

April 15, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

As Gulf of Mexico commercial fishermen, charter-for-hire business owners, seafood distributors and restaurant owners, we oppose any legislation or congressional action that could take away red snapper from our industry and businesses, all of which are vital to the coastal economies of the Gulf.

We are deeply concerned about legislative proposals that would repeal a legal requirement for separate quotas for commercial and recreational fisheries; extend state jurisdiction for the recreational management of red snapper from the current 3 miles to 9 miles offshore of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama; and transfer the responsibility for assessing the health of reef fish, including red snapper, from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission. These proposals could put the red snapper rebuilding plan at risk, take away fish from our charter clients and jeopardize our seafood supply chain by cutting commercial quotas.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act helped end fishing at unsustainable rates and put Gulf red snapper on the road to recovery. The signs of success for Gulf red snapper—more and bigger fish dispersed throughout a broader range—are evidence that the federal law works. Though some are not happy with the current management system, changes made within the current system can address these concerns without again depleting the red snapper population.

We ask that you keep red snapper under federal management to allow for more fish and fishing opportunities for everyone and oppose any legislative efforts to undermine red snapper's progress and deny us the economic benefits of a healthy population.

Sincerely,

Val Hammond  
Owner, Royal Lagoon Seafood, Inc.  
Theodore, AL

Hal Metzger  
Owner, The Whistle Stop Café  
Mobile, AL

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David Walker  
Walker Fishing Fleet Inc.  
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Summer Hunter Charters  
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Steinhatchee, FL

Capt. Billy Archer  
Seminole Wind Fishing Charters  
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Glen Brooks  
President, Gulf Fishermen's Association  
Clearwater, FL

Ernest B. Davi  
MGRM, F/V Miss Gail, Inc.  
Lecanto, FL

Jim Clements  
Commercial fisherman  
Carrabelle, FL

Mike Colby  
President, Clearwater Commercial Marine Association  
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Jason Delacruz  
Wild Seafood Company, LLC  
Largo, FL

Lloyd W. Geiger  
Registered Agent, Gulf of Mexico IFQ, Inc.  
Bradenton, FL

Capt. Brad Gorst  
Clearwatercharterfishing.com  
Clearwater, FL

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Larry Huntley  
F/V Barbara K  
Pensacola, FL

Capt. Gary Jarvis  
Back Down 2 Fishing Charters  
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Manager, Salty Fishing, LLC  
Seminole, FL

Brad Kenyon  
Owner, Boat and Motor Superstores  
Palm Harbor, FL

Dawn Kenyon  
President, Florida Family Fisheries  
Tarpon Springs, FL

Brian Lewis  
F/V Trip Limit  
Clearwater, FL

Steven Meisel  
Meisel Marine Inc.  
Palm Harbor, FL

Dean Pruitt  
President, Demar Fishing Inc.  
Clearwater, FL

John Schmidt  
President, Bohica Fishing Inc.  
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William E. Tucker  
F/V Wing Shot  
Dunedin, FL

William Ward  
Owner, Captain's Finest Seafood, Inc.  
Manager, Fish For America, LLC  
Altamonte Springs, FL

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Capt. James Zurbrick  
Owner/Manager, Jolly Rogers II Fisheries, LLC  
Owner/Manager, Tides Up Fisheries  
Owner, Nature Coast Storage  
Steinhatchee, FL

Patricia Zurbrick  
Registered Agent, Fish for America, LLC  
Owner, Nature Coast Storage  
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Tony Abadie  
Director of Catering and Events, Hilton Hotel Riverside  
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Owner/Director of Operations, Antoon Hospitality Group  
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Co-owner, Mr. Pobody  
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Haley Bittermann  
Director of Operations, Ralph Brennan Restaurant Group  
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Owner/President, New Orleans Fish House  
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Owner, Beck-N-Call Café  
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Managing Partner, Dickie Brennan's Steakhouse,  
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Lauren Brennan Brower  
Managing Partner, Dickie Brennan's Steakhouse,  
Palace Café, Bourbon House & Tableau  
New Orleans, LA

