



April 19, 2018

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Members of the House of Representatives,

On behalf of the nation's leading aquariums and zoos, and our hundreds of millions of members and visitors, we are writing to express our strong opposition to H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, and all attempts to weaken science-based management measures in the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). We urge you to continue the tradition of bipartisanship in ensuring strong, science-based management of America's fisheries.

Our aquariums and zoos are committed to advancing science-based conservation of the nation's aquatic resources. America's aquariums and zoos collectively generate more than \$17 billion in annual economic activity and support more than 208,000 jobs across the country. As place-based institutions, we are also heavily invested in the health of our regional ecosystems, economies, and communities. Enacted in 1976, the Magnuson-Stevens Act has become a global model of how management based on strong science is the best way to achieve this triple-bottom-line. The last two reauthorizations of the Act ushered in a new era of science-based management of our nation's fisheries. Those reforms – which were enacted with strong bipartisan support and signed into law by President Bill Clinton, in 1996, and President George W. Bush, in 2006 – helped reverse historical declines in our nation's fisheries, cut the number of overfished stocks by halfⁱ, significantly increased the volume of U.S. seafood landingsⁱⁱ and have provided critically important economic benefits in many of our coastal communities.

H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 threaten to derail these achievements by undermining the role of science in U.S. fisheries management. Specifically, we are opposed to provisions in H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 that would extend rebuilding timelines, provide exemptions to annual catch limits and undermine accountability measures.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act established a science-based management framework that has helped made great progress to increase fish populations and revitalize fishing communities across the country. We urge you not to weaken these science-based measures, and instead, take steps to strengthen the long-term sustainability of our nation's fishery resources for the benefit of this and future generations.

Sincerely,



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Executive Director
Monterey Bay Aquarium



Robert Davidson
CEO
Seattle Aquarium



Kevin Mills
President and CEO
South Carolina Aquarium



Cynthia Whitbred-Spanoulis
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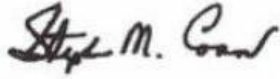
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President and CEO
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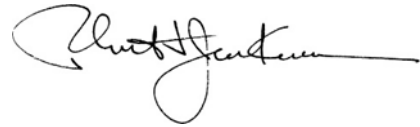
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Zoo Director
Cosley Zoo



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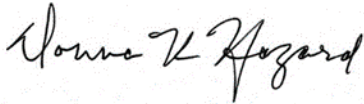
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For more information, please contact Kim McIntyre at kmcintyre@mbayaq.org

ⁱ NOAA Fisheries, Status of Stocks 2015 http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/publications/feature_stories/2016/status_of_stocks_2015.html

ⁱⁱ NOAA Fisheries, Fisheries Economics of the United States 2015, http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/stories/2017/04/05_feus_sos_reports.html