

June 25, 2018

To the Connecticut Congressional Delegation:

As recreational fishermen and charter captains from Connecticut, we oppose House and Senate bills that would roll back our federal fisheries law, the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

This law has a strong track record of putting an end to overfishing, and restoring important recreational fish populations for our state, like bluefish, black seabass and summer flounder.

As anglers, we rely on abundant fish populations and Magnuson has helped bring such to Connecticut's waters.

In short, the law's conservation success has been a boon for our fishing, our businesses, and our communities. Bills currently moving through Congress endanger this success.

For example, H.R. 200—**which is likely to receive a vote on the floor of the House on Tuesday of next week**—would exempt many fish stocks from key conservation requirements, like rebuilding plans, water down legal standards in the law, and decrease accountability for commercial and recreational fishermen alike. Likewise, a bill in the Senate, S. 1520, while not as egregious as H.R.200, still undercuts the law's conservation standards. It would also need to be reconciled with H.R. 200, and the outcome would almost certainly be bad for us.

We are not saying that Magnuson is perfect, but these bills don't even attempt to tackle tough management challenges that remain, like how to respond to shifting stocks, make fair allocation decisions, manage for ecosystem considerations (i.e. forage fish management and habitat considerations), etc.

We urge members of the House and Senate to work together to find broadly supported bipartisan solutions to the remaining challenges of fisheries management. To help ensure future generations of anglers can enjoy healthy fish populations, Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization should build on the progress we have made, not lower the bar for management success.

We urge you to oppose H.R. 200, S. 1520, and other efforts that would lead to an undermining of successful U.S. fisheries management.

Sincerely,

Capt. Mike Platt, Norwalk, CT *Light Bite Charters*

Capt. Mark Dysinger, Killingworth, CT, *Flyosophy Charters*

Capt. Ian Scott Devlin, Norwalk, CT, *Devlin's Charters*

Capt. Donald Roberts, Andover, CT, *Barking Dog Charters*

Capt. Cory Crochetiere, Norwalk, CT, *One More Cast Charters*

Matt Gifford, Norwalk CT

David Curtis, Redding CT

Stephen Arcamone, Darien CT

Kevin Albohn, Newtown CT

Rick Dayhuff, Norwalk CT

Robert Mould, Stamford CT

Capt. Robert Taylor Ingraham, Norwalk, CT

Taylor Lapnow, Westport, CT

William Grosverner Ely Ingraham, Norwalk, CT

Mathew R. Frasca, Greenwich, CT

Tyler Blake Reed, Darien, CT

Lester Ware Preston IV, Norwalk, CT

Alexander Michael Hryb, Norwalk, CT

Matthew Spengler, Fairfield, CT

Todd Scallen, Darien, CT

John Potter, Groton, CT

Dennis Walsh, Mystic, CT

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Brad Forkner – Darien, CT

Tim Shaw – Wilton, CT

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Michael Tucker – New Canaan, CT