

Petersburg Vessel Owners Association

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February 25, 2013

Alaska State Legislature
House Fisheries Committee
Representative Paul Seaton, Chair
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

RE: Oppose HB 110

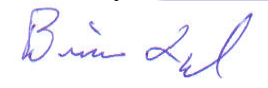
Dear Chairman Seaton and Fisheries Committee Members,

Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) is a diverse group of over 100 commercial fishermen and businesses operating primarily in Southeast Alaska. Our members provide millions of meals to the public annually by participating in a variety of fisheries statewide including salmon, herring, halibut, cod, crab, black cod, shrimp, and dive fisheries. PVOA appreciates the opportunity to comment on HB 110..

PVOA is in opposition to HB 110. Our opposition is not so much on the merits of the effectiveness of barbless hooks to reduce freshwater catch and release injury and mortality, but we are opposed to HB 110 because this issue should be taken up the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF), not the Alaska State Legislature. The BOF was established for the purpose of the conservation and development of the fishery resources of the state and, as such, is the regulatory body best qualified to consider the merits of fishing methods and means. **AS 16.05.251. REGULATIONS OF THE BOARD OF FISHERIES** sets out the regulations that the BOF may adopt and section (a)(4) specifically identifies establishing the means and methods employed in the pursuit, capture, and transport of fish. For the abovementioned reasons, we respectfully request that you do not move HB 110 out of the Fisheries Committee and allow this issue to be addressed and acted upon by the BOF.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation. If we can provide further information or answer any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Brian Lynch
Executive Director

ASSOCIATION