April 15, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

As Gulf of Mexico commercial fishermen, charter-for-hire business owners, seafood distributors and restaurant owners, we oppose any legislation or congressional action that could take away red snapper from our industry and businesses, all of which are vital to the coastal economies of the Gulf.

We are deeply concerned about legislative proposals that would repeal a legal requirement for separate quotas for commercial and recreational fisheries; extend state jurisdiction for the recreational management of red snapper from the current 3 miles to 9 miles offshore of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama; and transfer the responsibility for assessing the health of reef fish, including red snapper, from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission. These proposals could put the red snapper rebuilding plan at risk, take away fish from our charter clients and jeopardize our seafood supply chain by cutting commercial quotas.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act helped end fishing at unsustainable rates and put Gulf red snapper on the road to recovery. The signs of success for Gulf red snapper—more and bigger fish dispersed throughout a broader range—are evidence that the federal law works. Though some are not happy with the current management system, changes made within the current system can address these concerns without again depleting the red snapper population.

We ask that you keep red snapper under federal management to allow for more fish and fishing opportunities for everyone and oppose any legislative efforts to undermine red snapper’s progress and deny us the economic benefits of a healthy population.

Sincerely,

Val Hammond  
Owner, Royal Lagoon Seafood, Inc.  
Theodore, AL

Hal Metzger  
Owner, The Whistle Stop Café  
Mobile, AL
David Walker
Walker Fishing Fleet Inc.
Andalusia, AL

Debbie Wilhite
Summer Hunter Charters
Gulf Shores, AL

David Wilkinson
Account Executive, Royal Lagoon Seafood, Inc.
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Patricia Aikenhead
Registered Agent, Steinhatchee Retreats, LLC
Steinhatchee, FL

Capt. Billy Archer
Seminole Wind Fishing Charters
Panama City Beach, FL

Glen Brooks
President, Gulf Fishermen's Association
Clearwater, FL

Ernest B. Davi
MGRM, F/V Miss Gail, Inc.
Lecanto, FL

Jim Clements
Commercial fisherman
Carrabelle, FL

Mike Colby
President, Clearwater Commercial Marine Association
Clearwater, FL

Jason Delacruz
Wild Seafood Company, LLC
Largo, FL

Lloyd W. Geiger
Registered Agent, Gulf of Mexico IFQ, Inc.
Bradenton, FL

Capt. Brad Gorst
Clearwatercharterfishing.com
Clearwater, FL
Larry Huntley  
F/V Barbara K  
Pensacola, FL

Capt. Gary Jarvis  
Back Down 2 Fishing Charters  
Destin, FL

Matthew Joswig  
Manager, Salty Fishing, LLC  
Seminole, FL

Brad Kenyon  
Owner, Boat and Motor Superstores  
Palm Harbor, FL

Dawn Kenyon  
President, Florida Family Fisheries  
Tarpon Springs, FL

Brian Lewis  
F/V Trip Limit  
Clearwater, FL

Steven Meisel  
Meisel Marine Inc.  
Palm Harbor, FL

Dean Pruitt  
President, Demar Fishing Inc.  
Clearwater, FL

John Schmidt  
President, Bohica Fishing Inc.  
Palm Harbor, FL

William E. Tucker  
F/V Wing Shot  
Dunedin, FL

William Ward  
Owner, Captain's Finest Seafood, Inc.  
Manager, Fish For America, LLC  
Altamonte Springs, FL
Capt. James Zurbrick
Owner/Manager, Jolly Rogers II Fisheries, LLC
Owner/Manager, Tides Up Fisheries
Owner, Nature Coast Storage
Steinhatchee, FL

Patricia Zurbrick
Registered Agent, Fish for America, LLC
Owner, Nature Coast Storage
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Tony Abadie
Director of Catering and Events, Hilton Hotel Riverside
New Orleans, LA

Robert Antoon
Owner/Director of Operations, Antoon Hospitality Group
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Reggie Aucoin
Co-owner, Mr. Pobody
Houma, LA

Haley Bittermann
Director of Operations, Ralph Brennan Restaurant Group
New Orleans, LA

William B. Borges, Jr.
Owner/President, New Orleans Fish House
New Orleans, LA

Brian Bosarge
Owner, Beck-N-Call Café
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Managing Partner, Dickie Brennan's Steakhouse,
    Palace Café, Bourbon House & Tableau
New Orleans, LA

Lauren Brennan Brower
Managing Partner, Dickie Brennan's Steakhouse,
    Palace Café, Bourbon House & Tableau
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Lawrence Brown
Owner/Chef, Lagniappe Luncheonette
Metairie, LA

