

HJR

45

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: HJR 45
 (H) Publish Date: 3/6/02

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: None
 Title Salmon Labeling BRU _____
 Component _____
 Sponsor Rep. Kertula
 Requester Special Committee on Fisheries Component No. _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

FUND SOURCE	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: 0.0
 Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

Prepared by: Special Committee on Fisheries Phone 465-4925
 Division: Rep. Stevens, Committee Co-Chair Date/Time 3/5/02 1:35 PM
 Approved by: _____ Date 3/5/02
 Agency: _____



Representative Beth Kerttula

Alaska State Legislature, District 3
State Capitol • Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182 • (907) 465-4766 • Fax (907) 465-4748
E-mail: Representative_Beth_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us • <http://www.kerttula.net>

Sponsor Statement

HJR 45

"Relating to the labeling of salmon food products."

As Alaskans, we know that wild salmon is superior to farmed salmon – both in taste and nutritional value. However, other Americans may not know all of the differences. House Joint Resolution 45 supports the efforts by the U.S Congressional Delegation to require that salmon and salmon food products be labeled as farmed or wild salmon. With the glut of farmed salmon from countries such as Chile, the Alaska seafood industry has been faced with market challenges. Labeling will give American consumers the information they need to make intelligent choices about the food they eat. Along with informational programs regarding the health benefits of wild salmon, the label could become a viable marketing tool.

Amendments to the national Agriculture Bill, introduced by Senators Murkowski and Stevens, call for both country-of-origin labeling and "organic" classifications. Senator Murkowski has stated that "for over 70 years we have recognized that consumers have an important interest in knowing the origin of the goods they buy, whether it be a Taiwanese radio, a Venezuelan T-shirt or a canned ham from Denmark." HJR 45 supports the Alaska delegation's efforts to give Americans the right to know about what is in their food and where it came from. Thank you for your consideration of HJR 45.



Wild Alaska Salmon

Tuesday, February 19, 2002

Voice of the Times

A CONSERVATIVE VOICE FOR ALASKANS

WILLIAM J. TOBIN
Senior editor

LABELING LAW BOOSTS CHANCES FOR ...

Alaska seafood

ALASKA'S WILD seafood will get a valuable boost in the marketplace under a bill introduced by Sen. Frank Murkowski and passed by the U.S. Senate.

The measure will require that any seafood product sold at retail in the United States be labeled with its country of origin. That should be easy when it comes to canned or frozen products, but it isn't quite clear how the labeling would work when it comes to buying a whole fish over the counter. No matter the details, however, the objective is good — to put Alaska's seafood on an equal or better footing with fish caught or processed in foreign countries.

Most fresh and frozen U.S. products already are labeled with the state of origin, and under Murkowski's proposal consumers also will be able to make intelligent choices at the seafood counter. The Alaska "mystique" will become a viable marketing tool.

The bill also clears the way for wild-caught Alaska fish products — such as salmon — to be labeled "organic." That heads off an expected ruling by the National Organic Standards Board classifying pen-reared fish as organic, but not wild salmon.

The board's thinking, if you could call it that, is that since wild salmon roam the world's oceans, you couldn't tell where they had been or what they had eaten. Murkowski scoffed at their concerns. "What could be more natural than fish swimming in the ocean?" he asked.

The labeling requirement corrects an inequity faced by seafood products. "American consumers have come to expect ready access to information about where the goods they buy come from," Murkowski said. "They already know whether a T-shirt comes from Venezuela, a radio from Taiwan, or a canned ham from Denmark."



Senate panel approves fish labeling

RETAIL: Consumers will know origin of salmon, other perishables if bill becomes law.

(Published: December 6, 2001)

Juneau -- Alaska fishermen won a victory Tuesday when the U.S. Senate Finance Committee approved a provision that would force retailers to label foreign seafood products to show country of origin.

If the measure becomes law, consumers in America would be able to distinguish Chilean salmon from fish harvested in the United States, said Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, the sponsor of the provision.

The measure, which also applies to perishable agricultural goods, would give Alaska fishermen more tools to compete with seafood imports, which have undercut Alaska seafood sales, Murkowski said.

