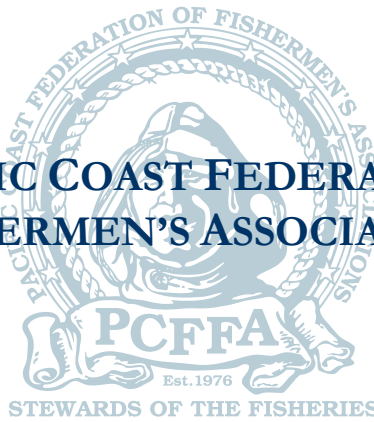


David Bitts  
*President*  
Larry Collins  
*Vice-President*  
Lorne Edwards  
*Secretary &  
Treasurer*

**PACIFIC COAST FEDERATION  
of FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS**



Noah Oppenheim  
*Executive Director*  
Glen H. Spain  
*Northwest Regional Director*  
Vivian Helliwell  
*Watershed Conservation Director*  
**In Memoriam:**  
Nathaniel S. Bingham  
Harold C. Christensen  
W.F. "Zeke" Grader, Jr.

**Please Respond to:**

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[www.pcffa.org](http://www.pcffa.org)

June 21, 2018

TO: The Honorable Members of the California, Oregon, and Washington Congressional Delegations

RE: H.R. 200 - OPPOSE

Dear Representative,

The Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA) is the largest organization of commercial fishermen on the West Coast, representing the interests of hundreds of family-owned commercial fishing operations who harvest and deliver fresh seafood to American consumers and for export. Collectively, we represent many thousands of family wage jobs and a West Coast commercial fishing industry that contributes billions of dollars to the U.S. economy.

On behalf of the hundreds of hard working commercial fishermen we represent, we are **OPPOSED to H.R. 200**. We urge you to oppose this bill when it is considered on the House floor next week and to instead support the development of environmentally-based fisheries legislation that will ensure the health of America's fish stocks for generations to come.

H.R. 200 is, fundamentally, a partisan commercial fishery management bill. However, the bill contains a version of the Modern Fish Act that our organization strongly opposes. The recreational fishery management language found in H.R. 200 would severely compromise federal agencies' ability to sustainably manage commercial and recreational fisheries. **H.R. 200 is simply not the appropriate vehicle for recreational fishery management reform.**

At its core, H.R. 200 makes significant unnecessary changes that would weaken the world class Federal fisheries management system outlined in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (MSA). The bill would contravene the scientific best practices of fishery management by creating broad loopholes that could, and would, be used to deplete vulnerable fish populations. It would also create new policies by which fish stocks could be exempted from rebuilding timelines recommended by science, instead

allowing managers to extend fishery rebuilding timelines far beyond what is advisable. West Coast commercial fishermen know well that protracted rebuilding timelines keep small fishing businesses from achieving long-term stability and prevent sustainable growth. Ignoring scientifically recommended rebuilding timelines keeps fish in the hands of the few, hurts working waterfronts, and reduces the public's access to healthy, sustainable seafood.

For over 40 years through the hard work and dedication of fishermen and allied groups, the MSA system has rebuilt our fish stocks from a state of near-depletion, when foreign fleets overfished our marine resources at will, to the place they are today. Now, healthy stocks are the norm instead of the exception. The management system we use has continued to improve over the years by keeping fisheries science at the forefront of our decision-making. However, H.R. 200 displays a retrograde vision of fishery management, allowing Fishery Management Councils to permit overfishing to occur in sensitive or depleted fisheries. For the fishing families who wish to pass sustainable resources and stewardship values on to the next generation, ignoring the lessons of the past 40 years is simply unacceptable.

The bill's proposed changes to fish stock rebuilding programs have never been necessary for the rebuilding of fish stocks on the West Coast or any other areas of our oceans. It is not, nor will it ever be, the time to experiment with fishery management at the expense of commercial fishing livelihoods. The recent, multi-hundred-million-dollar fishery disasters in West Coast salmon and Dungeness crab fisheries demonstrate this clearly: we need strong fishery management based on science, not politics.

H.R. 200 represents a vision of fisheries management that hurts commercial fishing families and the resources on which they depend. We strongly urge you to oppose this bill and any other legislation that would weaken the MSA and harm West Coast community based fishing businesses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Noah Oppenheim', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Noah Oppenheim  
Executive Director