



# SUSTAINING AMERICA'S FISHERIES FOR THE FUTURE ACT OF 2025

## What Supporters are Saying about the Sustaining America's Fisheries for the Future Act

***Supporting Organizations:** Alaska Longline Fisherman's Association, Alaska Marine Conservation Council, Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, American Fly Fishing Trade Association, American Saltwater Guides Association, Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance, Center for American Progress, Earthjustice, Environmental Defense Fund, Maine Coast Fishermen's Association, Maine Coast Fishermen's Association, Marine Fish Conservation Network, Monterey Bay Aquarium, National Audubon Society, Natural Resources Defense Council, Oceana, Ocean Conservancy, Pew Charitable Trusts, Tanana Chiefs Conference*

**Linda Behnken, Executive Director, Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association:** "Representative Huffman's bill reflects broad stakeholder input and a deep commitment to the bipartisan MSA tradition. The bill acknowledges that climate change must now be central to all management decisions, and that our fisheries and fishing communities depend on careful stewardship of essential fish habitat, reducing bycatch, and responding quickly to changing ocean conditions. ALFA appreciates Representative Huffman's leadership and we look forward to working with him and our Alaska delegation to navigate the challenges facing our fisheries and fishing communities."

**Fisheries Forward Coalition (Center for American Progress, Earthjustice, Environmental Defense Fund, Oceana, Ocean Conservancy, Natural Resources Defense Council, and Pew Charitable Trusts):** "Resilient fisheries are the backbone of coastal communities across the country and are fundamental to food, jobs, recreation, and the health of the ocean," said Fisheries Forward. "While the Magnuson-Stevens Act is one of the most important tools for conserving U.S. fisheries, it has not been updated since 2007 and does not currently mention climate change. Sustaining America's Fisheries for Our Future Act will help to sustain and strengthen our fisheries so these communities can thrive into the future. U.S. fishery management is still struggling to rebuild stocks and has not kept pace with the impacts of climate change. Fish are the foundation of a healthy ocean, affecting everything in the food web from whales and seabirds to coral and seagrass. When they're overfished, it has cascading harmful impacts not only for our fisheries but also ocean health. The Sustaining America's Fisheries for The Future Act provides new science-based tools to strengthen core conservation provisions and sustainable management so that communities can count on having resilient and abundant fisheries for years to come. We applaud Rep. Huffman's leadership and commitment to prioritizing these vital improvements."

**John Melovidov, President of the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, Alaska:** "The Aleut people have commercially fished the Bering Sea for generations. It is who we are as a people, and is core to the success of our island's economy. But too often, remote communities like ours are an afterthought in the fisheries management system. Decisions are often made with little regard of the small businesses that are the cornerstone of our fishing community. This is why we are supportive of Rep. Huffman's proposals to strengthen the participation of communities through the Working

Waterfronts Grant Program and adding the participation of fishing communities as a requirement for limited access programs. This bill will provide communities like ours with additional tools to help us ensure our fishing businesses remain successful into the future."

**Lucas Bissett, Executive Director, American Fly Fishing Trade Association:** "Congressman Huffman's focus on stakeholder engagement through this process makes me feel confident that this Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization will continue the tradition of being a bi-partisan process. In fact, I was part of that stakeholder engagement when I sat in on a listening session held in New Orleans, La. I witnessed first-hand representatives from all sectors getting an opportunity to weigh-in during these meetings. As the Executive Director of the American Fly Fishing Trade Association, I commend Congressman Huffman's focus on keeping our federal fisheries sustainable and adaptable because our industries' small businesses rely on them to feed their families and help stimulate our economy."

**Michelle Stratton, Fisheries Scientist/Executive Director, Alaska Marine Conservation Council:** "The Alaska Marine Conservation Council appreciates Representative Huffman's leadership and the thoughtful inclusion of small-scale harvesters in the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). This legislation is an opportunity to strengthen the backbone of our coastal economies. Our fisheries are built upon half a century of science-based management, which has adapted over time to address urgent, modern challenges. We strongly support provisions that prioritize healthy habitat, protect and foster participation by place-based harvesters, advance climate-ready fisheries, reduce bycatch, and require tribal representation on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. By prioritizing the well-being of coastal communities and marine ecosystems, we can ensure that our oceans and the people who depend on them thrive for generations to come."

