



30th Alaska State Legislature

House Fisheries Committee

Chair: Rep. Louise Stutes

Committee Aide: Matt Gruening

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Sponsor Statement for HCR 8 ver A.A

"expressing the strong support of the Alaska State Legislature for the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center; and urging the University of Alaska to find a solution to keep the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center operating as a stable resource in the state. "

This resolution expresses the Alaska State Legislature's support for the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center (KSMSC) and urges the University of Alaska to find a solution to keep this valuable resource operating.

The Alaska seafood industry employs more workers than any other private sector industry in the state, employing approximately 60,000 workers annually. Significant economic benefits accrue to the state directly from activities in the seafood industry. The industry contributed an annual average of \$5.0 billion in economic output to the state economy in 2015 and 2016. It is estimated that through business and household spending, the seafood industry creates an additional 8,800 jobs and \$385 million of secondary labor income per year in Alaska.

Created by the Alaska State Legislature in 1981, KSMSC is the only center of training, applied research, and technical-assistance program of its kind in the state. The Center was constructed in 1991 with Exxon Valdez settlement funds on 7 acres of land donated by the Kodiak Island Borough.

KSMSC, in partnership with University programs such as Alaska Sea Grant and the UAF Fisheries program, is a statewide hub for seafood processing and fisheries workforce training, research, and technical assistance. Its active seafood processing, fisheries training, and education program trained over 250 people in 2016 alone. KSMSC also serves as a regional science center, providing a hub for Gulf of Alaska research and science education.

The seafood processing pilot plant and laboratories at KSMSC are a unique state asset. The plant contains a wide range of seafood processing equipment used for research in seafood safety and product development, technical assistance, testing, and workforce development training.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks is currently facing deep budget cuts and, as a result, UAF is considering developing a public-private partnership to continue and grow the functioning of this valuable center.

Through this action, the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the value of the Center and urges the university to find a solution to keep the KSMSC stable and operating to support the seafood industry and the State of Alaska.

Thank you for your support of this legislation. Please contact committee staff, Matt Gruening, at 465-3271 regarding any questions.