



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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March 25, 2015

Representative Louise Stutes
Chair, House Fisheries Committee
State Capitol Room 416
Juneau AK, 99801
Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov

RE: HB 112 REPEAL CFEC; TRANSFER FUNCTIONS TO ADFG.

Representative Stutes,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 36 Alaska commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state and its offshore federal waters. Every UFA member is impacted by HB 112, the action to repeal CFEC and transfer functions to ADF&G.

UFA is urging the legislature to take no action at this time on HB 112. Although we have a completed review from ADF&G, commonly known as the Lawson report, we do not yet have the critical legislative audit regarding HB 112. It is our understanding that the legislative audit will not be complete until June of this year.

UFA is unable to take a position on HB 112 until we are able to analyze and understand the results of the legislative audit. The legislative audit of HB 112 will reveal important details regarding the impacts of absorbing CFEC into ADF&G. Our organization has a number of concerns regarding the effects of dissolving CFEC; however we are willing to wait until the legislative audit answers our questions prior to taking a position on this bill.

We provided input to CFEC regarding their timeline to implement specific recommendations of the Lawson report and to make changes within the Commission. We are supportive of CFEC's efforts, and we are standing by to assist in any way.

Please let us know if we can answer any questions or provide additional detail on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Julianne Curry
Executive Director