



# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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## RESOLUTION 2013 -1

**A RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA SUPPORTING THE STATE OF ALASKA AND THE ALASKA SEAFOOD MARKETING INSTITUTE'S DECISION TO OFFER THIRD PARTY FISHERIES CERTIFICATION AND TO SEEK ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION CRITERIA UNDER INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED STANDARDS.**

WHEREAS, Alaska seafood has been sustainably managed since statehood; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska Constitution requires that Alaska Salmon “shall be utilized, developed and maintained on the sustained yield principle”; and

WHEREAS, Alaska’s salmon management, including the development of the hatchery program, has been internationally recognized as the best managed salmon fisheries in the world; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska and Alaska’s seafood industry have created the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute to educate Alaska’s seafood customers about the sustainability of Alaska seafood and to promote Alaska salmon as wild, natural and responsibly managed; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute has worked for 30 years to market the Alaska brand and to have Alaska seafood consumers associate Alaska with sustainable, wild, natural and responsibly managed fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska brand logo is one of the most recognized seafood identifiers in the world encouraging Alaska seafood sales both nationally and internationally; and

WHEREAS, sale of Alaska seafood provides significant economic benefits to coastal and rural Alaska, including fishermen, processors, processing workers, businesses and communities; and

WHEREAS, economic benefits to rural and coastal Alaska from seafood sales support transportation, retail, supply, and energy business in urban Alaska and throughout the State of Alaska, and

WHEREAS, the Alaska seafood industry is the largest non government employer in Alaska, and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska annually invests in salmon research including “in river” and “near shore” research as well as research monitoring hatchery production and stock identification research; and

WHEREAS, the initial third party “sustainability” certification by the Marine Steward Council simply affirmed the sustainability of the State of Alaska’s existing salmon and seafood management programs; and

WHEREAS, MSC staff asserted that MSC approval was the only process by which Alaska seafood customers could know that Alaska’s fisheries were managed sustainably; and

WHEREAS, substitution of MSC directed seafood management for State of Alaska management would violate Alaska’s constitution which states that the Alaska “Legislature shall provide for the utilization, development and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State”; and

WHEREAS, substitution of the MSC logo and branding for the Alaska brand would erode 30 years of investment in the Alaska brand; and

WHEREAS, MSC certification increases industry costs by imposing audit costs, fishery management costs and logo use costs on Alaska’s seafood industry; and

WHEREAS, MSC, as the ONLY third party certifier for Alaska seafood “sustainability”, could effectively control the supply chain between Alaska seafood producers and Alaska salmon customers; and

WHEREAS, an objective standard for “sustainability” certification is needed; and

WHEREAS, many customers for Alaska seafood have requested that, if needed at all, an alternative to the MSC certification process is desired; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska cannot delegate Alaska seafood management decisions to a third party certification entity.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA and all signatory fishing groups strongly support the State of Alaska’s decision to withdraw the Alaska Department of Fish and Game from Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification.**

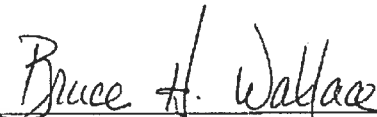
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA and all signatory fishing groups strongly support the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institutes' decision to reject MSC "clientship" for Alaska salmon certification.**

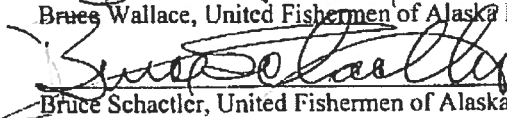
**Be IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA and all signatory fishing groups believe that the Alaska brand of wild, natural and sustainable seafood as well as the Alaska Constitution requiring "sustainability" and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's internationally acclaimed management practices are all that is needed for Alaska's seafood retail and wholesale customers to understand that Alaska's seafood is "sustainable".**


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United Fishermen of Alaska and all signatory fishing groups support the Responsible Fishery Management (RFM) certification as an objective, internationally recognized ISO (International Organization for Standardization) Standard that is in the best interests of Alaska and its fisheries.**

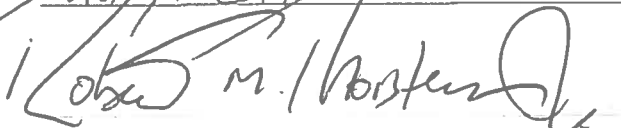
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA and all signatory fishing groups encourage the State of Alaska to continue to fund and support ASMI in its efforts to educate Alaska seafood customers regarding the constitutional and institutional sustainability of Alaska seafood management as well as the need for objective internationally recognized 3<sup>rd</sup> party fishery certification.**

Signed this 19th day of February, 2013 by:

  
Bruce Wallace, United Fishermen of Alaska Interim President

  
Bruce Schactler, United Fishermen of Alaska Marketing Chair

 Kathryn L. H. Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

 Robert M. Wosten SEAS

Jerry McCune Cordova District Fishermen United

Paul A. Shadun Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association

R But Wah Armstrong-Keta, Inc.

 VALDEZ FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT ASSOC.

Gary Fandrei Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association

 KODIAK REGIONAL AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION

Eric Prestgaard Douglas Island Park & Plum, Inc.

Dale Kelley AK Trollers Assn

Yuncan Fields Cape Barnabas Inc.

David L. L. Petersburg Vessel Owners Assoc.

Chip Tree SF Herring Cons. Alliance

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MARK H. GIBSON, ALASKA BEARING SEA CRABBERS

Jason Anderson GFF

Tom Gemmell, United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters

Stephanie Macken At-sea Processors Association

Zan Pitzman United Cook Inlet DIFT Association

Jim Stone Alaska Scallop Assoc.

Richard Walsh Concerned Area M Fisherman

Kim D. Adams AT LARGE DELEGATE

Phil O'Doherty SARDFA

Carl O'Connell Freezer Longline Coalition

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L. P. ~~Co~~ APIC DA

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