

Rice (SC) Sessions  
Rigell Shimkus  
Roby Shuster  
Roe (TN) Simpson  
Rogers (AL) Smith (MO)  
Rogers (KY) Smith (NE)  
Rohrabacher Smith (NJ)  
Rokita Smith (TX)  
Rooney (FL) Stefanik  
Ros-Lehtinen Stewart  
Roskam Stivers  
Ross Stutzman  
Rothfus Thompson (PA)  
Rouzer Thornberry  
Royce Tiberi  
Russell Tipton  
Ryan (WI) Trott  
Salmon Turner  
Sanford Upton  
Scalise Valadao  
Schweikert Wagner  
Scott, Austin Walberg  
Sensenbrenner Walden

Walker Johnson (OH)  
Walorski Johnson, Sam  
Walters, Mimi Jolly  
Weber (TX) Jordan  
Webster (FL) Joyce  
Wenstrup Katko  
Westerman Keating  
Westmoreland Kelly (PA)  
Whitfield Kennedy  
Williams Kilmer  
Wilson (SC) King (IA)  
Wittman King (NY)  
Womack Kinzinger (IL)  
Woodall Kline  
Yoder Knight  
Yoho Kuster  
Young (AK) Labrador  
Young (IA) LaMalfa  
Young (IN) Lamborn  
Zeldin Lance  
Zinke Larson (CT)  
Latta  
LoBiondo  
Loeb  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Love  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Lujan Grisham (NM)  
Lummis  
Lynch  
MacArthur  
Maloney, Sean  
Marchant  
Marino  
Massie  
McCarthy  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McDermott  
McHenry  
McKinley  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
McSally  
Meadows  
Meehan  
Messer  
Mica  
Miller (FL)

Miller (MI) Sanford  
Moolenaar Scalise  
Mooney (WV) Schweikert  
Mullin Scott, Austin  
Mulvaney Sensenbrenner  
Murphy (FL) Sessions  
Neal Shimkus  
Neugebauer Shuster  
Newhouse Simpson  
Nolan Sinema  
Nugent Smith (MO)  
Nunes Smith (NE)  
Olson Smith (NJ)  
Palazzo Smith (TX)  
Palmer Stefanik  
Paulsen Stewart  
Pearce Stivers  
Perry Stutzman  
Peters Thompson (PA)  
Peterson Thornberry  
Pittenger Tiberi  
Pitts Titus  
Poe (TX) Tonko  
Poliquin Trott  
Pompeo Turner  
Posey Upton  
Price, Tom Valadao  
Ratcliffe Wagner  
Reed Walberg  
Reichert Walden  
Renacci Walker  
Ribble Walorski  
Rice (SC) Walters, Mimi  
Rigell Walz  
Roby Weber (TX)  
Roe (TN) Webster (FL)  
Rogers (AL) Wenstrup  
Rogers (KY) Westernman  
Rohrabacher Westmoreland  
Rokita Whitfield  
Rooney (FL) Williams  
Ros-Lehtinen Wilson (SC)  
Roskam Wittman  
Ross Womack  
Rothfus Woodall  
Rouzer Yoder  
Royce Yoho  
Ruiz Young (AK)  
Ruppersberger Young (IA)  
Russell Young (IN)  
Ryan (WI) Zeldin  
Salmon Zinke

Takano Vargas  
Thompson (CA) Veasey  
Thompson (MS) Vela  
Torres Velázquez  
Van Hollen Visclosky

Waters, Maxine  
Watson Coleman  
Welch  
Wilson (FL)  
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—13

Adams Cleaver  
Becerra Crawford  
Bera Donovan  
Capps Murphy (PA)  
Chaffetz Noem

□ 1916

So the bill was passed.  
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NOT VOTING—11

Adams Chaffetz  
Becerra Cleaver  
Bera Crawford  
Capps Donovan

Noem  
Tsongas  
Wasserman  
Schultz

□ 1909

Mr. GARAMENDI changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 274, nays 145, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 260]

