

HONORING THE LIFE OF DENNIS  
KOEHLER

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 2, 2011*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Dennis Koehler and express my deepest condolences to his family. Dennis died Sunday evening at the age of 69 following a battle with melanoma.

South Florida has lost a true hero with the passing of Dennis Koehler. Dennis served our Nation courageously during the war in Vietnam. After coming home to Palm Beach County, he ran for and was elected to a seat on the Palm Beach County Commission. During those 8 years, he selflessly worked to help improve the lives of Palm Beach County citizens. He was well-known for his compassion and dedication to the community.

Additionally, Dennis was a major advocate for veterans' rights. He is one of the founding members of Vietnam Veterans of America, VVA, and served on VVA's first National Board of Directors from 1983 to 1985. A veteran himself, Dennis understood the importance of taking care of those who have served our Nation with dignity and respect.

As an attorney in private practice, Dennis has earned the gratitude of veterans throughout Florida by using his legal skills to fight for their rights and benefits. Two years ago, when one of my constituents lost his pension following a road accident, Dennis volunteered his time and knowledge to work with my Congressional office to have the Department of Veterans' Affairs reinstate my constituent's benefits.

Dennis' activism on this tragic issue prompted me to introduce the Veterans Pensions Protection Act to ensure that veterans, and their surviving spouses and children, will never again face the threat of losing their pensions because they received payments to cover expenses incurred after an accident. I wish to dedicate the Veterans Pensions Protection Act in honor of Dennis Koehler for his lifetime commitment and service to this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, Dennis was a true patriot, a community leader, and an outstanding American. I am deeply saddened by his passing, which is more than a personal loss for just myself, but also a loss to the South Florida community.

MAC MCFADDEN TRIBUTE

**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 2, 2011*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mac McFadden of Grand Junction, Colorado. Mr. McFadden is one of the proud Americans who served his country during World War II. It is because of his service, and that of so many of his generation, that we can celebrate our freedoms today.

Mr. McFadden chose to enlist in the Army, but was initially turned away because of his poor vision. Rather than accept the results, however, he memorized the eye test and

passed after a second attempt. Upon finally joining the Army, he became a mechanic, ultimately reaching the level of Technician Grade 5, in the 3156th Ordnance Base Artillery & Fire Control Maintenance Battalion.

During his nearly four years of duty, he distinguished himself quickly. Among his many decorations, he received an American Theater Campaign Medal, EAME Campaign Medal with two Bronze Stars, a Good Conduct Medal, Victory Ribbon, Service Stripe and five Overseas Service Bars.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize one of the many brave men who served our country during its time of need. Mr. McFadden's efforts helped ensure our victory and the success we have enjoyed since World War II.

LET US EAT FISH

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 2, 2011*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I have for some time been pointing out the inconsistency between those who would restrict our ability to catch fish in a responsible way, and the argument that we should be encouraging the American people to eat in a healthier manner. In the New York Times for April 14, 2011, Ray Hilborn makes this case very well. As he notes, we have made great progress in reducing overfishing, but the law has not yet been written with enough flexibility to recognize that fact. As Mr. Hilborn notes, "the Magnuson Act . . . has been successful, but it needs to be revised. The last time it was reauthorized, in 2006, it required the rebuilding of overfished stocks within ten years. That rule is too inflexible and hurts fishing communities from New England to California."

Mr. Speaker, that is the major reason that I voted against the Magnuson Act, although I agree that there were some useful things in it. And I welcome this very thoughtful explanation by Mr. Hilborn of why the time has come to provide that flexibility.

Mr. Speaker, as he says, "we are caught between the desire for oceans as pristine ecosystems and the desire for sustainable seafood." People who argue for greater and greater restrictions of fish claim to have the moral high ground, but they can only make their argument if they ignore the negative impact this has not just on the livelihoods of a lot of working people in the communities in which they live, but on our ability to make a very healthy part of a diet—good seafood—available at prices that people of moderate income can afford.

[From The New York Times, Apr. 4, 2011]

LET US EAT FISH

(By Ray Hilborn)

SEATTLE, WA.—This Lent, many ecologically conscious Americans might feel a twinge of guilt as they dig into the fish on their Friday dinner plates. They shouldn't.

Over the last decade the public has been bombarded by apocalyptic predictions about the future of fish stocks—in 2006, for instance, an article in the journal *Science* projected that all fish stocks could be gone by 2048.

Subsequent research, including a paper I co-wrote in *Science* in 2009 with Boris Worm, the lead author of the 2006 paper, has shown

that such warnings were exaggerated. Much of the earlier research pointed to declines in catches and concluded that therefore fish stocks must be in trouble. But there is little correlation between how many fish are caught and how many actually exist; over the past decade, for example, fish catches in the United States have dropped because regulators have lowered the allowable catch. On average, fish stocks worldwide appear to be stable, and in the United States they are rebuilding, in many cases at a rapid rate.

The overall record of American fisheries management since the mid-1990s is one of improvement, not of decline. Perhaps the most spectacular recovery is that of bottom fish in New England, especially haddock and redfish; their abundance has grown sixfold from 1994 to 2007. Few if any fish species in the United States are now being harvested at too high a rate, and only 24 percent remain below their desired abundance.

Much of the success is a result of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, which was signed into law 35 years ago this week. It banned foreign fishing within 200 miles of the United States shoreline and established a system of management councils to regulate federal fisheries. In the past 15 years, those councils, along with federal and state agencies, nonprofit organizations and commercial and sport fishing groups, have helped assure the sustainability of the nation's fishing stocks.

Some experts, like Daniel Pauly of the University of British Columbia Fisheries Center, who warns of "the end of fish," fault the systems used to regulate fisheries worldwide. But that condemnation is too sweeping, and his prescription—closing much of the world's oceans to fishing—would leave people hungry unnecessarily.

Many of the species that are fished too much worldwide fall into two categories: highly migratory species that are subject to international fishing pressures, and bottom fish—like cod, haddock, flounder and sole—that are caught in "mixed fisheries," where it is impossible to catch one species but not another. We also know little about the sustainability of fish caught in much of Asia and Africa.

The Atlantic bluefin tuna is emblematic of the endangered migratory species; its numbers are well below the target set by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, and the catches in the Eastern Atlantic are too high. Many species of sharks also fall into this category. Because these stocks are fished by international fleets, reducing the catch requires global cooperation and American leadership. But not all highly migratory fish are in danger; the albacore, skipjack and yellowfin tuna and swordfish on American menus are not threatened.

Managing the mixed fisheries in American waters requires different tactics. On the West Coast, fish stocks have been strongly revived over the past decade through conservative management: fleet size reductions, highly restrictive catch limits and the closing of large areas to certain kinds of nets, hooks and traps. Rebuilding, however, has come at a cost: to prevent overharvesting and protect weak species, about 30 percent of the potential sustainable harvest from productive species (those that can be harvested at higher rates) goes untapped.

A similar tradeoff is going on in New England, where the management council, made up of federal and state representatives, restricts the harvesting of bottom fish like cod and yellowtail flounder in both the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank, off Cape Cod. In trying to rebuild the cod, regulators have had to limit the catch of the much more abundant haddock, which are caught in the same nets.