

HJR

32

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 2/18/04

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 3-2-04

Resources Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 32(FSH) am

HJR 32 LABELING OF SALMON FOOD PRODUCTS

Relating to the labeling of fish and fishery food products.

and recommends:

- be replaced with _____ CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous _____ CS HJR 32 _____ (HJR 32)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by _____ Committee
- further referral to _____ Committee

Senate Bill:

- Same Title
- New Title

House Bill:

- Same Title
- Technical Title Change
- New Title w/ SCR # _____

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	Indet.	FN#
F&G	3/2/04		✓		

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	Indet.	FN#
DEC	1/23/04		✓		1

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	Do PASS	Do NOT PASS	No REC	AMEND
<i>Carol Velonis</i>	✓			
<i>George Lincoln</i>	✓			
<i>Paul ...</i>	✓			
<i>...</i>	✓			
<i>...</i>	✓			
CHAIR: <i>Scott Green</i>	✓			

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: HJR 32
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Fish and Game
 Title Labeling of Salmon Food Products RDU _____
 Component _____
 Sponsor Representative Kerttula
 Requester Senate Resources Component No. _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
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)

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 (FY2004) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2005 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Passage of this legislation would have no fiscal impact.

Prepared by: Sarah Gilbertson, Legislative Liaison
 Division: Alaska Department of Fish & Game
 Approved by: Commissioner Kevin Duffy
 Agency: Alaska Department of Fish & Game

Phone 465-6137
 Date/Time 3/2/04 4:08 PM
 Date 3/2/2004

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: CSHJR 32(FSH)
 (H) Publish Date: 2/4/04

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Environmental Conservation
 Title Labeling of salmon and salmon food products RDU Environmental Health
 Component Food Safety and Sanitation
 Sponsor Rep Kerttula
 Requester (H) Fisheries, Labor and Commerce Component No. 2343

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1037 GF/Mental Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2004) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2005 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Part-time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill will have no known fiscal impact upon the department.

Prepared by: Kristin Ryan, Director
 Division: Environmental Health
 Approved by: Kurt Fredriksson, Deputy Commissioner
 Agency: Department of Environmental Conservation

Phone (907) 269-7644
 Date/Time 1/28/04 4:22 PM
 Date 1/28/2004



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>

Date: February 19, 2004

To: Senator Scott Ogan
Senate Resources

From: Representative Beth Kerttula *Beth*

Re: House Joint Resolution 32, Labeling of Salmon Food Products

I respectfully request that House Joint Resolution 32 be scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Resources Committee.

Attached you will find:

- Bill
- Previous Versions
- Sponsor statement
- Fiscal Note
- Copy of letters of support



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 32

"Relating to the labeling of fish and fishery food products"

As Alaskans, we know that wild fish is superior to farmed fish, both in taste and nutritional value. We also know that farmed fish poses serious health risks because of the manner in which they are raised. Other Americans have recently become more aware of this. However, it can be difficult to tell whether the fish you are buying in a grocery store is farm raised or wild caught. Clearly labeling fish would provide consumers with the information they need to make healthy choices when buying fish in the marketplace. House Joint Resolution 32 supports efforts to clearly label fish as wild or farmed and include a country of origin. Thank you for your consideration.



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

January 30, 2004

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

Representative Beth Kerttula
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (Mail stop 3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Kerttula,

United Fishermen of Alaska supports HJR 32 regarding the labeling of salmon as wild and farmed, and as to country of origin. UFA has long supported the country of origin labeling of seafood in all product forms, and we also recognize the importance of differentiating Alaska's salmon as "wild" in consideration of the recent study referred to in HJR 32. In illustration I offer my experience:

This summer (2003) I noticed that the Juneau Fred Meyer supermarket had intermixed cans of Bumble Bee from Alaska with very similar cans labeled "Product of Thailand" in fine print (1/16th inch tall). The label said "FOR INQUIRIES CONCERNING PRODUCT INCLUDE NUMBER SHOWN ON CAN END / VISIT US AT www.bumblebee.com" (see attached label photocopies). In response to my inquiry I found that this second can was Russian salmon, canned in Mexico. I have no idea how Thailand is involved and suspect in this regard it is mislabeled. As a consumer I have a high opinion of Alaska salmon based on our environmental and quality standards and management for sustainable fisheries. I have far less confidence in the related standards in today's Russia.

