



December 12, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva:

I am writing on behalf of the Charter Fisherman's Association to express our strong opposition to the following legislation before your committee: H.R. 200 and H.R. 3588. Despite the tremendous work in rebuilding fisheries nationwide, there are potentially jeopardizing changes being proposed to the Magnuson-Stevens Act that could devastate fishing communities and once depleted fish populations. Specifically the provisions that are responsible for the successful rebuilding of fisheries over the last 40 years.

The Charter Fisherman's Association is a federally permitted charter-for-hire industry trade association with the mission to ensure American public access to fishing, to engage and represent the charter-for-hire industry, and to ensure long-term sustainability of our fisheries. Our members are primarily comprised of independent, small business owners, many of whom have spent decades on the water and are deeply committed to sustainable fisheries. We have seen the successes of the Magnuson-Stevens Act first hand, and would like to highlight the following:

- The Magnuson-Stevens Act should continue to be bipartisan legislation. Fishing communities and business hang in the balance of this reauthorization and all stakeholders should have their concerns addressed.
- The law is uniquely designed to include fishermen throughout the process of designing regulations, promoting regional solutions to regional problems.
- The law is already flexible: most rebuilding plans are over the 10 year rebuilding timeline. — Also, fishermen can help develop management that works for them and increases their profitability and accountability.
- H.R. 200 – undermines the core parts of the law: Annual Catch Limits and rebuilding timelines. These are the reasons that we've seen rebounding fish populations, more stable/profitable fishing businesses, and more fish available to recreational fishermen.
- H.R. 3588 removes the private recreational sector of red snapper management from the conservation and fairness provisions of the MSA – those provisions are what make sure fish populations stay healthy and everyone has a chance to fish.

- Working together, in the Council process, to find solutions that work for all fishermen is the way to proceed – not breaking or changing the law so that a few can get more while everyone else gets less.

The Charter Fisherman's Association appreciates the opportunity to provide input and guidance on proposed revisions to the Magnuson Stevens Act, please feel free to reach out for additional information or perspective on these important fishery issues facing American small businesses.

Sincerely,



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