



Shellfish Preservation Alliance

PO Box 20527

Juneau, AK 99802

907-465-7666 shellfishpreservationalliance@gmail.com

March 12, 2018

Senator Stedman
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

RE: SJR 13 – Support for Sea Otter Resolution

Dear Senator Stedman,

Thank you for introducing resolution SJR13 regarding the management of sea otters. We appreciate this issue being raised and support the resolution. It became very apparent again at the Southeast Board of Fish meeting that Alaska will not be able to meet it's mandate for maintaining sustainable resources when there is no management of sea otters.

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has made it clear that they intend to manage sea otters by allowing them to run their course – which is to allow them to rapidly expand and then starve themselves until the population reaches an equilibrium but unfortunately at that point the shellfish resources which is so important to the rural communities for subsistence uses and for sport and commercial will no longer be viable for any harvest nor at maximum sustainable yield as mandated by the Constitution.

Many native tribes and organizations have approached the USFWS about developing management plans and or co-management authority and to date USFWS has not entered into any joint endeavor. The Southeast Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council gets in a discussion about sea otters at almost every meeting and again no action has resulted from the issue being raised continually.

The Shellfish Preservation Alliance is a new group formed in 2017 as a coalition of native hunters, native artists, tribal governments and organizations, municipalities, fishermen, fishing associations and processors to work together for changes allowing for an ecological balance between sea otters, shellfish resources and humans.

Sincerely,

John Moller
President