

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

August 6, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy,

As you negotiate the upcoming COVID-19 relief package, we urge you to include robust assistance to the nation's fishing industry, including thousands of hardworking New Jerseyans and their families.

The commercial and recreational fishing industry in our home state of New Jersey has felt the devastating economic impacts of the pandemic. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic downturn, restaurants that serve seafood have either closed or reduced operations. This reduction along with a decline in tourism have caused significant disruptions throughout the seafood supply chain and created substantial economic hardship for both commercial and charter fishing operations in our state.

New Jersey was among the hardest and earliest hit states by the pandemic and continues to have one of the highest counts of COVID-19 cases in the nation. The pandemic arrived in New Jersey at the start of the critically important Striped Bass and Black Fish season, leading to devastating results for our fishing industry. With bipartisan support, Congress has already acted once to deliver \$300 million in aid targeting fishing communities throughout the country. Congress must act once again to save this vital industry and protect those in our state and across the country who rely on it.

The men and women of New Jersey's fishing communities dedicate their lives to putting food on our tables and now it's time for us to ensure there's food on theirs. On behalf of thousands of families throughout New Jersey, we urge you to include robust funding for America's fishing industry and thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jeff Van Drew
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress