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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 several members, Fishing Vessel Seafoods 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 halibut and black cod 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 halibut and black cod on the road to recovery. The signs of success for these species more and bigger fish dispersed throughout a broader range—are evidence that strong fisheries management can work.

It is also important that the United States be exemplary in its management of the resources in our domain. The world oceans shared resources must be managed into the future by a consortium of national interests which have shown that they are worthy of that responsibility. Conceding scientific advice to expedient political compromise and short term economic considerations suggests integrity for sale which on the world stage fosters distrust.

The Fishing vessel Seafood and Fishing Vessel St. Jude 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,

Captain Joe Malley, CEO