



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

211 Fourth Street, Suite 110
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1172
(907) 586-2820
(907) 463-2545 Fax
E-Mail: ufa@ufa-fish.org
www.ufa-fish.org

February 24, 2011

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

RE: Support for HB 173 - An Act amending the termination date of the licensing of sport fishing operators and sport fishing guides; and providing for an effective date.

Dear Chairman Thompson and Committee Members,

UFA supports HB 173, which would extend the sunset date on the sport guide and vessel licensing program from January 1, 2012 to January 1, 2013. It is essential for the Department of Fish and Game to have a system of registration and communication with operators of fishing guide businesses to be able to measure activity and harvest for effective fisheries management. Without passage of HB 173, the registration and logbook program that is in place will not continue beyond the current year. Without such a system to accomplish the objectives regarding recreational fisheries in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 2005, it is our belief that the State of Alaska would be in jeopardy of losing management jurisdiction over marine fisheries to the federal government.

United Fishermen of Alaska is the largest statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 38 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state and its offshore waters.

Sincerely,

Mark Vinsel
Executive Director