



COOK INLET AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION

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December 6, 2010

Cora Campbell, Acting Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
P.O. Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802-5526

RE: State of Alaska – Salmon FMP Update

Dear Commissioner Campbell:

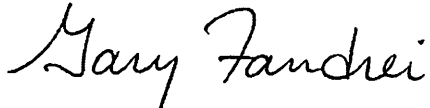
On behalf of the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA), I want to congratulate you on your recent appointment to Acting Commissioner of Fish and Game. Our organization has partnered with ADF&G on many projects over the years and we trust your leadership will result in more opportunities for creative partnerships in the years to come.

I am contacting you now to alert you to a concern related to the State of Alaska's current work with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) that could dramatically impact salmon management in Upper Cook Inlet. It recently came to the attention of CIAA that the State of Alaska is currently working with the NMFS on a comprehensive review of the 1990 Salmon Fisheries Management Plan (FMP). The relationship between state management of salmon in some upper Cook Inlet fisheries, compliance with the Magnuson Stevens Act and the role of the salmon FMP is of great interest to CIAA since many of the fishers in Upper Cook Inlet provide financial support to CIAA through the 2% Salmon Enhancement Tax (SET) which is collected on salmon harvested in the area covered by this complex jurisdiction. Decisions adversely impacting salmon management from a long term resource viability or commercial salmon harvest perspective could result in a significant negative impact to CIAA's SET revenues. We respectfully request your department participate in these important discussions with NMFS with a keen eye on preventing harmful consequences to our local fishing communities, fishing families and support organizations such as CIAA who depend on a long-term healthy salmon industry in Cook Inlet.

CIAA recognizes that new changes in the Magnuson Stevens Act require the State of Alaska to work with NMFS to make revisions to the salmon FMP. CIAA is confident

those changes can be made in a manner that secures a healthy salmon industry in Cook Inlet for many generations to come. With this in mind, please do not hesitate to contact CIAA if we can provide you or your team further assistance or information about the importance of the local salmon industry or how potential policy decisions might impact our common objective of maintaining future healthy salmon returns in Cook Inlet.

Sincerely,



Gary Fandrei, Executive Director
Cook Inlet Aquaculture

cc:

Governor Sean Parnell
Eric Olson, Chair of NPFMC
Chris Oliver, Executive Director NPFMC
Regional Director NMFS
Mayor Carey, Kenai Peninsula Borough