



FLEXIBILITY IN REBUILDING AMERICAN FISHERIES ACT

February 8, 2010 - When U.S. Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) first introduced the *Flexibility in Rebuilding American Fisheries Act of 2008* (HR 5425) in the 110th Congress to provide "limited flexibility" into federal fisheries management, recreational fishing groups and industry members from around the country signed on to help support the fight for recreational anglers and continued access to healthy fisheries.

While hardline conservation groups were helping handcuff fisheries managers through implementation of arbitrary timelines and restrictions, recreational fishermen around the country were uniting to protect their rights and help support the *Flexibility in Rebuilding American Fisheries Act*, in an effort to help keep fishing communities and local fisheries healthy and sustainable for future generations.

Originally introduced in the 110th Congress, HR 5425 had 19 cosponsors and gained wide support from over 100 different regional and national organizations, including fishing groups, marine industry associations, and fishery management councils. When Congress returned to session following the summer recess, representatives immediately became entrenched with the volatile economic climate in advance of the presidential election, and HR 5425 didn't garner the attention it deserved.

Realizing that fisheries closures would continue without congressional intervention, in March of 2010 Rep. Pallone and fellow Representatives John Adler (D-NJ), Henry Brown, Jr. (R-SC), Ginny Brown-Waite (R-FL), Barney Frank (D-MA), Walter B. Jones, Jr. (R-NC), Patrick Kennedy (D-RI), Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ), Mike McIntyre (D-NC), Michael Michaud (D-ME), Solomon Ortiz (D-TX) and John Tierney (D-MA), reintroduced the *Flexibility in Rebuilding American Fisheries Act of 2009* (HR 1584). Twenty-five co-sponsors have pledged support to HR 1584 thus far, including Rob Andrews (D-NJ), Timothy Bishop (D-NY), Allen Boyd (D-FL), Joe Courtney (D-CT), Peter King (R-NY), Rob Wittman (R-VA), Jo

Bonner (R-AL), John Mica (R-FL), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH), Clifford Stearns (R-FL), Donna Christensen (D-VI), Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), and Ander Crenshaw (R-FL).

On June 11, 2009, the *Flexibility in Rebuilding American Fisheries Act of 2009* received another boost of support when Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) “A powerful Democratic senator from New York, has cast his line into the water to protect the fishing industry in the region from the oppressive requirements in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Asbury Park Press, 6/18/09). As of mid-February of 2010, S1255 boasts the bi-partisan support of two coastal cosponsors, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Senator George LeMieux (R-FL).

“Schumer has introduced legislation in the Senate, authored in the House by Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ), that will bring much-needed modernization and flexibility to the outdated federal rules that are killing Americas recreational fishing industry,” writes Ken Moran in the *New York Post*.

Al Ristori, Conservation Editor of *The Fisherman Magazine* writes “Anglers should urge their senators and representatives to cosponsor these bills, as a broad show of support will be necessary in order to overcome the expected objections of some environmental groups.”

Dale Timmons of the *Coastal-Fisherman Magazine* based in Ocean City, MD said “I hope Schumer and the RFA are successful in getting the necessary changes passed.”

To be “successful” with this important legislation, the RFA needs to share your public support. Rep. Pallone and Sen. Schumer are two of the most influential legislators in Washington today, and each has an impeccable record when it comes to supporting environmentally sound legislation. Let these legislators know that you support their efforts, on behalf of the 8-1/2 million recreational saltwater anglers in America, and the recreational industry that caters their needs.

If you don't see your name listed below, call the RFA, and have your company or organization added to the list of those who support this important legislation to

reintroduce "limited flexibility" into federal fisheries management, to allow recreational anglers continued access to healthy fisheries, and to join the RFA mission to *safeguard the rights of saltwater anglers, protect marine, boat and tackle industry jobs, and ensure the long-term sustainability of our Nation's saltwater fisheries.*

Jhutchinson@joinrfa.org

(Updated 2/8/2010)

100 Fathom Fishing Club

Alaska Charterboat Association

Association of Marine Industries

Atlanta Saltwater Sportsman's Club

Atlantic Coast Chapter MSSA

Atlantic Marine Electronics (NJ)

Atlantic Highlands Bait, Tackle & Boat Rental (NJ)

Augie's Bait & Tackle (NY)

Avet Reels, Inc

Barbertown Sportsmen's Club (NJ)

Babylon Striper Club

Babylon Tuna Club

Bayside Anglers Group Ltd (NY)

Bay Park Fishing Station (NY)

Big Game Fishing Journal

Bill's Bait & Tackle (NJ)

Bimini Bay Outfitters

Blue Water Yacht Sales (NJ)

Bob's Bait & Tackle (NY)

Bombardier Recreational Products

Bradley Beach Fishing Club

Brielle Chamber of Commerce (NJ)

Brooklyn Yacht Club

Canyon Runner Outfitters

Cape May County Party & Charter Boat Association

Captain Anderson's Marina

Captain Hook Outdoors Inc.