I am sorry to report that this supermarket now only has the "Product of Thailand" Bumble Bee 6 oz. cans on their shelf. As a consumer I need to clearly know where my salmon comes from, and whether it is of farmed or wild origin. In light of the recent study and current economic hardship facing Alaska's salmon fishermen, it is essential that consumers nationwide be made aware of the product they are buying through adequate labeling.

United Fishermen of Alaska represents 33 Alaska Commercial fishing organizations and hundreds of individual fishermen and fishing related businesses, altogether representing over 10,000 Alaska fishermen. We support HJR 32 and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark D. Vinsel
Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Crab Coalition • Alaska Druggers Association • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Trollers Association • Armstrong Kala • At-sea Processors Association
Bristol Bay Reserve • Chignik Regional Aquaculture Association • Chignik Seiners Association • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen • Cordova District Fishermen United
Crab Rationalization and Buyback Group • Douglas Island Pink and Chum • Groundfish Forum • Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association • Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association
Kodiak Seiners Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association • Northern Pacific Scallop Cooperative • Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
Old Harbor Fishermen's Association • Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation • Purse Seine Vessel Owners Association
Seafood Producers Cooperative • Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners Association • Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
United Catcher Boats • United Salmon Association • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters • Valdez Fisheries Development Association • Western Gull of Alaska Fishermen

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FOLLOWING
DOCUMENT(S)
ARE
POOR
ORIGINAL
COPIES



0 866783 7

Premium Quality



U

INGREDIENTS: PINK SALMON, WATER, SALT, SODIUM TRIPOLYPHOSPHATE.

Write for free recipes or visit us at www.bumblebee.com

DISTRIBUTED BY:
BUMBLE BEE SEAFOODS
SAN DIEGO, CA 92186
AN INTERNATIONAL HOME FOODS COMPANY
PRODUCT OF ALASKA, U.S.A.

NET WT 6 OZ (170g)

Nutrition Facts					
Amount/Serving		%DV*	Amount/Serving		%DV*
Serving Size 2 oz. drained (56g/about 1/4 cup) Servings about 2.5					
Total Fat 2g			Total Carb. 0g		0%
Sat. Fat 0g		3%	Dietary Fiber 0g		0%
Cholest. 40mg		0%	Sugar 0g		0%
Sodium 220mg		13%	Protein 14g		25%
* Percent Daily Values (DV) are based on a 2,000 calorie diet.					
Vitamin A 0% • Vitamin C 0% • Calcium 0% • Iron 2%					

Alaska

Salmon, showed shelf space, then later displaced (summer 2003 - present) by

Russian, canned in Mexico



0 866983 5

Premium Quality



CHUNK STYLE PINK SALMON IN WATER

NET WT 6 OZ (170g)

Premium Quality

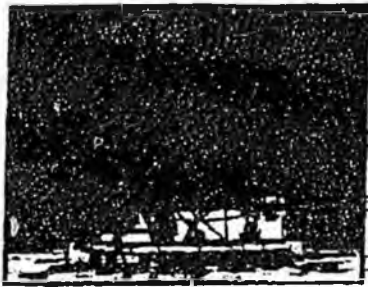


CHUNK STYLE PINK SALMON IN WATER

Nutrition Facts					
Amount/Serving		%DV*	Amount/Serving		%DV*
Serv. Size 2oz drained (56g - about 1/4 cup) Servings about 2.5					
Total Fat 1.0g		2%	Total Carb. 0g		0%
Sat Fat 0g		0%	Fiber 0g		0%
Cholest. 20mg		7%	Sugars 0g		
Sodium 150mg		6%	Protein 11g		
* Percent Daily Values (DV) are based on a 2,000 calorie diet.					
Vitamin A 0% • Vitamin C 0% • Calcium 0% • Iron 0%					

INGREDIENTS: PINK SALMON, WATER, SALT
CONTAINS: FEED
DISTRIBUTED BY:
ConAgra Foods
SAN DIEGO, CA 92114
A PRODUCT OF THAILAND
FOR IMPROVED CONSUMER SERVICE
PLEASE CONTACT US AT 1-800-4-A-GRAND
VISIT US AT www.conagra.com

Fred Meyer supermarket - Juneau
Mark Vins
UFA



Alaska Trollers Association

130 Seward St., No. 211
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 586-9400
(907) 586-4473 Fax

February 6, 2004

Representative Hugh Fate, Chair
House Resources
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: HJR 32

Dear Representative Fate and Committee Members:

The Alaska Trollers Association (ATA) supports HJR 32, which seeks to label seafood products for specific purposes.

