



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

Mailing Address: PO Box 20229, Juneau AK 99802-0229

Physical Address: 410 Calhoun Ave Ste 101, Juneau AK 99801

Phone: (907)586-2820 **Fax:** (907) 463-2545

Email: ufa@ufa-fish.org **Website:** www.ufa-fish.org

UFA Resolution 2015 – 01

A RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA SUPPORTING THE GOVERNOR AND ALASKA LEGISLATURE TAKING ACTION TO SOLVE THE STATE'S FISCAL CRISIS AND ACHIEVE LONG-TERM FISCAL STABILITY BUT OPPOSING ADDITIONAL REDUCTIONS TO CORE ESSENTIAL SERVICES OF THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME AND PROPOSING THAT ANY NEW OR INCREASED SEAFOOD INDUSTRY TAXES BE CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF A COMPREHENSIVE STATE OF ALASKA PLAN FOR REVENUE GENERATION.

WHEREAS, United Fishermen of Alaska is Alaska's primary fisheries trade organization representing 35 Alaska fishing organizations and an industry which is the largest private sector employer in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's fishery resources are managed by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game's budget has been reduced for several years and was specifically reduced by more than 15% in FY 2016; and

WHEREAS, further reductions to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game budget that reduce core/essential management will result in fewer harvest opportunities for fishermen and loss of tax revenue for Alaska; and

WHEREAS, United Fishermen of Alaska recognizes that the State of Alaska must generate additional revenue in order to close Alaska's "fiscal gap"; and

WHEREAS, new or increased State of Alaska revenue from existing sources must be balanced and equitable to all of Alaska's industries and must consider the total contribution of each industry to the State of Alaska, including but not limited to, taxes paid, total employment, residency, sustainability/renewability and social fabric;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, UFA supports the following principles as guidance for helping to solve the State's fiscal crisis:

- 1) Budget cuts, though equal in value, are not equal in impact to industry or represent the same overall loss to the State of Alaska in terms of lost revenue and benefit. Emphasis should be given to find efficiencies without reducing economic opportunities for industry.**

2) **The State of Alaska should not further reduce the Alaska Department of Fish & Game's budget in a manner that negatively impacts the Department's delivery of core/essential services. The Department of Fish and Game should work toward maximizing the value of surplus renewable resources.**

3) **Any additional seafood industry taxes must be considered in the context of a comprehensive State of Alaska revenue generation plan that considers the tax burden of each of Alaska's industries.**

By the UFA Board of Directors, October 29, 2015.



Jerry McCune, President



Attest: Julianne Curry,
Executive Director

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 • 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