MISSION

As domestic harvesters of an American public resource, we strive for accountability in our fisheries, encourage others to do the same, and speak out on issues of common concern that affect the U.S. commercial fishing industry, the stewardship of our public resources and the many millions of Americans who enjoy seafood.

ABOUT

The Seafood Harvesters of America (the Harvesters) is a broadly based association that represents commercial fishermen and their regional organizations. From George’s Bank to the Bering Sea, and from California to the Florida Keys, our members reflect the diversity of America’s coastal communities, the complexity of our marine environments and the enormous potential of our commercial fisheries.

Until now our geographic diversity and a tradition of small-business independence have hindered our ability to have the biggest impact possible on the policies and public debates that affect our industry and our pocket books. The Harvesters engage fishermen from every region in a national effort to implement our focused policy platform and educate decision makers and the public about the enormous positive contribution of U.S. fisheries.

VALUE PROPOSITION

SHA is Influential – We offer members the chance to influence the national policies that affect fishing communities, marine resources and livelihoods. We are proud of our ongoing bipartisan relationships on Capitol Hill and in the natural resource agencies. For example, in December 2014 the Harvesters helped obtain a 3-year exemption from EPA’s incidental discharge permit rules and continues to advocate for a permanent exemption.

SHA Amplifies your Local Voice – To date, 15 regional associations have joined our membership, hailing for nine states, actively managed by six regional fishery management councils. Simply put, the Harvesters concentrates the power of individual fishermen and groups into a powerful national organization.

SHA Takes our Local Relationships Seriously – Our members have a direct role in defining the Harvesters’ policy platform and promoting it at every level of decision-making.
CURRENT POLICY PRIORITIES

As the only nationwide association representing commercial fishermen, we work to:

• Ensure solid funding for well-designed stock assessments
• Safeguard the Magnuson-Stevens Act
• Advance accountable, cost-effective catch-monitoring programs
• Advocate for cooperative fisheries management and cooperative research
• Seek a level playing field with recreational vessels and obtain a permanent exemption for incidental discharge
• Establish a reasonable approach to U.S. Coast Guard rules governing vessel classification, load lines and alternative compliance
• Ensure U.S. fishermen are not disadvantaged by imported seafood and have a level playing field in the market place including IUU fishing and supply chain transparency

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

• Develop and maintain a consistent presence in Washington, DC, conduct regular Hill meetings and be the “go-to” fishermen’s organization in Washington, DC.
• Hold annual, Washington, DC membership flyin and decision-maker reception for members of Congress and their staffs, media, opinion leaders and our members
• Hold members-only meeting in different coastal regions annually.
• Conduct quarterly meetings between membership and NMFS Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Program, Sam Rauch.
• Act as a public information source; engage in both paid and free media activities to amplify the voices of commercial fishermen at local, regional and federal levels. Since June 2014, the Harvesters received over 60 press hits nationwide.
• Develop and maintain a public-facing website and regular communications with members fishing industry stakeholders, policy makers and media.
• Leverage social media opportunities to build support for policy positions and generate goodwill