

April 22, 2024

The Honorable Representative Byron Donalds  
U.S. Representative, Florida District 19  
1719 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Representative Donalds:

I am writing on behalf of the Diving Equipment and Marketing Association (DEMA), as well as the hundreds of dive-related businesses and the millions of divers active each year in Florida and throughout the United States, regarding the FISHER Act you have proposed.

DEMA is a non-profit trade association based in San Diego, California, representing the business and consumer interests of the recreational scuba and snorkel diving industries. DEMA's mission is to bring businesses together to grow the Diving Industry worldwide, and we are actively engaged in promoting recreational diving of all kinds globally, and throughout the U.S. Inherent in this mission is an ongoing effort to create public awareness of the need to protect the marine environment and marine life, in that diving of all kinds depends for its very existence upon sustainable interaction with the marine environment.

DEMA, through its Board of Directors and Public Policy Committee, fully support the FISHER Act and look forward to seeing its passage. We are aware that states currently apply for federal fishery disaster relief for a variety of reasons, including day-to-day extreme weather; water quality issues; hurricanes; and more. Passage of the FISHER Act will have significant and positive impacts on fisheries, some of which would directly affect recreational diving, including:

- Boats and dockage damaged or destroyed;
- For charter businesses, hotel and restaurant infrastructure impacted thus dissuading clients from fishing or diving in the affected area;
- Water quality issues impact fish health due to high levels of salinity/Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in the water – these water quality issues are known, for example, to impact goliath grouper and other fish populations important to the diving industry.

If the federal fishery disaster relief funding process is not modernized and streamlined, many diving businesses and associated small businesses (restaurants, hotels, etc) could go out of business before the relief is made available.

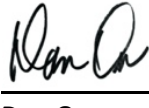
We thank you and your staff for your thoughtful construction of the FISHER Act and look forward to working with you to assist in passage of this important bill.

Sincerely,

DEMA Board of Directors:



Jeff Cinciripino  
Owner/Chief Financial Officer/Chief  
Marketing Officer, Scuba Shack  
Diving Services,  
Rocky Hill, CT.



Dan Orr  
CEO, Dan Orr Consulting,  
Driggs, ID.



Willam Cline  
CEO, Cline Group Advertising, Plano,  
TX.



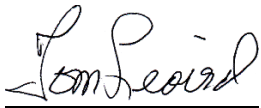
Shana Phelan  
Owner, Pura Vida Divers LLC, Aurelia Adventures, LLC  
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Mike Hollis  
CEO, ProAsia Design,  
Alameda, CA



Tom Phillip  
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Tom Leaird  
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International (SEI),  
Muncie, IN.



Richard Thomas  
Owner, Epic Adventures LLC DbA International Scuba &  
International Scuba Frisco  
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Jeff Mondle  
Director, Professional Association of  
Diving Instructors (PADI), Media  
Group,  
Oceanside, CA.



Steve Weaver  
CEO, Dream Weaver Travel,  
Boulder, CO