An increase in fish imports has been a common occurrence in countries which approximate our standard of living. While our supply of fishery products was being increased by some 64% in the 1956–1966 decade, West Germany was importing more fish until today they import on a per capita basis as much seafood as we do. The British, moreover, now import twice as much per capita as we do.[2]

MARKET PRICE OF FISH (HADDOCK TOTAL LANDINGS) IN THE UNITED STATES[1]

	Millions of pounds of haddock landed	Cents per pound ex vessel	Fillet price
1956	152.2	6.30	25.5
1957	133.4	7.64	29.9
1958	119.6	9.81	34.8
1959	112.6	9.71	33.1
1960	118.6	7.92	32.5
1961	133.5	7.41	31.5
1962	134.2	8.13	34.1
1963	123.9	9.44	36.2
1964	133.4	9.91	36.7
1965	133.9	10.18	40.6
1966	132.3	10.54	42.3

[1] Source: BCF Statistical Office.

According to the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries the only fish blocks produced in the United States were a few million pounds which went to the military. Total Cod landings in 1966 of 36,200,000 pounds of round fish would have produced, if turned into blocks, 12,000,000 of raw materials or enough to run only our Gloucester plant for four months. The total United States landings of Cod would meet only 6% of the nation's overall need.

Import restrictions will not aid our domestic fishing fleet which is suffering mainly from a 176-year-old restrictive law and from lack of national purpose in the exploitation of fisheries resources as compared with the leading fisheries nations of the world. Fish cannot be landed in a port of the United States except from an American built boat. Our fishermen must pay more for their boats than do their competitors because they must buy domestic. Others may buy the best ships that can be had for the cheapest cost.

As the previously mentioned Bureau of Commercial Fisheries landing figures show, the price of fish has advanced considerably since 1956.

Restrictions on fishery imports may alienate some nations with which we currently have most favorable trade relations. For instance, in 1965 we imported $141,178,000 worth of fishery products from Canada, but in total goods they imported from us 1.2 billion dollars more than we did from them.[3]

The United States currently exports nearly seventy million dollars worth of domestic fishery products and domestic producers may well feel a reciprocal closing of the fishery import door.[4]

The restriction of imports, in addition to the creation of vast unemployment in our area will impose a severe handicap upon the oldest and most famous seafood producer in the nation which has moulded itself into the fore of the new processing industry. That is why, gentlemen, as the representative of our employees and shareholders, I appreciate this opportunity to enumerate for you these considerations.

SEAFOOD PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION,
New Bedford, Mass., May 31, 1968.

Hon. WILBUR D. MILLS,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: The Seafood Producers Association wish to be recorded as generally in favor of bill H.R. 16936.

[2] Source: Bank of Montreal Business Review, Mar. 31, 1966, p. 3.
[3] Sources: Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. Canadian Consulate, Boston, Massachusetts.
[4] Source of value of exports of domestic fishery products: Fisheries of the United States, 1966, C.F. S4400. Page 39.