

June 22, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, and Leader Pelosi:

As recreational fishermen from the Gulf of Mexico – the ultimate angler’s paradise - we write to urge you to prevent bringing forward for a vote H.R. 200, the Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act, which would modify the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). The MSA has been working to curb overfishing and to rebuild depleted fisheries through a combination of science-driven catch limits and required recovery plans. As a result, more than 40 fish populations have been rebuilt to healthy levels since 2000, and overfishing has been dramatically reduced. H.R. 200 would undermine these proven tools, which in turn threatens to undermine stable and abundant recreational fisheries.

Recreational anglers benefit from abundant populations that give us an opportunity to catch more fish, which are either harvested or released back into the water. When fish populations decline, the recreational experience is negatively affected, the economic impact of our activity wanes, and coastal economies suffer. The MSA’s conservation framework requires that overfished populations are rebuilt in as short a time as possible, thus minimizing the time we must endure poor fishing. H.R. 200 would eliminate this rebuilding timeline, allowing fisheries managers to relax rebuilding plans, which would keep fishery abundance at lower levels for a longer time. We oppose this short-sighted provision.

Furthermore, H.R. 200 would allow many different fisheries to be exempted from annual catch limits. We have seen annual catch limits work to end overfishing by holding everyone who fishes responsible to stay within their limits. Placing clear limits on catch and enforcing those limits is a common tenant of responsible fish and game management and should absolutely continue to apply to all ocean fisheries, as well.

As recreational anglers who have seen impressive progress toward sustainable saltwater fisheries management under the MSA, we urge you to oppose any effort that would undermine the conservation aspects of the MSA. We desire to pass along to our children even better fishing opportunities – and bigger fish – than we have now. Please work to keep the MSA strong by avoiding proposals like H.R. 200.

Sincerely,

**TEXAS**

Will Brown  
Angler  
Dallas, TX

Sean Polk  
Tailwaters Fly Fishing Co.  
Dallas, TX

Greg Welander  
Sportsman’s Finest  
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Fly Fish Rockport  
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Rick Pope  
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Steven Palmer  
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Jason Edgcombe  
Eva's Bonefish Lodge  
Houston, TX

Brett Delk  
Angler  
Fort Worth, TX

Gabe Langler  
Angler  
Granbury, TX

Rachel Terranova  
Angler  
Beford, TX

Keagan Walls  
Angler  
Plano, TX

Stephen Brady  
Angler  
Mansfield, TX

Zackary C. Neville  
Outfitter  
Austin, TX

Preston Baehr  
Angler  
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Larry Sandell  
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Bruce Montoya  
Angler  
Roane, NY

