



# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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## Resolution 2011-1

### A RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA SUPPORTING THE BERING SEA CRAB INDUSTRIES EFFORT TO RESTRICT ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED (IUU) CRAB FISHING

WHEREAS, IUU fishing refers to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; and

WHEREAS, estimated losses to Bering Sea crab harvesters since 2000 are \$560 million due to IUU crab fishing; and

WHEREAS, estimated lost landing tax revenue to Alaskan coastal communities since 2000 of over \$11 million due to IUU crab fishing; and

WHEREAS, United States consumers are misled about the origin of crab they are purchasing due to a lack of traceability and ease of forgery of official documents; and

WHEREAS, IUU crab is easily mixed with legal Alaskan crab and labeled as Alaskan; and

WHEREAS, IUU crab is generally inconsistent with Alaska crab quality and provides a poor experience for consumers compared to Alaskan crab; and

WHEREAS, country of origin landing (COOL) laws do not include cooked seafood, the major Alaska crab product form, further confusing the consumer of the crab's origin; and


WHEREAS, United States distributors have a very difficult time determining if crab product is IUU or legitimate; and


WHEREAS, IUU crab fishing has resulted in massive overfishing in foreign countries; and

WHEREAS, both Russian vessels and vessels using flags of convenience participate in IUU crab fishing, limiting the options available for the United States government to take meaningful action;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that United Fishermen of Alaska recognizes the damage caused by IUU crab fishing and supports the efforts of the Bering Sea crab industry to partner with ASMI and the United States government to find long-term solutions to restrict IUU crab fishing.

By UFA Board of Directors, February 17, 2011:

  
Arni Thomson, UFA President

  
Attest: Mark D. Vinsel, UFA Executive Director