



March 20, 2025

Alaska House of Representatives  
Chair Louise Stutes, House Fisheries Committee  
Email: [House.Fisheries@akleg.gov](mailto:House.Fisheries@akleg.gov)

**RE: Support for HB 129**

Dear Chair Stutes and House Fisheries Committee Members,

Alaska Glacier Seafoods Inc. strongly supports HB 129, as it expands the existing enhancement tax credit to allow for product improvements and development across all species commercially harvested in Alaskan waters. In broad terms, this industry has changed and is continuing to change. In the past few years, we have seen fisheries decline and processing facilities across the state close their doors. We, as Alaskan seafood processors, need to be able to adapt and evolve with the changing market, which often means investing in the advancement of processing/quality capabilities, and further developing new, higher value products. This supports Alaskan fishermen, local communities, and thousands of jobs.

Alaska Glacier Seafoods has leaned on the existing enhancement tax credit in recent years to invest in new equipment that has greatly facilitated our operation. This new equipment has allowed us to increase value-added production while simultaneously lowering operating costs. More specifically, we are able to generate higher value salmon/sablefish/pacific cod fillets/portions more efficiently and higher quality than ever before. Though this has been critical to our business' survival during the staggering market challenges we have faced since 2020, we desperately see the need to further invest in new equipment and infrastructure that currently would not be supported by the existing tax credit. Most seafood plants across the state are contending with aging facilities and infrastructure in the face of cost prohibitive solutions to improve them. HB 129 would allow processors to invest in a much broader range of improvements, which would vastly improve product value and quality across all species. As stated before, this will allow for higher ex-vessel prices supporting local fishermen and communities through tax revenue, and it will support and grow job opportunities across the state.

In addition to directly supporting investment in seafood processing equipment, HB 129 explicitly includes amending the Fisheries Product Development Tax Credit to include additional equipment that will improve the cold chain/temperature control- the single most critical factor in seafood product quality. This will improve product quality and recovery and facilitate investment in automation and energy efficient long term solutions to aging existing infrastructure. Again, this will help lower operating costs and increase product value and quality substantially.

HB 129 would re-authorize the fisheries product development tax credit through January 1, 2030, and create an effective date of January 1, 2025. This will allow for any value-added investments this year. Please also consider extending the bill through January 1, 2035, as



recommended in the Task Force's Report. It is no understatement to say that the survival of Alaskan processors and fishermen requires the ability to rapidly adapt to changing market conditions, and HB 129 would greatly assist our ability to compete on the global market and support our state's most critical resources.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "ME", is written over a horizontal line.

Mike Erickson, President/CEO, Alaska Glacier Seafoods Inc.  
Juneau, Alaska