

Yamaha Pro Michael Iaconelli Visits the Hill

Bassmaster® Elite Champion Advocates on Behalf of Recreational Anglers

WASHINGTON--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))-- Yamaha Pro Michael Iaconelli traveled to Washington D.C. on Sept. 26 and 27 for meetings on Capitol Hill. During his trip, Iaconelli discussed fishing issues with Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and several Congressmen including Jody Hice (R-Ga.), Drew Ferguson (R-Ga.), Buddy Carter (R-Ga.), and Frank LoBiondo (R-N.J.).

For the veteran Pro Angler from New Jersey, these meetings represented an opportunity to advocate on behalf of recreational anglers nationwide, and talk about getting kids involved in fishing through The Ike Foundation's outreach (theikefoundation.org). Iaconelli has been a supporter of Bass Anglers for Saltwater Conservation (B.A.S.C.), a grassroots advocacy effort developed by B.A.S.S.®, since its inception in 2015 and believes that by supporting the rights of saltwater anglers, he is also protecting and supporting the growth of freshwater recreational fishing.

"Although I am a professional bass angler, I know that many of the recreational anglers across the country fish in both fresh and saltwater environments," said Iaconelli. "B.A.S.C. is really about a brotherhood of anglers who are trying to preserve one of our nation's oldest and most beloved sports, recreational fishing. It has been an honor for me to attend these meetings on the Hill and have an open dialogue about the issues facing our industry. It's also my hope that if we raise a collective voice as anglers, we can affect real change in the laws governing recreational fishing and ensure the sport's growth for future generations."

B.A.S.S.® announced this month that more than 75,000 advocacy letters have been sent to Congress by anglers nationwide through the B.A.S.C. website, BassforSalt.com. During the past two years, anglers have sent letters to their representatives in Washington, D.C., through BassforSalt.com in support of the Modern Fish Act, the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the extension of the Gulf of Mexico red snapper season and Everglades restoration, among other sportsmen's issues.

Recreational fishing advocates have experienced several major victories in recent months. In June, the U.S. Department of Commerce extended the private recreational fishing season for Gulf of Mexico red snapper from a record-low of three days to 42 days. This summer, several recreational fishing leaders were appointed to key fishery management councils, including Phil Dyskow, immediate past president, Yamaha Marine, who was appointed to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. In addition, the U.S. Senate has held several hearings on recreational fishing issues during which industry leaders have been able to testify about the positive economic impact of the recreational fishing and boating communities.

All recreational anglers are encouraged to advocate on recreational fishing issues through BassforSalt.com. It takes less than 30 seconds to send a pre-written letter to legislators through the site.

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