



April 21, 2025

The Honorable Lyman Hoffman
The Honorable Donald Olson
The Honorable Bert Stedman
Members of the Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Senate
Alaska State Capitol, Room 532
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: enhancement of the Fisheries Product Development Tax Credit

Dear Co-Chairs Hoffman, Olson, Stedman, and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

In previous correspondence, earlier this session, the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC) shared its support for the implementation of the recommendations of the Legislative Seafood Task Force. Our members passed SWAMC Resolution 2025-03-03, which is enclosed for your reference.

Today, I am writing to amplify SWAMC's support for the Fisheries Product Development Tax Credit. As currently proposed in Senate Bill 130, an enhanced Fisheries Product Development Tax Credit will incentivize investment in new processing lines, value-added product development, and ongoing efforts to enhance product quality. This measure represents a practical and forward-thinking investment in the sustainability and long-term competitiveness of one of Alaska's most vital industries.

Commercial fishing has been a long-standing cornerstone of Alaska's economy, culture, and identity. For the communities of Southwest Alaska, it is the beating heart of our economy, our communities, and our families.

Maintaining a competitive edge in the global seafood market requires continuous innovation and investment. With increased global competition and economic uncertainty, Alaska must redouble its efforts to ensure the viability of our fisheries resources and the seafood industry on our shores. An enhanced Fisheries Product Development Tax Credit must be part of that effort.

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SWAMC supported previous iterations of the Fisheries Product Development Tax Credit at a time when Alaska fisheries and the seafood industry faced serious challenges. Without question, the prior incarnation of the tax credit incentivized modernization and value-added product development. The present circumstances dictate a reinstatement and realignment of the Fisheries Product Development Tax Credit in recognition of current economic challenges and market dynamics.

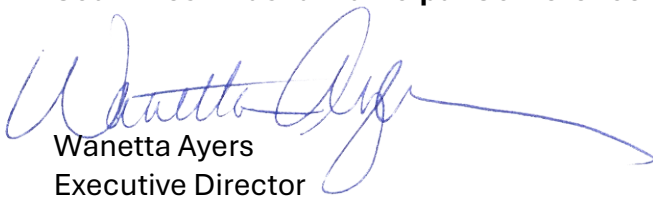
Encouraging reinvestment through the Fisheries Product Development Tax Credit will have a ripple effect throughout Alaska's economy—creating jobs, supporting local businesses, and strengthening the value chain from ocean to table. It also demonstrates that the State of Alaska is committed to supporting its fisheries as not only a resource to be managed but a sector to be empowered.

I urge the Senate Finance Committee to advance SB 130 through the legislative process and vote in favor of its passage. Alaska's fisheries deserve the tools to grow, adapt, and remain globally competitive in a changing world.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of Alaska's fishers, processors, and fishing communities.

Sincerely,

Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference



Wanetta Ayers
Executive Director



RESOLUTION 2025-03-03

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE SEAFOOD TASK FORCE IN ALASKA

WHEREAS, Alaska's seafood industry, encompassing commercial and subsistence fishing, mariculture, and seafood processing, is integral to the state's economy, food security, and cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, the industry is currently facing significant headwinds, including increasingly predatory international competition, unpredictable variations in historical resource abundance, shifting market demands, workforce shortages, infrastructure deficiencies, and regulatory complexities, necessitating focused and coordinated legislative action; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Legislature established a Legislative Seafood Task Force in 2024 to address these pressing issues and develop strategic recommendations for the sustainability and economic viability of Alaska's seafood sector; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force has proposed actionable recommendations, such as enhancing international marketing efforts, developing new seafood products, expanding mariculture with streamlined permitting and financing, and providing direct support to fishing-propelled communities through housing subsidies and workforce training programs; and

WHEREAS, the successful implementation of these recommendations requires a collaborative approach involving policymakers, industry stakeholders, scientists, and community representatives to ensure data-driven decision-making and innovation in sustainable fisheries management; and

WHEREAS, bipartisan legislative support for the Task Force's initiatives will demonstrate a commitment to protecting and strengthening one of Alaska's most vital legacy industries while fostering long-term economic growth and environmental stewardship.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference urges the Alaska State Legislature to fully implement the Legislative Seafood Task Force's recommendations to address the critical challenges facing the seafood industry and fishing communities in Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the implementation process includes active participation from representatives of the Alaska State Legislature, state and federal agencies, tribal governments, seafood industry organizations, coastal municipalities, and research institutions to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive approach to policy development; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Alaska, the President of the Alaska State Senate, the Speaker of the Alaska House of Representatives, the Commissioners of relevant state agencies, and other key stakeholders to advocate for the immediate enactment of the Legislative Seafood Task Force's recommendations in Alaska.

Adopted by the members of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference on this seventh day of March 2025.

Signed

SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE



Mayor Alice Ruby, President
Board of Directors
Bristol Bay Municipal Seat
City of Dillingham

Attest:



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