



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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April 1, 2009

Senator Donny Olson, Chair
Senate Committee on Labor and Commerce
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (Mail Stop 3100)
Juneau AK 99801

RE: Support for SB 137 regarding meetings of the Board of Fisheries.

Dear Chairman Olson and Committee members,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) board members and member groups have long term experience with the Board of Fisheries process. There is growing concern with the workload and huge number of issues that the Board addresses, often with multiple proposals on the same topics. The current three year cycle is shorter than the reproductive cycle of our salmon species, except for pink salmon, and is often not enough time to adequately judge the results of past actions. The workload that is placed on the Board is also seen as an impediment to volunteer service, with three to five regular regional meetings that span multiple weeks each year, plus additional special meetings.

There are many opinions on specific changes that might help the Board in its work – and we support giving the Board of Fisheries members the opportunity to assess this and report with their own recommendations. We support SB 137 to respectfully ask the Board their opinion.

Sincerely,

Mark Vinsel
Executive Director