



# Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

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March 12, 2018

Senate Resources

Senator Catch Giessel, Chair

Alaska State Capitol, Room 427

Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for SJR 13 – Sea Otters

Dear Senator Giessel, Chair and Senate Resource Committee Members,

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFA) supports SJR 13 to raise the issue of the effect sea otters are having on the shellfish resources of Southeast Alaska. Alaska's constitution to manage fishery resources for sustained yield is in conflict with the hands-off management of sea otters by the USFWS. Without some changes to the current situation eventually we will reach a point where the sea otters will be starving and the important shellfish resources they prey on will be below a sustainable level of population. These shellfish resources are important to the Southeast residents both as subsistence resources in rural areas, as important commercial fisheries, recreational and sport use. This resolution is one step forward to focusing efforts on possible changes within the framework of native harvests and handicrafts.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hansen

Executive Director