



THE  
**PEW**  
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January 21, 2020

The Honorable Jared Huffman  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife  
U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom McClintock  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife  
U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Huffman and Ranking Member McClintock:

I write to relay the Pew Charitable Trusts' support of H.R. 2236, the Forage Fish Conservation Act. Forage fish are foundational to marine food webs, serving as prey for economically- and ecologically-important fish and other marine life.

Management of these species under federal law is inconsistent and, in many cases, nonexistent. Passage of H.R. 2236 would ensure proactive forage fish management that addresses their health and the role they play for wildlife and fishermen alike, and is important for productive oceans and other ecosystems.

The bill embraces the best discretionary approaches managers at some fishery management councils have developed. It requires that currently unmanaged forage fish populations are assessed to understand the impacts to other fisheries, coastal communities and the ocean environment of a new forage fishery before it is authorized. It would also ensure adoption of additional measures fisheries biologists have recommended for management of forage fish species.

Thank you for considering our views on this legislation. Pew looks forward to working with you on this and other important fishery management issues in the future.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Browning  
Director, Conserving Marine Life in the United States

cc: Members of the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources