



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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Resolution 2011-3

A RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA TO SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE FUNDING FOR HATCHERY & WILD SALMON GENETICS, STRAYING, AND FITNESS RESEARCH WITH THE INTENT OF INCREASING ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF STATE-OWNED AND PRIVATE NON-PROFIT SALMON HATCHERIES

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Fisheries Rehabilitation, Enhancement, and Development was formed in the 1970's to develop policies, regulations, research programs and hatchery practices to responsibly rebuild and utilize Alaska's renewable and sustainable salmon natural resources;

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska currently owns 11 salmon enhancement hatcheries operated by regional and non-regional private non-profit aquaculture associations via professional services agreements at no cost to the state;

WHEREAS, these diverse salmon enhancement programs contribute significantly to the Alaska common property fisheries (commercial, sport, subsistence, and personal use) in many areas of the state and are helping to sustain the Alaska salmon fisheries and domestic and international Alaska salmon markets;

WHEREAS, salmon produced by the Alaska salmon enhancement program have fetched hundreds of millions of dollars in ex-vessel value and billions of dollars in total economic output;

WHEREAS, the economic impact from the Alaska salmon enhancement program is significant and vital to the Alaska salmon industry in creating jobs and wealth within the rural and urban communities that would not otherwise be present;


WHEREAS, questions and concerns have arisen within Alaska Department of Fish and Game regarding impacts of these enhancement programs to wild stocks and;

WHEREAS, without answering these questions through valid research, growth of enhancement programs cannot continue;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the United Fishermen of Alaska support funding a research program to answer questions regarding genetic & fitness effects of hatchery salmon straying to wild salmon streams.

By UFA Board of Directors, October 27, 2011:


Arni Thomson, UFA President


Attest: Mark D. Vinsel, UFA Executive Director