempted from rebuilding timelines recommended by science, instead allowing managers to extend fishery

rebuilding timelines far beyond what is advisable. West Coast commercial fishermen know well that protracted rebuilding timelines keep small fishing businesses from achieving long-term stability and prevent sustainable growth. Ignoring scientifically recommended rebuilding timelines keeps fish in the hands of the few, hurts working waterfronts, and reduces the public's access to healthy, sustainable seafood.

For over 40 years through the hard work and dedication of fishermen and allied groups, the MSA system has rebuilt our fish stocks from a state of near-depletion, when foreign fleets overfished our marine resources at will, to the place they are today. Now, healthy stocks are the norm instead of the exception. The management system we use has continued to improve over the years by keeping fisheries science at the forefront of our decision-making. However, H.R. 200 displays a retrograde vision of fishery management, allowing Fishery Management Councils to permit overfishing to occur in sensitive or depleted fisheries. For the fishing families who wish to pass sustainable resources and stewardship values on to the next generation, ignoring the lessons of the past 40 years is simply unacceptable.

The bill's proposed changes to fish stock rebuilding programs have never been necessary for the rebuilding of fish stocks on the West Coast or any other areas of our oceans. It is not, nor will it ever be, the time to experiment with fishery management at the expense of commercial fishing livelihoods. The recent, multi-hundred-million-dollar fishery disasters in West Coast salmon and Dungeness crab fisheries demonstrate this clearly: we need strong fishery management based on science, not politics.

H.R. 200 represents a vision of fisheries management that hurts commercial fishing families and the resources on which they depend. We strongly urge you to oppose this bill and any other legislation that would weaken the MSA and harm West Coast community based fishing businesses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Noah Oppenheim', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Noah Oppenheim  
Executive Director

## Eli Penberthy

18101 Normandy Terr SW  
Normandy Park, WA, 98166

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

I'm writing to urge you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 and any other proposed legislation that would undermine the conservation provisions of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Stevens Act).

I worked as a food policy analyst at the Cornucopia Institute and led sustainable seafood initiatives at PCC Community Markets in Seattle for nearly a decade, so I know firsthand the impact of rebuilding, protecting, and maintaining U.S. fisheries. The Seattle area has a vibrant food culture in which local, sustainable seafood plays no small part. PCC's members and shoppers consume hundreds of thousands of pounds of wild Northwest salmon, halibut, tuna and other regional species annually. Over the years I've talked to countless consumers who say that access to abundant, healthy seafood is one of the great benefits of living here.

Sustainable fisheries satisfy our appetites for delicious seafood — but they also are vital to the health of our environment and local economy. Puget Sound is home to more than 200 different species of fish, each with a unique role in the marine ecosystem. Robust fish stocks provide a key marker of the health of our environment. Thousands of fishermen who make their living in West Coast waters live in Seattle during the off-season, and the commercial fishing industry contributes billions of dollars to our state's economy.

H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would weaken the management of West Coast fisheries. These two bills would increase the risk of overfishing and threaten the progress we've made rebuilding vulnerable fish populations. They would undermine years of strong science-based management and exempt many fish populations from science-based annual catch limits.

There's strong evidence that fisheries management can work. For 40 years, the MSA has helped end fishing at unsustainable rates and has put a variety of local species on the road to recovery. Since 2000 alone, 43 once-depleted fish populations across the U.S. have been rebuilt to healthy levels. Here on the West Coast, seven species of ground fish have been rebuilt years ahead of schedule because of the MSA.

Please oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 and any other legislation that would jeopardize the progress the United States has made in rebuilding and stabilizing fish populations. Instead, take the opportunity to help build a stronger future for fish, fishermen, businesses, and communities that depend on healthy, abundant oceans.

Sincerely,

*Eli Penberthy*

Eli Penberthy

December 11, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop:

The House Committee on Natural Resources is considering full committee mark up on H.R. 200 *Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act*, with some modifications, including the addition of language from S.1520 *Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act* and H.R.3588 *RED SNAPPER Act* next Wednesday, December 14, 2017. As a concerned citizen, recreational fisherman, and professional outdoor photographer, I urge the House Committee on Natural Resources not to proceed with mark ups of these bills until ongoing bipartisan negotiations can be concluded.

The 2006 *Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act* passed both chambers of Congress with unanimous consent. The strength of the 2006 reauthorization bill is a testament to the bipartisan bill's agreed upon mandates to end overfishing using science-based annual catch limits that inform rebuilding timelines. Though the bill does have some weaknesses, the strength of its mandates is reflected in many of the nation's fisheries that were deemed overfished or experiencing overfishing having recovered or been pulled from the brink of depletion. Bipartisan discussion and agreement is the key to this success and what has made the *Magnuson-Stevens Act* an international model of responsible and science-based fisheries management.