"For over 70 years we have recognized that consumers have an important interest in knowing the origin of the goods they buy, whether it be a Taiwanese radio, a Venezuelan T-shirt or a canned ham from Denmark," he said. "This will simply extend the concept to salmon steaks, tomatoes or grapes."

Under the provision, retailers would have to label, stamp or place a placard clearly identifying the country of origin at the time of retail sale, Murkowski said. Retailers would be allowed to identify the state of origin in American products, meaning a fillet labeled Chilean salmon might have to compete against a fillet labeled Alaska salmon.

The provision was added to a trade bill that still must pass the full Senate and House.

H.R.2646

Agriculture, Conservation, and Rural Enhancement Act of 2002 (Public Print)

SEC. 1001. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING.

The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

Subtitle D--Country of Origin Labeling

SEC. 281. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) **BEEF**- The term beef means meat produced from cattle (including veal).

(2) **COVERED COMMODITY**-

(A) **IN GENERAL**- The term covered commodity means--

(i) muscle cuts of beef, lamb, and pork;

(ii) ground beef, ground lamb, and ground pork;

(iii) farm-raised fish;

(iv) wild fish;

(v) a perishable agricultural commodity; and

(vi) peanuts.

(B) **EXCLUSIONS**- The term covered commodity does not include--

(i) processed beef, lamb, and pork food items; and

(ii) frozen entrees containing beef, lamb, and pork.

(3) **FARM-RAISED FISH**- The term farm-raised fish includes--

(A) farm-raised shellfish; and

(B) fillets, steaks, nuggets, and any other flesh from farm-raised fish or shellfish.

(4) **FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT**- The term food service establishment means a restaurant, cafeteria, lunch room, food stand, saloon, tavern, bar, lounge, or other similar facility operated as an enterprise engaged in the business of selling food to the public.

(5) **LAMB**- The term lamb means meat, other than mutton, produced from sheep.

(6) **PERISHABLE AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY; RETAILER**- The terms perishable agricultural commodity and retailer have the meanings given the terms in section 1(b) of the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, 1930 (7 U.S.C. 499a(b)).

(7) **PORK**- The term pork means meat produced from hogs.

(8) **SECRETARY**- The term Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Agricultural Marketing Service.

(9) WILD FISH-

(A) IN GENERAL- The term wild fish means naturally-born or hatchery-raised fish and shellfish harvested in the wild.

(B) INCLUSIONS- The term wild fish includes a fillet, steak, nugget, and any other flesh from wild fish or shellfish.

(C) EXCLUSIONS- The term wild fish excludes net-pen aquacultural or other farm-raised fish.

SEC. 282. NOTICE OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.

(a) IN GENERAL-

(1) REQUIREMENT- Except as provided in subsection (b), a retailer of a covered commodity shall inform consumers, at the final point of sale of the covered commodity to consumers, of the country of origin of the covered commodity.

(2) UNITED STATES COUNTRY OF ORIGIN- A retailer of a covered commodity may designate the covered commodity as having a United States country of origin only if the covered commodity--

(A) in the case of beef, lamb, and pork, is exclusively from an animal that is exclusively born, raised, and slaughtered in the United States;

(B) in the case of farm-raised fish, is hatched, raised, harvested, and processed in the United States;

(C) in the case of wild fish, is--

(i) harvested in waters of the United States, a territory of the United States, or a State; and

(ii) processed in the United States, a territory of the United States, or a State, including the waters thereof; and

(D) in the case of a perishable agricultural commodities or peanut, is exclusively produced in the United States.

(3) WILD FISH AND FARM-RAISED FISH- The notice of country of origin for wild fish and farm-raised fish shall distinguish between wild fish and farm-raised fish.

(b) EXEMPTION FOR FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS- Subsection (a) shall not apply to a covered commodity if the covered commodity is--

(1) prepared or served in a food service establishment; and

(2) (A) offered for sale or sold at the food service establishment in normal retail quantities; or

(B) served to consumers at the food service establishment.

