



November 06, 2025

The Honorable Roger F. Wicker
Chairman
Senate Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Wicker and Ranking Member Reed:

On behalf of the Marine Fish Conservation Network, I write to thank you for including provisions of the Fighting Foreign Illegal Seafood Harvests (“FISH”) Act in the [FY26 National Defense Authorization Act](#). We are very grateful for your actions and hope those provisions remains a part of the bill as it continues its journey to enactment.

The United States has some of the best managed and successful fisheries in the world because of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. But illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing increasingly threatens U.S. fishing communities.

Inclusion of the FISH Act in the NDAA will help combat global IUU fishing and associated labor abuses in the seafood sector—keeping our markets from being flooded with poor quality or mislabeled seafood, often by caught or produced under conditions that are a mockery of fundamental labor rights.

The FISH Act also reauthorizes the National Sea Grant Program, supporting key ocean conservation science and community research. A welcome addition given the threat to key NOAA programs because of steep budget cuts and potential reorganizing.

Although it is unfortunate that certain provisions were removed from the original legislation, the FISH Act still represents an essential U.S. policy tool to combat illegal fishing. As this legislation moves forward, restoring enforcement provisions tied to the IUU vessel list (including prohibition of seafood imports associated with listed vessels), and a definition of IUU fishing that is consistent with the Maritime SAFE Act and other previous legislation, would increase its effectiveness.

The Marine Fish Conservation Network is a coalition of commercial and recreational fishing associations, regional and national conservation groups, sustainable seafood suppliers, aquaria, and marine science organizations committed to sustaining fish populations, healthy marine ecosystems, and robust fishing communities. For more information, visit conservefish.org.

Thank you for your support of this legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance or provide additional information.

Sincerely,
G.J. Thomas Sadler, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer

CC: Sen. Sullivan, Sen. Whitehouse, Sen. Cantwell