YEAS—274

Abraham Clawson (FL) Franks (AZ)  
Aderholt Coffman Frelinghuysen  
Aguilar Cole Garrett  
Allen Collins (GA) Gibbs  
Amash Collins (NY) Gibson  
Amodei Comstock Gohmert  
Ashford Conaway Goodlatte  
Babin Connolly Gosar  
Barletta Cook Gowdy  
Barr Costello (PA) Graham  
Barton Courtney Granger  
Benishek Cramer Graves (GA)  
Bilirakis Crenshaw Graves (LA)  
Bishop (GA) Cuellar Graves (MO)  
Bishop (MI) Culberson Griffith  
Bishop (UT) Curbelo (FL) Grothman  
Black Davis, Rodney Guinta  
Blackburn Delaney Guthrie  
Blum DelBene Hanna  
Bost Denham Hardy  
Boustany Dent Harper  
Brady (TX) DeSantis Harris  
Brat DesJarlais Hartzler  
Bridenstine Diaz-Balart Heck (NV)  
Brooks (AL) Dold Heck (WA)  
Brooks (IN) Duffy Hensarling  
Brownley (CA) Duncan (SC) Herrera Beutler  
Buchanan Duncan (TN) Hice, Jody B.  
Buck Ellmers (NC) Hill  
Bucshon Emmer (MN) Holding  
Burgess Esty Hudson  
Bustos Farenthold Huelskamp  
Byrne Fincher Huizenga (MI)  
Calvert Fitzpatrick Hultgren  
Capuano Fleischmann Hunter  
Carson (IN) Fleming Hurd (TX)  
Carter (GA) Flores Hurt (VA)  
Carter (TX) Forbes Issa  
Chabot Fortenberry Jenkins (KS)  
Clark (MA) Foxx Jenkins (WV)

Bass  
Beatty  
Beyer  
Blumenauer  
Bonamici  
Boyle, Brendan  
F.  
Brady (PA)  
Brown (FL)  
Butterfield  
Cárdenas  
Carney  
Cartwright  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Conyers  
Cooper  
Costa  
Crowley  
Cummings  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DeSaulnier  
Deutch  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael  
F.  
Duckworth  
Edwards  
Ellison  
Engel  
Eshoo  
Farr  
Fattah  
Foster

NAYS—145

Frankel (FL)  
Fudge  
Gabbard  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Grayson  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Grijalva  
Gutiérrez  
Hahn  
Hastings  
Higgins  
Himes  
Hinojosa  
Honda  
Hoyer  
Huffman  
Israel  
Jackson Lee  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Jones  
Kaptur  
Kelly (IL)  
Kildee  
Kind  
Kirkpatrick  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Lawrence  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
Lofgren  
Lowenthal  
Lowey  
Lujan, Ben Ray  
Lujan, Ben Ray  
(NM)  
Maloney,  
Carolyn  
Matsui

McCollum  
McGovern  
McNerney  
Meeks  
Meng  
Moore  
Moulton  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Norcross  
O'Rourke  
Pallone  
Pascrell  
Payne  
Pelosi  
Perlmutter  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Polis  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Rangel  
Rice (NY)  
Richmond  
Roybal-Allard  
Rush  
Ryan (OH)  
Sanchez, Linda  
T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sarbanes  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schrader  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Serrano  
Sewell (AL)  
Sherman  
Sires  
Slaughter  
Smith (WA)  
Speier  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takai

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1335, STRENGTHENING FISHING COMMUNITIES AND INCREASING FLEXIBILITY IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 274 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 274

*Resolved*, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1335) to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide flexibility for fishery managers and stability for fishermen, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-16. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before action thereon, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any

amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YOUNG of Iowa). The gentleman from Alabama is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 274 provides a structured rule for consideration of the Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act. The rule makes in order eight amendments, five of which are from Democratic sponsors. One of the amendments is a Democrat substitute, which will be debated for twice as long as the other amendments.

As someone who has lived his whole life on the Gulf Coast, I can tell you just how important this bill is. For many people who live on our Nation's coast, this bill is about a way of life.

This bill is for our Nation's commercial fishermen, who depend on a reliable fishing stock in order to make a living. This bill is also for our Nation's charter boat fleets, which are an important source of tourism. That means jobs, Mr. Speaker, and all too often people in this town and government scientists seem not to care about that.

Just as importantly, this bill is for our recreational fishermen and everyday anglers who just enjoy spending time on the waters. For my family, this is a lifelong tradition. I remember fishing with my dad on the Gulf of Mexico. I treasured opportunities to fish with my four children, and as a new grandfather, I look forward to fishing with my grandson.

This is a good bill, and as a former member of the committee of jurisdiction, the Natural Resources Committee, I can tell you that a great amount of time and effort have gone into this bill. This process started over 2 years ago, and there was a lot of work to bring our parties together to get a bill that everyone can agree on.

Unfortunately, as happens far too often here in Washington, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have decided to make this into a partisan fight. President Obama has said he will veto this bill. All this despite

real efforts to work together, across the aisle, to get a bill that works for everyone.

