



# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 20229, Juneau AK 99802-0229

**Phone:** (907) 586-2820

**E-mail:** [ufa@ufa-fish.org](mailto:ufa@ufa-fish.org) **Website:** [www.ufa-fish.org](http://www.ufa-fish.org)

**December 22, 2023**  
**For Immediate Release**

**Tracy Welch, Executive Director**  
**(907) 586-2820**

*Juneau, Alaska – United Fishermen of Alaska applauds Executive Order closing the Russian seafood import loophole.*

Today, President Biden signed an Executive Order expanding the U.S. ban on Russian seafood to include imports of Russian-caught seafood processed in third countries. The ban applies to salmon, pollock, cod, and crab products harvested in Russian waters or by Russia-flagged vessels, even if those products are substantially transformed in a third country.

UFA has long prioritized addressing inequitable trade policies for seafood, working with the Alaska Delegation, other Congressional allies, and administration officials over the years to advocate on behalf of the U.S. seafood industry for fair trade policies. One of the main priorities has been closing the loophole allowing Russian seafood to enter the U.S. market. “This moment has been a long time coming. For nearly a decade, Russia has banned nearly all American seafood, all while their products have continued to flow into the U.S. Closing the loophole on Russian products being reprocessed in another country and then entering the U.S. market is an important step towards ensuring a level playing field for the U.S. seafood industry,” said UFA Executive Director, Tracy Welch.

UFA worked extensively with Senator Sullivan and his staff to remedy this particular trade issue. The Senator has been unwavering in his efforts to expand the current prohibition of Russian seafood into the U.S. market. “Russia’s decade-long ban on nearly all American-produced seafood products has created a completely unfair, one-sided trade relationship that has significantly hurt Alaska,” said Senator Sullivan. He added that “The administration has finally listened and taken action on this ridiculously unfair notion that ‘reprocessed’ Russian fish, pumped with chemicals in China, could be classified as the product of another country and still sold on the U.S. market almost duty-free. Most importantly, this is a long overdue win for Alaskan and American fishermen, for sustainable and environmentally-sound fisheries, and for the numerous coastal communities in Alaska they support.”

“United Fishermen of Alaska and the commercial fishing industry in Alaska thank Senator Sullivan for his strong leadership on this issue, and for his years of support for the commercial fishing industry, particularly his support for seafood trade issues we are facing during this

challenging time” said Matt Alward, president of the United Fishermen of Alaska. “Senator Sullivan’s work to enact meaningful prohibition of Russian seafood is a welcome step towards stabilizing the Alaska seafood industry.”

The U.S. seafood market has faced significant headwinds, leading to unprecedented market conditions this past year. "Given grim tidings for the seafood industry over the last several weeks, President Biden's EO is welcome news for fishermen as we enter the holiday season. The EO issued today by President Biden represents a significant step towards leveling the playing field for U.S. seafood producers and closing the U.S. markets to Russian seafood. Today's action signals that the U.S. is serious about protecting and advocating for our U.S. seafood industry” said Rebecca Skinner, vice-president of United Fishermen of Alaska.