



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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UFA Resolution 2014 – 02

A RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA OPPOSING CLASSIFICATION FOR FISHING VESSELS GREATER THAN 50 FEET IN LENGTH OVERALL

WHEREAS, the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-281) requires survey and classification of a fishing vessel that is at least 50 feet in overall length, built after July 1, 2012, and operates beyond three nautical miles; and

WHEREAS, P.L. 111-281 further requires vessels to remain “in class” and have the appropriate certificates on board; and

WHEREAS, the Coast Guard and Marine Transportation Act of 2012 (P.L. 112-213) postponed the classification requirement for vessels that are at least 50 feet in overall length to July 1, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the USCG Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel Safety Advisory Committee (CFIVSAC) does not support survey and classification requirements for new vessels that are at least 50 feet in overall length; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that building a new fishing vessel “to class” for service in Alaska will increase costs by 25-30%; and

WHEREAS, many fishing vessels in Alaska will not be eligible to be classed; and

WHEREAS, these factors are causing vessel owners to postpone replacement of vessels in favor of keeping older vessels in service; and

WHEREAS, this is also causing vessel owners to consider building vessels less than 50 feet in length overall to circumvent the classification requirement; and

WHEREAS, keeping older vessels in operation and deploying smaller vessels will actually make the Alaskan fishing fleet less safe; and

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers • Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association
Alaska Independent Tendermen's Association • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Scallop Association • Alaska Trollers Association
Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association • Aleutian Pribilof Islands Community Development Association • Armstrong Keta • At-sea Processors Association
Bristol Bay Reserve • Cape Barnabas Inc. • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen • Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association • Cordova District Fishermen United
Douglas Island Pink and Chum • Freezer Longline Coalition • Golden King Crab Coalition • Groundfish Forum • Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association
Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association • Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation • Purse Seine Vessel Owner Association
Seafood Producers Cooperative • Southeast Alaska Herring Conservation Alliance • Southeast Alaska Fisherman's Alliance
Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners • Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
United Catcher Boats • United Cook Inlet Drift Association • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters • Valdez Fisheries Development Association

WHEREAS, the United Fishermen of Alaska have long supported the recommendations of the CFIVSAC as well as regulations intended to increase the safety of life at sea; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA do not support mandatory classification of fishing vessels that are at least 50 feet in length overall built after July 1, 2013.

By UFA Board of Directors, February 21, 2014.



Jerry McCune, President



Attest: Julianne Curry,
Executive Director