



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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March 11, 2013

Representative Paul Seaton, Chairman
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, 120 Fourth Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Email: Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov

RE: OPPOSITION TO HB 110 – BARBLESS HOOKS

Dear Chairman Seaton and Committee Members,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) represents 36 Alaska Commercial fishing organizations from fisheries throughout Alaska and its offshore federal waters.

We appreciate the intention behind HB 110 - to protect the sustainability of Alaska's fisheries resources by reducing catch and release mortality of fish that are required by regulation to be released in non-retention freshwater fisheries. Studies have shown that barbless hooks, when combined with minimal handling and attention to having the fish remain in the water, have resulted in the lowest catch and release mortality.

However, we have long supported the Alaska Board of Fisheries and its deliberative process as the appropriate forum for promulgating fisheries regulations, particularly regarding methods and means. Adaptive management is the hallmark of the State's fisheries management and this requires careful and selective implementation of methods that are applicable to a specific set of conditions.

For this reason we oppose HB 110 as a matter to be addressed in the Legislature.

Thank you for your attention on this matter.

Sincerely,

Julianne Curry
Executive Director