

December 7, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop:

The undersigned organizations urge you to consider legislation to amend and reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) in a bipartisan manner. As such, **we ask that you *not* consider any MSA bills that lack bipartisan consensus.**

Broad support for sustainable fishing from members of both parties has been critical to the successes we have seen for our fisheries and the fishing communities that depend on them. In 1976, Congress had the foresight to pass the original MSA bill—the keystone law that laid the foundation to build our modern system of marine fishery management. This law was passed with overwhelmingly bipartisan support. This bipartisan support continued in the next two reauthorizations in 1996 and 2006.

At a hearing in the House Natural Resources Committee earlier this year, Congressman Don Young (R-AK), the author of one of the MSA bills, indicated his willingness to work with the Democratic counterparts on the Committee to reach bipartisan consensus on a bill that would continue to improve our system of fishery conservation and management.

We urge you to give the Committee the opportunity to work in a bipartisan fashion, just like all the previous MSA reauthorizations. Together, Congress can tackle the real challenges facing our fisheries, but this should not be rushed into the Committee markup this week. Please do not consider any legislation that does not have broad bipartisan consensus and would lead to significant loopholes in our system of fishery management.

Sincerely,

Conservation Law Foundation
Earthjustice
Environmental Defense Fund
League of Conservation Voters
Natural Resources Defense Council
Oceana
Ocean Conservancy
The Nature Conservancy