



ALASKA
Bering Sea Crabbers

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January 28, 2020

Representative Louise Stutes
House Fisheries Committee
State Capitol Room 406
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: HB 203 – Transportation of Live Crab

Dear Chair Stutes and Committee Members,

The Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers (ABSC) is a non-profit trade association representing the harvesters of king, opilio (snow), and bairdi (Tanner) crab in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. We are actively involved in fisheries management, policy development, scientific research, and marketing. ABSC would like to offer our support for HB 203 (Transportation of Live Crab).

Allowing the transport of all commercial species of live crab via surface transport in addition to air transport would increase flexibility and market opportunities for Alaska's crab fisheries and communities. For some ports where crab are landed, air transport cannot handle live crab shipments in larger volume or it may not be economical. Allowing surface transport would increase opportunities for some ports and fishermen to bring live, fresh crab in to markets.

Currently, all crab may be sent via air transport but only live golden king crab, opilio, and Dungeness (with some exceptions) may be sent via surface transport from Alaska. This bill would extend live crab surface transport to bairdi and other king crab species (red and blue), as well. In other words, all commercial crab species could be shipped live via surface or air transport after being landed in the state and recorded on a fish ticket.

Providing diversity in product forms and the opportunity for increased market value benefits Alaska's economy and communities. Given variability in crab stocks, fishermen look for ways to increase the value of their product, especially in times of lower catch levels. The option to also transport any commercial crab species live via surface transport, in addition to air transport, provides options for fishermen.

This position is in alignment with the United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA), of which ABSC is a Board member.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jamie Goen
Executive Director
Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers
absc.jamie@gmail.com

cc: Representative Gary Knopp



Wild, Natural & Sustainable®

January 30, 2020

The Honorable Louise Stutes
Chair, House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Capitol Room 406
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: HB 203 – Transportation of Live Crab

Dear Chairwoman Stutes and members of the House Fisheries Committee:

Alaska's crab species are known worldwide as premium products from an unrivaled ocean environment. Alaska crab species – king, opilio (snow), bairdi (Tanner) and Dungeness –on an annual basis, represent 12 percent of the total value of all commercially harvested Alaska seafood species, despite accounting for just one percent of the total catch. The first wholesale value of all crab species combined exceeds \$300 million annually. Live crab sales, however, account for less than 1 percent of this total, which can be attributed to several factors including shipping limitations.

Alaska's crab is enjoyed by consumers both domestically and abroad. However, in every market where Alaska crab is available, a comparable species of crab harvested from a different region in the world is available as well. Often, Alaska crab species are undercut by cheaper foreign crab with more favorable trade terms. Increased competition and lower competitor prices negatively impact the market position of one of Alaska's most prized seafood species.

Transportation technology for seafood has made vast improvements in recent years. As such, the ability to ship live crab via surface now exists as it never had before. This new technology means that more crab can be delivered fresh at a lower cost to the seafood company with less financial risk than associated with shipping live crab via air. Currently, the majority of Alaska crab is sold in the form of frozen or cooked products. However, at market, live crab is sold for a significantly higher price.

HB 203 will correct Alaska Statute 16.10.240 and allow Alaska processors the ability to capitalize on the newfound shipping technology by expanding markets for the highest value product forms. HB 203 supports Alaska's largest private direct employer by providing the seafood industry with the tools necessary to compete in the global market. As a result, fisherman, processors and communities across Alaska will benefit from the higher returns of this valuable product.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Woodrow
Executive Director
Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute

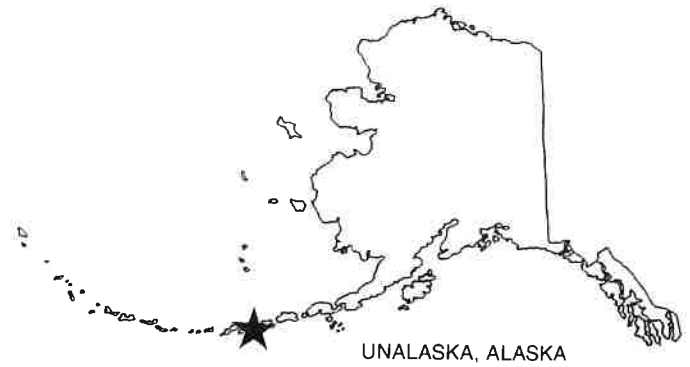
CITY OF UNALASKA

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Representative Louise Stutes
State Capitol Room 406
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Stutes,

The city of Unalaska offers its support for HB 203, relating to transportation of live crab. Removing the current restrictions on the transportation of specific species allows our fishermen to expand their ability to compete in the global market.

As the top fishing port in the nation, getting fresh product to market is imperative and we applaud the efforts made, to date, under this pilot program to safely deliver live crab despite our logistics and recent challenges with air transportation.

As the current law stands, only Opilio Crab and Golden King Crab may be transported via surface shipping and all other species must be sent live via air freight after pre-packaging. This is extremely challenging and has created a hindrance and cost burden for our commercial fishermen and processors.

