

March 2, 2016

The Honorable David Vitter
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and
Entrepreneurship
428A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business
and Entrepreneurship
428A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Vitter and Ranking Member Shaheen:

As fishermen and small-business owners throughout the Gulf of Mexico, we write in support of federal fisheries management under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Our livelihoods and customers depend on healthy fish populations. Accordingly, we oppose efforts that could undermine the progress made in ending overfishing and rebuilding overfished stocks, and congressional action that could reduce access to fisheries relied on by our industry and businesses, all of which are vital to the coastal economies of the Gulf.

In the past decade, fishermen and managers in the Gulf have worked hard toward ending overfishing. It hasn't been easy, but the Magnuson-Stevens Act is working to put many fish populations on the road to recovery. Since the Act was last reauthorized, Gulf red grouper, king mackerel, and gag have been taken off the overfished lists. Last year, Gulf fishermen enjoyed both the largest quota and the largest single quota increase of red snapper ever. While not everyone agrees with all management decisions, changes made within the current council system that gives each region a seat at the table can address these concerns without again depleting the Gulf red snapper population and threatening other species or upending the tested fisheries management system.

As you consider how federal fisheries management affects small businesses, we want you to know that our businesses have thrived because of the conservation and management provisions in the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

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

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

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

Mike Colby, Executive Director
Clearwater Commercial Marine Association
Clearwater, FL

Destin Charter Boat Association
Destin, FL

Charter Fisherman's Association
Corpus Christi, TX

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

Patrick Singley, Owner & Sue Zemanick, Executive
Chef
Gautreau's Restaurant
New Orleans, LA

Seth Hanstead
Continental Provisions
New Orleans, LA

Paul Rotner, COO
Acme Oyster House
New Orleans, LA

Adolfo Garcia, Owner and Chef
highHat Cafe, Ancora Pizzeria Salumeria, La Boca,
Primitivo
New Orleans, LA

Dana Honn, Chef and Co-Owner
Carmo
New Orleans, LA

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

Haley Bitterman, Executive Chef and Director of
Operations
Ralph Brennan Restaurant Group
New Orleans, LA

Capt. Steve Tomeny
Steve Tomeny Charters
Port Fourchon, LA

Clarence Seymour
Charterboat SYL
Biloxi, MS

Capt. Bobby Kelly
F/V Miss Brianna
Orange Beach, AL

Capt. Skipper Thierry
Escape Charters
Dauphin Island, AL

Capt. Gary Bryant
Red Eye Charters
Ft. Morgan, AL

David Walker
Walker Fishing Fleet, Inc.
Andalusia, AL

Capt. Brian Swindle
Dauphin Island, AL

Capt. Brad Gorst
F/V Gulfstream II
Clearwater, FL

Capt. Jim Green
F/V American Spirit
Destin, FL

Capt. Mike Colby
Double Hook Charters
Clearwater, FL

Capt. Billy Archer
F/V Seminole Wind
Panama City Beach, FL

Steve Maisel
Maisel Marine Inc.
Palm Harbor, FL

Kirby Klys
F/V Scamp
Ft. White, FL

James Zurbrick
Jolly Rogers II
Steinhatchee, FL

Richie Landry
Lady Lynn
Steinhatchee, FL

Eric Woods
Bad Behavior
Steinhatchee, FL

Danny Lanier
Pair of Dice
Steinhatchee, FL

Ellis Doshier
Grouper Snooper
Steinhatchee, FL

Bill Tucker
F/V Wing Shot
Dunedin, FL

Bohica Inc.
Madeira Beach, FL

Jim Clements
Carrabelle, FL

Edward J. Maccini
F/V J.U.M.A.
Seminole, FL

Brad Kenyon, President
Boat & Motors Superstores
Tarpon Springs, FL

Dean Pruitt, President
Demar Fishing, Inc.
Madeira Beach, FL

Jason De La Cruz, President & COO
Wild Seafood Company
E Madeira Beach, FL

William Ward, President
Captain's Finest Seafood, Inc.
Altamonte Springs, FL

Chad Haggart, Manager, V.P.
Double Eagle Deep Sea Fishing, Inc.
Clearwater, FL

William Ward, Director
Fish For America, USA
Steinhatchee, FL

Jim Zurbrick, Owner
Tides Up Fisheries LLC.
Jolly Rogers II Fisheries LLC.
Steinhatchee, FL

