

Support SB 172
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February 29, 2016

Senator Cathy Giessel
Chair, Senate Resources Committee

Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811-1182
Email: Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov

**RE: Support SB 172-An Act relating to management of enhanced stocks of fish;
authorizing the operation of nonprofit shellfish hatcheries...**

Dear Chair Giessel and Committee Members,

Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association (PVOA) is composed of almost 100 members participating in a wide variety of species and gear type fisheries. An additional thirty businesses supportive to our industry are members. PVOA members fish throughout Alaska from Southeast to the Bering Sea. Targeted species include salmon, herring, halibut, sablefish, cod, crab, and shrimp.

Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association is in support of an opportunity for nonprofit organizations to enhance shellfish stocks.

Our organization followed some of the progress of the shellfish enhancement activities at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. It has come to our attention that the program has out lived it's developmental permitting and that this bill would allow them to continue their work.

However, we question the term "hatchery," since they are seeking permitting for shellfish enhancement projects not in the form of the traditional sense of a hatchery. We believe the term may confuse the public.

PVOA supports the increase in permitting fee from \$100 to \$1,000. We heard how expensive and time consuming it is for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to process enhancement permitting and the increase seems appropriate. Thank you for considering our comments.

Respectfully,



Megan O'Neil
Executive Director