Committee on Resources

Chairman Young's Statement

The Honorable Don Young (R-AK), Chairman,
Committee on Resources, at the
Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans
Hearing Concerning H.R. 437, The Marine Resources Revitalization Act of 1997
February 27, 1997.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for taking swift action to consider H.R. 437, a bill to reauthorize the National Sea Grant College Program. It is important that we get past the obstacles which prevented reauthorization during the last Congress.

Sea Grant was established in order to improve our Nation's marine resource conservation efforts, to manage those resources more effectively, and to enhance their proper utilization. For over 30 years now, Sea Grant has successfully achieved its goals through a unique combination of research grants, marine advisory services, and education.

In Alaska, our State Sea Grant program has improved our understanding of commercial fish stocks, the factors affecting the size and health of those stocks, and the best economic uses for fishery resources. Using this information, we have developed effective management regimes, and we continue to create more jobs with fewer long-term impacts to our fisheries.

Alaska Sea Grant has also supported a comprehensive Marine Advisory Service, which has provided industry training programs on topics ranging from marine safety and seafood technology, to business management for fishermen and shore-side support facilities. Through proper training, we ensure that our industries, businesses, and individuals who depend on productive fisheries can continue to do their jobs as effectively as possible.

We will be hearing several distinguished witnesses this morning. I am particularly pleased to see that Ron Dearborn, our State Program Director, will testify in his capacity as President of the Sea Grant Association. Dr. Dearborn, you have helped to establish an outstanding reputation for Alaska Sea Grant. I commend you for your excellent work, and I look forward to your testimony.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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