Resolution 18-02

Resolution of Support for U.S. Senate Bill #1323 - the Young Fishermen’s Development Act of 2017

WHEREAS, the “graying” of Alaska’s commercial fishing fleet is a known issue for the state potentially jeopardizing the future of this essential industry; and

WHEREAS, Alaska produces more than 50% of seafood harvested in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, commercial fishing and seafood processing in Alaska is one of the most important statewide and local economic industries which supports over sixty thousand (direct and indirect) jobs; and

WHEREAS, Alaska commercial fishing provides critical local food security, and significantly contributes to the global food supply, including U.S. exports; and

WHEREAS, Americans import 80% of the seafood they consume,

WHEREAS, entrance into the commercial fishing industry as a young person can be challenging, because the initial investment and knowledge required for start-up can be prohibitive; and

WHEREAS, various forms of fishery permitting and limited entry have significantly increased the capital cost of entry into fishing; and

WHEREAS, acquiring the diverse skill set associated with commercial fishing, including navigation, seamanship, mechanical/engine repair, electronics, net mending, gear work, biology, environmental sustainability, product care, , primary processing value added processing, safety, and employee and financial management can be very difficult to acquire; and

WHEREAS, development programs to assist young fishermen are extremely important for maintaining the integrity and competitiveness of Alaska and national commercial fishing fleets; and
WHEREAS, this Act provides essential federal funding that will leverage the knowledge, programs and resources available from Tribal and Alaska Native organizations, statewide educational institutions and trade organizations; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE THAT:

1) The Southeast Conference support U.S. Senate Bill 1323, the Young Fishermen’s Development Act of 2017.
2) The Southeast Conference thanks Senators Sullivan, Murkowski, Markey and Cantwell for their vision and support for this vital industry.
3) This resolution takes effect immediately upon passage and shall become one of the Southeast Conference’s federal legislative priorities.

Adopted by the Southeast Conference on December 21st, 2017.

Witness by: 

Jan Hill
President

Attest:

Robert Venables
Executive Director