



November 9, 2021

The Honorable Jared Huffman
1527 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0502

RE: Support for the Sustaining America's Fisheries for the Future Act

Dear Congressman Huffman,

As Alaskan commercial fishermen, we are writing to thank you and your staff for drafting and introducing the Sustaining America's Fisheries for the Future Act of 2021. It is imperative that the Magnuson Stevens Act (MSA) be reauthorized and modernized to sustain our fisheries, jobs and communities in Alaska where we continue to experience dramatic declines in fisheries such as salmon, crab, halibut, and cod. The Sustaining America's Fisheries for the Future Act is a well researched and vetted response to these fishery declines and addresses some of the biggest challenges facing Alaska's fisheries, including climate change, bycatch, improved science and research, the need for increased participation and representation of Alaska Native Peoples and Tribal Government on Regional Management Councils, and public participation in the fisheries management process.

With climate change being the biggest existential threat to our fisheries, we appreciate that the bill's approach to modernizing the MSA is through a climate lens. We also agree that allowable bycatch must be further reduced to conserve fish species and protect communities and local participants. Certainly, bycatch use of these key high-value species should not take precedence over their directed harvest.

We also support the bill's bottom-up approach to sustained community and local participation in fisheries and believe that tools for protecting fisheries-dependent communities are needed. Finally, we applaud the bill's requirements for more diverse representation from different fishery stakeholders in the Regional Councils.

We look forward to working with you and the 117th Congress to pass this important legislation and promote science-based management that improves the resiliency of our fisheries and strengthens America's coastal communities.

Sincerely,

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