We strongly support the new language to include all species being shipped live via air freight or surface freight after pre-packaging, provided they have first been lawfully landed in an Alaskan port and recorded on a fish ticket.”

Thank you for hearing this bill and we look forward to its passage.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vince Tutiakoff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Vince Tutiakoff
Mayor of Unalaska

January 23rd, 2020

Representative Louise Stutes
State Capitol Room 406
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: Support for HB 203 – An Act Relating to Transportation of Live Crab

Dear Representative Stutes and House Fisheries Committee Members,

I would appreciate your support in passing House Bill No. 203, "An Act relating to transportation of live crab." This bill would allow for transportation by sea of live bairdi (tanner crab) and red king crab, which is currently prevented under AS 16.10.240. Currently, only opilio and golden king crab can be transported by sea alive, while bairdi and red king crab must be shipped by air.

Over the past several years, GKC Holdings, LLC has been partnering with Unisea, Inc. in Dutch Harbor, to pioneer shipping of live golden king crab from Dutch Harbor to Seattle. From Seattle these golden king crab have been shipped successfully to local customer and air shipped to customers around the US, Europe and Asia. The only way this has been possible, at any level of volume and consistency, is through an innovative containerized technology. We have proven that these containers can keep crab alive and healthy, in tanks of seawater within the container, while being shipped on a container ship or barge.

Dutch Harbor is home to the Bering Sea crab fleet and is one of the largest crab landing ports in the nation. Unfortunately, air service to Dutch Harbor is limited due to infrastructure and challenging weather curtailing air shipping of live crab. In addition, the remoteness of Dutch Harbor inhibits the healthiness of the crab when it is air shipped, as crab must be packaged in Dutch Harbor, flown to Anchorage and then flown again to another destination for final distribution. This results in crab out of the water for an extended period of time which dramatically increases mortality.

This bill will provide opportunities for Dutch Harbor, and other similarly remote communities with red king crab and bairdi crab landings, to sell these species in larger and more consistent volume to the growing worldwide live markets. Live crab markets continue to expand all around the world. Fisheries with relatively simple logistics have substantial portions of the fisheries consumed by the end customer as a live product. This includes Dungeness crab off the west coast which is sold to consumers alive both domestically and air shipped to China as well as Russian red king crab which is delivered live via vessel to China and also air shipped to the US and Canada.

Bairdi and red king crab are uniquely situated to benefit from growing live markets. Red king crab is already an established product in world live markets thanks to ever increasing deliveries of live crab to China and Korea (from which it is then air shipped around the world). High end markets would prefer to buy Alaskan red king crab if they had the option. Bairdi is even more unique in that it would be a relatively new live product form but is known to be both hardy and has a reputation as being the most delicious crab in Alaska.

It is time for Alaskan red king crab and bairdi fishermen and others dependent upon these fisheries to be able to participate in live crab markets. This will result in higher prices benefiting crew, vessel owners, processors and communities as these markets continue to develop. The work GKC Holdings, along with Unisea, over the last few years has shown that this new containerized technology can successfully ship live golden crab out of remote Alaskan ports to market. Modifying AS 16.10.240 as proposed by HB 203 will allow participants of the bairdi and red king crab fisheries when landed in remote ports such as Dutch Harbor to participate and benefit in the growing live crab markets.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Poulsen'.

Edward Poulsen, Member
GKC Holdings, LLC

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Enlow'.

Tom Enlow, President
Unisea, Inc.

Frank Kelty
43915 Via Granada
Palm Desert, CA 9221 1

January 29, 2020

Rep. Louise Stutes, Chair
House Fisheries Committee
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Subject: House Bill 203 Sponsored by Rep. Knopp

Dear Chair Stutes, and Members of the Fisheries Committee

My name is Frank Kelty, a 50-year resident of Unalaska/Dutch Harbor and I'm writing on behalf of myself today. I left Alaska in early January to my retirement home California. A short bio on my background, I have been involved in the Bering Sea Crab fisheries for many years. I have worked in Unalaska as seafood plant manager running crab and cod operations for 30 years. I have also served Unalaska as an elected official for 20 years serving as Mayor, City Council Member. I served as the chairmen of the ADFG Unalaska Advisory Committee for over 20 years and have served on many state and federal fishery related committees.

I write in support of HB 203; I believe this bill is a win win for all involved in developing a live crab market for low volume, high value species of Bering Sea King Crab and Tanner Crab species. I should point out to committee that live shipments of Aleutian Island Golden King Crab have been allowed for many years with much success. I believe if the shipping of these species live, will increase the value of this product, and will allow for the development of a new high-end markets for this product.

I don't see any impacts to local and state shared taxes as the crab will landed in Unalaska or other communities; at local processing plants and all fishery taxes will be paid and ADFG fish tickets recorded. I have concluded that there won't be impacts to local workforce, as processing workers will be working in packaging the crab for shipment, most the shipping will be sent out in containers so waterfront workforce won't be impacted.

