



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

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi:

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). We strongly encourage Congress to be steadfast stewards of the Gulf of Mexico toward the rebuilding of healthy fisheries. Any legislation that would weaken its management should not move forward in this Congress.

The unfortunate reality is that H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would put the progress made on rebuilding our vulnerable fishing populations at risk. They would undermine years of strong science-based management that is helping stabilize fisheries industry.

These two 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 has already put Red Snapper on the road to recovery proving that strong fisheries management can work.

As a non-profit organization concerned about the sustainability of our coast lines and fisheries, a healthy and vibrant Gulf of Mexico helps many businesses along the Texas Gulf Coast. H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would weaken the core tenants of the Magnuson Stevens Act. These bills could disrupt the success of coastal businesses along the Gulf Coast. In fact, NOAA Fisheries estimated that the success of rebuilding all overfished U.S. populations – as a result of the Magnuson Stevens Act - will help add \$31 billion to the economy and over 500,000 jobs. Weakening the law will harm the fisheries rebuilding effort, including Red Snapper in the Gulf, as well as harm coastal businesses that rely on a healthy fisheries management program.

We strongly 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,

Frances Jurisch, Director

cc: The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Majority Leader
The Honorable Steny Hoyer, Democratic Whip