(c) METHOD OF NOTIFICATION-

(1) IN GENERAL- The information required by subsection (a) may be provided to consumers by means of a label, stamp, mark, placard, or other clear and visible sign on the covered commodity or on the package, display, holding unit, or bin containing the commodity at the final point of sale to consumers.

- (2) **LABELED COMMODITIES**- If the covered commodity is already individually labeled for retail sale regarding country of origin, the retailer shall not be required to provide any additional information to comply with this section.
- (d) **AUDIT VERIFICATION SYSTEM**- The Secretary may require that any person that prepares, stores, handles, or distributes a covered commodity for retail sale maintain a verifiable recordkeeping audit trail that will permit the Secretary to ensure compliance with the regulations promulgated under section 284.
- (e) **INFORMATION**- Any person engaged in the business of supplying a covered commodity to a retailer shall provide information to the retailer indicating the country of origin of the covered commodity.
- (f) **CERTIFICATION OF ORIGIN**-
- (1) **MANDATORY IDENTIFICATION**- The Secretary shall not use a mandatory identification system to verify the country of origin of a covered commodity.
- (2) **EXISTING CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS**- To certify the country of origin of a covered commodity, the Secretary may use as a model certification programs in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, including--
- (A) the carcass grading and certification system carried out under this Act;
- (B) the voluntary country of origin beef labeling system carried out under this Act;
- (C) voluntary programs established to certify certain premium beef cuts;
- (D) the origin verification system established to carry out the child and adult care food program established under section 17 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766); or
- (E) the origin verification system established to carry out the market access program under section 203 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5623).

SEC. 283. ENFORCEMENT.

- (a) **IN GENERAL**- Except as provided in subsection (b), section 253 shall apply to a violation of this subtitle.
- (b) **WARNINGS**- If the Secretary determines that a retailer is in violation of section 282, the Secretary shall--
- (1) notify the retailer of the determination of the Secretary; and
- (2) provide the retailer a 30-day period, beginning on the date on which the retailer receives the notice under paragraph (1) from the Secretary, during which the retailer may take necessary steps to comply with section 282.
- (c) **FINES**- If, on completion of the 30-day period described in subsection (c)(2), the Secretary determines that the retailer has willfully violated section 282, after providing notice and an opportunity for a hearing before the Secretary with respect to the violation, the Secretary may fine the retailer in an amount determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 284. REGULATIONS.

- (a) **IN GENERAL**- The Secretary may promulgate such regulations as are necessary to carry out this subtitle.

- (b) PARTNERSHIPS WITH STATES- In promulgating the regulations, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, enter into partnerships with States with enforcement infrastructure to carry out this subtitle.

SEC. 285. APPLICATION.

This subtitle shall apply to the retail sale of a covered commodity beginning on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subtitle.

SEC. 1055. WILD FISH AND WILD SHELLFISH.

Section 2104 of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6503) is amended-

- (1) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and
- (2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) WILD FISH AND WILD SHELLFISH-

(1) IN GENERAL- Notwithstanding section 2107(a)(1), the Secretary may allow, through regulations promulgated after public notice and opportunity for comment, wild fish or wild shellfish harvested from salt water to be certified or labeled as organic.

(2) CONSULTATION AND ACCOMMODATION- In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall--

(A) consult with--

- (i) the Secretary of Commerce;
- (ii) the National Organic Standards Board established under section 2119;
- (iii) producers, processors, and sellers; and
- (iv) other interested members of the public; and

(B) to the maximum extent practicable, accommodate the unique characteristics of the industries in the United States that harvest and process wild fish and shellfish.”



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Press Releases

**ALASKA IN THE NEWS**

May 17, 2000

Release 00129

**ORGANIC LABEL FITS ALASKA WILD SALMON
Knowles Supports Certification in Letter to Agriculture Secretary**

Touting Alaska's strict protection of water quality and sustainable fishery management system, Gov. Tony Knowles has again urged the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to certify Alaska wild salmon as organic. It's the latest effort by the governor to help the Alaska seafood industry participate in the fast growing market for organic foods.

