



The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
232 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
204 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Majority Leader  
H-107 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Democratic Whip  
148 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Representative McCarthy and Representative Hoyer,

On behalf of Artist Boat, we strongly 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 association promotes awareness and the preservation of coastal habitats and the marine environment through science and the arts. We encourage Congress to ensure our oceans, including the Gulf of Mexico, continue the rebuilding of healthy fisheries without disruption, and any legislation that would weaken its management should not move forward.

Promoting healthy fishing populations and sustainability is key to a robust coastal economy. Unfortunately, H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would undermine the progress already made on rebuilding vulnerable fishing populations and increase the risk of overfishing. 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. The signs of success for Red Snapper are evidence that strong fisheries management can work.

Nationally, the United States has made unprecedented progress in restoring depleted fish species to healthier levels, including the Gulf of Mexico. Congress should ensure that the Magnuson Stevens Act is not weakened so the next generation of fishermen and anglers in our community will have the opportunity to enjoy great fishing and cleaner oceans.

Sincerely,  
Karla Klay, Executive Director