Now I want to briefly talk about the idea of science that the President and my colleagues on the other side claim the bill undermines. All too often here in D.C., what passes for science is just political ideology dressed up with some technical language with no real basis in observable data.

I don't know if the gentleman from Colorado has ever been fishing for red snapper in the Gulf Coast—if he hasn't, then I invite him to do so—but I can tell you that there are more red snapper there than there has ever been before. Despite that good news, NOAA and the Federal Government is consistently undercounting the number of fish in the Gulf of Mexico.

Here is the craziest part of all: NOAA is not sampling for red snapper on reefs, despite the fact that the red snapper is a reef fish. That is simply absurd. If you look for red snapper somewhere other than the reefs, you are not going to find them because they live on reefs.

Now, NOAA is also overestimating the number of red snapper caught each year. For example, last year the Federal Government estimated that 1,041,000 pounds of red snapper were caught off the coast of Alabama, where I am from. The Alabama red snapper reporting system, which is run by the State, only estimated a catch of 418,000 pounds. That is a remarkable disparity.

So what has happened is a very dangerous combination of NOAA underestimating how many fish are actually out there and overestimating the number of fish caught each year. This has resulted in a dramatically shortened season for our red snapper fisherman. Last year's red snapper season was only 9 days. This year it has been increased to 10 days. That is simply unacceptable.

I support science-based management, and the committee supports science-based management, but I don't support and the committee doesn't support flawed science-based management. And this House shouldn't either.

So that is why I get so frustrated when I hear my colleagues say that this bill undermines good science. Come tell that to my fishermen on the Gulf Coast. Come tell that to the marine scientists on the Gulf Coast who have done extensive scientific research on this.

This bill is important because it includes real reforms that are designed to get some better science for all of our fisheries, not only as it relates to red snapper, but as it relates to the fisheries all around the United States of America. Why don't we encourage stronger partnerships with local colleges and universities that have done great work in the past?

Mr. Speaker, I do want to touch on that red snapper issue a little more because it is so important to the people I represent, and it is very important to

debate on this bill. This bill includes three important reforms that local scientists, stakeholders, and I believe will get us a real red snapper season. Number one, it repeals inflexible quotas that have been in place up to this point. Number two, it creates jurisdictional parity by expanding State waters out to 9 nautical miles gulfwide. Number three, it shifts the stock assessment and data collection responsibilities from the Federal Government and gives those responsibilities to the Gulf States so we can get some real science, not flawed science.

Far too often people in Washington think we know best; people in Washington think we have all the answers. This is an issue where that simply is not the case. This bill empowers our Nation's fishing communities and gives them the flexibility they need.

So regardless of whether or not you go fishing, this issue should matter to all Americans because this issue is about freedom and limiting the role of the Federal Government in areas where it just doesn't belong.

This is an extremely fair rule. I urge its support, Mr. Speaker, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. The gentleman from Alabama said there are more red snapper than there have ever been before, and that would seem to indicate that the policies are working, and I don't think it is a time to reverse course.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN), the ranking member of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Power, and Oceans and the author of the Democratic substitute, which is a cleaner reauthorization.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado.

Like the gentleman from Alabama, I do represent a coastal district, a fishing district. In fact, the Second District of California includes about one-third of the California coastline and many working harbors and ports where fishing men and women have been catching fish with their families for many, many generations, as well as the Native American tribes that I represent, who have been depending on healthy fisheries for hundreds, if not thousands, of years.

So this is important to me. I share the gentleman's concern that we continue to make fishing available for ourselves and for future generations. We have some disagreements on how to get there, and we will talk about that.

I think the thing that we have to recognize at the outset of this debate is that the Magnuson-Stevens Act has been a great success by just about any measure. It succeeded initially in helping us protect and rebuild fisheries from the threat of foreign fleets that were coming into U.S. waters and overfishing and harming our American fishing communities and fishing families. It then went on to succeed in preventing overfishing by U.S. fishermen

by a number of mechanisms in the bill that we will talk about in a moment.

The other way in which Magnuson-Stevens has been a huge success is that it has always been bipartisan. Both the original act and the subsequent reauthorizations of Magnuson-Stevens have always been strongly bipartisan. And unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we are departing from that positive history with the bill we have before us today, and we need to get it back on track.

□ 1930

The keys to Magnuson-Stevens' success have included strict rules on rebuilding of fishery stocks and also very strict fishery specific quotas, so that we can make sure that we prevent overfishing and ensure a sustainable fishery population. This is not so that we stop fishing, quite the contrary. The purpose of these mechanisms is so that we can continue to fish for future generations by maintaining sustainable populations.

