



December 8, 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,

We write to encourage the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources to include the provisions of H.R. 2023, the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017 (Modern Fish Act), in the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

Our organizations represent the recreational fishing and boating industry and our nation's anglers, and we stand united in support of the Modern Fish Act. These provisions would bring parity to recreational and commercial fishing which are different endeavors and should be managed differently. For centuries, generations of Americans have enjoyed one of America's greatest pastimes on our coastal waters. Yet, antiquated federal policies are unnecessarily limiting the public's access to our nation's abundant natural resources.

By modernizing saltwater recreational fisheries management, the Magnuson-Stevens Act can achieve a better balance for the needs of anglers and the recreational fishing industry, restore public trust in federal fisheries management and continue to ensure the conservation of our marine fisheries resources.

America's 11 million saltwater anglers contribute more than \$63 billion to the U.S. economy each year and generate nearly 440,000 jobs, including thousands of manufacturing and supply jobs in non-coastal states. The Modern Fish Act will promote public access, adapt federal management to fit recreational fishing with proven techniques used in other jurisdictions, improve fisheries data collection and spur economic growth.

We encourage the Committee to favorably discharge the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act including the Modern Fish Act provisions and move the bill to the House floor for final passage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Nussman, President & CEO
American Sportfishing Association

Nehl Horton, President
International Game Fish Association

Jeff Angers, President
Center for Sportfishing Policy

Thom Dammrich, President
National Marine Manufacturers Association

Patrick Murray, President
Coastal Conservation Association

Jim D'Onofrio, President
Recreational Fishing Alliance

Jeff Crane, President
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

Ellen Peel, President
The Billfish Foundation

Guy Harvey, President
Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation

Whit Fosburgh, President
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership