

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

9369 North Douglas Highway

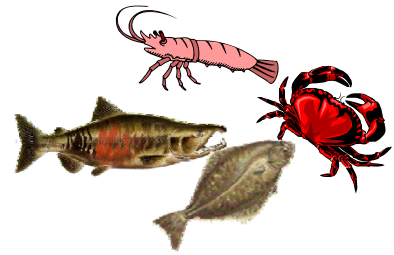
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March 12, 2013

Senate Resources Committee

Alaska State Legislature

State Capitol, Rm 205

Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for SB 60 - an act related to sea otter population management

Dear Senator Giessel, Chair and Resource Committee Members,

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEafa) is a multi-gear/multi-species membership based organization representing our members involved in the salmon, crab, shrimp and longline fisheries of Southeast Alaska/Yakutat.

SEafa supports SB 60 as a mechanism for discussion and education about the effect of the expanding sea otter population on shellfish population so important to the local rural communities, subsistence users and commercial fishermen. SEafa believes in the need for stabilizing the expanding population of sea otters in order to not completely deplete and end up listing other shellfish species as endangered. This legislation supports only the legal harvest of sea otters. Over 2,000 sea otters would have to be harvested to hold the population steady (not decline) and last winter 800 were harvested. On the alternative side the population will double in 6 years if more harvest does not occur. Using the current population of 25,000 sea otters in Southeast Alaska and a very conservative amount of 13.75 lbs of food a day eaten they are consuming approximately 125 million pounds a year.

SB 60 will help the Alaskan Natives with the cost of legally harvesting sea otters and hopefully elevate the discussion regarding the seriousness of the impact an expanding sea otter population will have on the shellfish species of Southeast Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Hansen" with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kathy Hansen, Executive Director