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# Press Release

## FISHERMEN MARCH ON WASHINGTON, DC ONLY ONE WEEK AWAY

For Immediate Release, FEBRUARY 16, 2010:

The Historic March on Washington is only one week away! This event continues to grow as over 2,000 fishermen (recreational and commercial), families, supporting businesses representatives, and community leaders are expected for the rally that begins at noon and will continue to 3PM on Wednesday February 24<sup>th</sup>. Several Senators and Congressional Representatives will be speaking to the crowd near the steps of the Capitol.

Several major organizations, commercial, recreational, and recreational for-hire have all worked together to organize the historic event. People are expected from ME, NH, Mass, RI, CT, NJ, DE, MD, VA, NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, MS, LA, TX, AK, CA, and other inland States. Many people will be riding buses from different areas while others will be driving and flying to join one another as a unified voice for Flexibility, Transparency, and Honest Science in fishery management.

The unintended consequences of the 2007 reauthorization of the MSA have caused severe hardship for many small family fishing businesses, recreational anglers, supporting businesses, and local fishing communities. The March on Washington is an effort by all of those who are suffering to effect change by Congress on the overly restrictive requirements instituted by the reauthorization. According to fishing industry leaders House Bill HR1584 introduced by Congressman Pallone and the companion Senate Bill S1255 introduced by Senator Schumer will help to gain flexibility in managing our fishery resources. An amendment to these bills is also being sought to gain relief from the arbitrary non scientific overfishing deadlines.

Fishing community leaders stress they fully support real, honest science through a fully transparent management system and seek flexibility so that the regional fishery management council system can work for each region. They seek more funding for cooperative research programs, independent stock assessments, and the use of all data and information available to properly manage our marine resources. These goals will allow the resources to improve while also sustaining the small family businesses, recreational angling opportunities, community infrastructure, and will provide for American fresh seafood for the consumer.

Everyone is encouraged to attend. For more info please go to [www.conservationfishermen.com](http://www.conservationfishermen.com), [www.unitedwefish.com](http://www.unitedwefish.com) .

*CCGF is a 501(c) (6) non profit that represents recreational for-hire vessel owners and operators, supporting businesses, and recreational anglers from the Gulf of Mexico*

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