"Up to 60 percent of the total U.S. production of seafood is from Alaska's clean, pristine waters," Knowles said in a letter today to Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman. "Alaska is the only state in the nation with a constitutional mandate for conservation and sustainability of natural resources. Furthermore, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's in-season fisheries management system is widely recognized as a model for sustainable fisheries worldwide."

Designation of Alaska wild salmon as organic is seen as important since the trade for certified organic protein products, including seafood, is growing at a rate of between 15 percent and 25 percent. Overall seafood consumption in the United States in 1998, nearly four billion pounds, has grown at an annual rate of just 1.9 percent since 1980.

The \$1.2 billion seafood industry is Alaska's largest private sector employer comprised of many small businesses, including over 50,000 fishermen and 700 processors.

Alaska opposed the USDA's first proposed organic regulations in 1998 because wild seafood was essentially excluded. Since then, the state has worked closely with USDA and members of the National Organic Standards Board to show how Alaska seafood fits the intent and approach of the Organic Food Production Act.

"In the intervening two years, respected private organic groups have certified two Alaska seafood processors, Prime Select Seafoods and Capiliano Pacific," Knowles said. "These certifications open up critical new markets for Alaskans living in rural and very isolated communities who participate in the sustainable harvest of wild seafood as their primary economic activity."

Knowles' letter to Glickman was submitted in response to a request from the USDA for public comment on the organic labeling of seafood, and was accompanied by 50 pages of technical comments prepared by various state agencies.

##

Contact:Bob King, Press Secretary, (907) 465-3995Claire Richardson, Deputy Press Secretary, (907) 465-3996

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WWW.GOV.STATE.AK.US

Cordova District Fishermen United

Celebrating 65 Years of Service to Commercial Fishermen in Cordova, Alaska

P.O. Box 939 Cordova, Alaska 99574 / phone (907) 424-3447 / fax (907) 424-3430 /

e-mail cdfu@ptialaska.net

March 2, 2002

House Fisheries Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3101)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

SENT VIA FACSIMILE TO 907.465.3517

RE: HJR 45 - Relating to the Labeling of Salmon Food Products

Dear Members,

Cordova District Fishermen United represents the fishing fleets of Area E—the Copper River and Prince William Sound.

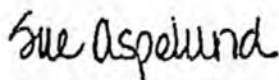
We are pleased to support HJR 45, which in turn supports the efforts of Alaska's Congressional delegation to require labeling of farmed fish products. The huge growth in the production and importation of farmed fish products that compete with Alaska's wild salmon is severely impacting the viability of Alaska's fishing families, our processors, and our fisheries-dependent communities, and the State economy.

Additionally, consumers have a right to know where the food they purchase comes from and what is in it.

An effort to require farmed fish producers to label their products as such will help differentiate farmed from wild for consumers, and support Alaskan's efforts to educate consumers about the benefits of buying healthy, sustainable, wild Alaskan salmon.

We appreciate your support of this resolution.

Sincerely,



Sue Aspelund
Executive Director

cc: Representative Beth Kerttula



P.O. Box 762 • Kodiak • AK • 99615
Phone: (907) 486-8899 • Fax: (907) 486-7058 • Email: kodiak@unitedsalmon.org

Alaska Fishermen Support Salmon Labeling

Kodiak - The United Salmon Association today voiced support for legislation that would require labeling of salmon that is farmed in floating net-cages. The bill would also require country of origin labeling for all retail fisheries products. These measures are contained in the Farm Bill recently passed by the U.S. Senate.

"Consumers have a right to see this information at the retail counter because it affects their health," said USA president and fisherman Bruce Schactler.

USA supports the proposed requirements because of the significant differences between Alaskan wild salmon and farmed salmon. Unlike farmed salmon, Alaska salmon are not fed color additives, or treated with antibiotics, pesticides or fungicides.

The group maintains that the consumer has the right to know what they are buying and that wild-caught Alaska salmon are a vastly superior product. Schactler cited numerous studies showing that farmed salmon have increasingly high levels of cholesterol, depending on ingredients in their feed pellets. The quality and composition of the feed also affects the amount of health-enhancing Omega-3 essential fatty acid levels in salmon. Levels of Omega-3s in farmed salmon are lower than their wild counterpart, and are expected to be reduced even further as grains and vegetables replace fish oil and meal in their feed pellets.

