



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 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", enclosed within a circular scribble.

Doug O'Malley
Environment New Jersey Director
Trenton, NJ