The three current bills listed above do not have bipartisan support and roll back many of mechanisms that have rebuilt our fisheries. From constituents in American fisheries—commercial, for-hire, and recreational—to legislators on both sides of the aisle, the general consensus is that these reauthorization bills are not ready for mark up and do not have the necessary bipartisan support for constituent buy in. Therefore, Mr. Bishop, I urge that the House Committee on Natural Resources not convene mark up on the aforementioned bills while a possible bipartisan agreement is under discussion.

Sincerely,

Austin Green Weinstein



November 20, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva:

I, Barbara Clabots, strongly urge you to oppose any legislation, including H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, that would undermine the conservation provisions of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Stevens Act).

As a lifelong resident of Washington State, coastal communities in my state rely on healthy, abundant fish populations, especially of salmon, and any legislation that would weaken its management should not move forward in this Congress.

H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would increase the risk of overfishing. This is an unacceptable risk for a very vulnerable population.

The Coast Salish and Chemacum-descendant communities, particularly the Makah Nation, Quileute Tribe, Hoh Tribe, and Quinault Indian Nation, are particularly dependent on robust fish populations. Due to their geographic and economic isolation from the wealth of the Puget Sound area, it is crucial to their survival to access local seafoods for subsistence and commercial fisheries.

Indigenous communities in Washington State have long held high standards for sustainable fisheries and sacrificed greatly. In recent years, many indigenous communities have voluntarily forgone fishing specific salmon runs in order to rebuild the stocks. Their sacrifice should remind you that it is not always easy to do the right thing, but it is certainly possible.

It is our moral responsibility to respect indigenous rights with formal policy-making. We can do that by upholding strong fisheries conservation policies like the Magnuson Stevens Act.

I urge you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, and any other legislation that would undermine the conservation requirements that have been critical to the success of the Magnuson Stevens Act.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Clabots*

Barbara Clabots  
Master of Marine Affairs, University of Washington

December 7, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

As a small business owner strongly urge you to oppose any legislation, including H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, that would undermine the conservation provisions of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Stevens Act).

Legislation that would hurt my business and those of others in my community, as well as weaken the management here in New Jersey should not move forward in this Congress.

H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would increase the risk of overfishing and threaten the progress we've made on rebuilding vulnerable fish populations. They would undermine years of strong science-based management that is helping stabilize fishing businesses and coastal communities.

These bills would extend the timelines for plans to rebuild vulnerable fish populations, delaying when fishermen would benefit from a fully healthy stock. They would exempt many fish populations from science-based annual catch limits designed to prevent overfishing; H.R. 2023 would allow this exemption for the substantial majority of managed fish populations. The Magnuson-Stevens Act is helping to end fishing at unsustainable rates and put flounder on the road to recovery.

I urge you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, and any other legislation that would undermine the conservation requirements that have been critical to the success of the Magnuson Stevens Act.

Sincerely,

Gerri Jannarone  
11 Lebanon Ave  
Brielle, NJ 08730



December 7, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

As a recreational angler, I strongly urge you to oppose any legislation, including H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, that would undermine the conservation provisions of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Stevens Act).

When I go out fishing, I rely on healthy, abundant fish populations. Any legislation that would weaken the management of these fish should not move forward in this Congress.

H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would increase the risk of overfishing and threaten the progress we've made on rebuilding vulnerable fish populations. They would undermine years of strong science-based management that is helping stabilize fishing businesses and coastal communities.

These bills would extend the timelines for plans to rebuild vulnerable fish populations, delaying when fishermen would benefit from a fully healthy stock. They would exempt many fish populations from science-based annual catch limits designed to prevent overfishing; H.R. 2023 would allow this exemption for the substantial majority of managed fish populations. The Magnuson-Stevens Act is helping to end fishing at unsustainable rates and has put many fish populations on the road to recovery. The signs of success are more and bigger fish dispersed throughout a broader range. There is clear evidence that strong fisheries management can work.

Here in New Jersey, we rely on recreational fishing for our enjoyment as well as the local and state economy. Without a stable population of fish, New Jersey's tourism industry would take a huge hit.

I urge you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, and any other legislation that would undermine the conservation requirements that have been critical to the success of the Magnuson Stevens Act.

Sincerely,

Michael Megill  
Little Silver, NJ

November 9, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

As a recreational angler, I strongly urge you to oppose any legislation, including H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, that would undermine the conservation provisions of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Stevens Act).

When I go out fishing, I rely on healthy, abundant fish populations. Any legislation that would weaken the management of these fish should not move forward in this Congress.

H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would increase the risk of overfishing and threaten the progress we've made on rebuilding vulnerable fish populations. They would undermine years of strong science-based management that is helping stabilize fishing businesses and coastal communities.

These bills would extend the timelines for plans to rebuild vulnerable fish populations, delaying when fishermen would benefit from a fully healthy stock. They would exempt many fish populations from science-based annual catch limits designed to prevent overfishing; H.R. 2023 would allow this exemption for the substantial majority of managed fish populations. The Magnuson-Stevens Act is helping to end fishing at unsustainable rates and has put many fish populations on the road to recovery. The signs of success are more and bigger fish dispersed throughout a broader range. There is clear evidence that strong fisheries management can work.

Here in New Jersey, we rely on recreational fishing for our enjoyment as well as the local and state economy. Without a stable population of fish, New Jersey's tourism industry would take a huge hit.

I urge you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, and any other legislation that would undermine the conservation requirements that have been critical to the success of the Magnuson Stevens Act.

Sincerely,

Nick Williams  
Neptune Township  
New Jersey

November 9, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

As a recreational angler, I strongly urge you to oppose any legislation, including H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, that would undermine the conservation provisions of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Stevens Act).

When I go out fishing, I rely on healthy, abundant fish populations. Any legislation that would weaken the management of these fish should not move forward in this Congress.

H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would increase the risk of overfishing and threaten the progress we've made on rebuilding vulnerable fish populations. They would undermine years of strong science-based management that is helping stabilize fishing businesses and coastal communities.

These bills would extend the timelines for plans to rebuild vulnerable fish populations, delaying when fishermen would benefit from a fully healthy stock. They would exempt many fish populations from science-based annual catch limits designed to prevent overfishing; H.R. 2023 would allow this exemption for the substantial majority of managed fish populations. The Magnuson-Stevens Act is helping to end fishing at unsustainable rates and has put many fish populations on the road to recovery. The signs of success are more and bigger fish dispersed throughout a broader range. There is clear evidence that strong fisheries management can work.

Here in New Jersey, we rely on recreational fishing for our enjoyment as well as the local and state economy. Without a stable population of fish, New Jersey's tourism industry would take a huge hit.

I urge you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, and any other legislation that would undermine the conservation requirements that have been critical to the success of the Magnuson Stevens Act.

Sincerely,

Paul Dement  
67 Roosevelt Circle West  
Red Bank, NJ 07701

Steve Clayton  
10 Willow Drive, Apartment 8A  
Ocean Township, NJ 07712

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

As a conservationist, I strongly urge you to oppose any legislation, including H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, that would undermine the conservation provisions of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Stevens Act).

When I go out fishing, I rely on healthy, abundant fish populations, especially of fish abundant off the Jersey Shore—any legislation that would weaken the management of these fish should not move forward in this Congress.

H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would increase the risk of overfishing and threaten the progress we've made on rebuilding vulnerable fish populations. They would undermine years of strong science-based management that is helping stabilize fishing businesses and coastal communities.

These bills would extend the timelines for plans to rebuild vulnerable fish populations, delaying when fishermen would benefit from a fully healthy stock. They would exempt many fish populations from science-based annual catch limits designed to prevent overfishing; H.R. 2023 would allow this exemption for the substantial majority of managed fish populations. The Magnuson-Stevens Act is helping to end fishing at unsustainable rates and put summer flounder on the road to recovery. The signs of success for summer flounder—more and bigger fish dispersed throughout a broader range—are evidence that strong fisheries management can work.

I urge you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, and any other legislation that would undermine the conservation requirements that have been critical to the success of the Magnuson Stevens Act.

Sincerely,

Steve Clayton

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

As a Chef strongly urge you to oppose any legislation, including H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, that would undermine the conservation provisions of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Stevens Act).

When I go out fishing, I rely on healthy, abundant fish populations, especially of summer flounder. Any legislation that would weaken the management of these fish should not move forward in this Congress.

H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would increase the risk of overfishing and threaten the progress we've made on rebuilding vulnerable fish populations. They would undermine years of strong science-based management that is helping stabilize fishing businesses and coastal communities.

These bills would extend the timelines for plans to rebuild vulnerable fish populations, delaying when fishermen would benefit from a fully healthy stock. They would exempt many fish populations from science-based annual catch limits designed to prevent overfishing; H.R. 2023 would allow this exemption for the substantial majority of managed fish populations. The Magnuson-Stevens Act is helping to end fishing at unsustainable rates and put flounder on the road to recovery.

Sustainable fisheries are vital to our shore economy, fresh fish bring customers into our restaurants.

I urge you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, and any other legislation that would undermine the conservation requirements that have been critical to the success of the Magnuson Stevens Act.

Sincerely,

Thomas Pizzonia  
1310 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave  
Asbury Park, NJ 07712