

Sportfishing Community Partner Quotes

"Conservation and proper management of our nation's sport fish and their habitats as well as supporting and enhancing access to recreational opportunities are key to supporting the \$230 billion recreational boating industry, and our community looks forward to working with the new administration and Congress on these recommendations in the new year. Implementation of the policy recommendations from the *Future of Sportfishing* report would greatly enhance the management, recovery, and resilience of our nation's freshwater and saltwater sportfish populations to the benefit of both recreational anglers and boaters."

Mike Sayre, Director of Government Relations at the Marine Retailers Association of the Americas

"There are a host of concerns recreational fishing advocates have, including significant errors in federal data collection, conservation of forage fish, offshore wind development, shark depredation, and ill-advised vessel speed restrictions in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, that we must work on with the incoming administration. Collaboration among our organizations and the willingness of the next administration to work with us to meet the conservation, cultural and economic values of recreational fishing is critical to the health of our fisheries and the economy of this country--especially in our coastal communities."

Chris Macaluso, Director of the Center for Marine Fisheries for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

"The over five hundred thousand members of the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.) urge the next Administration to work collaboratively with Congress to consider policy and legislation that provides adequate guidance and funding to the many federal agencies that have stewardship responsibilities over our Nation's aquatic resources. Following sound science in making fishery management and policy decisions, ensuring access to public waters for boaters and anglers, and fighting invasive species are among the most critical issues that must be addressed to sustain those resources and the sportfishing industry."

Gene Gilliland, Conservation Director for Bass Anglers Sportsman Society

"Recreational fishing and boating are a core part of the U.S. economy and a treasured pastime for nearly 60 million people. These proposals stand to enhance our natural environment and protect resources for anglers everywhere while simultaneously supporting economic growth. It is paramount that the next Administration and Congress implement these recommendations for conservation and public access, and we are proud to join so many members of our community in sharing our support."

Steven Bardin, Fisheries Biologist for Major League Fishing



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“As we look to install a new Congress and Administration in 2025, it is important that the challenges and opportunities for fisheries conservation and our angling heritage are among the priorities of the new leadership. We look forward to working with our next suite of elected officials to protect and advance our nation’s time-honored tradition of recreational fishing, the industry it supports, and the conservation funding it provides.”

Chris Horton, Senior Director of Fisheries Policy for the Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation

“Marine recreational fishing is a major economic driver in our nation contributing over \$40 billion to the economy with 13.8 million Americans participating on the water. Access and opportunity are the cornerstones of a thriving recreational fishery. Americans must have access to their public waters, and it’s the Federal government’s responsibility to ensure that access. Unfortunately, the lack of quality fisheries data is limiting fishing opportunities on all coasts because managers add precautionary layers into rules to account for their uncertainty. Our science agencies simply must step up and do their job better. This document provides a roadmap to a brighter future for our fisheries.”

Jeff Angers, President of the Center for Sportfishing Policy

“Recreational fishing is one of the most approachable ways to enjoy a connection with our nation’s public lands and waters with roughly one in five Americans participating annually. Consequently, the conservation of fish habitat as well as the expansion of access and opportunities for anglers is of critical importance for the next administration and Congress to address collaboratively. The implementation of policy recommendations found in *The Future of Sportfishing* report, including adequate funding for management agencies and improved fish passage infrastructure, would ensure a future for healthy fisheries and successful anglers.”

Kaden McArthur, Government Relations Manager for Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

"The collaboration between the dedicated recreational fishing and conservation organizations, alongside the partnership commitment of our valued government agencies, is essential to safeguarding our natural resources. This united effort is crucial for maintaining the delicate balance between preserving our nation’s fisheries and supporting the nation’s sportsmen and industry."

Steven R. Miller, Director of the American Catfishing Association

“Healthy waters and habitats, and thoughtful management are key to vibrant and sustainable fisheries. BTT looks forward to working with the incoming administration on these important issues.”

Kellie Ralston, Vice President of Conservation and Public Policy for Bonefish & Tarpon Trust



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