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Co-Proprietor, Arnaud's Restaurant
New Orleans, LA

Leah Chase
Chef/Owner, Dooky Chase Restaurant
New Orleans, LA

Edgar Cooper
Owner, Seed Restaurant
New Orleans, LA

Tommy Cvitanovich
Owner, Drago's
New Orleans and Metairie, LA

Justin Devillier
Chef-Proprietor, La Petite Grocery
New Orleans, LA

Mia Freiberger-Devillier
General Manager-Proprietor, La Petite Grocery
New Orleans, LA

Michael Doyle
Chef/Proprietor, Maurepas Foods
New Orleans, LA

James A. Ehrlich
Manager, Warehouse #1
Monroe, LA

Tenney Flynn
Chef/Owner, GW Finns
New Orleans, LA

Kevin Francis
General Manager, TJ Ribs
Baton Rouge, LA

Adolfo Garcia
Chef/Owner, LaBoca, High Hat and Ancora NOLA
New Orleans, LA
Juan Carlos Gonzales  
Executive Chef, SoBou, The Commander's Family of Restaurants  
New Orleans, LA

Marie Gould  
Owner, Louisiana Lost Lands Environmental Tours  
New Orleans, LA

Jacob Hamilton  
Chef, Charley G's  
Lafayette, LA

Stan Harris  
President & CEO, Louisiana Restaurant Association  
Metairie, LA

Pierre S. Hilzim  
President, Kajun Kettle Foods, Inc.  
New Orleans, LA

Bradley Hollingsworth  
Proprietor, Clancy's Restaurant  
New Orleans, LA

Dana Honn  
Chef/Owner, Café Carmo  
New Orleans, LA

Justin Jones  
Corporate Chef, Phil's Grill  
New Orleans, LA

Donald Julien  
Chef, Warehouse Grill  
New Orleans, LA

Heather Leeming  
Manager/Owner, Coulis  
New Orleans, LA

Duke LoCicero  
Owner/Chef, Chef Duke's Café Giovanni  
New Orleans, LA

Ralph Longman  
Purchasing Agent/Partner, Forest Restaurant  
Franklin, LA
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The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
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Gene Meyer
Sales Representative, New Orleans Fish House
New Orleans, LA

Benny Miller
Owner, Louisiana Seafood Exchange
Jefferson, LA

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Executive Chef, Café B and Café NOMA
New Orleans, LA

Dudley Passman
Director of Food Service, Zatarain's
Gretna, LA

Ralph Patrick
Owner, Pat's Seafood & Cajun Deli
Covington, LA

Steve Pettus
Managing Partner, Dickie Brennan's Steakhouse,
   Palace Café, Bourbon House & Tableau
New Orleans, LA

Sal Piazza
Owner/President, Piazza's Seafood World
St. Rose, LA

Ryan Prewitt
Chef/Owner, Pêche Restaurant
New Orleans, LA

Paul Rotner
COO, Acme Oyster House
New Orleans, LA

Anton Schulte
Chef/Owner, Bistro Daisy
New Orleans, LA

Diane Schulte
Manager/Owner, Bistro Daisy
New Orleans, LA
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Patrick Singley
Proprietor, Gautreau's
New Orleans, LA

Susan Spicer
Chef/Owner, Bayona and Mondo
New Orleans, LA

Stephen Stryjewski
Chef/Owner, Cochon, Butcher, and Pêche Restaurants
New Orleans, LA

Anthony Tocco
Proprietor, Atchafalaya Restaurant
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Steve Tomeny
F/V The Louisiana
Port Fourchon, LA

Karl Turner
President, A La Carte Specialty Foods, LLC
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Cathy Veron
Owner, Meat/Seafood Store
Lafayette, LA

Capt. Louis Skrmetta
Owner, Ship Island Excursions
Gulfport, MS

Capt. Shane Cantrell
Galveston Sea Ventures
Galveston, TX

Bubba Cochrane
Southern Seafood LLC
Galveston, TX

Buddy Guindon
Katie’s Seafood Market
Galveston, TX

Bill Hummell
Hummells General Store
Galveston, TX
Joey Jannazzo  
Director of Operations, HSC Seafood Wholesalers, LTD.  
Houston, TX

Capt. Blake Muirhead  
Gatortrout  
Rockport, TX

cc: The Honorable Rob Bishop, Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources  
The Honorable Raúl Grijalva, Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources  
The Alabama Congressional Delegation  
The Florida Congressional Delegation  
The Louisiana Congressional Delegation  
The Mississippi Congressional Delegation  
The Texas Congressional Delegation