Magnuson-Stevens Act

The Harvesters, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the MSA, run an ad urging Congress to stand with what works. Stand with MSA.

Harvesters Respond to Coast Guard Bill

Harvesters remain concerned about the effectiveness and costs of the alternative safety compliance program.

USDA Dietary Guidelines

The USDA’s new Dietary Guidelines recommend eating more seafood.

Welcome, Welcome!

Join us in welcoming our new board members.

Stand With the Magnuson-Stevens Act: MSA is working and significant reforms are unnecessary.

We are proud to stand with the Magnuson-Stevens Act. To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Seafood Harvesters of America put out an ad showcasing just how important the MSA is to commercial fishermen around the nation. This ad urges Congress to continue supporting this landmark legislation. The Magnuson-Stevens Act is working and significant reforms are unnecessary. Our ad, running in the current issue of National Fisherman, says it best: Congress, stand with what works. Stand with commercial fishermen and the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

To find out more and see our other news clips, click here.
Harvesters Respond to Coast Guard Authorization

Seafood Harvesters of America issued a statement commending the passage of H.R. 4188, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015, in both the House and Senate:

“We are pleased that Congress recognizes that the 2010 Coast Guard Authorization Act requirements impose significant costs for vessels 50-190 feet in length. The 2015 bill attempts to address these burdensome costs for new vessels up to 79 feet by allowing them to join prescribed alternative safety programs.”

However, the Harvesters remain concerned about the effectiveness, assessed costs, and timeline for implementation for the alternative safety compliance program to new and existing vessels.

We are disappointed that H.R. 4188 did not extend an existing permanent discharge exemption granted for recreational vessels to commercial fishing vessels so the industry can continue to have certainty in our fishing businesses. We look forward to working with Congress to protect not only the aquatic environment, but also the commercial fishing industry throughout the United States that depends on clean water for its livelihood.

The release was picked up by seafoodnews.com and more information can be found there.

We cannot support state takeover of the commercial fishery in the Gulf of Mexico. Gulf red snapper is an American treasure that should be available to all.

We stand with the MSA and keeping management authority under the transparent federal process that has protected our fisheries and allowed our coastal small businesses and fisheries to flourish.

Veerhusen and Bittermann Op-Ed in The Times-Picayune

The Harvesters are pleased to announce that an op-ed written by our Executive Director Brett Veerhusen and Director of Operations for the Ralph Brennan Restaurant Group in New Orleans, Haley Bittermann has been run on nola.com. This op-ed not only showcases the important role seafood plays in Louisiana’s economy but how both the restaurant and fishing industries depend on a strong MSA to ensure their continued success.

It also takes direct aim at H.R. 3094, a bill proposed by U.S. Rep. Garret Graves which would grant five Gulf states exclusive management authority over the entire red snapper fishery and threatens the availability of red snapper to local fishermen and restaurants across the country.

The Graves bill would get rid of the transparent federal process provided under the MSA, which has allowed over 37 species of fish to recover from overfishing and has allowed restaurants across the country to provide locally-caught, sustainable seafood.

We stand with the MSA and keeping management authority under the transparent federal process that has protected our fisheries and allowed our coastal small businesses and fisheries to flourish.

WINTER 2016 NEWSLETTER

MSA: “Congress’ actions should be that first of a doctor: Do no harm.”

On February 23, 2016 the Senate’s Subcommittee of Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard, held a hearing on the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) examining the law’s successes, challenges, and future as we enter the 40th anniversary of the law. The witness, Samuel D. Rauch III, the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs at NOAA, was there to field questions and address concerns Senators had in regards to National Standard 1 and any changes needing to be made to the MSA.

Sen. Sullivan (R-AK) was adamant in his opening remarks that it is vital to separate fish politics and science and to allow those closest to the fisheries to make decisions, rather than a bureaucrat in DC. Senator Sullivan questioned Mr. Rauch on when to expect a final rule regarding the proposed National Standard guideline changes. Mr. Rauch commented these may be available in June or July. During questioning, Mr. Rauch was clear that National Standard 8 is subordinate to National Standard 1.

The bipartisan Senate panel was quick to comment how successful the MSA has been in terms of rebuilding America’s overfished fisheries, implementing conservation efforts along America’s coasts, and bolstering the economies throughout the country reliant on these fisheries.

