



# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 20229, Juneau AK 99802-0229

**Phone:** (907) 586-2820

**E-mail:** [ufa@ufa-fish.org](mailto:ufa@ufa-fish.org) **Website:** [www.ufa-fish.org](http://www.ufa-fish.org)

May 14, 2025

Chair Louise Stutes  
House Fisheries Committee  
State Capitol Room 216  
Juneau AK, 99801

## **RE: Supporting HCR 1- Joint Task Force on Sport Fishing Service Providers**

Dear Chair Stutes and Members of House Fisheries Committee,

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 HCR 1– Joint Task Force on Sport Fishing Service Providers.

A task force, such as proposed in HCR 1, is a starting point for evaluating the sport fishing service industry here in Southeast Alaska and making recommendations, if warranted, as to management of the sector in the future. Over the years, the Alaska sport fishing service provider industry has grown dramatically by adding additional boats, increasing the number of trips operators are offering per day, and the entry of the unguided “bare boat” rental sector to the industry. With a finite resource and one sector seeing continued growth, the impact is being felt across all user groups.

The conversations and deliberations at fisheries management bodies are becoming more contentious as the pie seems to get smaller each cycle. For example, halibut is the only guided sport fishery currently under limited entry, and its biomass is at a forty-year low. This, coupled with unrestricted growth in the guided sport sector, has increased fishing pressure on alternative species such as king salmon, rockfish, and sablefish. Over the past decade, these species have been subject to debated reallocations by the Board of Fisheries, shifting quota from the already constrained commercial sector to the guided sport sector.

Forming a task force to evaluate the sport fishing service sector is a step in the right direction toward understanding the industry's landscape and planning for its long-term well-being. A task force such as proposed in HCR 1 provides a forum for the sport service providers to participate in evaluating the industry and, if necessary, aiding in the design of a management structure tailored to their industry's needs.

UFA appreciates that the sport fishing industry has brought forth and driven this effort. While we feel that the stakeholders in the guide service industry should be the group driving the effort, we look forward to being part of the ongoing conversation and can provide perspective on a limited entry system.

In closing, UFA supports HCR 1, and we look forward to participating in this critical discussion to ensure that all user groups can enjoy Alaska's fisheries resources for decades to come.

Sincerely,



Matt Alward  
President



Tracy Welch  
Executive Director

#### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Scallop Association • Alaska Trollers Association  
Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association • Area M Seiners Association • At-sea Processors Association  
Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development 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  
Fishing Vessel Owners Assn • Groundfish Forum • Kodiak Crab Alliance Cooperative • Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association  
Kodiak Seiners Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association • Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association  
Northwest Setnetters 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 Catcher Boats • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters  
Valdez Fisheries Development Association