Capt. T's Bait & Tackle (NY)

Captain Tate's (NJ)
Captree Boatmen's Association
Charterboat Association of Puget Sound
Chasing Tails Bait and Tackle (NY)
Clark's Landing Marina (NJ)
Coastal Bend Guides Association (TX)
Coastal Fisherman Magazine
Coastal Marine Magazine
Common Sense For Animals (NJ)
Conservation Cooperative of Gulf Fishermen
Deep Creek Charterboat Association
Destin Charter Boat Association (FL)
Efinger Sporting Goods (NJ)
EZ NOW Fishing Team
E-Z Out-Rodder
Eastern Shore Anglers of Virginia
Fish Hawks Salt Water Anglers (NJ)
Fishermen's Conservation Association
Fisherman's Den (NJ)
Fishermen's Supply (NJ)
Fishermen's Headquarters (NJ)
Fishin' Mission Bait & Tackle (NY)
Fishing Rights Alliance (FL)
Folsom Tackle Corporation
Forked River Tuna Club
Francis Fleet of Point Judith, RI
G & B Fishing Systems
Garden State Yacht Sales (NJ)
Gateway Striper Club
Great South Bay Anglers Club
Greater Point Pleasant Charter Boat Association
Grumpy's Tackle (NJ)
Har Lee Rod Inc. (NJ)
Hi-Mar Striper Club

Hobby Lobby Marine (NJ)
Homer Charter Association (AK)
HD Wood Advertising
Indian River Charter Boat Association
Integrity Marine (NJ)
Island House Marina (VA)
Jarvis Marine, Inc. (NJ)
J & H Outlets (NY)
J & J Sports (NY)
J&R Tackle (NY)
Julian's Sport Shop (NJ)
Jersey Coast Anglers Association
Johnson & Towers
K & K Outboard Inc (NY)
Key West Charter Boatmen's Assn
League of Essex County Sportsmen's Clubs (MA)
Larry's Lighthouse Marina (NY)
Long Island Beach Buggy Association
Mac Events Boat Shows
Maine Association of Charterboat Captains
Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club
Manhasset Bay Sportsmens Club
Marco Island Charter Captains Association
Marine Retailers Association of America
Marine Trades Association, Maryland
Marine Trades Association, New Jersey
Marine Trades Association, New York
Marine Trades Association, Rhode Island
Maryland Charterboat Association
Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association
Minmar Marine (NJ)
Mississippi Charterboat Association
Montauk Boatmen's and Captain's Association
Montauk Surfcasters

Mount This Fish Company
Murphy's Hook House (NJ)
My Wife's Rod & Reel Repair Shop (NJ)
National Association of Charterboat Operators (NACO)
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Teen Anglers
New Cedar Cove Marina (NJ)
New Jersey Angler
New Jersey Beach Buggy Association
New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Club
New Jersey Outdoor Alliance
New York Fishing Tackle Trade Association
New York Sportfishing Federation
Nor'east Saltwater
North Fork Captain's Association
North Coast Fishing Association (CA)
Northeast Angling
Northeast Charter Boat Captain's Association
Ocean Beach Marine Centers (NJ)
Ocean Isle Fishing Center (NC)
Old Inlet Bait & Tackle (DE)
Orange Beach Fishing Association (AL)
Oregon Anglers
Pacific Fishery Management Council
Palm Beach Towers
Panama City Boatmen Association (FL)
Pensacola Charterboat Association
Piedmont Offshore Sportfishing Club (NC)
Pier 47 Marina (NJ)
Plum Island Surfcasters (MA)
Port Aransas Boatmen (TX)
Port Monmouth Marine, Inc. (NJ)
Ramsey Outdoor (NJ)
Recreational Fishing Alliance

Reel Life Bait & Tackle (NJ)
Reel Seat Bait & Tackle (NJ)
Rudy Marine (DE)
S. Meltzer and Sons (NJ)
S.S. Marlin & Tuna Club
Saltwater Outfitters (NY)
Sandy Hook Yacht Sales (NJ)
Save the Summer Flounder Fishery Fund, Mid-Atlantic
Scott's Bait & Tackle (Bradley Beach, NJ)
Scott's Bait & Tackle (Mystic Island, NJ)
Sea Hawk Sports Center (MD)
Shark River Surf Anglers
Shore Catch Guide Service (NJ)
South Atlantic Charterboat Association
South Jersey Marina (NJ)
South Jersey Saltwater Anglers
South Texas Big Game Fish Club
Southern Kingfish Association
Spray Dock (NJ)
Spring Lake Freezer
Steinhatchee Charter Association
Stellwagen Bank Charter Boat Association
Stone Harbor Yacht Sales (NJ)
Sun Harbor Bay Club (NJ)
Sunrise Charters of Atlantic Beach LLC (NC)
T & A Tackle (NJ)
The Fisherman
The Reel Seat (NJ)
The Tackle Box (NJ)
Treasure Island Marina (FL)
United Boatmen, NY & NJ
Viking Yacht Company
Virginia Council of Angling Clubs
Voodoo Offshore

Waterfront Marine (NJ)

West End Bait and Tackle (NY)

Westport Charterboat Association (WA)

White Water Marine (NY)

White Water Anglers

Winter Bluefin Association