

## Joint Ocean Commission Initiative Strongly Encourages House to Pass Magnuson-Stevens Bill Today

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (H.R. 5946) is under consideration today and support for this legislation will send a strong statement about Congress's commitment to balancing environmental and economic interests. Given the challenges facing fisheries and the fishing industry, the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative strongly encourages Congress to pass this bill before adjourning.

The reauthorization bill incorporates many elements of the recommendations made by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission. A few of the important provisions in the bill include:

- 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.

The measures 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.

The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative is co-chaired by Admiral James D. Watkins and the Honorable Leon E. Panetta, chairs of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission, respectively. The Joint Initiative is a collaborative effort of the two commissions to catalyze ocean policy reform and accelerate the pace of change that results in meaningful ocean policy reform. For more information, visit [www.jointoceancommission.org](http://www.jointoceancommission.org)