

# Tampa Bay Times

## Monday's letters: A hat tip for good government

Letters to the editor

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### Commercial fishing Keep good law in place

Florida fishermen like myself catch more than 84 percent of the nation's supply of grouper, pompano, mullet, stone crab, pink shrimp, spiny lobsters and Spanish mackerel. Some 70 percent of Americans eat seafood at a restaurant, making commercial fishermen and chefs the primary access point to our fisheries. The grouper I'm able to land belong to everyone in this country, they're a public resource and I help provide that public access.

The U.S. has some of the best fishery management in the world thanks to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, which helped fishing become more stable and profitable over the last 40 years. There are two bills being pushed through Congress right now that pose a threat to commercial fishermen because of recreational fishermen's frustrations with short snapper seasons. The Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act of 2017 (H.R. 200) and the Modern Fish Act of 2017 (S. 1520) could make it more challenging for me to fish by weakening science-based management, restricting commercial fishermen, and adding more red tape to my business. I can't support that.

If there are problems with recreational management in the Gulf, let's find a way to help those fishermen without hurting commercial fishermen like me in the process.

**Steve Maisel, *Palm Harbor***

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