Patty Zurbrick, Owner
Jolly Rogers II Fisheries LLC.
Nature Coast Storage
Steinhatchee, FL

Reef Passage Charters Inc.
Steinhatchee, FL

Landy Fish Company
Steinhatchee, FL

Sammy's Seafood
St. Petersburg, FL

Frank Chivas, President
Baystar Restaurant Group
Indian Rocks Beach, FL

Brad Kenyon, President
Florida Family Fisheries Inc.
Tarpon Springs, FL

Julie Reise, Owner
Rusty Bellies Restaurants
Tarpon Springs, FL

Eric Spalding, Manager, V.P.
Queen Fleet Deep Sea Fishing, Inc.
Clearwater, FL

Maxwell Foster, Owner
Gulfstream Fishing Charters
Clearwater, FL

Capt. Jessie Zuban, Owner
Dolphin Deep Sea Fishing Fleet, Inc.
Tarpon Springs, FL

Steve Reise, Manager
Pelican Point Seafood Inc.
Tarpon Springs, FL

Capt. Jessie Zuban, Owner
Miss Virginia Deep Sea Fishing Headboat
New Port Richey, FL

Jason Delacruz, Owner
Don's Dock Bait and Tackle
John's Pass, FL

Olde Bay Café & Dunedin Fish Market
Dunedin, FL

Glen Brooks, President
F/V Miss Donna, F/V LJ Inc., F/V Miss Allena Inc., F/V
Miss Katie , F/V Miss Rebecca, F/V Miss Gail LLC
GMQ Inc.
Lacanto, FL

Greg Pruitt, President
Miss Bianca, Inc.
Seminole, FL

Jim Clements, President
Captain Jim's Charters Inc.
Carabelle, FL

Gary Jarvis
Back Down 2 Fishing Charters
Brotula's Seafood House & Steamer and Jackacudas
Seafood and Sushi, Savory Restaurants, LLC
Sunset Bay Café, Jarvis Restaurants, LLC
Destin, FL

Brad Kenyon
Marina & Dealer
Tarpon Springs, FL

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Publisher
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Ian Iantorno
State-water Captain
Fort Meyers, FL

James Grove
State-water Captain
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Federal-Permit Holder, SA
Jensen Beach, FL

John Bourgeois
State-water Captain
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Justin Reiger
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Jensen Beach, FL

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Mike Newman
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Jupiter Beach, FL

Walt Stearns
Diver, Publisher
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Will Davenport
State-water Captain
Venice, FL

Will Geraghty
Dual Permit Holder, Gulf
Naples, FL

Capt. Shane Cantrell
Galveston Sea Ventures
Galveston, TX

Capt. Michael Miglini
Out to Sea Adventures
Port Aransas, TX

Capt. Scott Hickman
Circle H Charters
Galveston, TX

Capt. Mike Jennings
Cowboy Charters
Freeport, TX

Bubba Cochrane
F/V Chelsea Ann, Southern Seafood LLC
Galveston, TX

Bruce Shuler
State-water Captain
Salado, TX

Mitch Richmond
State-water Captain
Port Mansfield, TX

Paul Johnson
State-water Captain
Port Mansfield, TX

Pedro Martinez
State-water Captain
Weslaco, TX

Theodore Springer
Federal-Permit Holder, Gulf
Port Mansfield, TX

Wayne Deacon
Federal-Permit Holder
Port Mansfield, TX

cc: Members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
Members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation