



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@ufafish.org **Website:** www.ufafish.org

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dan Sullivan
United States Senate
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Don Young
United States House of Representatives
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: FY18 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations – Ocean Acidification Program in NOAA

Dear Senator Murkowski, Senator Sullivan, and Representative Young,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is a statewide commercial fishing trade association representing 34 Alaska commercial fishing organizations as well as individuals participating in fisheries throughout the state and its offshore federal waters. UFA works to promote and protect the common interest of Alaska's commercial fishing industry as a vital component of Alaska's social and economic well-being.

UFA urges you to support at least level funding (\$10 million) for ocean acidification research and monitoring in NOAA's Ocean Acidification (OA) Program budget for FY18. Ocean acidification is a serious concern to Alaska's commercial fishermen because of the potential impacts to Alaska's fishery resources, seafood businesses, and fishery-dependent communities.

NOAA research has shown that high latitude marine waters in general and those around Alaska in particular are especially vulnerable to changes in ocean chemistry resulting in lowered oceanic pH. Given Alaska's economic and social reliance on the productivity of the marine environment, continued funding of federal research and monitoring is essential to understanding, adaptation and mitigation of ocean acidification effects on Alaska's commercial fisheries.

UFA recently accepted the invitation to join the Alaska Ocean Acidification Network--a part of NOAA's Alaska Ocean Observing System. Continuation of the Alaska OA program is clearly in the interest of Alaska's commercial fishing industry. UFA appreciates your previous support of the NOAA budget for Alaska in general and the need for monitoring and research related to OA in particular. We urge you to continue with that support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jerry McCune
President

Mark Vinsel
Executive Administrator