Absent these mechanisms, these very successful provisions in Magnuson-Stevens' history teaches us what would happen. We have a history that is played out over and over again in this country and, frankly, around the world—that, without strict protections for sustainable fish populations, we will overfish them, we will deplete them.

It puts us on a path where the tragedy of the commons plays out over and over again, and the end result of that is fisheries closures. We are not helping the folks who want to fish. When we don't manage these populations, we are actually hurting them in the long run.

Now, Democrats have put forward a substitute amendment that is much closer to a clean reauthorization of Magnuson-Stevens. We think that is really the conversation we need to be having. What kind of clean reauthorization can we have? And are there consensus areas where we can actually improve Magnuson-Stevens?

The gentleman from Alabama might be surprised to find Democrats strongly agreeing with him, that we could benefit from additional science, better science. There may be better data available on the red snapper in the Gulf. We are also working with Republicans to try to get that science and make it available to the decision-makers who set those rules for that fishery.

There is also more than meets the eye, even for that red snapper fishery because, while you are talking about a small number of days for recreational fishermen in Federal waters, you have got a much greater number of days in State waters.

You also can fish for red snapper and any other species just about any day you want. When you are in Federal waters, you can only keep them during those certain number of days. The reason for that is because approximately half the fish caught are reserved for commercial fishermen who have made

their case to the regional council that it is only fair that about half the fish ought to be available to them and about half the fish are allocated to recreational fishermen.

In those small number of days, believe it or not, the recreational folks catch almost the same amount of fish that the commercial fishermen catch during a much greater number of days. There is always a little more than meets the eye. You hear sensational statistics perhaps about the very small number of days available. There is, frankly, much more to the story.

Where we do agree is, if we can get better data, better science, better monitoring, all of this should be subject to discussion and revision in the councils. That is the flexibility of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and that ought to be something that we can work on here together.

Unfortunately, though, Mr. Speaker, we have a Republican bill that is taking away some of the key provisions of the act that have actually been the very source of its great success over the years, so that heads in a wrong direction.

Then, unfortunately, we have the obligatory runs at NEPA and various environmental laws, including the Antiquities Act. This is no place to be carrying out that endless assault on America's environmental laws.

Let's get back to that point of consensus, sustainable management of our fisheries. If we can do that, I think we have something we can work on together in this House.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I appreciate the gentleman's comments. It is very important that we try to find ways to try to work together when the form of this bill that we worked on in the committee last year, which is almost identical to the one that we adopted this year, was before the Natural Resources Committee.

In Mr. DEFazio's opening statement, he said:

Thank you, Chairman, and I appreciate the changes that were negotiated on a number of provisions in the bill.

Then he said:

This has been traditionally a very bipartisan exercise, and this is, in good part, bipartisan.

Mr. PALLONE, same time, his opening statement in the committee last year on a virtually identical bill was:

I do want to say that I do appreciate the fact that you reach out to us on the Democratic side of the aisle; and many of the provisions, as you mentioned, that are in the bill did come from input from the Democratic side.

The gentleman referenced the substitute:

The substitute has been made in order and has given more time than anything else for us to debate.

We have really leaned over backwards, particularly when you consider that the majority of amendments that we have made in order in this rule are amendments offered by the Democrats.

Now, I appreciate that the gentleman has a substitute—and we are going to give him an opportunity to talk about it—but if you look at his substitute, we might as well call his substitute “The Environmental Litigation and Fisheries Disaster Creation Act of 2015” because that is what it is going to do.

This amendment would allow the Secretary of Commerce to accept outside funds from NGOs to support cooperative research projects. This gives the litigation community of the world an avenue to influence NOAA decision making.

This amendment requires the Secretary of Commerce to ignore current procedure and forces the Secretary to retroactively declare a fishery disaster in California from a January 2004 emergency proclamation on California drought.

Mr. HUFFMAN's amendment seems to single out and blame the Central Valley Project for a fishery disaster. As we all know, there are many factors for fish declines, mainly including ocean conditions.

This amendment seeks to blame farmers for a fishery disaster. Above all, this amendment erases the flexibilities, transparency, and science improvements made in the underlying bill, but we give him the opportunity to make his case before this House to show our willingness to work with them.

I was greatly surprised when I read the Statement of Administration Policy that we received from the administration when we were marking this bill up in Rules Committee yesterday, and I was most surprised at what they had to say about the snapper language. Now, that language came from me. I asked the committee to put it in the bill, and I am greatly appreciative of the fact that they did.

