



# 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](mailto:ufa@ufafish.org) **Website:** [www.ufafish.org](http://www.ufafish.org)

March 4, 2019

Senator Lora Reinbold, Chair  
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee  
State Capitol, Room 427  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

## **Re: Support of Fishermen's Fund Legislation: SB 61**

Dear Senator Reinbold and Committee Members,

UFA respectfully submits the following letter in support of SB 61 – “An Act relating to claims against protection and indemnity insurance policies of vessel owners.”

SB 61 amends AS 23.35.145, which allows a commercial fishing owner/employer to recover from the Fishermen's Fund (“Fund”) fifty percent (50%) of the owner's protection and indemnity insurance deductible in cases where an injured crewmember files a claim for benefits with the Fund and the owner's insurance. If enacted into law, SB 61 would allow a vessel owner to recover the full amount of the insurance deductible, or an amount not to exceed \$5,000.

SB 61 provides an additional incentive to commercial fishing vessel owners to obtain protection and indemnity insurance to fully cover a crewmember's medical expenses in the event of an injury sustained while in the service of the vessel, instead of relying on the Fund, which is meant to be the payee of last resort.

Thank you for your consideration and your interest in issues affecting the commercial fishing industry in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Matt Alward  
President

Frances H. Leach  
Executive Director

CC: Senator Gary Stevens