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January 9, 2015

Glenn Haight
Executive Director
State of Alaska Boards Support
PO Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

RE: Commissioner of ADFG Selection

Dear Glenn:

The Alaska Salmon Alliance representing seafood processors and fishermen of the Kenai Peninsula wishes to provide recommendations for both Roland Maw and Sam Cotten as our choices for Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Roland Maw has a tremendous scientific and management related background in fisheries and wildlife and forestry, not only in Alaska, but Montana and Alberta. As evidenced in his career resume, Roland has a firm belief in science-based resource management. Although Roland has a lengthy tenure as a Cook Inlet commercial fisherman and the Executive Director of the UCIDA, Roland is also known for his sincere appreciation and recognition of the importance of sport, personal use, and subsistence fisheries to residents of Alaska. Roland also has demonstrated his ability over the years to work with diverse interests on complex issues.

Sam Cotten, although he does not have formal training in science-based resource management, he does have lengthy experience in government, namely the Alaska Legislature, where he demonstrated his ability at working with people toward consensus on sometimes difficult issues. Sam also served two terms as an Alaska representative on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, where he grappled with complex fisheries management issues for six years. Sam also has many years of experience fishing and hunting, including commercial salmon fishing in Alaska. As Sam notes in his application, he is a strong proponent of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game responsibility to carry out the sustained yield principle, to insure fish and game resources are managed in strict compliance with this mandate.

It is our pleasure to endorse both of these candidates for the position of Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Sincerely,


Arni Thomson, Executive Director