



## MAGNUSON-STEVENS ACT

Securing a Future for Fisheries and Working Waterfronts



The **Marine Fish Conservation Network** is dedicated to upholding and strengthening the science and conservation-based mandates in federal fisheries policy that will ensure all of us benefit from this natural resource for generations to come. Science-based fisheries management has improved the health of U.S. fish stocks over the past decade, thanks to amendments made during the last reauthorization of the **Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act**, our nation's primary federal fisheries law. With the 116th Congress once again considering changes to the law, we must work together to make sure the Magnuson-Stevens Act continues to support abundant fish populations and conserve the habitats upon which they rely.



NOAA fisherman with  
Gulf of Maine cod

Credit: NOAA

### STAYING THE COURSE WITH SCIENCE-BASED MANAGEMENT

The Network's aim is both to preserve the science and conservation advancements that have already been secured in previous reauthorizations and to fortify the law to ensure that U.S. fisheries and fishing communities successfully meet the emerging challenges of the future. To that end, the Network outlines the following priorities for Magnuson-Stevens reauthorization.

- **Defend and strengthen the Magnuson-Stevens Act's conservation requirements and strong science-based management**, including the law's rebuilding provisions and its requirements for annual catch limits and accountability measures to ensure that overfishing does not occur. This also includes supporting mandates for full compliance with all federal laws and regulations such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA).



### Serving up fresh catch

Credit: Natalie Gildersleeve

- **Promote policies that support and strengthen our nation's working waterfronts and community-based fishermen**, including improving fishing community access opportunities and other community safeguards.
- **Transition to a more comprehensive approach to fisheries management that safeguards marine ecosystems**, including stronger fish habitat protections and forage species management and conservation. This also includes measures to minimize bycatch and better incorporate fisheries and ecosystem science.
- **Strengthen assessment, monitoring, and enforcement mechanisms for implementing the law**, through improvements to stock assessments and catch accounting, and timelier implementation of electronic monitoring.

## RESOURCES

- The Network's full list of priorities for Magnuson-Stevens reauthorization can be found at <http://conservefish.org/msa-reauthorization/>
- The Network's assessment of fisheries-related bills can be found at <http://bit.ly/2T8miPC>

## GET INVOLVED WITH THE MARINE FISH CONSERVATION NETWORK

Please join us to ensure that the Magnuson-Stevens Act continues to support healthy oceans and productive fisheries for the benefit of our small businesses, coastal communities and marine ecosystems.

**Follow our blog, "From the Waterfront"**  
[www.conservefish.org/blog](http://www.conservefish.org/blog)

"From the Waterfront" shares stories of our fishing past, present, and future to demonstrate the invaluable role that well-managed fisheries play in healthy ocean ecosystems and our American fishing tradition.

**Follow us on social media**

Get the latest news and information on **Facebook** or **Twitter**: [@marinefishcons](https://twitter.com/marinefishcons).

**Contact the Network**

Email Executive Director Robert C. Vandermark at [info@conservefish.org](mailto:info@conservefish.org).

For more information, please visit: [www.conservefish.org](http://www.conservefish.org)



Danielle McMurray  
False albacore off Montauk, NY

Credit: Capt. John McMurray