

Members of the United States House of Representatives

Dear Representatives;

Subject: Reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act

The undersigned ask you to support the important gains that have been made under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in the last ten years. We are concerned that recent discussions surrounding reauthorization are focusing on “access” and “flexibility” and putting important gains at risk.

Thanks to the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the United States boasts one of the world’s best regulatory systems to govern its marine fisheries. Its regional council system, strong national standards, and mandate to use the best available science have led to safeguarding and restoring the health of our ocean ecosystems -- which, in turn, have provided us with a sustainable source of seafood. This clearly is a success story -- one that needs to continue by building upon a foundation developed over the past four decades.

Unfortunately, legislation has been introduced in the House of Representatives; H.R. 200, the Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act of 2017 and H.R. 2023, the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017. While claiming to “modernize” and “strengthen” fisheries management, they increase the risk of allowing overfishing to occur. Taking our nation’s fisheries in the wrong direction and undermining gains made in the last ten years. Hardly what we would consider modern or strong.

Closer to home, H.R. 3588, the “RED SNAPPER Act of 2017” would give states the sole authority to regulate private recreational anglers. We fear that Gulf states could forgo important conservation measures and once again put the fishery at risk.

We ask for your support of a reauthorization effort that strengthens, not weakens, the management of our fisheries. Our fishing communities -- and future generations of fishermen -- are depending on you.

We look forward to a continued dialogue as reauthorization proceeds.

Sincerely,

Mark Alleman, Hook and Boil, Lafayette, LA
Mimi Assad, Bar Frances, New Orleans, LA
Dickie Brennan, Dickie Brennan & Co. Restaurant Group, New Orleans, LA
Brian Burns, Peche Seafood Grill, New Orleans, LA
Adrian Chelette, Ancora, New Orleans, LA
Nina Compton, Compere Lapin, New Orleans, LA
Justin Devillier, La Petite Grocery and Balise, New Orleans, LA
Kristen Essig, Coquette, New Orleans, LA
Jason Goodenough, Carrollton Market, New Orleans, LA
Dana Honn, Cafe Carmo, New Orleans, LA
Michael Hudman, Andrew Michael Italian Kitchen, Memphis, TN
Evan Ingram, Effervescence, New Orleans, LA
Marcus Jacobs, Marjie's Grill, New Orleans, LA
Charlie Murley, Tacocat, New Orleans, LA
Nadia Ogbor, Little Kitchen, New Orleans, LA
Christopher Okorie, Evening Eats, New Orleans, LA
Loriana Perschall, Coquette, New Orleans, LA
Ernest Prejean, Prejean's, Lafayette, LA
Ryan Prewitt, Peche Seafood Grill, New Orleans, LA
Nathan Reed, Tacocat, New Orleans, LA
Brenna Sanders, Effervescence, New Orleans, LA
Ryan Schantz, Lake Charles, LA
Michael Stoltzfus, Coquette, New Orleans, LA
Stephen Stryjewski, Cochon and Cochon Butcher, New Orleans, LA
Andy Ticer, Andrew Michael Italian Kitchen, Memphis, TN

CC: Members of the United States Senate