

January 12, 2026

The Honorable Doris Matsui  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2206 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Maxine Dexter  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1207 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sarah Elfreth  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1213 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nicole Malliotakis  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1124 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Vern Buchanan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2409 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Buddy Carter  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2432 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Matsui, Malliotakis, Dexter, Buchanan, Elfreth and Carter,

On behalf of the undersigned recreational fishing, boating and conservation organizations, we write to thank you for introducing the Whale CHARTS (Conservation Habitat Analysis, Research, and Technical Strategies) Act. Our community holds a strong commitment to marine conservation and to ensuring safe, responsible experiences on the water. We recognize that healthy marine ecosystems and sustainable ocean access depend on practical, science-based solutions developed in partnership with ocean users.

The Whale CHARTS Act takes an innovative and constructive approach to mitigating risk of vessel strikes by investing in improved data and by supporting the development and deployment of whale detection and awareness technologies. By strengthening the scientific foundation for decision-making and supporting tools that can be applied on the water, the legislation advances meaningful conservation outcomes while helping ensure the public can safely recreate on the water.

We are particularly supportive of Subsection (e), which would establish a grant program to support the development, testing and scaling of innovative whale detection technologies. This approach will help accelerate practical, on-the-water solutions and address critical data gaps and inaccuracies that have complicated effective management and compliance. We believe this approach offers a smarter and more effective alternative to the 2022 proposed expansion of the North Atlantic Right Whale Vessel

Strike Reduction Rule, while protecting recreational access and supporting healthy marine ecosystems.

Thank you again for your leadership in advancing science-based, practical solutions that enhance safety on the water and demonstrate our shared commitment to marine conservation. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to support the Whale CHARTS Act and ensure its successful enactment.

Sincerely,

American Sportfishing Association  
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies  
BoatU.S.  
Bonefish & Tarpon Trust  
Center for Sportfishing Policy  
Coastal Conservation Association  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
Guy Harvey Foundation  
International Game Fish Association  
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas  
National Marine Manufacturers Association  
South Carolina Boating and Fishing Alliance  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership