

UNITED SOUTHEAST ALASKA GILLNETTERS

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Senator Cathy Giessel
Senator Bert Stedman
Capitol Bldg., Juneau, AK, 99801
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Dear Senators Stedman, Giessel and interested others:

United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters (USAG) SUPPORTS Senate Joint Resolution 13, “*Urging the United States Congress to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act and urging the United States Department of the Interior to permit Alaska Native organizations and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to co-manage, take, and study marine mammals under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.*”

United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters works to serve the region’s salmon gillnetters and although this resolution particularly addresses the reintroduced sea otters that do not directly affect our fleet, gillnetters are very interested in having a healthy ecosystem and robust Dungeness fishery as the summer crab season coincides with the salmon gillnet season. In years of high crab abundance, many gillnetters will choose to pursue the crab fishery over gillnetting, reducing congestion and allowing for a higher individual average salmon harvest for the fleet. Both the Dungeness and dive fisheries are important “shoulder fisheries” in the fall season for the gillnet, troll, and seine fleets, extending the fishing season and providing economic diversity for these fleets as well as coastal communities.

As the unmanaged sea otter populations continue to rise and spread, so does the need for proper management of them; this resolution addresses this important economic and environmental problem. We also support a similar resolution recently adopted by United Fishermen of Alaska.

Thank you,



Cynthia Wallesz
Executive Director