

REFORMED U.S. FISHERIES

The Greatest Conservation Success Story You've Never Heard of

Overfishing is the single greatest threat to the health of our ocean and life in the sea. Just two decades ago, many U.S. fisheries faced economic and ecological collapse from overfishing. But a little-known law, called the **Magnuson-Stevens Act**, started to change all that. By requiring science-based limits on how many fish could be caught and where, secure rights for fishermen that gave them a share of the catch, and accountability like electronic monitoring, our U.S. fisheries have come bounding back. There's still need for improvement and vigilance, but this is the greatest conservation success story you've never heard of.



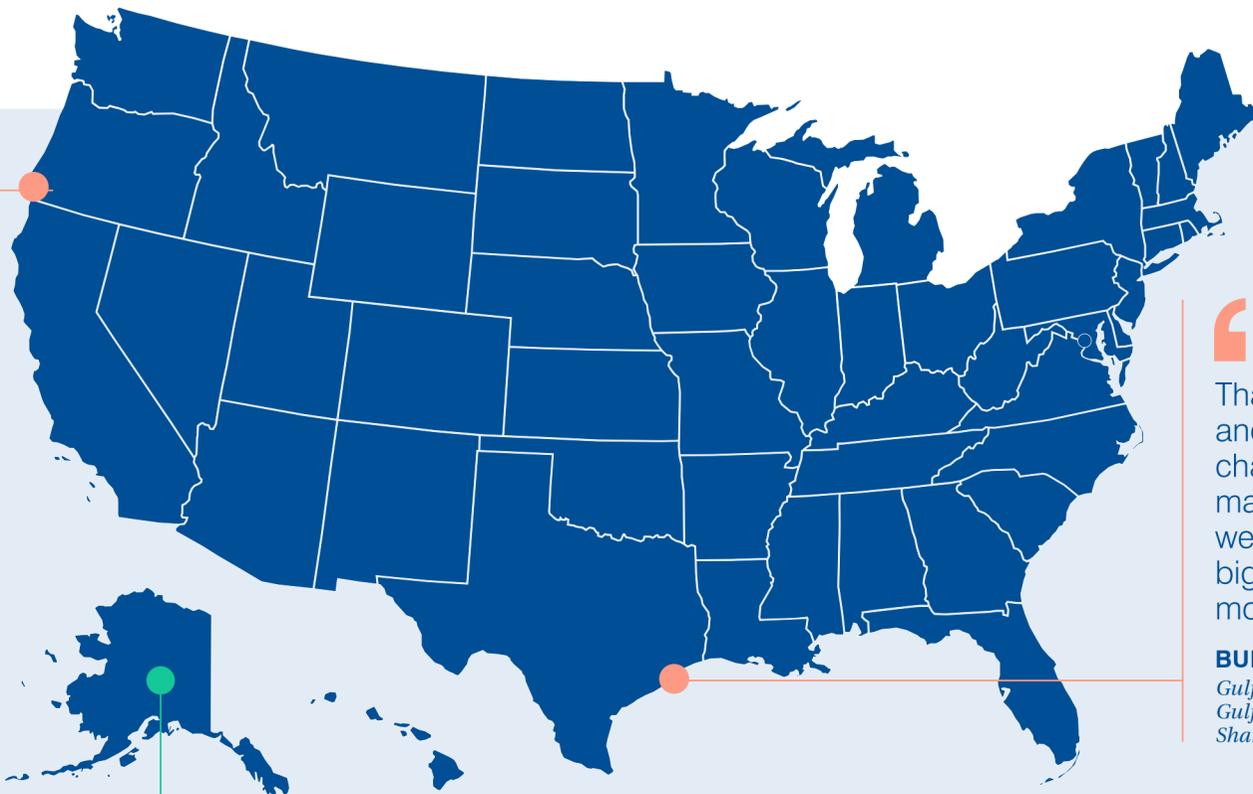
You do the right thing and the ocean cooperates. It's amazing how quickly things rebounded.

BRAD PETTINGER
West Coast fisherman



Thanks to the MSA and fundamental changes to how we manage our stocks, we're now catching bigger fish and getting more bang for our buck.

BUDDY GUINDON
Gulf fisher and board member,
Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance



PACIFIC GROUND FISH

ALL STOCKS REBUILT

to levels above the overfished threshold

HABITAT PROTECTIONS INCREASED

by an area larger than the state of New Mexico



ALASKA POLLOCK

<1%
bycatch

>\$413M
commercial landings value (2017)



GULF RED SNAPPER

0%
overfished

has more than tripled in size



EAST COAST SEA SCALLOPS

COMMERCIAL LANDINGS
rebounded dramatically

REDUCED BYCATCH
from innovations in fishing gear

If you take care of fish, you're taking care of a world where people and nature can prosper together.

FISHERMEN BENEFITS

Fishermen have benefited from the MSA — with **fish stocks rebuilt** ahead of schedule, **more flexibility** in when and how fishermen can fish, and **higher profits** for their catch.

HIGHER PAYING JOBS

harvester **income increased** from **4.2B TO 4.8B**

SAFER FISHING CONDITIONS

fisher **deaths decreased 39%**
from 2000-2015 under MSA

IMPROVED FISHING

↑ fishermen **catches increased** and catch **sales grew**

CONSERVATION BENEFITS

The MSA has been a resounding conservation success, with **critical fish habitat identified**, millions of acres of **marine areas protected**, and **reductions in unwanted bycatch** of sensitive species like turtles and sharks.

800M

Acres of habitat designated Essential Fish Habitat under MSA — a term identifying critical habitat to reduce environmental impacts.

8%

Amount of Marine Protected Areas focused on ecosystem, biodiversity or cultural resource protection under MSA.

66K

Number of turtles saved per year from 1990-2007 relative to 1990 levels.

Learn more about the **Magnuson-Stevens Act** and the impact on U.S. fisheries: edf.org/USfisheries

Environmental Defense Fund, a leading international nonprofit organization, creates transformational solutions to the most serious environmental problems. EDF links science, economics, law and innovative private-sector partnerships. Our work includes creating healthy and resilient oceans that support human health and well-being.

