



North Pacific Fisheries Association

P.O. Box 796 · Homer, AK · 99603

npfahomer@gmail.com www.npfahomer.com

Honorable Dan Sullivan
United States Senate
B40A Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

January 5, 2016

Support for re-creation of the American Fisheries Advisory Committee

Dear Senator Sullivan,

North Pacific Fisheries Association (NPFA) represents commercial fishermen and their families who harvest halibut, salmon, black cod, pacific cod, rockfish, crab and herring. Headquartered in Homer, our members harvest fish throughout the waters of Alaska -- from Dixon Entrance to Adak to St. Mathews Island. NPFA is in support of the re-creation of the American Fisheries Advisory Committee and its subsequent involvement in the planning and directing of the Saltonstall-Kennedy funds that would be used in the NOAA grant program, specifically the Promote and Develop Seafood Products Account.

The 1954 Saltonstall-Kennedy Act (S-K Act) established a fund supporting American fishery research and development projects. The Promote and Develop Seafood Products Account directly affects the Commercial Fishing and Seafood Industry here in Alaska and as such, NPFA is asking for the re-creation of the American Fisheries Advisory Committee. The American Fisheries Advisory Committee would incorporate the specific expertise of regionally balanced and appropriate Seafood Industry representatives within the S-K Grant Program bringing current industry knowledge, practice and concerns into the decision making process.

NPFA believes that relevant industry representatives from Alaska as well as across the nation should be involved in choosing and prioritizing the proposals and applications to the S-K Grant Program funds that will have great impact whether through scientific research, product development, marketing or education. NPFA appreciates your careful consideration of the proposal to re-create the American Fisheries Advisory Committee. NPFA is available for further comment, if you or your staff have any questions.

Respectfully,

G Malcolm Milne
President, North Pacific Fisheries Association