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Aquarium®**



**New England
Aquarium**

Protecting the blue planet



SEATTLE AQUARIUM



May 28, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi,

As leaders within the U.S. aquarium community, we are writing to urge you to vote NO on H.R. 1335, a bill to reauthorize and amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). Our institutions are committed to advancing research, educating the public and undertaking key conservation initiatives to build healthy and resilient ocean ecosystems, communities and economies. The strong, science-based fisheries management provisions within the Magnuson-Stevens Act are central to these goals, and they are a critical reason why U.S. fisheries are now regarded as a global example of sustainability.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act, reauthorized on a bipartisan basis in 1996, and again in 2006, has been a significant success for our country. The 2006 reforms, enacted by unanimous consent and signed into law by President Bush, finally ended the chronic overfishing and boom-and-bust cycle that for decades had caused economic dislocation in coastal communities. The changes made by Congress in 2006 are benefiting our environment, our economy, and our food security. The Magnuson-Stevens Act's science-based annual catch limits and accountability measures, crafted after years of hearings around the country, were based on expert recommendations from the fishery management councils, fishing participants, environmental groups, and two major ocean commissions: the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission.

The nation can be proud of the results. Implementation has reversed the historic declines in our nation's fisheries, cut the number of over-fished stocks by half and dramatically increased the volume of seafood landings and recreational fishing trips. These changes are providing real and immediate economic benefits in many of our coastal communities and allowing U.S. fisheries to gain more prominence in the global marketplace. All eyes are on whether the United States stands by and defends the integrity of this law, which is already inspiring reforms needed to address global overfishing and waste.

H.R. 1335 threatens to derail this progress by undermining the Magnuson-Stevens Act's science-based management program and rolling back effective measures, including rebuilding timelines, annual catch limits and accountability measures, that have set U.S. fisheries on the road to recovery. We urge you to vote no on H.R. 1335, and in so doing, signal your support for the long-term economic and environmental sustainability of U.S. fisheries and fishing communities.

Sincerely,



Margaret Spring
Vice President of Conservation & Science
Chief Conservation Officer
Monterey Bay Aquarium
Monterey, CA



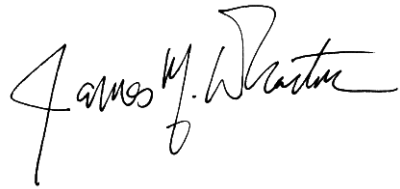
Meghan Jeans
Director of Conservation
New England Aquarium
Boston, MA



Eric Schwaab
Senior Vice President and
Chief Conservation Officer
National Aquarium
Baltimore, MD



Roger Germann
Executive Vice President
John G. Shedd Aquarium
Chicago, IL

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James M. Wharton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" being the most prominent.

Jim Wharton
Director of Conservation and Education
Seattle Aquarium
Seattle, WA

Cc:

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Majority Leader
The Honorable Steve Scalise, Majority Whip
The Honorable Steny Hoyer, Democratic Whip
The Honorable Rob Bishop, Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources
The Honorable Raúl Grijalva, Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources
The Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, Alaska's At-Large District