

**American Sportfishing Association  
Center for Sportfishing Policy  
Coastal Conservation Association  
Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation  
International Game Fish Association  
National Marine Manufacturers Association  
Recreational Fishing Alliance  
The Billfish Foundation  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership**

November 19, 2018

The Honorable John Thune, Chairman  
Senate Commerce Committee  
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bill Nelson, Ranking Member  
Senate Commerce Committee  
425 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop, Chairman  
House Natural Resources Committee  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva, Ranking Member  
House Natural Resources Committee  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: Modern Fish Act, S. 1520**

Dear Chairman Thune, Ranking Member Nelson, Chairman Bishop, and Ranking Member Grijalva:

We write to encourage you to include the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017 (Modern Fish Act) in the end-of-year lands and water package and call for final passage before the end of the year. The Modern Fish Act, introduced by Senator Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) and Senator Bill Nelson (D-Fla.), enjoys broad bipartisan support in both chambers and strong support from anglers and the recreational fishing and boating industry.

Our organizations represent the recreational fishing and boating industry and our nation's anglers, and we stand together in support of the Modern Fish Act. Recreational and commercial fishing are fundamentally different endeavors and should be managed differently. Yet, antiquated, one-size-fits-all federal policies are unnecessarily limiting the public's access to our nation's abundant natural resources. The Modern Fish Act would make critical changes to the federal fisheries management system to better manage the recreational sector in a way that is more appropriate and effective while also improving available data.

The Modern Fish Act includes federal policy updates important to anglers, conservation and the U.S. economy, such as:

- Allowing for recreational fisheries to be managed using more appropriate management tools that are proven in other jurisdictions
- Requiring managers in the southeastern U.S. to perform long-overdue examinations of fishery allocations based on modern criteria
- Promoting consideration of new data collection methods that could improve fisheries management and conservation

Earlier this year, the Modern Fish Act received bipartisan support as it cleared the Senate Commerce Committee and passed the House floor as part of a broader fisheries bill. This support is the result of lawmakers on both sides of the aisle recognizing that America's 11 million saltwater anglers, who contribute \$63 billion to the U.S. economy and generate 440,000 American jobs, have for too long been an afterthought in federal fisheries management.

We respectfully ask that you send the Modern Fish Act to the President's desk before the end of the 115th Congress. We appreciate your support for public access to America's public resources. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Glenn Hughes, President  
American Sportfishing Association

Jeff Angers, President  
Center for Sportfishing Policy

Patrick Murray, President  
Coastal Conservation Association

Guy Harvey, President  
Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation

Nehl Horton, President  
International Game Fish Association

Thom Dammrich, President  
National Marine Manufacturers Association

Jim Donofrio, President  
Recreational Fishing Alliance

Ellen Peel, President  
The Billfish Foundation

Whit Fosburgh, President  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership