

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 3, 2012

The Honorable Doc Hastings
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hastings and Ranking Member Markey:

Thank you for holding the December 1st, 2011 hearing on several fisheries reform bills, including H.R. 594, H.R. 1013, H.R. 1646, H.R. 2304, H.R. 2610, H.R. 2753, H.R. 2772 and H.R. 3061. The hearing shed light on many of the problems with the current Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Management Act and examined potential solutions.

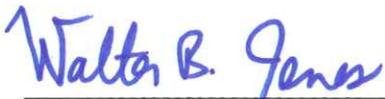
On behalf of the fishermen we are privileged to represent, we would like to emphasize that legislative action on fisheries management reform cannot wait. Fishermen in this country are hurting badly due in large part to flaws in federal fisheries law and the implementation of that law. The tragedy is that much of the economic plight of these fishermen is totally unnecessary for adequate protection of fish stocks. Congress can, and must, do a better job of providing a statutory framework that will yield both healthy fish stocks AND healthy fishing communities.

Fishermen cannot afford to wait years for that relief, they need it now. We all acknowledge that this country desperately needs good paying jobs, and that is what this is all about.

We strongly encourage the Committee to move legislation to reform federal fisheries law as quickly as possible. Many good ideas were presented to the Committee at the December 1st hearing, and many more are out there. We stand united to offer any assistance you might need in this effort.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your leadership of the Committee.

Sincerely,



Walter B. Jones (NC-3)



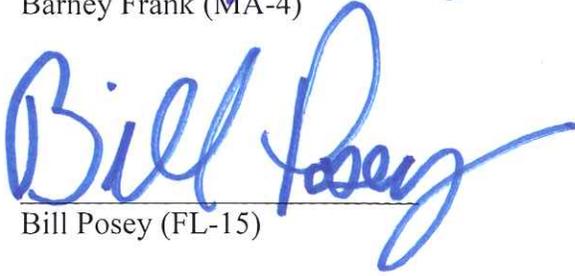
Jon Runyan (NJ-3)



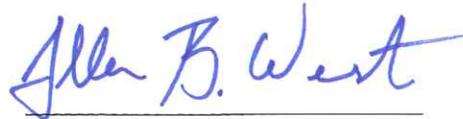
Barney Frank (MA-4)



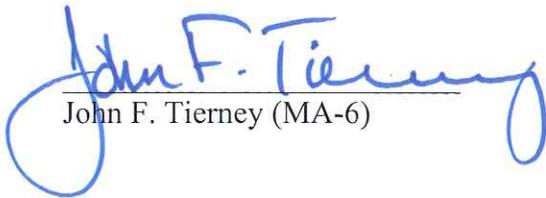
David Rivera (FL-25)



Bill Posey (FL-15)



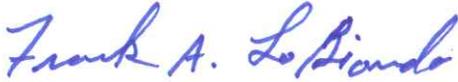
Allen West (FL-22)



John F. Tierney (MA-6)



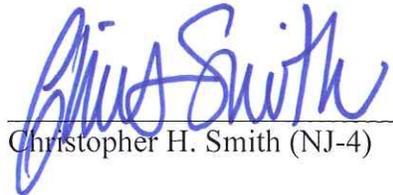
Frank Guinta (NH-1)



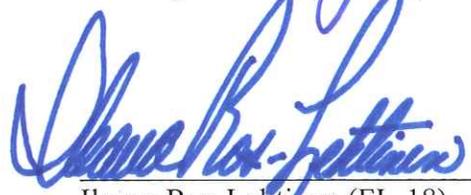
Frank A. LoBiondo (NJ-2)



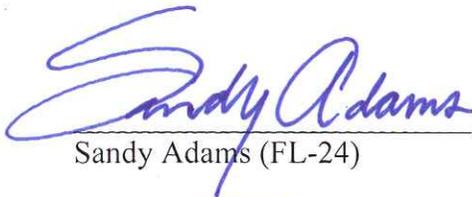
Timothy H. Bishop (NY-1)



Christopher H. Smith (NJ-4)



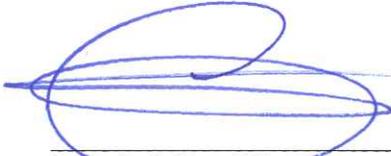
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL-18)



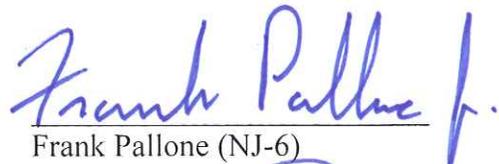
Sandy Adams (FL-24)



Steve Southerland (FL-2)



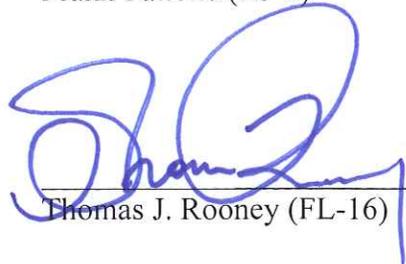
John L. Mica (FL-7)



Frank Pallone (NJ-6)



Mike McIntyre (NC-7)



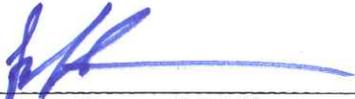
Thomas J. Rooney (FL-16)



Richard B. Nugent (FL-5)



William R. Keating (MA-10)



Robert Turner (NY-9)