Bill McNally  
Angler  
Plano, TX

Joseph Begue  
Angler  
Dallas, TX

Russell Davis  
Angler Richardson, TX

Cheryl L. Ebbs  
Angler  
Tyler, TX

Homer Eubanks  
Angler  
Tyler, TX

Jesse Jasso  
Angler  
Arlington, TX

Nick Prescott  
Angler  
Rockwall, TX

Jack Miller  
Angler  
Plano, TX

Dan McCarthy  
Angler  
Dallas, TX

John G. Wood  
Angler  
Deuton, TX

Jim Collins  
Angler  
Prosper, TX

Scott Fletcher  
Angler  
Dallas, TX

Travis Todd  
Angler  
Dallas, TX

Robert McEwan  
Angler  
Waco, TX

Paul Nichols  
Angler  
Burluson, TX

Ed Linberg  
Angler  
Frisco, TX

Jake Walker  
Angler  
Addison, TX

Jared Walker  
Angler  
Addison, TX

Casy Kennedy  
Angler  
Austin, TX

Suzanne & David Koellner  
Rockwall, TX

Arturo Gonzalez  
Dallas, TX

Ryan Pens  
Angler  
Dallas, TX

Bruce Shuler  
Angler  
Salado, TX

Shirley Shuler  
Angler  
Salado, TX

Jesse Allen  
Angler  
Boerne, TX

Stephanie Ricks  
Angler  
Austin, TX

Steve Davis  
Angler  
New Braunfels, TX

Dennis McKay  
Angler  
Dallas, TX

John Royal  
Angler  
Seabrook, TX

Paige Adell  
Angler  
College Station, TX

Mitch Richmond  
Angler  
Port Mansfield, TX

Paul Logan  
Angler  
Port Mansfield, TX

Theodore Springer  
Angler  
Galveston, TX

Randy Nester  
Angler  
Houston, TX

Charles Byrd  
Angler  
Houston, TX

Bill Trammell  
Angler  
Kingwood, TX

Kimberly Miley  
Angler  
Kingwood, TX

Randy Shetter  
Angler  
Deer Park, TX

Robert Johnson  
Angler  
McAllen, TX

Eric Miles Williamson  
Angler  
Hildago, TX

Robert Reed  
Angler  
Harlingen, TX

Brian McFadden  
Angler  
Lubbock, TX

Sara Spurgeon  
Angler  
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Luke Iatourno  
Angler  
Applewood, TX

**MISSISSIPPI**

Kevin Adams  
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John Roberts  
Angler  
Jackson, MS

Cynthia Low  
Angler  
Jackson, MS

Robin Nichols  
Angler  
Jackson, MS

Albert Wood  
Angler  
Jackson, MS

Read Jordan  
Angler  
Jackson, MS

Meredith Shows  
Angler  
Jackson, MS

Glen Davis  
Angler  
Jackson, MS

Rob Millette  
Angler  
Jackson, MS

Steve Whatley  
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Jackson, MS

Bickham Forshee  
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Elaina Stanford  
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Wanda Niemi  
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Angler  
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Emily Sanford  
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James Melvin Anderson  
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Jackson, MS

James Derryberry  
Angler  
Jackson, MS

John Tindall  
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Charles Wilder  
Angler  
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Bart Haddad  
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Biloxi, MS

**FLORIDA**

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Big Pine Key, FL

Jessica Rady  
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Big Pine Key, FL

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Big Pine Key, FL

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Angler  
Big Pine Key, FL

Rita Troxel  
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Big Pine Key, FL

Tan Ree  
Angler  
Big Pine Key, FL

Leonard Delia  
Angler  
Big Pine Key, FL

Heather Rouse  
Angler  
Big Pine Key, FL

Ben Bulis  
Angler  
Big Pine Key, FL

Joel Dickey  
Angler  
Big Pine Key, FL

Lynn Bell  
Angler  
Big Pine Key, FL

Steven M Hancock  
Angler  
Big Pine Key, FL

Belinda Hancock  
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Big Pine Key, FL

Caitlin Lustic  
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Sarah Maschal  
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Edie Kehoe  
Angler  
Big Pine Key, FL

