



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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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