UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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Resolution 2009-1

SEA OTTER RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) represent commercial fishermen organizations and individual fishermen involved in fisheries throughout Alaska in both state and federal waters; and

WHEREAS, sea otters are abundantly healthy and impacting important commercial, subsistence and personal use fishery resource such as crab, abalone, sea cucumbers, sea urchins and geoduck clams in some areas of the State; and

WHEREAS, sea otters are depressed in other areas of the State and critical habitat designation may affect fishery infrastructure and coastal development; and

WHEREAS, sea otters are protected by the federal government under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA); and

WHEREAS, the only allowable use of sea otters under the MMPA is by coastal Alaska Natives for subsistence or for the making of handicrafts by Alaskan Natives; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, UFA supports appropriate local collaborative research projects and grant funding for sea otters whether the population is increasing or declining; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, UFA supports management strategies which will decrease hurdles to Alaska Natives in their utilization of this resource; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, UFA request that the Alaska Dept of Fish and Game become more actively involved with USFWS in the management of sea otters and documenting their effect within a region on fishery resources; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, UFA requests the Federal and State agencies, Tribal community organizations and other entities affected by sea otters in the area to meet regionally and develop ecosystem-based sea otter management plans benefiting all users of these resources and protecting the fishery resources from depletion by sea otters and providing for access to resources in areas of sea otter depletion.

By UFA Board of Directors, November 18, 2009:

Joe Childers, UFA President

Attest: Mark D. Vinsel, UFA Executive Director