Sara Chard  
Angler  
Big Pine Key, FL

Thomas D Ryan  
Angler  
Big Pine Key, FL

Jon E Baird  
Angler  
Big Pine Key, FL

Mehgan E Heaps  
Angler  
Big Pine Key, FL

Lenore Baker  
Angler  
Big Pine Key, FL

Stacy McKie  
Angler  
Big Pine Key, FL

Chris Rose  
Angler  
Big Pine Key, FL

Andy Mill  
Angler  
Big Pine Key, FL

Nicky Mill  
Angler  
Big Pine Key, FL

Michael Haas  
Angler  
Big Pine Key, FL

Jim Hancock  
Angler  
Big Pine Key, FL

Sam Sutton  
Angler  
Big Pine Key, FL

Roy Torres  
Angler  
Big Pine Key, FL

Sue Hewlings  
Angler  
Big Pine Key, FL

Bruce Chard  
Angler  
Big Pine Key, FL

Bj Chard  
Angler  
Big Pine Key, FL

Rob Kramarz  
Angler  
Big Pine Key, FL

Caroline Smith  
Angler  
St Petersburg, FL

Terry Gibson  
Angler  
Stuart, FL

Jerry McBride  
Angler  
Panama City Beach, FL

Tim Hunter  
Angler  
Miami, FL

Kiara Barbiara  
Angler  
Dunedin, FL

Doug Williams  
Angler  
Sarasota, FL

Shirley Noto  
Angler  
Tampa, FL

Will Geraghty  
Angler  
Naples, FL

Van Hubbard  
Angler  
Bradenton, FL

Evan Smith  
Angler  
St Petersburg, FL

Luke Cross  
Angler  
St Petersburg, FL

Melissa Isaacs  
Angler  
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Guiselle Cruz  
Angler  
Naples, FL

Brandon Shuler  
Angler  
St Petersburg, FL

Justine Ortiz  
Angler  
Orlando, FL

Ryan Ortiz  
Angler  
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Fazela Mahoud  
Angler  
Crosswoods, FL

Chris McHan  
Angler  
Atlantic Beach, FL

Ashley Reed  
Angler  
St Petersburg, FL

Ridley Reynolds  
Angler  
Naples, FL

Henry Buck  
Bonefish & Tarpon Trust  
Miami, FL

## **LOUISIANA**

Captain Lucas Bissett  
Low Tide Charters  
Slidell, LA

Greg Dini  
Angler  
New Orleans, LA

Greg Moon  
Angler  
St. Bernard, LA

Amanda Matthews  
Angler  
St Petersburg, FL

Kyle Sawyer  
Angler  
Juno Beach, FL

Sky Johnston  
Angler  
Miramar Beach, FL

Mike Shepard  
Angler  
Fort Walton Beach, FL

James Tayler  
Angler  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL

Nicole Hansen  
Angler  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL

Jeni Burns  
Angler  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL

John Lawler  
Angler  
Miramar Beach, FL

Billy Deames  
Angler  
Destin, FL

Rocky Thickstun  
Angler  
Mereaux, LA

Darren Fournerat  
Angler  
Zachary, LA

Jamie Bissett  
Angler  
Slidell, LA

Jason Stacy  
Angler  
Freeport, FL

John Jacob  
Angler  
Point Washington, FL

Peter Hansen  
Angler  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL

John Burns  
Angler  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL

Kyle Gray  
Angler  
Niceville, FL

Shane Dennis  
Angler  
Niceville, FL

Allie Preston  
Angler  
Stuart, FL

Dave Best  
Angler  
New Orleans, LA

Bailey Short  
Angler  
Baton Rouge, LA

Austin Langley  
Angler  
Thibidoux, LA

Austin Conrad  
Angler  
Gonzales, LA

Ty Ramagos  
Angler  
Morganza, LA

Brandon Ramagos  
Angler  
Morganza, LA

Jim Dietz  
Angler  
New Orleans, LA

Tanner Persac  
Angler  
Baton Rouge, LA

Kendall Dix  
Angler  
New Orleans, LA

Jonathan Allen  
Angler  
Slidell, LA

Jody Morris  
Angler  
Slidell, LA

Kelly Morris  
Angler  
Slidell, LA

Jody Morris, Jr  
Angler  
Slidell, LA

Larry Morris  
Angler  
Pearl River, LA

Joan Morris  
Angler  
Pearl River, LA

Megan Provenzano  
Angler  
Slidell, LA

Melissa Westphal  
Angler  
Slidell, LA

Bill Rodman  
Angler  
Baton Rouge, LA

Mary Beth Tilley  
Angler  
Lake Charles, LA

James Tilley  
Angler  
Lake Charles, LA

Kellie Steele  
Angler  
Covington, LA

Jacob Gerstner  
Angler  
Covington, LA

Brandon Keck  
Angler  
New Orleans, LA