

The Honorable Ted Stevens, Chairman
The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, Co-chairman
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

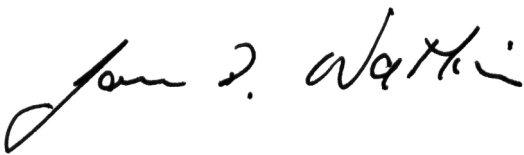
June 23, 2006

Dear Senators Stevens and Inouye:

As chairs of the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, we would like to congratulate you on the June 19, 2006 Senate passage, by unanimous consent, of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2005. Your strong bipartisan leadership has resulted in a solid reauthorization bill that reflects broad constituent input. In particular, we are encouraged that the bill incorporates language responsive to many of the recommendations articulated in both Commission reports, including measures that would increase the role of science in making management decisions, show greater movement toward an ecosystem-based approach, move toward greater accountability in fisheries management, and strengthen protections of living marine resources in international waters.

Now that the Senate has taken this important step, we are hopeful that the House will follow the Senate's lead and pass a comparable Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization bill. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff as Congress takes its final steps to get this landmark legislation enacted before the end of the 109th Congress.

Sincerely,



James D. Watkins
Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired)
Chairman, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy



Leon E. Panetta
Chairman, Pew Oceans Commission

cc: Matt Paxton
Margaret Spring