In Closing; I urge the Fisheries Committee to move HB 203 out of Committee I believe that changing this legislation to allow the shipping of all King Crab, and Tanner crab species is in the best interest of the companies involved in developing this new market and for the State of Alaska in supporting increased economic development in fisheries.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'FKelty', with a long horizontal line extending to the right. The signature is positioned above the printed name 'Frank Kelty'.

Frank Kelty



January 29, 2020

The Honorable Representative Louise Stutes
Chair, House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Capitol
Rm 406
Juneau, AK. 99801

Re: HB 203 – Transportation of Live Crab

Dear Representative Stutes & Members of the Fisheries Committee:

On behalf of Lynden, I write in support of House Bill 203. Expanding the transportation of king crab, dungeness crab, and tanner crab from air freight only to surface transportation would allow Alaskan crab to reach new and underserved markets. This change will provide economic benefits to crab fishermen, the shoreside processing communities, the processing industry, and the transportation industry in Alaska.

Lynden provides both air and surface transportation throughout Alaska, and the seafood industry is a key economic driver for our economy. Providing transportation to the resource industry and expanding opportunity to markets is an excellent goal. We appreciate the Legislature looking at making Alaska open for business.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our support for HB 203.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Jansen".

Jim Jansen
Chairman, Lynden



January 28, 2020

The Honorable Representative Louise Stutes
Chair, House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Capitol
Rm 406
Juneau, AK. 99801

Re: HB 203 – Transportation of Live Crab

Dear Representative Stutes & Members of the Fisheries Committee:

On behalf of Ocean Beauty, I write in support of House Bill 203. Expanding the transportation of King crab, Dungeness crab, and Tanner crab from air freight only to surface transportation would allow Alaskan crab to reach markets that are currently underserved (or not yet served), and would also provide economic benefits to crab fishermen, the shoreside processing communities, the processing industry, and the state as a whole.

Ocean Beauty Seafoods operates five seafoods processing facilities throughout Alaska as well as fresh seafood distribution operating locations nationally. Ocean Beauty also specializes in frozen commodity sales, value added products, smoked salmon, as well as canned salmon and specialty caviar. Ocean Beauty has and will always take pride in its mission to provide the safest and wholesome quality sustainable seafood products for our customers.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our support for HB 203.

Sincerely,

Mark Palmer

Mark Palmer
President & CEO, Ocean Beauty Seafoods



Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

1008 Fish Creek Rd

Juneau, AK 99801

Email: seafa@gci.net

Phone: 907-586-6652

Cell Phone: 907-465-7666

Fax: 907-917-5470

Website: <http://www.seafa.org>

January 29, 2020

House Special Committee on Fisheries
Honorable Representative Louise Stutes, Chair
Alaska State Capital, Rm 120
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: HB 203 – SUPPORT FOR THE LIVE TRANSPORTATION OF LIVE CRAB

Dear Representative Stutes & Members of the Fisheries Committee,

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFA) supports HB which allows for the surface transportation of live crab as well as air transport. The legislation requires that the crab to be transported be landed in an Alaskan port in the State and recorded on a fish ticket while maintaining the protection of the public by not allowing live crab to be shipped if PSP testing is required.

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance is a multi-gear/multi-species non-profit commercial fishing association representing our 330+ members involved in the salmon, crab, shrimp and longline fisheries of Southeast Alaska.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hansen
Executive Director



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@ufafish.org **Website:** www.ufafish.org

January 14, 2020

Representative Gary Knopp
State Capitol Room 410
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Knopp,

United Fishermen of Alaska wants to express our support for your efforts in securing a bill that would allow for surface transportation of all species of live crab as laid out in AS 16.10.240.

As the current law stands, only Opilio Crab and Golden King Crab may be transported via ground and all other species must be sent live via air freight after pre-packaging. This has created a hindrance and cost burden for our commercial fishermen and processors.

We support the new language to include “all of these species may be shipped live via air freight or surface freight after pre-packaging, provided they have first been lawfully landed in an Alaskan port and recorded on a fish ticket.”

We thank you for your attention to this issue and offer our support.

Regards,

Matt Alward
President

Frances H. Leach
Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Scallop Association
Alaska Trollers Association • Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association • Armstrong Keta • At-sea Processors Association • Bristol Bay Fishermen's Association
Bristol Bay Reserve • Cape Barnabas, Inc. • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen • Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association • Cordova District Fishermen United
Douglas Island Pink and Chum • Fishing Vessel Owners Association • Freezer Longline Coalition • Golden King Crab Coalition • Groundfish Forum • Kenai
Peninsula Fishermen's Association • Kodiak Crab Alliance Cooperative • Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association • Kodiak Seiners Association • North Pacific
Fisheries Association • Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture
Corporation • Purse Seine Vessel Owner Association • Seafood Producers Cooperative • Southeast Alaska Herring Conservation Alliance
Southeast Alaska Fisherman's Alliance • Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners
Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • United Cook Inlet Drift Association • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters
Valdez Fisheries Development Association