



February 2010

Dear Member of Congress:

I write to you today to inform you of my support for Magnuson reform and the fishermen's rally in Washington DC. Unfortunately, I was unable to join my fellow anglers on February 24, 2010 who descended upon our nation's Capitol from across the country with a unified cause; to reform the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) now.

As a fisherman and member of the collective recreational fishing community which includes 9 million saltwater anglers and generates upwards of \$30 billion annually in economic activity, I am deeply concerned about the current management of our nation's marine resources. My fellow anglers and I consider ourselves principal conservationists for responsible, science based fisheries management because fishing is a tradition and way of life that we want to ensure is available to future generations.

Currently, anglers are being excluded from healthy fisheries due to arbitrary and unrealistic provisions in MSA. Fishermen have been told that sacrifices in that name of conservation will result in benefits once fish stocks are rebuilt. Unfortunately, this mantra does not hold water in many of the most important recreational fisheries such as black sea bass, amberjack, red snapper. The consequence of this failed approach results in significant and permanent loss of our traditional recreational fishing infrastructure.

The purpose of the demonstration is to bring attention to this problem and demand that fisheries management be based on science. I support legislation currently in the House, HR 1584 and Senate S 1255, which would correct this problem by affording the Secretary of Commerce limited flexibility when rebuilding healthy fish stocks and improve the stock assessment process. Furthermore, I support HR 3307 which would require the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a thorough assessment of the red snapper stock before implementing complete closures. It is possible to have conservation, reasonable access fish stocks and a viable fishing community with minor changes to MSA. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Signature

Print Name

Print Address

Print Address

I FISH ♦ I VOTE