Resolution 2010-2

THE UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA SUPPORT FOR ALASKA’S SALMON HATCHERY PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the state of Alaska benefits greatly from the State of Alaska Hatchery Program; and

WHEREAS Alaska’s salmon hatchery program has operated for forty years and supplements wild salmon harvests throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Alaska’s salmon hatchery program employs strong scientific methodology and is built around policies intended to protect wild salmon populations; and

WHEREAS, roughly 45 million adult salmon were produced in 2009 for commercial, sport, and subsistence harvests; in 2010, that number has been exceeded substantially; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 harvest of hatchery salmon accounted for 19% of the total commercial harvest of salmon with an estimated first wholesale value of $62 million; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 harvest of hatchery salmon will exceed the 2009 hatchery harvest in both numbers and first wholesale value; and

WHEREAS, Alaska’s salmon hatchery program is an example of sustainable economic development that directly benefits commercial fishermen, seafood processors, sport fishermen as well as state and local governments, which receive raw fish tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, Alaska’s salmon hatchery program has proven to be significant and vital to the Alaska salmon industry and to the state of Alaska, by creating employment and economic opportunities throughout the state and, in particular in rural communities throughout Southcentral and Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, industry support for Alaska’s salmon hatchery program is paramount for continuation and expansion; and

WHEREAS, Alaska’s salmon hatchery program is a model partnership between private and public entities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that United Fishermen of Alaska reaffirms its support for Alaska’s salmon hatchery program; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that United Fishermen of Alaska supports unbiased and scientific methods to manage Alaska’s salmon hatchery program; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that United Fishermen of Alaska calls on the seafood industry, Governor, Legislature, and State of Alaska Agencies to continue working together to further their unique partnerships in Alaska’s salmon hatchery program.

By UFA Board of Directors, September 30, 2010:

Arni Thomson, UFA President

Attest:  Mark D. Vinsel, UFA Executive Director