



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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**For Immediate Release
December 19, 2007**

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UFA Thanks Senator Stevens for Passage of Farm Bill Measure for Fishermen

United Fishermen of Alaska thanks Senator Ted Stevens for his work in introducing and working to provide fishermen with access to the USDA Farm Service Agency loan program.

“Alaska fishermen compete with fish farmers and other protein products, face the same difficulties and deserve access to the same programs as other agriculture and food producers. Passage of these amendments was supported by a diverse number of fishing groups and their senators from around the country, from Washington, Oregon, and California, to the Gulf of Mexico and the East coast,” said Bruce Schactler, former UFA Marketing Chair and co-author of the UFA marketing plan that initiated these efforts in 2001.

“Fish has been considered an agricultural product in U.S. statute for some 60+ years, and only now have we begun to change the regulations that have, during that same time kept those statutes from helping fishermen in a similar manner as fish farmers and other food producers.”

“Senator Stevens understands that the fishing industry’s contribution to the domestic food supply is critical to U.S. interests, and worked on the behalf of fishermen from Alaska and throughout the U.S. to gain the support of the Senate to include this amendment.

“A common theme expressed at last week’s Young Fishermen’s Summit in Anchorage was the need for programs like this to help the next generation of today’s crew members and young captains to meet the challenges of today’s global economy and to and continue our sustainable production of seafood, said UFA Executive Director Mark Vinsel.

UFA also thanks Senator Stevens for supporting an amendment to the farm bill by Senator Lisa Murkowski that grants special tax consideration for Exxon Valdez oil spill claimants if and when any punitive damage settlement is awarded.

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MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Crab Coalition • Alaska Druggers Association • Alaska Independent Tendermen’s Association • Alaska Longline Fishermen’s Association
Alaska Shellfish Association • Alaska Trollers 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
Crab Group of Independent Harvesters • Douglas Island Pink and Chum • Fishing Vessel Owners Association • 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 • Sitka Herring Association • Southeast Alaska Fisherman’s Alliance
Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners Association • Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
United Catcher Boats • United Cook Inlet Drift Association • United Salmon Association • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters
Valdez Fisheries Development Association • Western Gulf of Alaska Fishermen