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Alaska Pollock Fishery Alliance Statement Expressing Disappointment in Rep. Mary Peltola's "Bottom Trawl Clarity Act"

"While we share Congresswoman Peltola's strong interest in ocean habitat conservation and marine fisheries health, we are disappointed in her introduction of legislation that would harm America's fishermen.

"Climate change is already driving significant shifts in the U.S. marine environment. All of us who depend on ocean health for our livelihoods and futures have a role to play in ensuring that science and management effectively respond, and that those harmed by climate change impacts -- including climate-driven fishery abundance declines -- are supported. Unfortunately, the Bottom Trawl Clarity Act flies in the face of the fishery management approach that was championed for decades by Alaska Senator Ted Stevens, and which established U.S. fisheries management as the global gold standard.

"At the heart of our Nation's successful fishery management system is a regional, stakeholder-driven process that enables scientific assessments to inform complex fishery management tradeoffs at the local level. Rep. Peltola's "Bottom Trawl Clarity Act" fails to build on the lessons of the Magnuson-Stevens Act's success, and instead imposes unworkable and burdensome new Federal mandates on regional decision-makers. This legislation would limit the flexibility to manage fisheries based on the best available science. It constrains scientists and managers through the creation of static area closures -- even as shifts in marine biota distributions accelerate due to climate change, which in turn necessitate more dynamic approaches to time and area closures.

"If enacted, the Bottom Trawl Clarity Act would threaten a significant number of jobs in the fishing and seafood sectors, many in remote coastal communities where alternative employment options are limited.

"U.S. fishermen and seafood processors currently face unprecedented challenges. In addition to rising costs and increasing regulatory burdens, the price they are receiving for their fish has collapsed because of cheap and often unethically-produced seafood flooding global markets from China, Russia, and other low-cost producers. Rep. Peltola's legislation would immediately create acute regulatory uncertainty for America's fishermen and the wider seafood industry.

"We look forward to working with Rep. Peltola to identify more thoughtful, science-based solutions to fisheries management challenges in the future -- solutions that bring people together, strengthen the U.S. seafood sector, and conserve our precious marine environment."

Text of the Bottom Trawl Clarity Act, introduced by Rep. Peltola today, can be reviewed [here](#).

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