

June 25, 2018

To the New York Congressional Delegation:

As recreational fishermen and charter captains from New York, we oppose House and Senate bills that would roll back our federal fisheries law, the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

This law has a strong track record of putting an end to overfishing, and restoring important recreational fish populations for our state, like bluefish, black seabass and summer flounder.

As anglers, we rely on abundant fish populations and Magnuson has helped bring such to New York's waters.

In short, the law's conservation success has been a boon for our fishing, our businesses, and our communities. Bills currently moving through Congress endanger this success.

For example, H.R. 200—**which is likely to receive a vote on the floor of the House this week**—would exempt many fish stocks from key conservation requirements, like rebuilding plans, water down legal standards in the law, and decrease accountability for commercial and recreational fishermen alike. Likewise, a bill in the Senate, S. 1520, while not as egregious as H.R.200, still undercuts the law's conservation standards. It would also need to be reconciled with H.R. 200, and the outcome would almost certainly be bad for us.

We are not saying that Magnuson is perfect, but these bills don't even attempt to tackle tough management challenges that remain, like how to respond to shifting stocks, make fair allocation decisions, manage for ecosystem considerations (i.e. forage fish management and habitat considerations), etc.

We urge members of the House and Senate to work together to find broadly supported bipartisan solutions to the remaining challenges of fisheries management. To help ensure future generations of anglers can enjoy healthy fish populations, Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization should build on the progress we have made, not lower the bar for management success.

We urge you to oppose H.R. 200, S. 1520, and other efforts that would lead to an undermining of successful U.S. fisheries management.

Sincerely,

Capt. John McMurray, Oceanside NY, *One More Cast Charters*

Capt. Paul Dixon, East Hampton NY, *To The Point Charters*

Capt. Bryan Goulard, East Hampton NY, *Point to Point Charters*

Capt. David Blinken, East Hampton NY, *Northflats Guiding*

Capt. Daniel Reich, New York NY, *One More Cast Charters*

Capt. Andrew Derr, Greenpoint, NY, *Long Island on the Fly*
Capt. Vinnie Catalano, Greenpoint NY, *Joey C. Charters*
Capt. Jim Levinson, Montauk NY, *Double Haul Charters*
Brendan McCarthy, Brooklyn NY, *Urban Fly Guides*
Capt. Ernie French, East Hampton NY, *Fly Fishing Montauk*
Joel Filner, New York NY, *Salty Flyrodders of New York*
Lou DiRicco, Rockville Center NY *Gateway Striper Club*
Kerry Heffernan, New York NY *Chef, Grand Banks Restaurant*
Neil Stoff, Brooklyn NY *Gateway Striper Club*
John Durante, Breezy Point NY, *Gateway Striper Club*
George McAuliffe, Sag Harbor NY
Long Nguyen, New York NY
Andrew Roberts, Sea Cliff NY
Scott Andrews, Merrick NY
Mark Soley, West Islip NY
Rob Lynch, New York NY
David Yagerman, Bayside NY
Scott Laton, New York NY
Lee Kirkham Scholtz, New York NY
Timothy Walker Shaw, New York NY
Steve Lalonde, New York NY
Stuart Homcy, Middle Village NY
Angelo Peluso, Port Jefferson NY
Stanley Knipe, New Hyde Park, NY
Frederic Thorner, Little Neck NY

Mark Kanterman, Long Beach NY

Jerry Pascucci, Wantagh NY

Thomas Gorman, Central Islip NY

Keith Franz, East Rockaway NY

Percy Brice, Freeport NY

Mike Gallego, Eastchester NY

William Belfi, Douglasstown NY

Sebastian Trapani, Brooklyn NY

Ken Dubie, Port Washington NY

John Papciak, Montauk NY

Charles Witek III, Babylon NY

Ross Squire, Port Jefferson NY