

Altamaha Riverkeeper • American Littoral Society • Assateague Coastal Trust
Assateague Coastkeeper • Atchafalaya Basinkeeper • Audubon • Audubon Florida
The Audubon Society of the Everglades • Big Blackfoot Riverkeeper, Inc
Bouncer's Dusky 33 Fishing Charters • Captain John Whale Watching and Fishing Tours
Center for Biological Diversity • Clean Water Action • Coastal Carolina Riverwatch
Colorado Ocean Coalition • Conservation Law Foundation • Conservatives for Responsible
Stewardship • Crystal Coast Waterkeeper • Defenders of Wildlife • Ding Darling Wildlife Society
Environment California • Environmental Protection Information Center
Florida Keys Environmental Fund • French Broad Riverkeeper • Freshwater Future
Hands Across the Sand • Humboldt Baykeeper • Izaak Walton League, Mangrove Chapter
Izaak Walton League, Headwaters Chapter • Klamath Forest Alliance • LEAD Agency, Inc.
Louisiana Environmental Action Network • Lower Mississippi Riverkeeper
Mangrove Action Project • Marine Conservation Institute • Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Miami Waterkeeper • Milwaukee Riverkeeper • National Parks Conservation Association
Natural Resources Defense Council • Nature Abounds • Oceana • Ocean Reef Conservation
Association • Prairie Rivers Network • Prince William • Soundkeeper • Reef Relief
Río Mapacho Waterkeeper • River Alliance of Wisconsin • Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation
The Saunders Hotel Group • Save the Dunes • Sierra Club • Sierra Club, Broward Group
Sierra Club, Central Florida Group • Sierra Club, Miami Group • Skinner & Associates, Incorporated
South Florida Wildlands Association • Suncoast Waterkeeper • Surfrider Foundation
Tropical Audubon Society • University of Connecticut and Mystic Aquarium
Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper • Waterkeeper Alliance • WILDCOAST
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation • Youth Environmental Alliance

April 29, 2016

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6150

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6150

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell,

Senators Cassidy and Rubio recently introduced S. 2807 that would greatly harm 88 coastal national parks from Alaska to Washington, from Florida to Maine. The legislation requires the Secretary of the Interior to obtain consent from state and territorial fish and wildlife management agencies before restricting recreation or commercial fishing access to any state or territorial marine waters, or Great Lakes waters within the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. The National Park Service (NPS) is already required to consult with states on fishing regulations and follows state regulations **unless** there is an ecological reason to set a higher protection standard, such as population depletion or damage to critical habitat. Therefore, this legislation is unnecessary and by limiting NPS authority, will cause undue harm to coastal national parks and the communities and livelihoods they support across the country.

S. 2807 would strip the NPS of its legal responsibility, under the 1916 Organic Act, to set reasonable limits on fishing to prevent overfishing, restore fish populations and habitats, and protect marine and lakeshore wildlife. If signed into law, this legislation would substitute that responsibility with a lower standard of protection. Many coastal parks, including Channel Islands National Park, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, and San Juan Island National Historical Park, could see a weakening in protections designed to preserve wildlife. The federal government is obligated to protect these resources in perpetuity for the enjoyment of all Americans.

Additionally, this overreaching legislation would derail the final and fully vetted management plan for Biscayne National Park, which was based on scientific analysis, years of interagency cooperation, and strong public support. The plan includes the creation of a marine reserve to provide desperately needed protection for Biscayne's threatened coral reef ecosystem and marine wildlife. Habitat for threatened species such as elkhorn and staghorn coral, reef fish, and sea turtles will be greatly impacted if Biscayne National Park is unable to create a protective marine reserve.

We urge you to **oppose** S. 2807 due to its harmful effects on coastal national parks across the country.

Sincerely,

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CC: Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee