

# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA



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March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Karl Johnstone, Chair  
 Alaska Board of Fisheries  
 PO Box 115526  
 Juneau, AK 99811  
 Via fax: (907) 465-6094

**RE: Support Board of Fisheries proposal #370, groundfish possession requirements.**

Dear Chairman Johnstone,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 36 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state and its offshore federal waters. UFA supports proposal #370, groundfish possession requirements.

A similar action is being reviewed on the federal side in order to align regulations so the retainable bycatch level of a species of groundfish is assessed at the time of the delivery as opposed to the moment when groundfish is retained aboard a vessel. If the current regulation is enforced as written, more wastage of fish will occur. Until enough of the directed species is onboard, fishermen will discard fish at the beginning of a set or a trip to avoid receiving violations under the new federal restructured observer program.

We hope that you support this common sense regulation that will help reduce unnecessary discards of non-target species. Please let us know if you have any questions. It is our understanding that UFA board member and author of proposal #370 Brian Lynch will be in attendance at the Statewide meeting.

Sincerely,

Julianne Curry  
 Executive Director

#### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers • Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association  
 Alaska Independent Tendermen's Association • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Scallop Association • Alaska Trollers Association  
 Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association • Aleutian Pribilof Islands Community Development Association • Armstrong Keta • At-sea Processors Association  
 Bristol Bay Reserve • Cape Barnabas Inc. • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen • Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association • Cordova District Fishermen United  
 Douglas Island Pink and Chum • Freezer Longline Coalition • Golden King Crab Coalition • Groundfish Forum • Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association  
 Kodiak Regional Aquaculture 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 Catcher Boats • United Cook Inlet Drift Association • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters • Valdez Fisheries Development Association