

Defenders of Wildlife • Earthjustice • Environmental Defense Fund • League of Conservation Voters • National Audubon Society • Natural Resources Defense Council • Ocean Conservancy • Oceana • The Pew Charitable Trusts

July 9, 2018

RE: Oppose H.R. 200

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters nationwide, **we urge you to oppose H.R. 200.** The bill would threaten the significant progress that has been made in restoring U.S. fisheries, and the resulting environmental and economic benefits, by rolling back key provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

The Magnuson-Stevens Act is one of America's most effective natural resource management laws and has led to the United States being considered a global leader in fishery management. As a result of amendments made during the last two bipartisan reauthorizations, the law has ensured that science-based management governs fisheries, driving recovery of depleted fish stocks and bringing levels of overfishing in U.S. waters to near historic lows. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 44 commercially and recreationally important fish stocks that had been overfished have been rebuilt to healthy population levels since 2000.¹ At the same time, more than 90 percent of stocks are currently fished at sustainable rates, a significant improvement since 2006,² when the Magnuson-Stevens Act was last reauthorized, resulting in more fish in the water and better fishing opportunities. Improved conservation has contributed to increased U.S. seafood landings and revenues and a more sustainable fishing economy.

H.R. 200 would roll back core tenets of the Magnuson-Stevens Act that have led to this success and are critical to sustainable fisheries in the long term. It would undermine the use of management tools and policies that are working to expediently rebuild overfished fisheries, prevent overfishing, and ensure accountability in the commercial and recreational fishing sectors.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act has resulted in the conservation of many fish populations and the improved long-term health of our fishing communities. H.R. 200 would jeopardize this record of success. To maintain progress and meet future challenges, we need to continue to manage U.S. fisheries with strong, science-based conservation measures that ensure that there are plenty of fish to catch, now and in the future.

¹ NOAA Fisheries Status of Stocks 2017: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/webdam/download/71659727>.

² NOAA Fisheries Status of Stocks 2006. <https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/15610>.

Please protect our nation's fisheries and oceans, and the communities that depend on them by opposing H.R. 200.

Sincerely,

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