



**ALASKA**  
Bering Sea Crabbers

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January 28, 2020

Representative Louise Stutes  
House Fisheries Committee  
State Capitol Room 406  
Juneau, AK 99801

**RE: HB 203 – Transportation of Live Crab**

Dear Chair Stutes and Committee Members,

The Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers (ABSC) is a non-profit trade association representing the harvesters of king, opilio (snow), and bairdi (Tanner) crab in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. We are actively involved in fisheries management, policy development, scientific research, and marketing. ABSC would like to offer our support for HB 203 (Transportation of Live Crab).

Allowing the transport of all commercial species of live crab via surface transport in addition to air transport would increase flexibility and market opportunities for Alaska's crab fisheries and communities. For some ports where crab are landed, air transport cannot handle live crab shipments in larger volume or it may not be economical. Allowing surface transport would increase opportunities for some ports and fishermen to bring live, fresh crab in to markets.

Currently, all crab may be sent via air transport but only live golden king crab, opilio, and Dungeness (with some exceptions) may be sent via surface transport from Alaska. This bill would extend live crab surface transport to bairdi and other king crab species (red and blue), as well. In other words, all commercial crab species could be shipped live via surface or air transport after being landed in the state and recorded on a fish ticket.

Providing diversity in product forms and the opportunity for increased market value benefits Alaska's economy and communities. Given variability in crab stocks, fishermen look for ways to increase the value of their product, especially in times of lower catch levels. The option to also transport any commercial crab species live via surface transport, in addition to air transport, provides options for fishermen.

This position is in alignment with the United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA), of which ABSC is a Board member.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jamie Goen  
Executive Director  
Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers  
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cc: Representative Gary Knopp