



May 27, 2015

Dear Members of Congress:

As members of Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2), we appreciate the opportunity to express our view on H.R. 1335, Congressman Don Young's bill to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). Because of provisions that ultimately would weaken the law and revert to past fishery management practices that proved unsustainable for our nation's valuable commercial and recreational fisheries, we urge you to vote NO on this bill when it is considered on the House floor. The MSA has a strong track record in rebuilding depleted fisheries and ending overfishing. H.R. 1335 rolls back key requirements in the current law responsible for this success and threatens hard-earned economic and ecological gains.

E2 is a non-partisan, national community of business leaders who promote strong environmental policy to grow the economy. We are entrepreneurs, investors, and professionals from every sector of the economy who collectively have been involved in financing, creating or working in the early development of more than 1,700 companies, which have created over 570,000 jobs. Our members know that smart ocean stewardship is essential to a strong economy. America's oceans, coasts and Great Lakes directly support millions of jobs and contribute almost twice the economic output as the entire farm sector.^[i] The economic output of these valuable resources is greatly threatened without sustainable management policies.

Thanks to conservation mandates added to the MSA during the 1996 and 2006 reauthorizations, many ocean fisheries around the country have recovered and are again playing a critical role in coastal economies. The number of overfished fish stocks and stocks subject to overfishing has been cut by more than half, U.S. seafood landings set a 14-year record in 2011 (with a value of more than \$5 billion), and recreational fishing trips in the last decade were up 30% from trips in the 1990s.^[ii] The MSA's requirement to rebuild depleted fisheries in as short a time period as possible, which should not exceed ten years (with limited exceptions), has been particularly effective. Nearly two-thirds of fish stocks put in rebuilding plans have either rebuilt to healthy population levels, or have made significant rebuilding progress, providing estimated commercial dockside revenues of \$585 million annually—92% higher (54% when adjusted for inflation) than before the rebuilding plans.^[iii] The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has estimated that the complete rebuilding of all U.S. stocks will ultimately produce as much as \$31 billion in total sales impact and 500,000 jobs.^[iv]

We consider the MSA a strong example of successful bipartisan policies. Therefore we are highly concerned about the drastic alteration of current law proposed in Representative Young's bill. These changes include removing rebuilding timelines through a number of broad exceptions, as well as removing the current mandate to prioritize rebuilding and long-term economic benefits over short-term economic gain. H.R. 1335 also eliminates the requirement for annual catch limits and accountability measures for hundreds of fish stocks, including stocks that are overfished or subject to overfishing. We are concerned that this weakening of the law will result in a return to boom-and-bust fishing, and derail the progress we have made in building up the long-term economic value of the country's ocean fisheries.

The last two reauthorizations of the MSA have contributed to significant improvements in our

fishing and coastal economies. We urge you to stay the course, to support sensible and sound fisheries management policies, and to reject efforts to undermine the progress made in this nation's fisheries management to date. Doing so will continue to pay dividends to the U.S. economy in perpetuity.

We appreciate your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

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[i] National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW) Data 2011. Available at <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/enow>.; U.S. Department of Commerce. Bureau of Economic Analysis. Industry Economic Accounts Data, GDP-by-Industry and Input-Output. Available at <http://www.bea.gov/industry/index.htm>. Please note that these numbers do not include multipliers.

[ii] NMFS, Report to Congress - Status of Fisheries in the United States (January 2001), available at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/statusoffisheries/Archives/StatusofFisheriesReportCongress2000.pdf>; NOAA Fisheries, Status of Stocks 2012 - Annual Report to Congress on Status of U.S. Fisheries (UD), available at http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/statusoffisheries/2012/2012_SOS_RTC.pdf; NOAA, U.S. seafood landings reach 14-year high in 2011 (September 19, 2012), available at http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2012/20120919_fisheries2011report.html; NOAA, Office of Science and Technology, Recreational Fisheries Statistics Queries, available at <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/recreational-fisheries/access-data/run-a-data-query/queries/index> (accessed 1/9/14)

[iii] NRDC, "Bringing Back the Fish" (2013), <http://www.nrdc.org/oceans/rebuilding-fisheries.asp>.

[iv] See, e.g., NOAA, "Annual NOAA report shows record number of rebuilt fisheries," May 14, 2012, http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2012/20120514_statusofstocks.html