



# 30<sup>th</sup> Alaska State Legislature

## House Fisheries Committee

*Chair:* Rep. Louise Stutes  
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### **Sponsor Statement for HCR 8 ver A**

*"A resolution expressing the strong support of the Alaska State Legislature for the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center; and urging the University of Alaska to maintain the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center as an important resource in the state."*

This resolution expresses the Alaska State Legislature's support for the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center (KSMSC) and urges the University of Alaska to maintain this valuable resource for the state.

The Alaska seafood industry employs more workers than any other private sector industry in the state, employing 60,000 workers annually and providing those workers with \$1.6B in annual earnings. Significant economic benefits accrue to the state directly from activities in the seafood industry; in 2014, the seafood had a harvest value of \$1.9B and a first wholesale value of \$4.2B.

Created by the Alaska State Legislature in 1981, the KSMSC is the only center of training, applied research, and technical assistance program of its kind in the state. The Center was constructed in 1991 with Exxon Valdez settlement funds on 7 acres of land donated by the Kodiak Island Borough.

KSMSC, in partnership with University programs such as Alaska Sea Grant and the UAF Fisheries program, is a statewide hub for seafood processing and fisheries workforce training, research, and technical assistance. Its active seafood processing, fisheries training, and education program trained over 250 people in 2016 alone. KSMSC also serves as a regional science center, providing a hub for Gulf of Alaska research and science education.

The seafood processing pilot plant and laboratories at KSMSC are a unique state asset. The plant contains a wide range of seafood processing equipment used for research in seafood safety and product development, technical assistance, testing, and workforce development training.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks is currently facing deep budget cuts and, as a result, UAF is considering developing a public-private partnership to continue and grow the functioning of this valuable center.

Through this action, the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the value of the Center and urges the university to find a solution to keep the KSMSC stable and operating to support the seafood industry and the State of Alaska.

Thank you for your support of this legislation.