

June 21, 2018

Dear Maryland Congressional Delegation,

The recreational fishermen listed below strongly oppose weakening the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) as proposed by **S.1520 - Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017** and **H.R.200 - Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act**. For years, MSA has been working to strengthen our fisheries through science-based catch limits and rebuilding timelines. This focus led to more stable fisheries, more abundant fish populations, and stronger coastal economies. We can't turn the clock back on these tools that have worked so well for our region.

These bills seek to reverse the progress of U.S. fisheries management by removing conservation measures that are effective. Why would we break something that is working? NOAA recently released the 2017 Status of Fisheries report to Congress. The report showed that 91% of marine fish stocks are not subject to overfishing. We could do even better. However, these bills focus only on one sector and don't address critical issues like dead zones, habitat protection, and equality for all sectors.

Thousands of jobs and millions of dollars of economic benefits rely on healthy, stable fish populations. Recreational anglers don't want to kill more fish. We want abundant populations that give us an opportunity to catch more fish. When fish populations fall, the recreational economic engine suffers. Recreational anglers don't measure their days by filling a cooler any longer. We measure our days on the overall experience. A huge part of that experience is having a good probability of catching fish.

We urge you to oppose any effort to undermine the conservation aspects of MSA. We don't want to leave our children with less. We want to give them the same opportunities we have under a strong MSA. This is the true voice of recreational anglers. A voice that hasn't been represented, but one that you need to hear.

Andy Becker
Angler
Bel Air, MD

Casey Peltier
Angler
Arlington, VA

Ian Jones
Angler
Baltimore, MD

Adam Wilner
Angler
Baltimore, MD

Charles Waterman
Angler
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Steve Leathery
Angler
Jefferson, MD

Jennifer Dorose
Angler
Annapolis, MD

Jean Kohl
Angler,
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Micah Dammeyer
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Jeff Brennan
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Richard Farino
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Lew Armistead
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Jim Froio
Angler
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Mark Eustis
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Trey Blackiston
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Robert Sullivan
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Brook Leathery
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Matt Dammeyer
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Deborah Eckett
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Michelle Waterman
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Jerry Kustich
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Steve Silverio
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Villanova, PA

Cory Ashwood
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Ivan Sanchez
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Fairfax, VA

Pat Cohen
Angler
Cobleskill, NY

Mark Signorino
Angler
Erie, PA

Jake Villwock
Angler
Kent Island, MD

Kevin Josenhans
Angler
Mardela Springs, MD

Chris Karwacki
Angler
Belcamp, MD

Lisa Weinstien
Angler
Hunt Valley, MD

Rich Dennison
Angler
Parkville, MD

William Heresniak
Angler
Alexandria, VA

Chris Arminger
Angler
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Andreas Willingham
Angler
Clinton, MD

Katherine Farley
Angler
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Larry Forte
Angler
Frederick, MD

Jon Thames
Angler
Frederick, MD

Austin Green
Angler
Reisterstown, MD

Katie Blizzard
Angler
Hampstead, MD

Len Weintraub
Angler
Hunt Valley, MD

Joe Cap
Angler
Chester, MD

Phil Chorney
Angler
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Nolan Blizzard
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Joe Defiglia
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Joe Sikorski
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