Sen. Sullivan was resolute in his praise for the MSA and the stability it has brought to Alaskan fishermen and economies stating that, in regards to the MSA “Congress’ actions should be that first of a doctor: Do no harm.” A similar sentiment was voiced by Sen. Markey (D-MA) who praised the long history Massachusetts has with both fishing and science and that the future needs to be insured by a strong MSA. Sen. Sullivan said there is a strong interest in Alaska to deploy electronic monitoring and Mr. Rauch hopes to increase the number of fishermen participating in their electronic monitoring program to 90 by 2018.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: SEAFOODHARVESTERS.ORG
New Dietary Guidelines

On January 7, the USDA announced its 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Along with the push for all Americans to lead a more active lifestyle, and the addition of limits on added sugars, there is a new emphasis on a Mediterranean-Style eating pattern which includes more seafood and healthy fats like the Omega-3s naturally found in many of our catches. The new guidelines recommend that every American eat seafood twice a week for optimum health. Unfortunately, only 1 and 10 Americans follow this guideline. For more information about how to better adhere to the new guidelines and why consuming seafood more regularly is the best choice for you and your family check out the Seafood Nutrition Partnership website here.

National Outreach Days

This year our National Outreach Days will be April 26-28. Join us as we come together on Capitol Hill to urge Congress to stay the course on the Magnuson Stevens Act and protect fishing jobs across the country.

Welcome to Our Associate Members

Please join us in welcoming two new associate members: Alaskan Observers, Inc., WA and Fish for America USA, FL.

Buddy Guindon and Big Fish, Texas

National Geographic Channel is about to start a brand new fishing series starring our very own Buddy Guindon. Big Fish, Texas will follow Buddy and his family, and their lives on Galveston Island. Cameras follow them offshore in the Gulf and document the workings of their fishhouse Katie’s Seafood Market. The show will follow the lives of the entire Guindon clan as “they fight fish fraud, tangle with the government, and navigate family politics while trying to have a good time.”

The reality show, which premiered on February 3rd, goes into detail about life as a commercial fisherman and the struggles and triumphs of running a fish market off the Gulf of Mexico. Buddy says in 2011 he was contacted by a producer wanting to do a reality show about a family in the commercial fishing business and the struggle they undergo to protect the sustainability of the seafood business in the Gulf.

Above all Buddy says that he wanted to show “what it takes to be a Gulf Fisherman” today and what sustainability looks like.

Filming began in April 2015 and, through the course of eight episodes, documents two months of life with the Guindon family and their fish market. Buddy is excited to see how the producers depict the Galveston lifestyle as well as the drama and excitement of being a commercial fisherman.

Welcome to Our New Board Members!

Please join us in welcoming our new board members: Buck Laukitis from Homer, AK and Keith “Buddy” Guindon from Galveston, TX. Buck is an Alaskan commercial fisherman who has fished the Bering Sea for over 20 years. He is a vocal advocate for sustainable fisheries management and a promoter of maritime and fishery trade schools.

Buddy has worked in the fishing industry for over three decades: as the fisherman, owner, and operator of Katie’s Seafood; and as a founding member of the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders’ Alliance, which has helped facilitate the recovery of Gulf red snapper. We are glad they have joined us; we value their leadership and look forward to their contributions to the Seafood Harvesters of America.
Commercial Fishing in the News

**Alaska Public Media:** [Less Fatalities in Commercial Fishing](#)

**POLITICO’s Morning Ag:** [OMibus Prevents Genetically Engineered Salmon from Hitting the Market](#)

**Seafood Source:** [US Ratifies Port State Measure Agreement to Combat IUU Fishing](#)

A Very Special Thanks to Our Member Organizations

**Our Board & Officers**

**PRESIDENT**
Chris Brown, Rhode Island Commercial Fishermen’s Association

**BOARD MEMBER**
Will Ward, Gulf Fishermen’s Association

**SECRETARY-TREASURER**
Mark Gleason, Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers

**BOARD MEMBER**
Brent Paine, United Catcher Boats

**BOARD MEMBER**
Jack Cox, South Atlantic Fishermen’s Association

**BOARD MEMBER**
Buck Laukitis, North Pacific Fisheries Association

**BOARD MEMBER**
Keith “Buddy” Guindon, Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders’ Alliance

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
Brett Veerhusen

For more information about the Harvesters or becoming a member, contact: brettv@seafoodharvesters.org

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**Our Associate Members also Include:**
Ocean Marine Insurance Agency, RI
Northern Enterprise Boat Yard, AK
Bulletproof Nets, AK
Coal Point Seafoods, AK
Smoot Tewes Group, Washington, DC
Gardener Boat Repair, WA
Alaskan Observers, Inc., WA
Fish for America USA, FL