

SEAFOOD HARVESTERS OF AMERICA
POLICY PLATFORM
Amended October 25, 2018

The purpose of Seafood Harvesters of America (Seafood Harvesters) is to ensure a plentiful and lasting seafood harvest for America through stewardship and accountability in our fisheries.

We believe that the national laws, rules and regulations that govern federal fisheries ought to support that purpose for the good of our marine resources, our fishing communities and the American people who enjoy healthy seafood.

The Policy Committee, made up of Members, has determined that the Seafood Harvesters' policy and education efforts will focus on the following:

1. Seafood Harvesters of America will seek to ensure that regional fishery management councils have the full suite of management tools at their disposal such that U.S. federal fisheries are managed consistent with the ten national standards enshrined in the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This includes catch shares, cooperatives, incentive-based tools, and any other measures designed to ensure accountability in our fisheries.
2. Ensure that catch shares face no greater barriers to implementation than other management options.
3. Advocate for national legislation, rules, regulation and activities, including reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Act.
4. Establish a reasonable approach to federal rules governing incidental discharge from fishing vessels, possibly including extending the current permitting moratorium indefinitely.
5. Address issues related to observers, including reduced costs and the use of electronic technology, while maintaining accountability in our fisheries.
6. Address issues related to cooperative management, including implementation, cost recovery, confidentiality, agency culture and guidance from National Marine Fisheries Service.
7. Enhance the operation of regional fisheries management councils through transparency, the fair representation of commercial interests, recorded votes, reimbursement for council member participation and preparation, affirming the role of science, and similar activities.
8. Seek continuous improvement in stock assessments including long-term funding, frequency and dependability through traditional processes and by fostering and encouraging cooperative research.

9. Establish a reasonable approach to U.S. Coast Guard rules governing vessel classification, load lines and alternative compliance.
10. Promote and defend the interests of commercial fishermen at the national level on issues relating to allocation.
11. Ensure that spatial management tools are science-based and include the participation of affected stakeholders including the commercial fishing industry. These include, but are not limited to, designations made under the authority of the Antiquities Act, additions to the national system of Marine Protected Areas, the National Marine Sanctuary Program, and measures taken under the authority of the National Ocean Council.
12. Ensure that U.S. fishermen are not disadvantaged by imported seafood and have a level playing field in the market place; this includes issues related, but not limited, to IUU fishing and supply chain transparency.
13. Address connections between climate change and fisheries and fisheries management; consider avenues and opportunities for fishermen to contribute to climate change conversations and initiatives.
14. Encourage education about ecosystem-based management among fishermen and explore the possibilities associated with ecosystem-based management.
15. Engage in aquaculture issues as they relate to policy, operations, commercial fisheries, wild seafood marketing and fisheries management.
16. Engage on Dept. of Commerce's 2018-2020 Strategic Plan as it relates to commercial fisheries harvests.

Seafood Harvesters' policy and education efforts will not focus on regional and state fisheries management decisions, unless such issues have national implications.

This Policy Platform shall remain in effect and guide the work of the Seafood Harvesters until the Policy Committee moves to amend it.

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