UFA Resolution 2014 – 01

A RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA SUPPORTING IMMEDIATE RATIFICATION OF THE U.N. AGREEMENT ON PORT STATE MEASURES TO PREVENT, DETER AND ELIMINATE ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING.

WHEREAS, IUU fishing refers to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; and

WHEREAS, estimated losses to Bering Sea crab harvesters between 2000-2010 are $560 million due to IUU crab fishing in Russia; and

WHEREAS, Alaskan coastal communities lost millions in tax revenue during that same time period; and

WHEREAS, the IUU seafood trade results in economic losses of between $10-23.5 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, these negative economic impacts continue to compound as IUU Russian crab is afforded unfettered access to the world market; and

WHEREAS, this illegal harvest is often conducted by vessels flying “flags of convenience” and manned by Russian citizens in violation of Russian law; and

WHEREAS, this illegal harvest is often transferred to transport vessels at sea in a practice known as “trans-shipment;” and

WHEREAS, this illegally harvested crab must at some point come to port in order to enter into global trade; and

WHEREAS, this illegally harvested crab is integrated into the global supply chain via landing at ports in Japan, South Korea, and possibly elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, this severely limits the United States governments ability to take meaningful action without the cooperation of other nations involved in this trade; and

WHEREAS, the United States, along with 91 other Nations met in Rome, Italy in 2009 to adopt the first globally binding Agreement to combat IUU fishing; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement will not go into effect until 25 nations have ratified it; and

WHEREAS, the United States has signed, but not ratified the Agreement; and
WHEREAS, the United States Congress will also need to pass legislation to make the necessary changes to domestic law to fully implement the Agreement in the domestic context; and

WHEREAS, the Pirate Fishing Elimination Act was introduced in the United States Senate as S. 267 during the 113th Congress and is currently awaiting Congressional action; and

WHEREAS, the United States has taken a leadership role in the global fight against IUU; and

WHEREAS, in order to continue in this leadership role the United States must lead by example;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the United Fishermen of Alaska support the immediate ratification of the UN AGREEMENT ON PORT STATE MEASURES TO PREVENT, DETER AND ELIMINATE ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING in the United States Senate.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United Fishermen of Alaska encourage the immediate passage of the Pirate Fishing Elimination Act by Congress and encourage President Obama to sign this legislation into law in order to fully implement the Agreement under US law.

By UFA Board of Directors, February 21, 2014.

Jerry McCune, President

Attest: Julianne Curry,
Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS
Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers • Alaska Independent Fishermen’s Marketing Association
Alaska Independent Tendermen’s Association • Alaska Longline Fishermen’s Association • Alaska Scallop Association • Alaska Trollers Association
Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association • Aleutian Pribilof Islands Community Development Association • Armstrong Keta • At-sea Processors Association
Bristol Bay Reserve • Cape Barnabas Inc. • Concerned Area “M” Fishermen • Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association • Cordova District Fishermen United
Douglas Island Pink and Chum • Freezer Longline Coalition • Golden King Crab Coalition • Groundfish Forum • Kenai Peninsula Fishermen’s Association
Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association • Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation • Purse Seine Vessel Owner Association
Seafood Producers Cooperative • Southeast Alaska Herring Conservation Alliance • Southeast Alaska Fisherman’s Alliance
Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners • Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
United Catcher Boats • United Cook Inlet Drift Association • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters • Valdez Fisheries Development Association