



# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 20229, Juneau AK 99802-0229

**Phone:** (907) 586-2820

**E-mail:** [ufa@ufa-fish.org](mailto:ufa@ufa-fish.org) **Website:** [www.ufa-fish.org](http://www.ufa-fish.org)

**June 13, 2024**  
**For Immediate Release**

**Tracy Welch, Executive Director**  
**(907) 586-2820**

*Juneau, Alaska – United Fishermen of Alaska lauds seafood friendly provisions in Farm Bill Framework recently released by the Republicans on the Senate Agriculture Committee.*

Earlier this week, U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee Ranking Member John Boozman released Republicans' Farm Bill framework which includes multiple seafood-related provisions that would significantly aid the seafood industry and coastal communities. The framework includes key priorities of the seafood industry such as establishing a seafood liaison at the USDA to improve coordination on seafood policy, requiring Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) for Tanner and King Crab as well as canned salmon, directing the USDA to conduct a feasibility study on expanding seafood processing in coastal communities, and allowing fishing industry businesses to access agricultural credit programs such as low-cost loans. Inclusion of these priorities in the framework comes less than a year after Senator Boozman visited Alaska and met with fishermen and seafood industry representatives throughout the state to learn about the issues facing the industry.

UFA appreciates the Republican Agriculture Committee's recognition of the importance of the US seafood industry, particularly in light of current headwinds facing the seafood industry. Including seafood related provisions in the framework will have significant and meaningful impact for harvesters, processors, and coastal communities. We look forward to working with the Agriculture Committee to ensure seafood issues continue to be heard and that access to helpful programs and solutions are included in the final version of the Farm Bill.

"I want to thank the Senate Republican Agriculture Committee and Ranking Member Boozman for recognizing the importance of the US seafood industry as food producers that contribute to the food security of America. From Alaska to the Gulf of Mexico to Maine, American fishermen are facing unprecedented hardships such as lack of access to markets and capital, and the USDA could help if seafood was included with the other food producers of America. We look forward to working with Congress to ensure the passing of the committee's framework."

-Matt Alward, President, United Fishermen of Alaska

"We were so pleased to host Senator Boozman in Kodiak last year to showcase our tremendous commercial fishing businesses. Kodiak is a major commercial fishing port in the U.S. and our commercial fishermen are food producers alongside our nation's farmers and ranchers. We are

thrilled to see that Senator Boozman and the Senate Republican Agriculture Committee's Farm Bill framework recognizes the importance of seafood production and includes establishing a seafood liaison at USDA to improve coordination on seafood policy."

-Rebecca Skinner, Vice-President, United Fishermen of Alaska

"The seafood-related provisions that are addressed in the Republican Agriculture Committee's Farm Bill framework will provide access to programs and resources at a time when harvesters and the seafood industry need it the most. In these unprecedented times that our seafood industry finds itself in, inclusion of these provisions in the farm bill framework acknowledges that the seafood industry plays an important role in feeding America and will help to keep the industry viable."

-Tracy Welch, Executive Director, United Fishermen of Alaska.