Remember what I said about what the science has done to our fishery in the Gulf of Mexico. Here is what the administration says:

H.R. 1335 would also severely undermine the authority of the Gulf of Mexico Regional Fishery Management Council by extending State jurisdiction over the recreational red snapper fishery to 9 miles in the Gulf of Mexico. We intend to give the States more authority by going out.

Now, yes, that would give us some flexibility for the fishing out there, but a lot of the reefs that these red snappers grow on are further out than 9 miles, so it doesn't solve the whole problem.

The administration goes on to say:

This proposed extension of jurisdiction would create an untenable situation where recreational and commercial fishermen fishing side by side would be subject to different regulatory regimes.

How do they know in advance what the States are going to do? Why do they presume that that is going to be the case? They do so because they have such an aversion to the States having any control, any input, in the way that this fishery is governed.

They go on to say:

Absent an agreement among the States as to how to allocate recreationally caught red snapper, the bill would encourage interstate conflict and jeopardize the sustainability of this gulfwide resource.

No one has a greater stake in making sure we keep this fish stock healthy than those of us that live on the Gulf Coast do. Whether we are in commercial fishing, whether we are in charter boat fishing, whether we are in recreational fishing, if we overfish this stock, it is gone; I won't get to fish it with my grandson.

Future commercial fishermen won't get to make money off of this and provide jobs. Charter boat people won't be able to come down to the beach and enjoy themselves. No one wants that to happen.

The administration presumes that we are going to be so self-defeating that we would allow that to happen. I am greatly disappointed that, after all the work we did to solve this problem that was created by the government scientists, that still the administration is attacking us, still they are trying to keep us from solving this problem.

I appreciate what the gentleman had to say. I think we should try to work together on every bill we try to pass in this House; but, at some point, we have got to stand up for people who fish in this country. We have a right to fish in the waters of the United States, and the waters of the United States don't belong to the government scientists; they belong to the people of America.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Here we are debating the gutting of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, which both sides agree has successfully helped restore some of our counts of wild stock, including snapper. It hardly seems the time to reverse course without any scientific evidence that, somehow, we will get to a different place than we were when Congress wrote the Magnuson-Stevens Act to address the very issue, which it seems to be successfully addressing.

The gentleman from Alabama mentioned some remarks from Mr. DEFAZIO. I wanted to be clear that then-Ranking Member DEFAZIO opposed a similar bill, this similar bill, in the last Congress. I am not sure of the context of the remarks he made, but he stood here on the floor urging his colleagues to oppose the bill. He opposed it as well in committee.

He was not happy with the result last time; he is not happy with the result this time, nor is our new ranking member of either the subcommittee or the committee. I should add it passed out of committee without a single Democratic vote. To be clear, there was not a bipartisan effort in committee to talk about the best policy with regard to fisheries.

Now, before I jump into the debate about fish populations and fisheries in

our oceans—something I have to admit, as representing the landlocked State of Colorado, I had to take a crash course on in the last few days—I want to talk about some of the events from the last week that I think should merit congressional attention.

One item that happened in the last week is a 16-year-old student from the Atlanta Public School system in Georgia was attacked in his courtyard just because he was gay. A crowd surrounded to watch as 15 people beat this young person into a bloody pulp while yelling derogatory slurs at him.

Again, we could be addressing that through passing the Student Non-Discrimination Act or the antibullying act from Representative SANCHEZ, but instead, we are talking about gutting Magnuson-Stevens' protections of our fisheries.

Also this week, a south Texas family detention facility, similar to facilities in other parts of the country for immigrants who were caught in the wrong place at the wrong time, testimony came out that women and children were severely punished, abused, and neglected. We could be pursuing detention reform or immigration reform; but, again, we are not.

This last week, Los Angeles raised its minimum wage to \$15 an hour. Now, in LA, that puts families closer to a living wage, but the bad news is this Congress refuses to take up any minimum wage hike. Whether it is a \$12 proposal, which Democrats put forward, whether it is a \$10.10 proposal, whether it is even a \$9 proposal, this Congress has not, instead of bringing forward a bill to increase the minimum wage—by the way, when somebody works full time at minimum wage, they earn about \$14,500 a year. I don't know what we are saying to people where you work full time and we are forcing you to rely on government programs to subsist.

