

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

Agencies: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (National Marine Fisheries Service)

Citation: [16 U.S.C. §§ 1801 et seq.](#)

Enacted as: the “Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976”, on April 13, 1976

Summary:

The [Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act \(MSA\)](#) is the primary law governing marine fisheries management in U.S. federal waters. The MSA was originally enacted in 1976 as the “Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976”. It has since been amended by several statutes, including the “Sustainable Fisheries Act” in 1996 and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, in 2007.

The original 1976 Act extended U.S. fisheries jurisdiction to 200 miles. The 1976 Act aided in the development of the domestic fishing industry by providing for the phase-out of foreign fishing. To manage the fisheries and promote conservation, the 1976 Act created eight regional fishery management councils. The 1996 Act focused on rebuilding overfished fisheries, protecting fish habitat, and reducing bycatch. The 2006 amendments mandated the use of annual catch limits and accountability measures to end overfishing, provided for limited access privilege programs, and called for increased international cooperation.

Source: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/details.html> and <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/>

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