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Concerns Raised Over Updated Bycatch Reduction Act

Fishery trade associations support bycatch reduction while urging policymakers to preserve Alaska's science-based fisheries management system.

STATEMENT

Senator Sullivan has long been a champion for Alaska's commercial fisheries. While his updated Bycatch Reduction Act includes positive provisions, it also contains proposals that could undermine science-based fisheries management, Alaska's commercial fishing industry and the fishery-dependent communities it supports.

For decades, federal fisheries in Alaska have been managed through the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's rigorous, transparent process, which brings together scientists, fishermen, managers and stakeholders to develop durable, regionally informed solutions. It is widely regarded as the global gold standard for fisheries management. Political mandates from Washington, D.C., risk weakening - not strengthening - that proven system.

We share Senator Sullivan's commitment to reducing bycatch and conserving fish habitat. We look forward to working with the Senator, policymakers and regional stakeholders to advance practical, science-based solutions that strengthen Alaska's fisheries while preserving the management process that has made them a global model.

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