



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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March 29, 2016

Honorable Bill Walker, Governor
Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Commissioner Sam Cotten
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RE: CFEC and AO 279

Dear Governor Walker, Lieutenant Governor Mallott, and Commissioner Cotten,

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you this morning. We appreciated the opportunity to share our thoughts regarding the Board of Fisheries process and Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission and Administrative Order 279. We continue to have very strong concerns with aspects of the Administrative Order, and specifically the moving of CFEC licensing functions to ADF&G.

The UFA board has discussed the pending complaint seeking to invalidate AO-279, and we have taken the position that UFA join as a party in this Complaint, unless there is action reversing AO279. The Board's position was to sign onto the complaint after April 1, in the hopes that UFA leadership could achieve our goals without taking that step.

As we wrote in our letter of December 22, 2015, Alaska's commercial fisheries rely on the limited entry permitting system as the foundation of an orderly, sustainable and highly regulated industry. The long term stability of the permitting system and a hard and fast separation from fisheries management within ADF&G is paramount, in our view. We are confident that similar cost savings as would occur under AO-279 can be accomplished without disruption to the CFEC & ADFG structure.

We appreciated the opportunity to discuss this with you today, and we look forward to continuing the conversation.

Sincerely,

Jerry McCune
President

Mark Vinsel
Executive Administrator

CC: Barbara Blake
John Hozey.