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Fisheries Bill Will Enhance Ocean and Fishing Industry Health

Magnuson-Stevens Bill Ensures Fisheries Management Guided by Science

Washington, DC – The passage of legislation extending and revising the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act is an important step forward for the effective management of our nation’s fisheries. Congress’ effort to complete action on this bill sends a strong message about its commitment to balancing environmental and economic interests and ensuring the future vitality of our oceans.

“This bipartisan bill demonstrates that we can make real progress in addressing the growing challenges facing our oceans,” said Leon E. Panetta, co-chair of the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative.

“The next critical step will be for Congress to work together next year to advance comprehensive ocean policy reform and funding as recommended by the Joint Initiative in our report *From Sea to Shining Sea*,” said Admiral James D. Watkins (Ret.), co-chair of the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative.

The bill contains several important provisions, including:

- Enhancing the role of science in establishing sustainable harvest levels;
- Setting a clear deadline for ending overfishing; and
- Authorizing the use of market-based approaches in fisheries management.

These measures and others included in the bill represent important progress toward the comprehensive reforms recommended by the two Ocean Commissions. The Joint Initiative looks forward to continuing to work with Congress to promote a transition toward an ecosystem-based management approach.

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The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative is a collaborative effort of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and Pew Oceans Commission to catalyze ocean policy reform. The Initiative is guided by a ten-member Task Force, five from each Commission, and led by Admiral James D. Watkins and the Honorable Leon E. Panetta, chairs of the U.S. Commission and Pew Commission, respectively. The primary goal of the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative is to accelerate the pace of change that results in meaningful ocean policy reform. For more information, visit www.jointoceancommission.org