



# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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April 13, 2017

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senate  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dan Sullivan  
United States Senate  
702 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Don Young  
United States House of Representatives  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Support for Alaska Pink Salmon Disaster Funding**

Dear Senator Murkowski, Senator Sullivan, and Representative Young,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is a statewide commercial fishing trade association representing 34 Alaska commercial fishing organizations as well as individuals participating in fisheries throughout the state and its offshore federal waters. UFA works to promote and protect the common interest of Alaska's commercial fishing industry as a vital component of Alaska's social and economic well-being.

As you know, the 2016 pink salmon run was significantly less than projected returns. Many fishermen and Alaska communities were severely affected by the loss of anticipated income resulting in ripple effects throughout the Alaska economy.

Alaska Governor Bill Walker formally requested a fishery disaster declaration under section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management and Conservation Act for the pink salmon fisheries of the Gulf of Alaska, including Prince William Sound, Kodiak, Chignik, Lower Cook Inlet, and Southeast Alaska management districts. We appreciate the response from former Commerce Secretary Pritzker in confirming the disaster declaration for these fisheries. This will allow for the direction of federal funds to provide assistance to those who have suffered, providing that funding can be obtained through Congressional action.

UFA urges you to support funding for the 2016 Gulf of Alaska pink salmon disaster.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jerry McCune  
President

Mark Vinsel  
Executive Administrator