



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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United Fishermen of Alaska selects Senator Lisa Murkowski as 2007 Person of the Year in Alaska Politics

The United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) Board of Directors has selected Senator Lisa Murkowski as "Person of the Year in Alaska Politics for 2007." The statewide fisherman's umbrella association, composed of representatives from 37 fisheries trade organizations, cited Senator Murkowski's exemplary work on behalf of Exxon Valdez oil spill plaintiffs as one of the most significant efforts on behalf of Alaska fishermen in 2007.

"Senator Murkowski introduced the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Tax Relief Act and was able to get this measure attached to the Senate version of the Farm Bill of 2007 through dedicated work. With plaintiffs from every state, Senator Murkowski was able to draw bipartisan support for the measure, which calls for one-time contribution of up to \$100,000 of settlement to retirement accounts, and allows three year income averaging, said UFA President Joe Childers.

"We also feel that in moving this legislation, Senator Murkowski has highlighted the matter of the Exxon Valdez tragedy to the highest levels of government as the issue goes before the Supreme Court., said Childers.

"It doesn't begin to make up for what these families have gone through, but it helps." stated Mark Vinsel, UFA's Executive Director.

This is the second year that UFA has recognized the outstanding contributions to the seafood industry made by Senator Murkowski. Her work in 2005 improved seafood labeling and resulted in the public's ability to better discern whether they were purchasing wild or farmed seafood products.

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MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Crab Coalition • Alaska Draggers Association • Alaska Independent Tendermen's Association • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association
Alaska Scallop 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