



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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March 5, 2014

Honorable Mark Begich
U.S. Senate
111 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Lisa Murkowski
U.S. Senate
709 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Don Young
U.S. House of Representatives
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0201

RE: Support for ocean acidification research.

Senator Begich, Senator Murkowski, and Congressman Young,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 36 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state and its offshore federal waters. UFA supports continued funding for ocean acidification research and we encourage you to support the NOAA Ocean Acidification program.

Many fishermen of all gear groups are concerned by the increasingly acidic conditions found in the ocean off Alaska. We only need look south to British Columbia in the case of scallops and the US West Coast with respect to oyster farms, to see the potential for damage to the seafood industry from ocean acidification. The commercial fishing industry in Alaska will be better prepared to address this challenge, provided we have more information about trends in seawater chemistry and the resulting changes in ocean conditions. In order to get this information we need monitoring assets deployed in the most important fishing grounds and increased capacity to interpret the data generated by these monitoring assets.

While we understand the complex and challenging budget decisions that you face this year, we hope that you will continue to support funding for NOAA's Ocean Acidification research so that Alaska's coastal communities and fishermen will be informed and better equipped to address the threats associated with ocean acidification.

Thank you for your consideration, we are available if you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,



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