



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

Mailing Address: PO Box 20229, Juneau AK 99802-0229

Physical Address: 410 Calhoun Ave Ste 101, Juneau AK 99801

Phone: (907)586-2820 **Fax:** (907) 463-2545

Email: ufa@ufa-fish.org **Website:** www.ufa-fish.org

December 9, 2015

Governor Bill Walker
Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811

RE: Support for engagement with the U.S. State Department and request for International Joint Commission reference.

Dear Governor Walker and Lieutenant Governor Mallott,

United Fishermen of Alaska is the statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 35 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state and its offshore federal waters. Eleven of our member groups represent salmon fisheries in Southeast Alaska, a large portion of which are inextricably dependent on salmon habitat in the rivers of British Columbia.

UFA appreciates the interest and work the Lt Governor has done on international mining issues and that the U.S. Secretary of State is currently engaged in this topic. UFA is concerned that the Memorandum of Understanding and Statement of Cooperation do not provide enough protection to Alaska salmon without engagement of the federal governments of both countries whether through an International Joint Commission (IJC), through the Boundary Waters Treaty or through government acceptance of agreements drafted between the State of Alaska and British Columbia will be necessary.

We previously requested the former administration and our delegation to engage the U.S. State Department on this matter. We support southeast salmon groups in the perception that engagement by the U.S. State Department will be necessary in the end to have binding agreements regarding indemnity and compensation in the event of tailing dam failures upstream or other less catastrophic failures that could impact Alaska's water quality and salmon. The interests and protection of Alaska and our salmon fleets as we pursue the necessary binding agreements to protect and ensure long term sustainability of the fisheries are of utmost importance.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jerry McCune
President