



# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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March 15, 2011

Representative Steve Thompson, Chairman  
House Special Committee on Fisheries  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, 120 Fourth Street  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Chairman Thompson and Committee Members,

**United Fishermen of Alaska supports HB 181 regarding commercial fishing crew data.**

UFA recognizes the importance of timely and accurate economic data on the economic contributions of commercial fishing. We recognize the current limitations on data regarding the significant contributions to Alaska's economy through the earnings and residency of crew members. Without this information, policy makers may not be aware of the positive economic contributions that extend far beyond our coastal communities.

UFA has actively supported the development of a program within the Department of Fish and Game to develop timely and accurate data on commercial fishing crew participation in fisheries. In the previous discussions on this, we supported a crew-generated logbook program, with an opportunity for skippers to verify these at the end of the season, and we applaud the sponsor of HB 181 for including this. We also support the need for confidentiality of an individual's earnings that HB 181 provides.

United Fishermen of Alaska represents 38 Alaska Commercial fishing organizations, and hundreds of individual fishermen and related businesses. We support HB 181 and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark D. Vinsel', written in a cursive style.

Mark Vinsel  
Executive Director