



The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
232 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader
H-107 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
204 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 members, LEAF (Leaders for Environmental Studies at Fairfield University) 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 organization focuses on ensuring that the Connecticut marine ecosystem is well managed. This means relying on healthy, abundant fish populations, from the small forge fish to their bigger predator, the Black Sea Bass. Any legislation that would weaken the Connecticut marine ecosystem management should not move forward in this Congress, and H.R. 200 % H.R. 2023 would do just that.

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 Black Sea Bass on the road to recovery. The signs of success in for Black Sea Bass—more and bigger fish dispersed throughout a broader range—are evidence that strong fisheries management can work.

As an University located on the Long Island Sound, the health of our oceans and fisheries are important issues for us. The past few years has seen many of our members speak out on the threats to our oceans and fisheries. As a result we urge you to oppose legislation such as H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023. These bills would pose a threat to success and progress we have made in rebuilding our fish stocks in the Long Island Sound. the unstable fishing practices (firm overfishing limits) that the Magnuson - Stevens Act is mitigating, are the reasons why the health of our fisheries are improving. Please do not jeopardize this.

The LEAF 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,
Haleigh Doherty
LEAF President