

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senator Gary Stevens

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 16

Restore Alaska Seafood Producers' Access to Russian Market

SPONSOR STATEMENT

Alaska's fisheries are a centerpiece of our State's economy. Anything that increases the value of seafood increases the economic health of our State. Given that some 80 percent of seafood harvested in and adjacent to Alaska is ultimately destined to export markets, the well-being of our fishing industry is inextricably linked to the rules that govern international trade in seafood.

Unfortunately, those rules are increasingly stacked against our Alaska seafood producers. SJR 16 urges the Federal government to reprioritize urgent seafood trade concerns that have languished for far too long. Our seafood industry doesn't need any kind of special treatment – Alaska produces the best seafood in the world, and can compete anywhere against anyone. All that is needed is a level playing field, and that's what this resolution demands.