



## United Cook Inlet Drift Association

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February 22, 2016

Representative Louise Stutes  
Chair, House Fisheries Committee  
State Capitol Room 416  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Chairwoman Stutes and Committee Members:

The United Cook Inlet Drift Association (UCIDA) represents the 570 drift gillnet permit holders and their families that fish for salmon in Cook Inlet.

UCIDA recently produced and provided to the Governor and legislators a report titled “*Analysis of State Revenue from Fisheries*”. In that report, based on the fully documented 2014 Cook Inlet salmon season, we demonstrate and explain how commercial fisheries and other fishery resource user groups could provide additional tax or fee revenue to the State. In the research and development of our analysis we realized that harvesting surplus salmon stocks would provide much greater financial benefit to the State and the local/regional economies than would a tax increase as described in HB 251 or SB 135. Fully utilizing our abundant and renewable fishery resources will provide the greatest value to the State, not only in direct tax revenue generated, but also in the number of jobs provided in the seafood industry and in the hundreds of businesses that support the seafood industry.

UCIDA is opposed to HB 251 as a stand-alone tax increase on the commercial fishing industry. An increase in the Fisheries Business Tax should only be considered as a component of a comprehensive overhaul of fishery management policies, taxes and license fees. We are certainly aware of the economic circumstance facing all Alaskans and hope we have provided information useful to you in making these important decisions.

We appreciate your attention to this topic.

Sincerely,

*Original Signed Document*

David Martin, UCIDA President  
Erik Huebsch, UCIDA Vice President