

ED CASE
1ST DISTRICT, HAWAII

2443 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TELEPHONE: 202-225-2726
FAX: 202-225-0688

1132 BISHOP STREET, SUITE 1910
HONOLULU, HI 96813
TELEPHONE: 808-650-6688
FAX: 808-533-0133

WEBSITE: CASE.HOUSE.GOV

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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WATER, OCEANS AND WILDLIFE
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE UNITED STATES

September 14, 2020

Ms. Kitty M. Simonds
1164 Bishop St Ste 1400
Honolulu, HI 96813-2856

Dear Ms. Simonds:

I am reaching out to share an update on the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA).

As you know, MSA is our primary federal law governing marine fisheries management in U.S. federal waters, which in most cases is from three to two hundred nautical miles offshore of American land, with the shoreline to three nautical miles out state waters and generally managed by states. More background about the MSA can be found at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/laws-policies#magnuson-stevens-act>.

Since October 2019, my House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and Wildlife, led by Chairman Jared Huffman, has been hosting listening sessions around the country to gain insight into the implementation of the MSA, which was last reauthorized in 2007. I have attended a few of these sessions and last February hosted a session in Honolulu for our Western Pacific Region. You can view the Honolulu session on my YouTube page at <https://youtu.be/WGQATQ2SASK>. I appreciated hearing the participants and audience members who shared important perspectives on what is and is not working under the MSA in our region.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, these listening sessions were put on hold, but we expect the last one or two to be completed this year. Additionally, Chairman Huffman has continued collecting comments from interested parties.

We are reviewing those comments and developing draft legislation to reauthorize and amend the MSA. With Congress' limited ability to meet during this pandemic, it is unclear exactly how far we will get in the reauthorization process before the end of this current session of Congress in early January. However, all this effort will inform how the next Congress (2021-22) moves forward with an updated reauthorization.

I am taking a broad look at the law and hope to incorporate ideas from our Honolulu session and beyond to ensure that our precious ocean resources are being managed effectively and sustainably. As we begin drafting the reauthorization bill, I would like to make sure that you have an opportunity to share your thoughts and comments with me and the committee. Please feel free to submit comments by no later than September 20th to <https://huffman.house.gov/msa/comments> with a copy to me at Ed.Case@mail.house.gov. Please also feel free to share this email with your contacts who would also be interested.

Thank you again, and please continue to let me know of your views. Please also sign up for regular updates from me and my office through my e-newsletter and social media outreach at <https://case.house.gov/contact>.

With aloha,

Ed Case Congressman Ed Case (Hawaii-First District)