Schactler further pointed to a recently published study in the scientific journal *Chemosphere* showing that the manufactured feed pellets and flesh of farmed salmon contain unsafe levels of PCBs and organochlorine pesticides.

Currently most salmon is sold without differentiation between farmed and wild. This makes it almost impossible for educated consumers to distinguish wild salmon from farmed salmon in their supermarkets. Under the new law, all U.S. markets will be required to label seafood indicating whether it is farm-raised or wild-caught, as well as the country of origin.

"For salmon harvesters and their families, this identifies the products that they are proud to bring to the public. It is similar to organic vs. non-organic labeling," said Schactler. He scoffed at retailer claims that it is too expensive and inconvenient to properly label fish. "If they can stick on the price, they can stick on what it is and where it came from."

The United Salmon Association is a fishermen's marketing association representing nearly 1,000 Alaskan salmon fishermen.

Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association
403 Lincoln St., Ste. 237
Sitka, AK 99835

March 2, 2002

Representative Kerttula
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Kerttula,

I am writing on behalf of the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association's (ALFA) approximately 100 members to express our support for HJR 45, An Act relating to the labeling of salmon food products.

ALFA members recognize the health benefits of Alaska's seafood, and believe consumers will be well served by a labeling system that requires "farmed" and "wild" salmon to be identified as distinctly different. Farmed salmon do not provide the same health benefits as wild salmon, and pose both an environmental and a resource threat. As American consumers become more health conscious and better educated about the environmental impacts associated with farmed salmon, they will demand to know the origin of the seafood products they are purchasing. HJR 45 anticipates this demand, providing a valuable and essential service.

HJR 45 will also provide badly needed marketing assistance to Alaska's salmon industry. Given the current crisis in salmon marketing, the Act is extremely timely and should be approved expeditiously. Many ALFA members participate in the salmon fisheries, along with the sablefish and halibut fisheries, and will directly benefit from the enhanced market recognition offered by this Act. Although members support the Act as written, may we suggest that it be expanded, or a companion act introduced, requiring sablefish and halibut to be labeled as wild and organic. Although farmed sablefish and halibut are not yet a threat, they are likely to become one in the future. Building consumer recognition now would ensure that Alaska's wild fish retain market share despite expansion of the farmed seafood industry.

In closing, ALFA supports HJR 45, and appreciates your introduction of this Act. We will help in any way possible to ensure its approval during this Legislative session.

Sincerely,



Linda Behnken
(Executive director, ALFA)

4/18/02 10:00 AM



P.O. Box 762 • Kodiak • AK • 99615
Phone: (907) 486-8899 • Fax: (907) 486-7058 • Email: kodiak@unitedsalmon.org

March 1, 2002

Representative Beth Kerttula
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Beth;

Thank you for sponsoring HJR 45, supporting our U.S. Congressional Delegation in their efforts to procure labeling standards for salmon sold in the domestic market.

The United Salmon Association fervently supports this measure, which would give the Alaskan salmon industry a leg up as it works to educate salmon consumers about the differences between a wild-caught fish and a farm-raised fish. Consumer education about the benefits wild-caught fish will be an important cornerstone in successful marketing of Alaska salmon in the future, and the language contained in the U.S. Senate's Farm Bill will provide us with an invaluable tool in that effort.

By passing HJR 45, the Legislature would be placing the strength of the state of Alaska behind these efforts and sending a strong message of support to the fishermen and policymakers who are striving to assure that Alaska's salmon industry will flourish for years into the future.

Thank you for your support on this front.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thom Wischer".

