

December 11, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop, Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva, Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

On behalf of the millions of Americans who enjoy recreational fishing and boating and the tens of thousands of hardworking Americans whom we employ, we are writing to express our strong support for H.R. 2023, the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017 (Modern Fish Act). We ask the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources to include the provisions of the Modern Fish Act in the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

For decades, the one-size-fits-all approach of the Magnuson-Stevens Act has placed unnecessary restrictions on our nation's saltwater anglers and kept our industry from performing to its full potential. Despite healthy fish populations in many instances, anglers have experienced a systematic reduction in opportunities in recent years, and we fear this will negatively impact the future of our sport, our industry, and the conservation of our natural marine resources.

As members of the marine industry have testified previously before Congress, the saltwater fishing economy touches all 50 states – from manufacturers and suppliers, boat builders and boat dealers, tackle shops and marinas, restaurants and motels. America's 11 million saltwater anglers contribute more than \$63 billion to the U.S. economy each year and generate nearly 440,000 jobs in the pursuit of their passion.

The Modern Fish Act aims to benefit fishing access and conservation by incorporating modern management approaches, science and technology to guide decision-making. Managing for better recreational fishing opportunities is not counterproductive to the conservation goals of the Magnuson-Stevens Act but rather complimentary to the goal of sustainability and conservation of our marine resources.

We respectfully urge the Committee to favorably move the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act including the Modern Fish Act provisions to the House floor for final passage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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