Republicans are keeping people on public housing, on food stamps, on welfare, rather than helping them support their own way and regaining their dignity in the process, which is what raising the minimum wage would do; but, no, we are not talking about that here today. We are talking about gutting the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

21,000 gallons of oil spilled in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Santa Barbara County—that is probably not good for the fish there either—following the eruption of an 11-mile long underground pipeline; but, instead of talking about a renewable energy future, instead of talking about ending our reliance on fossil fuels or a national renewable energy portfolio standard, we are talking about gutting our fisheries protection and gutting the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Tragically, we had funerals for eight people who were killed in the derailment of the Amtrak train in Pennsylvania; our House observed a moment of silence earlier on that, but rather than discussing measures that can prevent future derailment accidents—and I un-

derstand there is some technology that, when implemented, could have helped avoid this kind of accident—here we are again, discussing gutting the Magnuson-Stevens Act that has successfully protected our wild fisheries and helped restore some of the stock so that precisely the recreational and charter fishermen and the gentleman from Alabama can continue to enjoy fishing. Absent the support of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, it is likely we would not be able to support the level of recreational and commercial fishing that we can today.

Seven people were shot in Baltimore yesterday amid a recent spike in violence following the death of Freddie Gray while in police custody; but, instead of addressing nonlethal use of force or video cameras on police officers, we are discussing gutting the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

We all know that the Federal highway reauthorization is running up against the May 31 deadline. The body of this Congress chose to renew it for 60 days and just created another crisis in another 59 days; yet we are not discussing what a deal would look like, a bipartisan deal, for a longer-term reauthorization of the Federal highway trust fund.

□ 1945

One hundred eighty Democrats signed a discharge petition for a bill that seeks to renew the charter of the Export-Import Bank, a critical driver for job creation and American competitiveness, fully permissible under WTO rules, under proposed trade agreement rules. Other countries have these kinds of banks, and to unilaterally disarm would cost American jobs. But instead of talking about how Congress gets out of this political box on the Export-Import Bank, we are discussing gutting the Magnuson-Stevens fisheries protection legislation.

This Congress could do a lot better with regard to dealing with issues that I hear about from my constituents every day, day in and day out, whether that is fixing our broken immigration system, whether it is protecting our country from terrorism, whether it is preventing future Amtrak derailments. Those are the kinds of topics that, I think, the American people want to see us discussing here today rather than gutting an important piece of legislation which many charter fishermen, recreational fishermen, and commercial fishermen applaud in having successfully sustained their livelihoods or their passions for the last generation.

Let's talk about fish.

The bill we are looking at today would devastate our wild fisheries. It would make our waters much more of a "free for all." Under the guise of flexibility, it would allow for the overfishing of critical species, risking not only their sustainability and the future enjoyment of recreational fishermen but also the health of entire ecosystems that rely on the fish stocks that we are debating.

It would set an alarming precedent for the circumvention of our bedrock environmental laws by allowing fishery management councils to supersede NEPA, the National Environmental Policy Act; the Endangered Species Act; the Antiquities Act; and the National Marine Sanctuaries Act.

The Fishery Conservation and Management Act was introduced in 1976 to stop unregulated fishing that had demonstrably led to the depletion across a number of wild fisheries. In both 1996 and 2007, the legislation was reauthorized—bipartisan bills again. This bill passed committee without a single Democratic vote. Each time, through a comprehensive drafting process, good ideas from both sides of the aisle were put to paper.

Ironically, the one thing that, I think, the gentleman from Alabama and I can agree on is that the 2007 authorization has been successful. We have shown the increased health of our wild fish stocks. So the question is: Do we want to reverse course and jeopardize that, or do we want to move forward with scientific-backed evidence?

Unfortunately, the Republicans are trying to make sweeping changes to gut the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Protection Act. This iteration of the bill was drafted with almost no Democratic input, and it passed out of committee without a single Democratic vote.

Look, if we want to go through this kind of exercise with a bill that the President has said he would veto—a bill that breaks with the proud bipartisan tradition of fisheries protection—why aren't we spending time on some of the issues I mentioned earlier, like immigration reform, like protecting LGBT students from discrimination, like socioeconomic disparities in our country, how we can deal with mental health among returning veterans who fought overseas, or the risk of terrorism here at home? Let's do that.

If we are going to talk fish, Mr. Speaker, let's at least bring up a bill that has been drafted by all stakeholders. Let's at least bring up a bill that ensures that the fishing community will have an industry in 10 years, in 20 years, in 50 years—a bill that protects the interests of our recreational fishermen and that preserves the health of our oceans for the enjoyment of all Americans and for the health of our planet now into the future.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I was listening to the gentleman from Colorado speak. We heard about immigration, minimum wage, LGBT, renewable energy, highways, the Ex-Im Bank, and a little bit about fish. This is a bill about fish. It is not about all of that stuff.