Thom Wischer
Chairman
USA/Kodiak



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

211 Fourth Street, Suite 110
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1172
(907) 586-2820
(907) 463-2545 Fax
E-Mail: ufa@ufa-fish.org
www.ufa-fish.org

March 1, 2002

Representative Beth Kerttula
House of Representatives
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Kerttula,

Re: HJR 45 Salmon Labeling

United Fishermen of Alaska supports passage of this resolution to urge the U.S. Congress to require that finfish be labeled as having been farm raised using antibiotics, dyes, and/or chemicals, or as wildfish. The U.S. Senate has passed a "Farm Bill" which contains the provisions we seek on labeling requirements. This labeling requirement will not only serve as a health and safety notice, it will also serve as a marketing tool to help distinguish wild Alaska salmon. This resolution could be very timely as the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives work out their "Farm Bill" differences in conference.

The twenty-nine members groups of UFA would appreciate your support in passing this bill.

If you have any questions about our position or if you need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Gemmell
Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Trollers Association • Alaska Processors Association • Bristol Bay Packers
Chignik Regional Aquaculture Association • Conchinnit Area "M" Fishermen • Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association
Copper River Salmon Producers Association • Crowe District Fishermen United • Douglas Island Park and Clam
Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association • Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association • Kodiak Seiners Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association
Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • Old Harbor Fisherman's Association • Petersburg Vessel Owners Association
Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation • Pure Gene Vessel Owners Association • Sealard Producers Cooperative
Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fishermen's Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners Association • Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
Unimuk Cook Inlet Drift Association • United Salmon Association • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters

United Cook Inlet Drift Association
Kenai, Alaska

March 4, 2002

House Special Committee on Fisheries
House Labor and Commerce Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

Chairman and committee members,

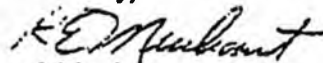
We at United Cook Inlet Drift Association would appreciate the full support of the Alaska legislature toward approval of HJR 45.

Country-of-origin labeling will serve an important purpose by allowing consumers world wide to make informed decisions as to what they are buying and where it came from. Such labeling will prevent unscrupulous jobbers and salesman from substituting inferior products for superior products and, thus, duping the uninformed consumer.

Product labeling will fit nicely with ours and ASMI's efforts to educate the public about the fact that Alaska produces only "wild salmon." If it says "Alaska" it has to be wild.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,


Bob Merchant
President UCIDA



Southeast Alaska Seiners

RECEIVED

MAR 04 2002

March 4, 2002

Representative Peggy Wilson
Chair, House Special Committee
On Fisheries
State Capital (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

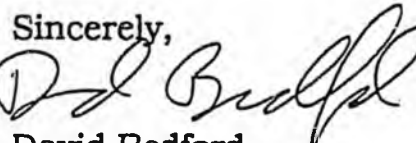
Dear Chairwoman Wilson,

I am writing on behalf of Southeast Alaska Seiners (SEAS), an organization representing over 300 commercial fishermen, to express support for House Joint Resolution 45.

HJR 45 puts the Alaska Legislature on record supporting the efforts of our congressional delegation to secure legislation requiring the labeling of farmed and wild salmon food products. At present the Alaska commercial salmon industry faces a serious downturn in its prospects largely due to intense competition from the salmon farming industry in Chile and Norway. The federal labeling legislation supported by HJR 45 will help the Alaskan commercial fishing community to differentiate our state's natural salmon from the domesticated fish produced by foreign salmon farmers and thereby help Alaskans market the advantages that our salmon offer to the consumer.

SEAS asks that you support HJR 45.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

David Bedford
Executive Director



United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters
PO Box 22427
Juneau, Alaska 99802
(907) 586-5860
E-mail: usag@gci.net

March 2, 2002

Representative Beth Kerttula
Alaska State Legislature, District 3
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RECEIVED

MAR 04 2002

Dear Representative Kerttula:

This letter is to offer the support of the United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters (USAG) for approval of House Joint Resolution 45, which you recently introduced.

From your letter to us and the included copy of HJR45, we understand that the main thrust of the resolution is to support the efforts by the Alaska congressional delegation to require labeling of farmed and wild salmon food products.

We applaud your efforts and those of law makers at the state and federal levels to inform and educate the consumer to the benefits of eating Alaska salmon.

Be assured that USAG will actively work with you to gain approval of HJR45. Thank you for letting us participate in your efforts to help the Alaska salmon industry.

Sincerely,
Jim Becker
Jim Becker

USAG Board Secretary