



# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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June 29, 2007

## **UFA Action Alert**

### ***Support needed for Country of Origin & Wild / Farmed Labeling of Seafood***

**YOUR Comments are needed now to support USDA Country of Origin and Wild/Farmed labeling of seafood. Deadline for comments is August 20 – don't wait, write today.**

The USDA has opened a general public comment period on the Interim Final Rule for Country of Origin and Wild/Farmed Labeling for Seafood.

Originally issued in October of 2004, the Interim Final Rule removed canned, smoked and cured seafood from coverage that had been included in the proposed rule. The interim rule has been in effect since April 5, 2005. UFA feels that Country of Origin and Wild/Farmed labeling has been an important benefit to consumers who choose to make an informed choice on the seafood they eat.

#### **Action Needed:**

- 1. Write a letter or email today.**
- 2. Forward to at least one person**
- 3. Follow up to ensure that they comment too.**

#### **Address letters to:**

Country of Origin Labeling Program,  
Room 2607-S; Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), USDA;  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.  
Washington, DC 20250-0254,

**Email** comments to [cool@usda.gov](mailto:cool@usda.gov)

**Send by facsimile** to (202) 720-1112

**Online** - To submit comments online via [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), see the "submit comments" section, search for Document ID# AMS-LS-07-0098, then click on the yellow comments icon at the right side of the search results for this document.

If you encounter trouble navigating to submit comments, contact the UFA office during business hours at (907) 586-2820 or see the instructions at

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/cool/ifrcomments3.htm>

**Talking points:**

- Consumers have a vital interest in knowing where their seafood originates
- Wild and Farmed labeling need to continue to be included
- All canned and cooked seafood should be covered
- Without this knowledge, consumers do not have the information they need to support responsible fisheries production.

**Note on Recordkeeping Costs**

A primary objection from retailers has been the cost and burden of recordkeeping, but incidents such as the melamine in pet food proves that records need to be available to trace the complete chain of custody from producer to supermarket. We urge that you include in your comments that USDA and Homeland Security recordkeeping requirements be coordinated to minimize the cost to retailers and consumers.

**Comments that specifically pertain to the information collection and recordkeeping requirements should also be sent to:**

Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget (OMB)  
New Executive Office Building,  
725 17th Street, NW., Room 725  
Washington, DC 20503.

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Federal Register Notice:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/07-3028.htm>

USDA Press release:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/news/124-07.htm>

COOL Interim Final Rule, Q&A, and public comments see <http://www.ams.usda.gov/cool/>

COOL Interim Final Rule full text:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/cool/COOLfr.pdf>

News item today on why this is needed:

[http://www.newsday.com/business/ny-bzchin0629\\_0,5948587.story?coll=ny-business-leadheadlines](http://www.newsday.com/business/ny-bzchin0629_0,5948587.story?coll=ny-business-leadheadlines)

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