

Support HB 300  
PO Box 232 Petersburg, AK 99833

**Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association**  
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March 23, 2016

Representative Stutes  
Chair, House Fisheries Committee

Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99811-1182  
Email: [Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov)

**RE: Support HB 300-An Act relating to management of enhanced stocks of fish; authorizing the operation of nonprofit shellfish hatcheries...**

Dear Chair Stutes and Committee Members,

Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association (PVOA) is composed of almost 100 members participating in a wide variety of species and gear type fisheries. An additional thirty businesses supportive to our industry are members. PVOA members fish throughout Alaska from Southeast to the Bering Sea. Targeted species include salmon, herring, halibut, sablefish, cod, crab, shrimp, pollock, tuna, geoduck, and sea cucumber.

**Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association is in support of an opportunity for nonprofit organizations to enhance shellfish stocks.**

Our organization followed some of the progress of the shellfish enhancement activities of the Alaska King Crab Research, Rehabilitation and Biology (AKCRRAB) program. It has come to our attention that the program has out lived it's developmental permitting and that this bill would allow them to continue their work.

However, we question the term "hatchery," since they are seeking permitting for shellfish enhancement projects not in the form of the traditional sense of a hatchery. We believe the term may confuse the public.

PVOA supports the increase in permitting fee from \$100 to \$1,000. We heard how expensive and time consuming it is for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to process enhancement permitting and the increase seems appropriate. Thank you for considering our comments.

Respectfully,



Megan O'Neil  
Executive Director