



GRASSROOTS



~ ACTION ALERT ~

April 2, 2004

Action Alert: U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea

Contact Your Senators and Urge Passage of the Law of the Sea Treaty

What is UNCLOS and what is the problem? The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is an international treaty governing the use and exploitation of the world's oceans. On November 16, 1994, after attaining the requisite 60 signatures, the Law of the Sea Treaty entered into force and became international law. Today, despite there being 143 parties to the Convention and widespread domestic support, the United States has yet to ratify UNCLOS. With the support of the Bush Administration, the Department of Defense and specifically the U.S. Navy, the Department of State, a bipartisan coalition of Senators, and a coalition of industry groups including NMMA, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously voted in February 2004 to send the treaty to the full Senate for consideration. But treaty opponents are urging Senate Majority Leader Frist to delay a vote until it is too late.

Why should I care? The Law of the Sea Treaty has the support of every major industry group it would affect because it is good for business. The treaty is especially good for the recreational marine industry because it secures the ability of marine manufacturers to freely export their products and it helps to protect the nation's aquatic resources for all recreational boaters and anglers to enjoy. The United States, with one of the largest coastlines in the world, has a serious interest in guaranteeing that the recreational marine industry remains as strong as ever. Ratification will strengthen the domestic economy, secure international trade and commercial mobility, bolster national security, and establish for the first time an international legal framework of balanced environmental protection.

How do I get involved? Please contact your Senators regarding ratification of UNCLOS by visiting <http://www.nmma.org/government/vocus/>. Urge them to pressure Sen. Frist to schedule a vote before it is too late. You can customize the letter to suit your company or simply add the address of your Senators and send.

For more information or if you would like to be taken off of this e-mail or fax solicitation list, please contact NMMA's Research Analyst Mat Dunn at 202-737-9760 or mdunn@nmma.org.