Dear Representative:

On behalf of the members and supporters of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to express our support for $2 million for expansion of the Seafood Import Monitoring Program in the House Natural Resources Committee’s reconciliation proposal.

NOAA’s Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) is a keystone policy for keeping seafood that is the product of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and fraudulently labeled seafood products out of U.S. markets. In addition to undermining ocean ecosystems and depleting fisheries that are needed to feed the world’s growing populations, IUU fishing is closely associated with forced labor and serious human rights abuses. A recent [report by the US International Trade Commission](https://usitc.gov/press_room/news_release/2021/er0318ll1740.htm) estimated that nearly 11% of US seafood imports in 2019 were derived from IUU fishing. The report also found that if IUU imports were blocked, the income of US commercial fishers would increase.

As one of the top seafood importing nations in the world, the United States can combat IUU fishing, seafood fraud and labor abuses in the global seafood industry by ensuring only legally caught, sourced, and labeled seafood enters the US. By collecting key information about the origins of seafood and tracing that seafood through the supply chain, the US can identify seafood at high risk of IUU fishing and target those products for inspections, audits, and enforcement actions. The SIMP regulations currently apply to only 13 species and species groups, about 40% of seafood imports, unfortunately leaving many opportunities for seafood from IUU sources to evade detection as it enters US commerce.

The funding in the House Natural Resources Committee’s budget reconciliation proposal supporting the expansion of the Seafood Import Monitoring Program will help to ensure that all seafood sold in the United States is safe, legally caught, responsibly sourced, and honestly labeled.

Sincerely,

(Names of organizations)