

FISHING ECONOMY IMPROVEMENT
ACT**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO
SABLAN**OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Fishing Economy Improvement Act. The bill reauthorizes the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and makes a number of refinements, which I believe can help Magnuson-Stevens Act work even more effectively at ensuring that the United States of America has viable fish stocks and a thriving fishing economy today and into the future.

In developing the policy proposals in this bill I have worked closely with Mr. HUFFMAN, the Ranking Member on the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Power, and Oceans. Together, we have sat through hours of hearings on a reauthorization of the Magnuson Act and heard problems identified and remedies suggested from a variety of groups with an interest in America's fisheries.

That experience has made clear that there are a number of areas where there could be bipartisan agreement on improvements that can be made to Magnuson. In this time of "gridlock" in Congress, I think it is important that we do not miss opportunities in areas where there is consensus.

So, for instance, the Fishing Economy Improvement Act proposes that we improve fisheries data collection through the use of electronic monitoring and that we overhaul the way that the federal government manages this data so that we get the most value from it. The Fishing Economy Improvement Act increases opportunities for public participation in the fishery management process by requiring widely accepted, modern-day practices such as live, online broadcasting of fishery council meetings. And the bill allows for data collected by states from recreational fishing to be incorporated into federal assessments of the health of fish stocks. These are all ideas that find wide agreement on both sides of the aisle and could further improve the effectiveness of the Magnuson-Stevens conservation and management practices we already have in place.

Of course, I also have a responsibility to the people I represent to look for improvements to our national fishing policies that could specifically yield improvements for the Northern Mariana Islands. One proposal in the Fishing Economy Improvement Act is to assure the interests of subsistence fishers, or what the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations refers to as artisanal fishers, are represented on the regional fishery management councils. The people of the Northern Mariana Islands are generally not involved in industrial scale fishing, but we have a tradition of livelihood from the sea that goes back for millennia and continues to this day. These island fishermen and women should have a seat on the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, right beside the industrial users—as should Native Alaska and Native American subsistence users on the other seven regional councils, where appropriate. This proposal, too, is an area of bipartisan agreement.

Pacific islanders also should have a more official role in the international organization

that is responsible for managing and conserving tuna and other highly migratory fish in our region. For that reason, the Fishing Economy Improvement Act requires that one of the five U.S. seats on the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission always be held by a resident of American Samoa, Guam, or the Northern Mariana Islands. The seat would rotate among our three island jurisdictions.

I also believe that, when the rights to fish around the Northern Mariana Islands are sold, the fees should go directly to the government of the Northern Mariana Islands. Right now, some of those fees go to WestPac, the federal regional council, and WestPac has to use the funds for marine conservation. I am not opposed to conservation. We cannot have a strong fishing economy unless we manage stocks sustainably and maintain the overall health of the oceans. But revenues from Northern Marianas resources belong to the people of the islands. Their own government should decide the best use for those funds—not WestPac, a federal agency. My bill helps ensure that revenues from fishing around the U.S. Pacific islands, such as the Northern Marianas, go to people of those islands.

The people of the Pacific islands have a deep cultural tradition of decision-making by consensus. The tradition on the Northern American continent was often to move farther west when neighbors proved difficult. On tiny islands surrounded by vast oceans there is greater pressure to get along and find agreement.

In that spirit I am introducing the Fishing Economy Improvement Act. I ask that Members on both sides of the aisle consider whether there are areas in fishery management where we can find common ground. I look forward to reaching out to Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, who has also introduced legislation reauthorizing the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. I know there are proposals in Mr. YOUNG's bill with which I can agree; and I believe there are ideas in the bill I have introduced that are in harmony with or could build upon the proposals in his bill.

RECOGNIZING THE 2015 INDUCTEES
TO THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA
FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Northern Virginia Football Hall of Fame and to congratulate the 2015 inductees and scholarship award recipients.

The importance of youth sports cannot be overstated. Participation in organized sports instills in our youth many values that will serve them well throughout life. These values include sportsmanship, teamwork, honesty, a sense of belonging, and, maybe most important, the work ethic developed by striving for success and working to achieve a common goal.

I commend the Northern Virginia Football Hall of Fame (NVFHOF) for providing opportunities for our children to succeed and be a part of a team. I also congratulate the following students, coaches and community lead-

ers who are being inducted during the 25th Annual NVFHOF Awards Banquet:

\$1,500 Scholarship Award Recipients: Ashleigh Holsworth (West Potomac HS), Ryan L. Bursiek (West Springfield HS), and Jonathan R. McVicker (Lake Braddock SS), and Mason Scoville (Westfield HS)

Fairfax County Football Hall of Fame 2015 Inductees: Michael Claussin (Springfield Youth Club, West Springfield HS, JMU, Jacksonville Jaguars, Buffalo Bills, and Washington Redskins), Vaughn Lewis (Edison HS Head Coach, Thomas Jefferson HS Head Coach, Stafford HS Asst. Coach), and Jeff Davey (Chantilly YA, Club Commissioner, Youth Football Head Coach)

Football Officials of the Year: Andre Jones (Fairfax County FOA), Rick Artigas (Northern Virginia FOA), and Anthony Wallace (D.C. Metropolitan FOA)

Karl Davey Community Achievement Award: John Reynolds (FCPS Athletic Training Programs Administrator)

Tom Davis Meritorious Service Award: Dan Sutherland (FCPA, Grounds Management Manager)

Gene Nelson Commissioner of the Year Award: David Hall (Commissioner, VYI)

High School Players of the Year: James Gibson, III (Westfield HS), Tyler West (Langley HS), Gerald Hulett, Jr. (South County HS), Matt Gallagher (Battlefield HS), Will Mejia (Falls Church HS), Nick Mathews (Patriot HS)

High School Coaches of the Year: Wayne Hogwood (Wakefield HS), Chris Haddock (Centreville HS)

Youth Sports Players of the Year: Malachi Galloway (Alex. Rec.), Aaron Saunders (American Pride YF), Dakwandre Marshall (Annandale Boys & Girls Club), Savion Whiting (Arlington FL), Nathan Smith, (BRYC), Pierre Johnson (CYA), Aidan Doherty (Dulles South YL), Bradley M. Brewington IV (Fairfax Police YL), Benjamin Pavek (Ft. Belvoir Youth Sports), Mike Pidgeon (Ft. Hunt), E. Claybyrne Prescott Sailor (Gainsville-Haymarket), Justin Gibson (Gum Springs), Stephen Schoenefeldt (Herndon Optimist Club), Christina Thompson (James Lee), William Scott Wolfe (Lee-Franconia), Spencer Irons (Manassas YFL), Mathew Moschella (McLean YF), Cameron Savage (RYA), Ethan Davies (SCAA), Matt Hunter (SYA), Ryan Lipton (Springfield Youth Club), and Chandler O'Rourke (VYI)

Youth Sports Coaches of the Year: Mike Johnson (VYI), Matt Huling (SYA), Chris Gings (CYA), and Ken Simmons (BRYC)

Youth Cheerleaders of the Year: Layla Menard (American Pride Youth Football), Payton Delean (Dulles South Youth League), Daisy Anderson (VYI) and Emma Sahlgren (VYI)

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Northern Youth Football League as well as those students, coaches and community leaders who are being honored at this 2015 Hall of Fame celebration.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY
OF FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH, BERKLEY**HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 150th anniversary of First Baptist Church, Berkley in Norfolk, Virginia.