



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

Mailing Address: PO Box 20229, Juneau AK 99802-0229

Physical Address: 410 Calhoun Ave Ste 101, Juneau AK 99801

Phone: (907)586-2820 **Fax:** (907) 463-2545

Email: ufa@ufa-fish.org **Website:** www.ufa-fish.org

UFA Resolution 2013 - 02

A Resolution by the United Fishermen of Alaska to Support continuation of the vessel-based limited entry in the the weathervane scallop and Bering Sea hair crab fisheries.

Whereas, the people of Alaska amended the Alaska Constitution in 1972 to allow for limitation of entry into commercial fisheries for purposes of resource conservation, to prevent economic distress among fishermen and those dependent upon them for a livelihood, and to promote the efficient development of aquaculture in Alaska; and,

Whereas, the Alaska State Legislature in 1973 passed into law the Limited Entry Act to promote the conservation and the sustained yield management of Alaska's fishery resource and the economic health and stability of commercial fishing in Alaska by regulating and controlling entry of participants and vessels into the commercial fisheries in the public interest and without unjust discrimination; and,

Whereas, in enacting the Limited Entry Act, the Alaska State Legislature found that commercial fishing for fishery resources had reached participation levels that were impairing the economic welfare of the fisheries of Alaska, the efficiency of the harvest, and the sustained yield management of the fishery resource; and,

Whereas, in the 1980s and 1990s the Alaska weathervane scallop fishery saw rapid growth in participation, with vessels coming to Alaska from other parts of the United States to harvest this resource with increasing aggression, while there was no federal fishery management plan for the fishery in federal waters, and the fishery was open-access in State waters; and,

Whereas, in response to the unsustainable levels of participation in the Alaska weathervane scallop fishery, the Alaska Legislature unanimously enacted a moratorium on new entrants in 1997, at the same time making findings about the biological, ecological, and technological realities of this fishery, envisioning a vessel-based limited entry system for this fishery, and allowing the State of Alaska to manage fisheries in federal waters; and,

Whereas, the United States North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) implemented a moratorium in federal waters in 1997 on new entrants into the weathervane scallop fishery for the same reasons as the Alaska Legislature; and,

Whereas, the NPFMC instituted a License Limitation Program to assign limited fishing privileges to participants in the weathervane scallop fishery in 2001; and,

Whereas, the Alaska State Legislature enacted House Bill 206 in 2002, which allowed the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) to create and implement a vessel-based limited entry system for the weathervane scallop and Bering Sea hair crab fisheries, in order to

allow these fisheries to be managed for sustained yield and the well-being of the fishermen in these fisheries; and,

Whereas, CFEC followed the Alaska State Legislature's direction, and carefully undertook to limit entry to the weathervane scallop and Bering Sea hair crab fisheries, and in accordance with the law, the Legislature's intent, and the facts pertaining to these fisheries, issued vessel-based limited entry permits in these two fisheries; and,

Whereas, in 2008 the Alaska State Legislature extended the life of the vessel-based limited entry systems until the end of 2013; and,

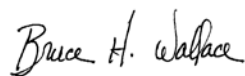
Whereas, CFEC, in conjunction with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), has overseen the successful, stable, sustainable management of the weathervane scallop fishery for the past decade, in compliance with the Alaska Constitution and the Limited Entry Act; and,

Whereas, allowing the vessel-based limited entry systems to expire at the end of 2013 would prevent the sustained yield management of these fisheries, and would significantly harm those who hold permits for these fisheries and those employed in these fisheries; and,

Whereas, allowing the vessel-based limited entry systems to expire at the end of 2013 would benefit no one, and would cause loss of opportunity and economic harm;

Therefore Be It Resolved by the United Fishermen of Alaska Board of Directors that UFA strongly supports the swift passage of Senate Bill 54 in the first regular session of the 28th Alaska Legislature, based on the firm belief that vessel-based limited entry is a fair, legal, logical, and prudent way to limit entry to the weathervane scallop and Bering Sea hair crab fisheries. UFA notes that this is the only fishery in which we support vessel-based limited entry.

By UFA Board of Directors, February 21, 2013:



Bruce Wallace
President
United Fishermen of Alaska



Attest: Julianne Curry
Executive Director