



# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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March 1, 2017

Representative Matt Claman, Chairman  
House Judiciary Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Juneau AK 99801

## **RE: Support for HB 42 regarding seizure of property**

Dear Chairman Claman and Committee Members,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 34 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state and its offshore federal waters. The UFA board met recently and discussed House Bill 42, which would make changes to the state's statutes regarding forfeiture of property.

We are alarmed to learn that current law allows for the state to seize private property permanently from individuals suspected of crimes, even if they are never charged. We are also concerned that fishermen's vessel and gear might be seized if an individual who leased the vessel committed misdemeanor violations.

HB 42 would require that an individual be convicted of an actual crime before forfeiture proceedings can take place. UFA supports HB 42 to help prevent the seizure of vessels and gear that are essential to a fishing family's livelihood.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jerry McCune  
President

Mark Vinsel  
Executive Administrator

### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers • Alaska Independent Tendermen's Association • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Scallop Association  
Alaska Trollers Association • Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association • Armstrong Keta • At-sea Processors Association • Bristol Bay Fishermen's Association  
Bristol Bay Reserve • Cape Barnabas, Inc. • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen • Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association • Cordova District Fishermen United  
Douglas Island Pink and Chum • Freezer Longline Coalition • Golden King Crab Coalition • Groundfish Forum • Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association  
Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association • Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association  
Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation • Purse Seine Vessel Owner Association  
Seafood Producers Cooperative • Southeast Alaska Herring Conservation Alliance • Southeast Alaska Fisherman's Alliance  
Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners • Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association  
United Cook Inlet Drift Association • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters • Valdez Fisheries Development Association