

For about ten years I had the pleasure of fishing on this island with a friend who owned a fine camp. However because he did not have an original owner title to the camp they bulldozed it to the ground and burned it about five years ago. Since then we have had to be satisfied with fishing around the island with boats. The restrictions are so tight now that no one can use any of the remaining camps on the island without the owner being present and the only ones allowed beach buggies on the island are camp owners. Overnight camping is not allowed in any form.

Most of us are more or less resigned to the fact that our days of being able to roam the beaches fishing and communing with nature are over except for the favored few who will be allowed to remain with their camps due to permanent titles.

However I would like to express my strong opposition to the closing of Monomoy Island to the fisherman. Evidently Hastings Keith to whom we appealed at the time of the burning down of our camp has sided with the bird watchers. Perhaps Senator you feel that fishing is just as important as bird watching.

I would be most appreciative along with many others if you could keep this island open to the fishermen. If there is anything I can do in my small world to keep it open please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT E. PEAR.

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MASSACHUSETTS ALLIANCE OF SALTWATER SPORTSMEN,  
June 21, 1968.

Senator WARREN G. MAGNUSON,  
Chairman, Senate Commerce Committee,  
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MAGNUSON: For the past several years, saltwater surf-fishermen have been harrassed by restrictive legislation enforced upon us by the freshwater-oriented Department of the Interior. This last bit of foolishness, reflected in Bill No. 3425 which is currently being heard before your committee, is preventing surf-fishing at Monomoy Island.

The average surf-fisherman has no less than 32 pounds of equipment, which is necessary for a single surf-fishing expedition. This includes waders, foul-weather jacket, neck-light, sand spike, tackle box, plug tote-bag, two rods in case one breaks, surf-gaff and a billy club. In addition, because fish do not strike often in saltwater, he generally takes along a sleeping bag. Foot-travel in sand is extremely tiring, and the additional weight of the gear is such that a surf-fisherman is lucky if he fishes two miles of beach in 24 hours. With Monomoy Island being six miles long, it would take a minimum of six days to fish from the Morris Island end to the rips and back. In the Department of the Interior Management Proposal for Monomoy Island, camping and the building of fires is prohibited. If these things are prohibited, without doing so specifically, surf-fishing is, in effect, being stopped.

With the planned development of Monomoy Island by the Army Corps of Engineers in which they intend to connect Monomoy to Nausset Island, the severe restrictions of Bill 3425 seem to be planned to take Monomoy Island away from the people and give it to the rich and politically influential residents of Cape Cod. We would like to suggest that a new division of the Department of the Interior be established. The function of this division would be to work with the saltwater interests in the estuarine and surf areas which, at the present moment, are being neglected. We would suggest also that before any bills are passed concerning saltwater, a conference be held to air all the problems from Cape Hatteras, North Carolina to Plum Island, Massachusetts, including, of course, Monomoy Island.

Sincerely,

BOB POND, *President.*

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SHREWSBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION,  
Shrewsbury, Mass., June 20, 1968.

Hon. WARREN G. MAGNUSON,  
Senate Commerce Committee,  
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MAGNUSON: I understand that Bill 3425, concerning wilderness status for Monomoy Island, is before your committee.