



The Honorable Steve Israel
United States House of Representatives
2457 Rayburn House Building
South Capitol Street & Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20515
Fax 202 225-4669

April 2009

Dear Representative Israel:

As a New York recreational angler, I am concerned about the current management of our nation's marine fisheries. I support long-term conservation and the sustainability of our fisheries, particularly with regard to the importance to the recreational fishing community. However, rigid, arbitrary rebuilding timeframes as contained within the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) have restricted my access to important recreational fisheries, even at times of record high abundance as in the example of fluke (summer flounder).

As you're probably well aware, in order to comply with strict federal restrictions, the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) just announced new limits for the 2009 fluke season. This year, the minimum size limit jumps to 21 inches from last season's 20-1/2 inches, the bag limit drops to two fish from four, and a new split season closes 17 days of fluke action as the summer season just gets underway. These are the most restrictive limits New Yorkers have ever seen on fluke at a time when the overall stock is at its highest rate in over 40 years.

I find these inflexible federal requirements are actually harming regional conservation efforts and causing a negative effect on our coastal communities of New York and the businesses that serve these communities. Legislation has been introduced in the House of Representatives, HR 1584. This bill is very similar to HR 5425 which you cosponsored in the 110th Congress. I understand that this legislation would amend the MSA and give the Secretary of Commerce the discretion to adjust rebuilding timeframes only if specific criteria are present to ensure that the conservation of such stock continues to advance.

I support the limited flexibility in rebuilding afforded in HR 1584 because it would promote both healthy fisheries and healthy fishing communities. I respectfully request you cosponsor HR 1584 and by doing so, support the recreational fishing community of New York.

Sincerely,

Signature

Print Name

Print Address

I FISH ♦ I VOTE