ATA strongly supports the labeling of seafood products to distinguish between wild and farmed fish, to identify the country of origin, to inform consumers that chemical additives have been used, or the product has been genetically modified (GM) and/or GM products have been used in its production.

Over the last few years many issues have come to light resulting in questions for consumers regarding wholesomeness and the environmental and social consequences of farmed fish production. Many folks are beginning to make the distinction between farmed and wild.

We believe consumers deserve information about where their food comes from and how it's produced. Labeling laws are being developed around the country and here in Alaska to serve this purpose. From there it is the buyers choice what to purchase, we just believe they deserve that choice.

Thanks so much for your ongoing support of Alaska's seafood industry. Please let me know if I can assist the committee in any way.

Best Regards,

Dale Kelley
Executive Director

**United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters**

P.O. Box 23378, Ketchikan, AK 99901 Phone & Fax (907) 247-2471

Email: usag@gci.net

January 28, 2004

The Honorable Beth Kerttula
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 430
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Send Via Fax To: 465-4748

Dear Representative Kerttula:

The United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters Association (USAG) represents about 150 small business owners who catch salmon by drift gillnetting in Southeast Alaska and market salmon throughout the United States. Many of our members participate in other fisheries such as crab, shrimp, longline, and dive fisheries.

USAG has consistently supported the federal Country of Origin Labeling legislation and we strongly support HJR 32 which asks for the implementation of this program. We believe the American consumer needs to know what they are being offered on the grocery store shelves and where it comes from. We also believe that when the consumer has this information, they will choose Alaska wild salmon as the highest quality product available instead of farmed salmon from other countries. This program is one of the best ways we can differentiate our Alaska wild salmon, and other home grown U.S. products in general, in our domestic market place as well as helping to protect our export markets. We believe the requirement to accurately label salmon products is a vital step in helping to restore our wild salmon industry.

Representative Kerttula, USAG appreciates your development and introduction of this resolution and supports you and your co-sponsors efforts to assure accurate labeling for the American consumer.

Yours truly,

Kenneth Duckett
Executive Director

cc: Representative Seaton
Chair, House Fisheries Committee Fax 465-3472



Cordova District Fishermen United

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

JANUARY 27, 2004.

REPRESENTATIVE BETH KERTTULA
STATE CAPITOL RM 430
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182

RE: HJR 32

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE KERTTULA: CO-SPONSORS.

CORDOVA DISTRICT FISHERMEN UNITED (C.D. F. U.),
REPRESENTING THE FISHING FLEET OF AREA E, IS WRITING IN SUPPORT OF
HJR 32, ALSO KNOWN AS THE C.O.O.L. RESOLUTION.

THIS RESOLUTION WILL PROVIDE CONSUMERS WITH INFORMATION TO
MAKE INFORMED CHOICES WHEN BUYING SALMON OR PRODUCTS
CONTAINING SALMON. IT IS THE FISHING INDUSTRY'S BELIEF THAT, GIVEN A
CHOICE, CONSUMERS WILL CHOOSE NATURALLY HEALTHY WILD SALMON
OVER FARMED PRODUCT. THIS WILL BENEFIT NOT ONLY THE ALASKA
FISHERMEN BUT ALSO THE CONSUMER WHO CAN BE CONFIDENT THAT THEY
ARE FEEDING THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES THE BEST AVAILABLE
PROTEIN ON THE MARKET.

C.D.F.U. THANKS YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION ON HJR 32.

WITH REGARDS,

PAGE HERRING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CORDOVA DISTRICT FISHERMEN UNITED

CC:

D. ILSTROM, GUTTENBERG, LYNN, CISSNA, CHENAULT, SEATON, KAPSNER, KOTT, HEINZE,
MCGUIRE, MEYER, CROFT, GRUENBERG, KOOKESH



February 2, 2004

Representative Beth Kerttula
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support for HJR 32

Dear Representative Kerttula:

I would like to add the support of the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC) to HJR 32 that relates to the labeling of salmon and salmon food products as to their place of origin.

As the largest non-profit salmon ocean ranching organization in our state, PWSAC encourages any effort which will help consumers identify the superior product caught in our Alaskan waters. The recent study referenced to in your resolution only supports what we have suspected all along—farmed salmon is not good for the consumer and doesn't compare with the health benefits of our wild Alaska salmon.

