



February 25, 2010

Ms Sherylanne McCoy
715 N Tropical Trl
Merritt Island, FL 32953-6020

Dear Ms McCoy,

Thank you for contacting me to express your concern about the federal government's actions related to our nation's fisheries. I share your concerns and have cosponsored the Flexibility in Rebuilding American Fisheries Act of 2009 (H.R.1584).

H.R. 1584 seeks to "amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to extend the authorized time period for rebuilding of certain overfished fisheries" in order to rebuild stocks of threatened fish species in a way that is both scientifically sound and will not force thousands of fishermen out of business. It is important to preserve fish species for the future, but we must do so in such a way that also preserves the fishing industry and economic livelihood of many thousands of Floridians for generations to come.

All too often bureaucrats in Washington hastily come up with overly broad legislation to fix a specific problem and fail to consider the unintended consequences of that legislation. These consequences often have a disastrous impact on many individuals and businesses such as those commercial and recreational fishermen who may be put out of business based on provisions in the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Unfortunately, it usually takes an act of Congress to clean up and refocus the agency back to its original intent.

I have partnered with a broad based coalition of Members of Congress all along the Atlantic coast to address the issue of fishery closures. My work on this issue has included meeting with industry representatives and cosponsoring legislation in addition to H.R. 1584 such as Rep. John Mica's (R-FL) H.R. 3307 which would "direct the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a study of the population of the South Atlantic red snapper fishery, and to limit the authority of the Secretary to promulgate any interim rule that prohibits fishing in the South Atlantic red snapper fishery." I have also joined several other Members of Congress in writing to Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV), chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources, to protest the Red Snapper ban and request a hearing on this issue.

Most recently, I have joined as an original co-sponsor of the Transparency in Job Loss from Fishery Closures Act of 2010 which would enact limitations on the Secretary of Commerce to implement fishery closures.

H.R. 1584 has been referred to the House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans, and Wildlife. While I am not on this committee, I will do all I can to move this bill forward.

Speaking more broadly, please know that I will continue to be an advocate for smarter policies that keep the people who are most affected, and most closely related to the fisheries, involved in the process of protecting and rebuilding fish populations so that viable fisheries will continue to thrive for generations to come. These are not issues for Washington based federal agencies to solve on their own without the input, knowledge, and expertise of the people who know the fisheries best - the fishermen themselves.

Thank you again, Sherylanne for contacting me. I appreciate having the benefit of your views. It is an

honor to serve you in the Congress. For more information on my work in Congress or to sign up to receive my E-newsletter, please visit my website, <http://www.posey.house.gov/>. If I may be of service to you in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Bill Posey
Member of Congress