



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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Representative Bryce Edgmon, Chairman
House Special Committee on Fisheries
State Capitol, Mail Stop 3100
Juneau AK 99801
Fax 907-465-3445

RE: Support for HB 20 for Energy Improvement Loans

UFA appreciates the Division of Investments prompt initiation of a program for commercial fishing vessel engine retrofit loans in Fall of 2008 to address the impact of high fuel prices on Alaska's fishing communities. We recognize that establishing these loans in the Section B program was the way to get this done as soon as possible. However, Alaska statutes prohibit any current borrowers under Section A programs access to these loans. UFA supports statutory changes to allow fishermen who currently have Section A loans to obtain loans to improve their energy efficiency. UFA also supports broadening the program to include financing for other energy improvements.

HB 20 accomplishes both of these objectives. We ask you and committee members for your support to provide long term financing for improvements to reduce the energy usage in commercial fishing.

United Fishermen of Alaska is the largest statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 37 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state and its offshore waters.

Sincerely,

Mark Vinsel
Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Crab Coalition • Alaska Independent Tendersmen'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 Reserve • Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association • Cape Barnabas Inc. • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association • Cordova District Fishermen United • Crab Group of Independent Harvesters • Douglas Island Pink and Chum
Fishing Vessel Owners Association • 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 • Sitka Herring Association
Southeast Alaska Fisherman's Alliance • Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners Association
Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • United Catcher Boats • United Cook Inlet Drift Association • United Salmon Association
United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters • Valdez Fisheries Development Association • Western Gulf of Alaska Fishermen