



## Alaska Trollers Association

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March 16, 2015

Alaska Legislators  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

**RE: SUPPORT Sam Cotten for ADFG Commissioner**

Dear Legislator:

The Alaska Trollers Association (ATA) is pleased to support Sam Cotten for Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Sam Cotten brings to the table an impressive resume and skill set that we believe makes him uniquely qualified to head the largest, most dynamic fisheries agency in the world. Informing his perspectives is an array of personal experiences that range from sitting at the helm of his fishing vessel, to the Speaker's chair in the House of Representatives. The spaces between have been filled with a sampling of key fisheries management and policy boards, each of which involves studious attention to the host of issues impacting Alaska's fish and fisheries. His curiosity about the biology of fishes, as well as the circumstances surrounding each issue, allows him to work with others to formulate practical solutions to complex problems. He is a known defender of Alaska's right to manage its resources and has worked tirelessly to ensure that the state and its fishermen are treated fairly in any arena.

Sam has spent many years exploring our state, in addition to observing and harvesting fish and game resources. He has a personal appreciation and respect for the connection that exists between Alaskans and the fish and game upon which we depend.

In addition to his wealth of fish and wildlife knowledge, Sam has developed a long list of friends in all walks of life. He is easily approachable and seems to flow effortlessly between technical discussions with academics to checking in with his fishing friends. He is humble enough to recognize, and lean upon, the strength and expertise of his team at ADFG. His solid people and managerial skills will serve him well.

Great challenges lie ahead for managers of Alaska's fish and wildlife. I believe it will take people like Sam Cotten, with his unique blend of experiences, to lead the Department as it works to unravel complex problems. Having had the good fortune to work with him on a variety of issues over the years, we can attest to Sam's intelligence, good judgment, and strong commitment to Alaska's resources and user groups.

Sam Cotten is an asset to the state and we hope you will work to see him confirm as Commissioner of ADF&G.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale Kelley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dale Kelley  
Executive Director