Alaska has been very successful in achieving the goal of enhancing our wild salmon fisheries. Our wild stocks are healthy and abundant. It is our hope that as consumers become educated on the possible health risks associated with farmed salmon, sales of wild Alaskan salmon will increase in the domestic and foreign markets. The attempt by our congressional delegation to require labeling as to the place of origin on salmon products will greatly help in this effort.

Thank you for introducing HCR 32, and please contact me if you require any further assistance from PWSAC or myself.

Sincerely,



Dave Reggiani
General Manager

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AQUACULTURE CORPORATION
 Corporate Office • P. O. Box 1110, Cordova, AK 99574
 Office: 907/424-7511 • Fax: 907/424-7514
 Website: www.ctcak.net/~pwsac • Email: pwsac@ctcak.net



175 SOUTH FRANKLIN STREET, SUITE 418 JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801 907.586.4050 WWW.OCEANA.ORG

January 30, 2004

The Honorable Beth Kerttula
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 430
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Kerttula:

Thank you for introducing House Joint Resolution 32 (HJR32), a resolution relating to the labeling of salmon and salmon food products. Oceana, a global non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring the health of the world's oceans, strongly supports this resolution.

We believe that consumers have a right to know the source of the seafood they are considering purchasing. In particular, and in light of the recent article in *Science* showing that farmed salmon carry a heavier toxic burden than wild caught fish, and other recent findings on contaminants in fish, we strongly back the provisions of the resolution that support mandatory labeling of salmon food products as wild or farmed and with the place of origin.

Alaska's salmon fisheries are crucial to our economy and to a sustainable existence. Labeling wild Alaska salmon is a win-win situation all around. It is good for the health of American consumers in that it allows them to make informed choices about their seafood selections. It is good for Alaska and will help us maintain a strong market for the vibrant fisheries that are so important to our livelihoods and economy. Additionally, it is good for the environment. It is well documented that salmon farms are a source of pollution and allow for foreign invasive Atlantic salmon to escape into Pacific waters. There is no substitute for healthy wild Alaska salmon.

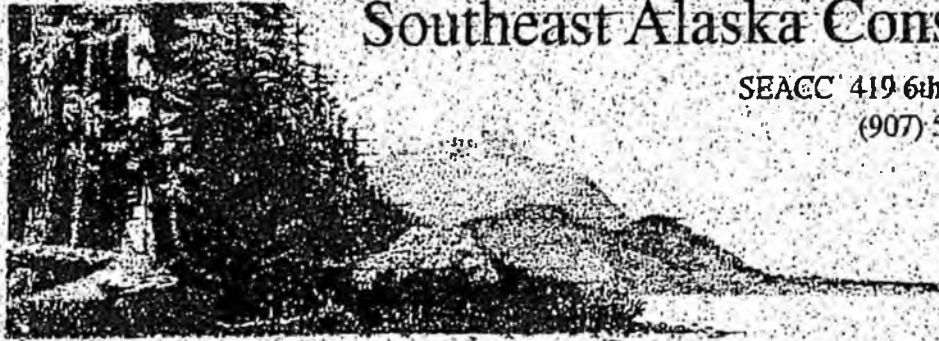
Oceana fully supports HJR 32. This resolution supports the long-term viability of our critically important salmon fisheries. Thank you for supporting Alaska's fishermen and environment.

Sincerely,

Jim Ayers
Director, Pacific Region



CHLORINE BLEACH FREE



Southeast Alaska Conservation Council

SEACC 419 6th Street, Suite 200, Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 586-6942 phone • (907) 463-3312 fax
www.seacc.org • info@seacc.org

January 28, 2004

Representative Beth Kerttula
State Capitol, Room 430
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Sent by fax to: 907-465-4748

Re: House Joint Resolution No. 32, Relating to the labeling of salmon and salmon-food products

Dear Representative Kerttula:

The Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (SEACC) wholeheartedly backs House Joint Resolution 32 as introduced on January 20, 2004, which supports efforts to require labeling salmon as wild or farmed and identifying its country of origin.

Founded in 1970, SEACC is a grassroots coalition of 18 volunteer, non-profit conservation groups made up of local citizens in 14 Southeast Alaska communities that stretch from Ketchikan to Yakutat. SEACC's individual members include commercial fishermen; Alaskan Natives, small timber operators, hunters and guides, and Alaskans from all walks of life. SEACC is dedicated to preserving the integrity of Southeast Alaska's unsurpassed natural environment while providing for balanced, sustainable uses of our region's resources.

