



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,

Washington Wildlife Federation has a long history of bringing together conservation-minded hunters, fishers and outdoor enthusiasts to advocate for state and federal policies that ensure healthy fish and wildlife populations for future generations. We believe a balanced and healthy marine ecosystem benefits all of us who live in the Pacific Northwest. That's why we are writing you today.

We're concerned that H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 and other bills in the pipeline would significantly undermine the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the primary law governing management of U.S. ocean fish. We strongly urge you to oppose these bills.

H.R. 200 and 2023 would increase the risk of overfishing and undermine years of strong science-based management 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 also would exempt many fish populations from 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 species on the road to recovery. Across the country, 43 fish populations have been rebuilt since 2000, and the number of stocks subject to overfishing has decreased by nearly two-thirds. Here on the West Coast, seven species of ground fish have been rebuilt years ahead of schedule because of the MSA. We also have the MSA to thank for healthier populations of Coho salmon on the Washington coast in Queets and the Western Strait of Juan de Fuca. That's news to celebrate here in the Pacific Northwest, fondly known as Salmon Nation.



Without sustainable fish populations, we cannot guarantee healthy fish populations for future generations. Policymakers must shift to big-picture fisheries management to enhance the productivity of our oceans, and reject efforts to undermine the law's conservation measures. Our oceans and people like me depend on it.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Mark Quinn
Vice President