



THE DELAWARE RIVER SHAD FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION

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 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