



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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UFA Resolution on the Wild Fish Conservancy Lawsuit

Whereas the United Fishermen of Alaska's mission is to promote and protect the common interest of Alaska's commercial fishing industry, as a vital component of Alaska's social and economic well-being; and

Whereas commercial fishing is a mainstay of Alaska's economy and the largest private sector employer in the state; and

Whereas the troll fleet is the second largest fleet in Alaska; and

Whereas 44% of the fishing income to trollers is derived from their Chinook harvest; and

Whereas commercial salmon trolling is a year-round contributor to Southeast Alaska economy and sustains year-round employment in the fishing, processing, and support sector industries; and

Whereas including fishing, processing, and all related multiplier effects, the troll fleet has a total economic impact of approximately \$85 million for the Southeast economy annually, as measured in terms of total output; and

Whereas the lawsuit filed by the Wild Fish Conservancy against the National Marine Fisheries Service threatens to close the Southeast winter and summer troll fishery despite that closure providing no meaningful benefits to Southern Resident Killer Whales; and,

Whereas the Wild Fish Conservancy has pledged to eliminate mixed stock fisheries and eliminate hatcheries; and

Whereas the Wild Fish Conservancy lawsuit has the potential to impact other Southeast Fisheries thru effects on the Pacific Salmon Treaty, a new Biological opinion and the Section 7 take permit; and

Whereas the communities of Southeast will suffer severe economic hardship if the Southeast troll fishery is closed.

Therefore, be it resolved that the United Fishermen of Alaska urges in the strongest possible terms that:

NMFS prioritize preparation of the necessary documents and processes to support prosecution of the Southeast winter and summer troll fisheries; and,

NMFS and ADFG commit the necessary resources to effectively defend Alaska's fisheries and the Southeast troll fishery in particular; and

All necessary and available state, federal and private resources be made available to support lawsuit defendants and intervenors through all possible appeals; and

The State of Alaska work with Alaska's Congressional delegation to protect Alaska's fisheries from present and future misdirected or malicious lawsuits.

Matt Alward
President, United Fishermen of Alaska

Approved: January 12, 2023