



# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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## **United Fishermen of Alaska Recognizes Senator Stevens’ Leadership in Sustaining Fisheries and Oceans**

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) recognizes and appreciates the leadership and vision of Alaska’s senior senator Ted Stevens in leading Alaska, the nation, and the world in adopting sustainable fisheries management measures for the future. While saddened by the indictment handed down against him, UFA acknowledges the overwhelming merit of Senator Stevens lifetime of achievements in the protection of U.S. oceans and fisheries.

"UFA honored Senator Stevens in 2006 with a Person of the Year in Alaska Politics award, for his work to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. For good reason, the act is named after Senator Stevens because no other person has had more involvement, leadership or vision in developing this law which is the world model for sustainable fisheries. While Senator Stevens has long recognized the integral nature of fisheries and the Alaska economy, he has also understood and championed sustainable fisheries management for the entire United States and for the world. Magnuson – Stevens reauthorization continues the system of regional fishery management councils that has served to protect and sustain Alaska's offshore fisheries. Senator Stevens support of the regional council system as a whole and specifically the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, with representation of commercial fishermen, has facilitated our enviable management regime that uses the best scientific management practices and strict harvest limits to assure sustainable harvests." said UFA President Joe Childers.

“Senator Stevens has been the driving force in establishing, sustainable fisheries management policies that have become the foundation for rebuilding domestic sustainable fisheries that were once overfished by vessels of foreign countries. Senator Stevens also is the primary impetus behind the elimination of illegal high seas operations that threaten our fisheries. Without Senator Stevens, the Alaska fisheries would not be the model of sustainability envied throughout the world.

“The charges in Senator Stevens’ indictment are unfortunate, but Senator Stevens is innocent until proven guilty and we assert that his accomplishments will continue to benefit all Alaskans, all Americans, and ultimately the world long after this sad episode is past,” said Childers.

United Fishermen of Alaska represents 37 Alaska commercial fishing associations from fisheries throughout the state and its offshore waters, including participants from every state in the U.S., and representing roughly half of the total U.S. domestic seafood production.

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