We have heard from our friends on the other side of the aisle that we in the majority are using too many combined rules, where you have more than one bill in the rule, which they say

confuses the debate and distracts from the individual merits of each bill and the process by which it will be considered. I have just got to tell you that it seems to me we had a lot of confusion and distraction with the interjection into this debate of a bunch of issues that have nothing to do with fishing. Today, we have one rule covering one bill; yet the gentleman just spent the majority of his time discussing issues not covered in the rule before us.

Let me tell you that the people in my area are suffering. Charter boat people have lost their boats. Dads who want to take their children fishing can't take their children fishing. It is destroying a way of life for people. I am not saying those other issues aren't important, that they are not serious, but they are not covered by this rule, and they are not in this bill. We need to debate that.

The gentleman said something about the 2007 act, that it was successful. Let me tell you what it has been successful in doing. It has taken a summer red snapper season and reduced it to 10 days. That is what it has been successful in doing. It has been successful in almost decimating our charter boat fleets and in putting a lot of people out of work. I hear a lot from the other side about needing to put people to work. The people on these charter boats work. They lost their jobs because of this. It was successful all right. It was successful in destroying something that worked for people for generations.

I have great respect for my fellow colleague from Colorado who is on the Rules Committee. I know he doesn't get to fish much in the Gulf of Mexico, but I extend an invitation to him. I will take him out there and let him catch some red snapper. I believe, Mr. Speaker, once he does that, he will be as enthusiastic for this bill as I am.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inquire if the gentleman has any further speakers or is prepared to close.

Mr. BYRNE. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I invite the gentleman from Alabama to come to Colorado to fish our wonderful mountain trout, which we have in our streams and rivers. Obviously, he is no stranger to a different kind of fisheries management policy where, of course, our economy in Colorado relies on fishing and sportsmen as well, and I certainly understand that driver of jobs locally.

I think the disconnect here is that the gentleman talks about what the 2007 Magnuson-Stevens bill has accomplished in that it has reduced the number of days that people can fish. That was the action that was taken. The effect of that is that the wild stocks are up, so there are more snapper. I think both sides agree on that. I believe there is a direct causal link to the fact that there are more snapper because there

have been fewer that have been taken out of the water. If we manage our fisheries for the short term, if we throw caution to the wind, people might have a good season or two, but it simply won't be there either for the future generation of recreationists or for those whose livelihoods depend on a viable commercial fishing stock.

Now, this bill is about fish. If this rule allowed for the discussion of some of the other bills I mentioned, I could support it. If this bill allowed a debate of #raisethewage, either to our Democratic proposal of a \$12 an hour minimum wage or to whatever number the gentleman from Alabama would like—if he would like to propose \$9 an hour, \$8.50—I would be willing to support this rule, or if it even allowed 2 minutes of debate for raising the minimum wage.

Mr. Speaker, I would support this bill if it allowed for us to consider our bipartisan immigration reform measure. If we allowed that debate under this bill, I would do that. I would support this rule if it allowed debate about the Student Nondiscrimination Act to make sure that LGBT students don't face bullying in our schools and so that it is a safe learning environment for all students. I would support this rule if it addressed what we have learned from the Amtrak derailment and prevented future derailments and saved lives.

None of those items, along with countless others, are included under this rule. In fact, all of the amendments under this rule, as well as the underlying bill, are related to fish.

No, I don't know deny that fish are important. We might be discussing our mountain trout someday here on the floor of the House and defending the President's efforts around clean water or on protecting some of our watersheds in Colorado. We have a lot of interest in protecting our fishing stock as well. But I would be proud to be able to bring forth some of the priorities that I hear from my constituents that are so critical.

Rather than continually bringing up bills that attack the integrity of our environment—in this case, a bill that would gut the fisheries protections that have been afforded under the Magnuson-Stevens Act and that both sides have acknowledged have successfully helped restore the red snapper population—I would hope that perhaps our next rule will allow us to raise the minimum wage, that perhaps our next rule will allow us to consider immigration reform, that perhaps our next rule will help us deal with the bullying in schools, that perhaps our next rule will save lives and prevent future derailments, and so many other issues.

I say to my colleagues that this particular bill needs to go back to the drawing board. It needs to go back to the drawing board to have a bipartisan effort in a committee I serve on, the Natural Resources Committee, to include priorities from both sides and good science and continue to build upon the legacy of success that the 2007

bipartisan reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act has had in increasing the health of our wild fishing stocks. I encourage my colleagues to vote “no” on this rule.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I was listening very carefully to the gentleman from Colorado, and I accept his invitation to go trout fishing. I would love to do that. Fishing of all kind is great for everybody to do, and I appreciate his invitation.

