

Opening Statement
Chairman John Fleming
House Water, Power and Oceans Subcommittee Legislative Hearing
on H.R. 4576 (Radewagen)
March 1, 2016

The Subcommittee meets today to consider a bill that seeks to promote and protect fishing access in the Pacific Ocean.

H.R. 4576, introduced by our committee colleagues Amata Radewagen and Don Young, implements U.S. participation in recent North and South Pacific fisheries treaties that have been ratified by the U.S. Senate. This bill is based on the Administration's implementation proposal, however it makes some positive and necessary additions.

These additions, as we will hear in more detail today, include participation by regional fishery councils and the U.S. territories and ensure that our domestic fishing fleet is not impacted by the treaties. This bill also makes critical changes to existing law to help part of our Pacific tuna fishing industry compete on a level playing field against foreign fleets.

I commend the sponsors for their leadership on this bill and I look forward to hearing from our witnesses today,

Knowing that Mrs. Radewagen will have an opportunity to describe her bill in a few minutes, I yield the balance of my time to the distinguished gentleman from Alaska, Mr. Young.