



# American Sportfishing Association

**As the nation's recreational fishing trade association, the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) supports the interests of recreational fishing dependent businesses, agencies and organizations, and is the champion for the sportfishing industry.**

Since 1933, ASA has worked to foster strong relationships with Members of Congress, conservation and recreation organizations and state and federal government leaders to ensure that the interests of the sportfishing industry and our nation's anglers are well represented when policy decisions are being made.

During the 117th Congress, the recreational fishing industry faces many challenges and opportunities related to fisheries conservation, public lands and fisheries resource management, tax and trade issues and increasing participation in the sport.

## RECREATIONAL FISHING BY THE NUMBERS



**55 million recreational anglers**



**\$125 billion economic impact**



**> 825,000 jobs supported**



**\$1.6 billion contributed annually to conservation**

## STAFF CONTACTS

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# Legislative Priorities for the 117th Congress

## Supporting Conservation and Public Access in “30 by 30” Policies

The recreational fishing industry supports the overarching goal of conserving 30 percent of all lands and waters by 2030, known as “30 by 30”, as long as the importance of maintaining and enhancing recreational fishing access in these areas is recognized.

## Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund Reauthorization

The recreational fishing industry has contributed billions of dollars to fisheries conservation and management through an excise tax on fishing equipment that helps fund the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, which must be reauthorized and updated as part of the Highway Bill.

## Marine Fisheries Conservation and Management

ASA looks forward to building upon the passage of the Modern Fish Act in the 115th Congress, and the DESCEND Act in the 116th Congress, by focusing on several other marine fisheries legislative priorities:

- Improving forage fish conservation
- Banning large-mesh drift gillnets in federal waters
- Restoring coral reefs

## Tackling the Threat of Aquatic Invasive Species

Recognizing the significant threat to fisheries health and fishing access posed by aquatic invasive species – including Asian carp, lionfish and zebra mussels – ASA supports proper federal and state funding and policies to control, eradicate and manage aquatic invasive species.

## South Florida Water Quality

ASA will continue advocating for a comprehensive and expedited approach to restore the historic southerly flow of clean water through the Everglades to Florida Bay and prevent the need for damaging releases from Lake Okeechobee to the east and west coasts of Florida.

## Comprehensive Pacific Salmon Policy Reform

A wide range of policies are needed to improve Pacific salmon and steelhead runs, including restoring habitat, policy reforms to federal salmon and steelhead hatcheries, improving hydrology by encouraging dam spill protocols and other means that boost downstream flows.



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