



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 Slow Food Seattle chapter, I'm writing to strongly urge 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).

Slow Food is a member-supported educational organization that envisions a food system based on the principles of quality and taste, environmental sustainability, and social justice – in essence, a food system that is good, clean, and fair. We seek to reconnect Americans with the people, traditions, plants, animals, fertile soils and waters that produce our food.

Many members and supporters of our Seattle-area community rely on healthy, abundant fish populations, especially of cod, sole and sablefish for their livelihoods. Any legislation that would weaken their management should not move forward in this Congress.

H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would undermine years of strong science-based management that is helping rebuild threatened fish populations and stabilize fishing businesses and coastal communities. They would extend the timelines for plans to rebuild vulnerable fish populations, delaying when fishermen would benefit from a fully healthy stock. They also would exempt fish populations from the use of science-based annual catch limits designed to prevent overfishing.

For 40 years, the MSA has helped end fishing at unsustainable rates and has put a variety of local species on the road to recovery. Here on the West Coast, for instance, seven species of ground fish have been rebuilt years ahead of schedule because of the MSA — strong evidence that fisheries management can work.

Slow Food members and supporters aim to inspire a transformation in food policy, production practices and market forces so that they ensure equity, sustainability and pleasure in the food we eat. Healthy, robust fisheries are such a critical piece of that vision, and we ask that you take a stand to protect them.

Please 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 MSA.

Sincerely,

Slow Food Seattle