

September 23, 2019

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Bishop:

On behalf of the recreational fishing and boating community, the undersigned organizations are writing in strong support of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act (H.R. 1747) and would like to thank you for scheduling the bill for both a hearing and markup.

Recreational fishing is one of America's most popular pastimes with 49 million anglers taking to the water each year. The sport not only activates more Americans than golf and tennis combined, but annually contributes \$125 billion to the economy and supports more than 800,000 jobs. However, recreational fishing can only remain America's favorite pastime if we continue to conserve and restore the very habitats that support our iconic fisheries.

The National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act codifies the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, a national framework developed jointly by the states, federal agencies, business and the angling and conservation community that lays out a clear set of national goals and objectives for conserving, restoring and enhancing fish and fish habitats on a national scale. The program has already proved extremely effective, supporting 840 projects in 50 states, but must be codified by Congress to achieve its full potential.

This broadly supported, bipartisan bill will not only conserve habitat and increase recreational angling opportunities to the benefit of the angling community and Americans but will also benefit the countless communities across the nation that depend upon the significant economic impact provided by anglers.

Thank you again for scheduling this bill for a markup and for all that you do to support public access and natural resource conservation.

Sincerely,

American Fisheries Society
American Sportfishing Association
Angler Action Foundation
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.)
BoatUS
Coastal Conservation Association
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
The Nature Conservancy

Fishing League Worldwide
Fly Fishers International
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Professional Anglers Association
Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association
The Billfish Foundation
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Trout Unlimited
Wild Oceans

CC: The Honorable Robert J. Wittman
The Honorable Marc D. Veasey