



# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 20229, Juneau AK 99802-0229

**Physical Address:** 410 Calhoun Ave Ste 101, Juneau AK 99801

**Phone:** (907) 586-2820 **Fax:** (907) 463-2545

**Email:** [ufa@ufafish.org](mailto:ufa@ufafish.org) **Website:** [www.ufafish.org](http://www.ufafish.org)

June 6, 2017

Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senate  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

## **Re: Full funding for Alaska Sea Grant FY 2018**

Dear Senator Murkowski,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 34 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state, and the federal fisheries off Alaska's coast. At their most recent meeting, the UFA Board of Directors expressed their support for the Alaska Sea Grant program and urge you to work toward full funding for Sea Grant in the FY 2018 budget.

The Sea Grant program here in Alaska has long been a model in fiscal stewardship. In fact, for every dollar from Congress, Sea Grant has brought in an additional four dollars of funding with help from the University of Alaska, other grants, and donations. This money is, in turn, used to strengthen Alaska's coastal communities. Over the last few years, due to the dedication of Alaska Sea Grant employees, the 'hands on' impact on the commercial fishing sector of our economy has been dramatic. Since 2010 Sea Grant has helped develop commercial fisheries opportunities for the next generation through programs such as the Young Fishermen's Summits; created or sustained over 1,100 jobs; created or strengthened nearly 200 businesses; and well over 1,000 fishermen and processors have been trained. The Alaska Sea Grant program has also been active in important university-based scientific research; marine science education for Alaska's K-12 students; and produced and circulated nearly 100,000 marine related documents.

UFA urges you to support full funding of the Sea Grant program for the 2018 fiscal year.

Jerry McCune  
President

Mark Vinsel  
Executive Administrator

#### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers • Alaska Independent Tendermen's Association • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Scallop Association  
Alaska Trollers Association • Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association • Armstrong Keta • At-sea Processors Association • Bristol Bay Fishermen's Association  
Bristol Bay Reserve • Cape Barnabas, Inc. • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen • Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association • Cordova District Fishermen United  
Douglas Island Pink and Chum • Freezer Longline Coalition • Golden King Crab Coalition • 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 • Southeast Alaska Herring Conservation Alliance • Southeast Alaska Fisherman's Alliance  
Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners • Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association  
United Cook Inlet Drift Association • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters • Valdez Fisheries Development Association