The reason we have the problem we have today is not because the Federal Government knows how many fish are out there. It doesn't. Remember what I said earlier—this is a reef fish, and they don't sample for reef fish on reefs. So, if you don't sample for reef fish on reefs, you are not going to find the fish. Now, we know there are so many fish out there because we haven't been allowed to fish them and that snapper are not only eating other species but they are eating other snapper.

What our scientists have done is they have actually gone out there with submersible vehicles with high-def cameras, and they count the fish on the reef and sample them that way. They have a real number. They do a real sampling so they get accurate data, and these government scientists don't.

My friend said that we should go back to the drawing board. We have waited too long already. We should have done this last year so that we could have had a real snapper season this year. If we wait again, we won't have a snapper season next year, and that is not acceptable. We have enough fish out there—and the science from our region has proven it—to have a real snapper season. It is not just about snapper. We have these problems in other areas of the fishery that need to be taken care of and taken care of in a responsible way. No one is more environmentally conscious than someone who hunts and fishes, because that is where we get our enjoyment, and we want it to be there for us and for our children and, now that I have a grandson, for my grandchildren.

I have appreciated this debate today. I always welcome the opportunity to draw attention to some of the real issues which are affecting my constituents back on the Gulf Coast. To some people up here, this issue doesn't mean much. To some people, they only listen to the political talking points put out by lobbyists or by political parties or by environmental groups. But to the small restaurant employees in Gulf Shores or to the charter boat captain in Orange Beach or to the gas station in Foley or to the condo owners on Dauphin Island or to the thousands of families who spend time fishing on the Gulf Coast and all around our country, this bill is critically important. This bill is about getting the Federal Government off our backs so that we can fish.

Let's not fall back into another political debate. Let's come together on be-

half of our Nation's coastal communities. Let's get some real relief for our fishermen. I encourage my colleagues to support this rule and to support this commonsense bill and to support the people of America and their freedom to fish in our waters.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

□ 2000

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF CORPORAL SARA MEDINA

(Mr. FOSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, today it is with great sorrow that I rise to mark the loss of one of Aurora's brightest lights. On May 12, 2015, while performing relief work following the Nepal earthquake, Corporal Sara Abigail Medina and five other marines tragically lost their lives in a helicopter crash.

Corporal Medina was from Aurora, Illinois, and graduated from East Aurora High School in 2010. While still in high school, she decided to serve her country by joining the Marines.

In the face of such a tragedy, we often ask why; and to paraphrase the President, whenever a disaster strikes, the world looks to America to lead because of our extraordinary people who rise to the challenge.

As a father, I know that no words that I say on this floor will be able to fill the hole in the hearts of all those who knew and loved Sara, but still we must speak because all should know that Corporal Sara Medina gave her last full measure of devotion in service to her country, helping those who needed it most.

For her sacrifice and for her family's terrible loss, we offer our condolences and thanks of a grateful nation.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEWHOUSE). The Chair will entertain Special Order speeches without prejudice to the resumption of legislative business.

#### TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased to join with my distinguished colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida, as we discuss an issue of great importance to my district and, quite frankly, to every Member of Congress: transportation infrastructure.

Last week our Nation endured a terrible tragedy as Amtrak Northeast Regional train 188 derailed in Philadelphia on its way to Trenton en route to New York. That accident killed eight Americans, including one of my constituents, injured more than 200, and disrupted service on the busiest rail corridor in the Nation for nearly a week.

In the days since the accident, investigators have indicated that high speeds may have played a significant role in the derailment, speeds that were more than double the limit in that stretch of the track. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have used those details to deflect attention away from discussing our Nation's investments, or the lack thereof, in rail and all of our other surface transportation infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, burying our heads in the sand and waiting until an accident indisputably caused by lack of funding or maintenance to discuss that funding is dangerous, irresponsible, and, frankly, unacceptable: dangerous because millions of Americans every day are driving across dilapidated bridges, riding on outdated trains, and stuck in endless traffic when traveling to work, to school, and medical care; irresponsible because news coverage and the looming highway trust fund depletion have made transportation infrastructure a national focus; unacceptable because transportation infrastructure has traditionally been a bipartisan issue that affects how every single one of our constituents gets where they need to go. Still we stand here today waiting for the House majority to bring forth a good-faith, comprehensive surface transportation reauthorization that makes investments to give us the transportation system—rail, car, air, and sea—that we need.

Transportation infrastructure is critical for the businesses and employers in our district that ship goods to consumers across the globe. Transportation infrastructure creates good-paying jobs here, jobs that can't be outsourced, and jobs that will actually