



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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March 25, 2009

Representative Bryce Edgmon, Chairman
House Special Committee on Fisheries
State Capitol, Mail Stop 3100
Juneau AK 99801
Fax 907-465-3445

RE: Support for HB 117 - Board of Fisheries Meeting Locations

Dear Chairman Edgmon and Committee Members,

UFA supports House Bill 117, which would ensure that meetings of the Board of Fisheries would be held in the affected region. United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) appreciates your attention to ensuring that Alaska's fishermen and their communities are provided the opportunity for input on matters that affect their livelihoods, without undue costs. Many past meetings held in Anchorage for distant regions' proposals have made participation difficult and expensive.

We note that the Board of Fisheries often conducts meetings that include proposals from more than one region, and Anchorage may be the most convenient and effective location for these.

We also feel that Board members benefit from visiting a range of regions and communities where the impacts and importance of matters before the Board can be experienced firsthand.

United Fishermen of Alaska is the largest statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 37 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state and its offshore waters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Vinsel', is written over a horizontal line.

Mark Vinsel
Executive Director