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Lawrence Brown  
Owner/Chef, Lagniappe Luncheonette  
Metairie, LA

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Co-Proprietor, Arnaud's Restaurant  
New Orleans, LA

Leah Chase  
Chef/Owner, Dooky Chase Restaurant  
New Orleans, LA

Edgar Cooper  
Owner, Seed Restaurant  
New Orleans, LA

Tommy Cvitanovich  
Owner, Drago's  
New Orleans and Metairie, LA

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Chef-Proprietor, La Petite Grocery  
New Orleans, LA

Mia Freiberger-Devillier  
General Manager-Proprietor, La Petite Grocery  
New Orleans, LA

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Chef/Proprietor, Maurepas Foods  
New Orleans, LA

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Chef/Owner, GW Finns  
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General Manager, TJ Ribs  
Baton Rouge, LA

Adolfo Garcia  
Chef/Owner, LaBoca, High Hat and Ancora NOLA  
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Juan Carlos Gonzales  
Executive Chef, SoBou, The Commander's Family of Restaurants  
New Orleans, LA

Marie Gould  
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Lafayette, LA

Stan Harris  
President & CEO, Louisiana Restaurant Association  
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President, Cajun Kettle Foods, Inc.  
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Proprietor, Clancy's Restaurant  
New Orleans, LA

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Chef/Owner, Café Carmo  
New Orleans, LA

Justin Jones  
Corporate Chef, Phil's Grill  
New Orleans, LA

Donald Julien  
Chef, Warehouse Grill  
New Orleans, LA

Heather Leeming  
Manager/Owner, Coulis  
New Orleans, LA

Duke LoCicero  
Owner/Chef, Chef Duke's Café Giovanni  
New Orleans, LA

Ralph Longman  
Purchasing Agent/Partner, Forest Restaurant  
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Gene Meyer  
Sales Representative, New Orleans Fish House  
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Benny Miller  
Owner, Louisiana Seafood Exchange  
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Chris Montero  
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Director of Food Service, Zatarain's  
Gretna, LA

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Covington, LA

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Palace Café, Bourbon House & Tableau  
New Orleans, LA

Sal Piazza  
Owner/President, Piazza's Seafood World  
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Chef/Owner, Pêche Restaurant  
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Paul Rotner  
COO, Acme Oyster House  
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Anton Schulte  
Chef/Owner, Bistro Daisy  
New Orleans, LA

Diane Schulte  
Manager/Owner, Bistro Daisy  
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Patrick Singley  
Proprietor, Gautreau's  
New Orleans, LA

Susan Spicer  
Chef/Owner, Bayona and Mondo  
New Orleans, LA

Stephen Stryjewski  
Chef/Owner, Cochon, Butcher, and Pêche Restaurants  
New Orleans, LA

Anthony Tocco  
Proprietor, Atchafalaya Restaurant  
New Orleans, LA

Steve Tomeny  
F/V The Louisiana  
Port Fourchon, LA

Karl Turner  
President, A La Carte Specialty Foods, LLC  
Westwego, LA

Cathy Veron  
Owner, Meat/Seafood Store  
Lafayette, LA

Capt. Louis Skrmetta  
Owner, Ship Island Excursions  
Gulfport, MS

Capt. Shane Cantrell  
Galveston Sea Ventures  
Galveston, TX

Bubba Cochrane  
Southern Seafood LLC  
Galveston, TX

Buddy Guindon  
Katie's Seafood Market  
Galveston, TX

Bill Hummell  
Hummells General Store  
Galveston, TX

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Joey Jannazzo  
Director of Operations, HSC Seafood Wholesalers, LTD.  
Houston, TX

Capt. Blake Muirhead  
Gatortrout  
Rockport, TX

cc: The Honorable Rob Bishop, Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources  
The Honorable Raúl Grijalva, Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources  
The Alabama Congressional Delegation  
The Florida Congressional Delegation  
The Louisiana Congressional Delegation  
The Mississippi Congressional Delegation  
The Texas Congressional Delegation