



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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Senator Wielechowski
State Capitol Bldg., Room 419
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Support SB 210- An Act relating to the misrepresentation of seafood and seafood ingredients by retail food establishments.

Dear Senator Wielechowski,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 35 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state, and the federal fisheries off Alaska's coast.

UFA supports SB 210: An Act relating to the misrepresentation of seafood and seafood ingredients by retail food establishments. The Alaska seafood industry has worked hard to maintain a high level of prestige and authenticity for Alaska seafood, while producing a quality product that distinguishes itself from others. Many states already have laws and penalties for seafood mislabeling and it is past time for Alaska, as the largest seafood producing state in the nation, to follow suit.

The mislabeling of seafood brings up two major concerns: human health and conservation concerns. Without proper labeling, consumers may unknowingly purchase a contaminated product, which may lead to severe illness or even death. Fraud may also undermine conservation efforts which are put in place to protect threatened seafood and provide for sustainable fisheries. Mislabeling illegally caught seafood jeopardizes populations that are at risk of extinction.

In closing, UFA fully endorses SB 210 and thanks you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely,


Jerry McCune
President


Frances H. Leach
Executive Director

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