**Tony Friedrich, Policy Director, American Saltwater Guides Association:** "The Magnuson-Stevens Act set the standard for Federal Fisheries management across the globe, and has established a strong baseline for responsible oversight of our commercial and recreational fishing practices. Using MSA as its foundation, the Sustaining America's Fisheries for the Future Act of 2025 provides an opportunity to strengthen management tools by utilizing best available science to address factors resulting from rapidly evolving fishery patterns and environmental conditions. This Bill recognizes that with new available technologies, we can enhance data collection by NOAA and other regulatory bodies to better understand the impact we are having on critical stocks and regions. We applaud Congressman Huffman for his continued efforts to reauthorize MSA with important added focus on essential fish habitat consultation, bycatch reduction and increased accountability, improving rebuilding outcomes and managing overfished populations. We look forward to working with him and other members of Congress on the continued evolution of our Federal Fishery policy."

**Aubrey Church, Fisheries Policy Director, Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance:** "We continue to be supportive of Rep. Huffman's tireless efforts to update the MSA so it can better meet the needs of commercial fishing, an industry that shaped our nation and continues to be essential to the country's success. We are grateful the changes prioritize investment in working waterfronts and fishermen-driven science. We need an adaptive, flexible, forward-looking statute that allows American fishermen to continue to bring home seafood that is second to none and be

more competitive in the global marketplace, as well as a management process that emphasizes fishermen's voices and is nimble enough to meet the challenges of a rapidly-changing ocean and world economy."

"This ambitious legislation would bring us closer to addressing the serious impacts of climate change on our ecosystems, fisheries, and coastal communities," **said Meredith Moore, Director of Ocean Conservancy's Fish Conservation Program.** "Our fisheries face growing threats as fish populations decline and climate change dramatically alters the health of the ocean. But our fisheries are also facing an acute crisis. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which develops the science, management, and systems that support sustainable fishing for our coastal communities, has faced damaging funding and staffing cuts. We must modernize our fisheries management system and increase the resilience of fish stocks and fishing communities - and we must ensure that NOAA has the resources it needs to maintain healthy ocean ecosystems."

**Molly Masterton, U.S. Fisheries Director, Natural Resources Defense Council:**

"The Magnuson-Stevens Act has shown us that putting long-term fisheries sustainability first works. Representatives Huffman, Moylan, and Case's Sustaining America's Fisheries for the Future Act sets the bar for a reauthorization that would build on the MSA's successes, plus recharge it to tackle challenges both old, like chronic overfishing, and new, like climate change and the havoc it is wreaking on marine ecosystems. This is a major step in securing a healthy and resilient future for our fisheries."

**Rob Vandermark, Executive Director, Marine Fish Conservation Network:** "The Sustaining America's Fisheries for the Future Act makes significant advancements to our U.S. fisheries management system and will contribute to the economic betterment, cultural enrichment, and health benefit of people and communities nationwide. This bipartisan bill will improve catch data and stock assessments, which are the bedrock of our successful science-based fisheries management system, while also providing working waterfronts and fishing communities the infrastructure improvements and funding support they need to meet the challenges of the future. The Marine Fish Conservation Network thanks Representatives Huffman, Moylan, and Case for their work to further the health and productivity of our oceans and fisheries that sustain our economy, nutritional wellbeing, and way of life."

**Bethany Carl Kraft, Senior Director of Coastal and Marine Resilience, National Audubon Society:** "This bill introduces stronger protections for seabirds, which rely on healthy forage fish populations to survive," said Bethany Carl Kraft, "By factoring in the importance of forage fish to the ocean ecosystem, accounting for the impacts of climate change, and boosting essential fish habitat protections, this bill will strengthen the MSA for future generations."