



Adak Fisheries, LLC  
Alyeska Seafoods  
Alaska Crab Coalition  
Alaska Draggers Association  
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank  
Alaskan Leader Fisheries  
Alaska Pacific Seafoods  
Aleutian Islands Brown Crab Coalition  
Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association  
Akutan, Alka, False Pass, Nelson Lagoon, Nikolski, St. George  
At-Sea Processors Association  
Bristol Bay Economic Development Corp.  
Atkasagik, Clark's Point, Dillingham, Egegik, Ekuk, Ekwok, King Salmon, Levelock, Manokotak, Naknek, Pilot Point, Port Heiden, Portage Creek, South Naknek, Togiak, Twin Hills, Ugashik  
Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association  
St. Paul  
City of Unalaska  
Coastal Villages Region Fund  
Chefomak, Chevak, Eek, Goodnews Bay, Hooper Bay, Kipruuk, Kongiganak, Kwillingok, Mekoryuk, Napakiak, Napasitak, Newtok, Nightmute, Oscarville, Pitlum, Quintagak, Scammon Bay, Toksook Bay, Tunulialak, Tununak  
Groundfish Forum  
High Seas Catchers Cooperative  
Icicle Seafoods  
McCarty and Associates  
Mid-Water Trawlers Cooperative  
Mothership Group  
PV Excellence  
PV Ocean Phoenix  
PV Golden Alaska  
North Pacific Longline Association  
Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation  
Brevig Mission, Diomedes, Elim, Gambell, Golovin, Koyuk, Nome, Saint Michael, Savoonga, Shaktoolik, Stebbins, Teller, Unalakleet, Wales, White Mountain  
Pacific Seafood Processors Association  
Alaska General Seafoods  
Alyeska Seafoods, Inc.  
Golden Alaska Seafoods, Inc.  
Peter Pan Seafoods, Inc.  
Premier Pacific Seafoods, Inc.  
Supreme Alaska Seafoods, Inc.  
UniSea Inc.  
Wards Cove Packing Company  
Western Alaska Fisheries, Inc.  
Westward Seafoods, Inc.  
Prowler Fisheries  
Trident Seafoods Corp.  
United Catcher Boats  
Akutan Catcher Vessel Assoc.  
Arctic Enterprise Assoc.  
Northern Victor Fleet  
Peter Pan Fleet Cooperative  
Unalaska Co-op  
Unisea Fleet Cooperative  
Westward Fleet Cooperative  
U.S. Seafoods  
Waterfront Associates  
Western Alaska Fisheries, Inc.  
Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association  
Atkasagik, Erimonak, Grayling, Kotlik, Mountain Village, Nunam Iqua

Press Release  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:  
David Benton (907) 523-0731 / (907) 321-0499 cell

## **Congressional Action Needed To Strengthen Fishery Conservation** ***MCA Urges Passage of Bipartisan Fisheries Bill, HR 5018***

The Marine Conservation Alliance (MCA) is urging Congress to pass HR 5018 during its ongoing September session, according to MCA Executive Director David Benton.

“HR 5018 would put into law the successful practices used in Alaska to protect ocean resources. Congress can take a positive step toward better conservation of the nation’s fish stocks and promoting the economies of coastal fishing communities by enacting HR 5018,” Benton said. “This bipartisan bill represents a major advance that strengthens the role of science to ensure America’s fisheries are a sustainable and reliable source of seafood.”

Sponsored by Reps Richard Pombo (R-CA), Barney Frank (D-MA), and Don Young (R-AK), HR 5018 would update and improve MSA by expanding the role of science in fishery management and taking other steps to protect fish stocks and regulate the industry. The bill adopts many of the recommendations made by the US Commission on Ocean Policy last year.

To a large extent, the Pombo bill is modeled after the fishery management successes off the coast of Alaska. Alaska produces over 50% of the nation’s fish with no overfished stocks. By adopting the “Alaska model” nationwide, a number of key provisions will significantly improve the nation’s fisheries management:

- Requires regional fishery management councils to set annual catch limits at or below levels recommended by its scientists;
- Ends overfishing in 2 years;
- Encourages councils to move toward ecosystem-based fishery management plans;
- Authorizes councils to develop incentives for reducing bycatch;
- Includes provisions to protect seabirds and reduce seabird interactions with fishing gear;
- Supports cooperative research to address issues such as bycatch, seabird interactions and habitat protection;
- Allows better data collection through enhanced observer programs and a high-tech vessel monitoring system to ensure that conservation rules are followed at sea.

“We strongly urge Congress to approve the bipartisan House legislation,” Benton said. “When passed, our nation’s fish stocks would be better protected, fishing ports on both

coasts would benefit from healthy, sustainable fisheries, and the American consumer would be assured a stable source of healthy, tasty seafood.”

The Marine Conservation Alliance is a coalition of seafood processors, harvesters, support industries and coastal communities that are active in Alaska fisheries. The MCA represents approximately 75 percent of the participants in Alaska shellfish and groundfish fisheries and promotes science-based conservation measures to ensure sustainable fisheries in Alaska.

[www.marineconservationalliance.org](http://www.marineconservationalliance.org)

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