Wild Alaska salmon has long been key to the health and vitality of Alaska's economy and its residents. Ninety percent of the wild salmon caught in the United States is harvested in Alaskan waters. Alaska's salmon fishing industry does not include fish farms, but is composed entirely of fishermen, processors, and business owners who depend on wild-caught salmon. By purchasing wild salmon, consumers support small, locally-owned businesses over large fish farming operations, many of which are located in Europe and South America.

Alaska's wild salmon fishery is one of just six fisheries worldwide—and the only one in the United States—to be certified "sustainable" by the international Marine Stewardship Council. Thanks to responsible management programs and efforts to maintain healthy salmon spawning and rearing streams, Alaska is recognized around the world as the leader in sustaining vigorous runs of wild salmon. Alaska fishermen and their organizations have long been defenders of fish habitat and advocates for sound fishery

ALASKA SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FOREST DWELLERS, Point Barrow • ALASKANS FOR JUNEAU • CHENACOF CONSERVATION COUNCIL, Tenakee
CUSTOMARY & TRADITIONAL GATHERING COUNCIL OF SAKA • FRIENDS OF BERNERS BAY, Juneau • FRIENDS OF GLACIER BAY, Gustavus • JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY
JUNEAU GROUP SIERRA CLUB • LOWER CHATHAM CONSERVATION SOCIETY, Port Alexander • LYNN CANAL CONSERVATION, Haines • NARROWS CONSERVATION
COALITION, Petersburg • LISIANSKI INLET RESOURCE COUNCIL, Elician • PRINCE OF WALES CONSERVATION LEAGUE, Craig • SITKA CONSERVATION SOCIETY
TONGASS CONSERVATION SOCIETY, Ketchikan • TAKU CONSERVATION SOCIETY, Juneau • WRANGELL RESOURCE COUNCIL • YAKUTAT RESOURCE CONSERVATION COUNCIL

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management. Their commitment to protect the resource upon which they rely has helped to ensure magnificent landscape and wildlife values in the Tongass and Chugach National Forests. By contrast, fish farms abroad and in the Lower 48 have been associated with severe pollution and may put local fish populations at risk. By purchasing wild salmon, consumers join Alaskan fishermen in advocating for a healthy ecosystem.

Wild Alaska salmon has a variety of health benefits, whereas farmed fish food additives, the high levels of contaminants, including PCBs, found in farmed salmon, and the push for genetic modification cause concern for many who buy and eat seafood. By purchasing wild Alaska salmon, consumers make the healthy choice.

Consumers have the right to know what is in the salmon that they buy, where it comes from, and what economic, social, and environmental values it supports. Labeling salmon as wild or farmed and identifying its country of origin are necessary first steps in empowering Americans to make informed, healthy decisions about the seafood they eat.

Sincerely,



Russell Heath
Executive Director



Alaska Marine Conservation Council

P.O. Box 101145 Anchorage, Alaska 99510
Phone: (907) 277-5357 • Fax: (907) 277-5975
amcc@akmarine.org • www.akmarine.org

February 4, 2004

The Honorable Beth Kerttula
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 430
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Kerttula,

Thank you for introducing House Joint Resolution 32 (HJR 32), relating to the labeling of fish and fishery products. The Alaska Marine Conservation Council wholeheartedly supports this legislation that supports the timely federal implementation of labeling fish products as wild or farmed and with the country of origin.

Alaska Marine Conservation Council (AMCC) is a community-based organization working to protect marine habitat and to support clean, community-based fishing opportunities. As such, we are committed to providing accurate and scientifically based information to individuals and communities on the impact of fish farming on wild stocks, on the health and environment of our marine ecosystem and on the economies of Alaska's coastal communities. Further, AMCC supports habitat conservation for wild fish and promotes the marketing and consumption of Alaska's wild fish as opposed to farmed fish.

We believe that accurate information and labeling is an essential part of the consumer's right to know what they are purchasing. A labeling program, such as HJR 32 supports, is one important step in maintaining a vibrant and critical fishing industry. Provided with information on the many health and environmental benefits of our wild fisheries, we believe the consumer will make the choice to purchase "wild" and to support the Alaska's fishermen and the economies of Alaska's coastal communities.

Again, our deepest appreciation for your continued support of Alaska's fishing communities and for your efforts to provide accurate information to the consumer.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Childers
Executive Director