



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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March 28, 2017

Representative Matt Claman, Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Juneau AK 99801

RE: Support for HB 42 regarding seizure of property

Dear Chairman Claman and Committee Members,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 34 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state and its offshore federal waters. The UFA board met recently and discussed House Bill 42, which would make changes to the state's statutes regarding forfeiture of property.

UFA supports HB 42 to help prevent the seizure of vessels and gear that are essential to a fishing family's livelihood.

We are concerned that fishermen's vessel and gear might be seized if an individual who leased the vessel from the owner committed serious violations while fishing, without the knowledge of the owner. We appreciate the clarification in the Department of Law's proposed amendments in version U, which inserts a new section that allows the owner of property to seek return of property seized, if the owner did not participate in the commission of the crime, or have reason to believe the property would be used in a crime.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jerry McCune
President

Mark Vinsel
Executive Administrator

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers • 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 Fishermen's 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 Cook Inlet Drift Association • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters • Valdez Fisheries Development Association