

H.R. 1335 – “The Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act” (Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization)

- The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), initially passed in 1976, was created to promote the conservation and management of U.S. fishery resources, ensure sustainable domestic fisheries can be harvested in federal waters, and provide for a thriving domestic seafood industry. Under the law, eight regional councils are charged with managing fisheries in federal waters along the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf Coasts.
- **The U.S. seafood industry is an economic engine for the American economy.** In 2012, the industry had a sales impact of \$141 billion, \$59 billion in value-added impacts, supporting approximately 1.3 million jobs earning \$39 billion in income.¹ U.S. commercial fishermen directly contributed with 9.6 billion pounds of fish and shellfish harvested, earning \$5.1 billion in revenue for their catch.² Recreational saltwater anglers, 11 million in all, spent a total of \$24.6 billion on trips and gear in 2012, generating \$58 billion in sales impacts and supporting 381,000 U.S. jobs.³
- **Despite abundant supply, the U.S. is not meeting domestic seafood demands:** According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), up to 90 percent of seafood consumed in the U.S. is imported,⁴ at the same time that the U.S. has an abundance of fish in coastal waters. Without the key revisions in H.R. 1335, our fishermen’s access to fish is inhibited due to the use of outdated, arbitrary scientific practices and data and therefore the American people’s access to affordable domestic fish is limited.
- MSA needs to be updated to meet the needs of the 21st century. H.R. 1335 makes key reforms that:
 - *Increase Transparency* – The bill allows for more public involvement in the development of the science that is the basis for management decisions.
 - *Empower Regional Decision-Making* –The bill affords local experts regulatory flexibility to build plans tailored to the needs of their region by replacing the arbitrary one-size-fits-all fisheries management approach under existing law.
 - *Require state and local data in decision-making.*
 - *Encourage job creation throughout the United States.*
 - *This is all done with no additional new federal spending.*
- Commercial and recreational fishing groups and the restaurant industry support H.R. 1335.

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¹ [Fisheries Economics of the United States 2012 – Department of Commerce, Feb. 2014](#), p.6

² [Id.](#), p.5

³ [Id.](#), p.8

⁴ [NOAA FishWatch](#)