



# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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May 4, 2026

Chair Louise Stutes  
House Fisheries Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, AK 99801

**RE: Appointment of Tracy Welch as Commissioner to the CFEC**

Dear Chair Stutes and Members of the House Fisheries Committee,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the statewide commercial fishing trade association representing 35 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state and federal fisheries off Alaska's coast. UFA supports the confirmation of Tracy Welch as commissioner to the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC).

Tracy is uniquely qualified to serve as one of the two commissioners of the CFEC. Tracy grew up in a commercial fishing family in Petersburg, AK, and has decades of on-deck experience with Southeast salmon and herring gillnet, and halibut longline fisheries. She has worked as Executive Director of UFA since 2021, gaining experience in the management and legislative sides of the industry. Tracy's background gives her a deep understanding of the importance of CFEC to the state's fishery management structure, and direct personal knowledge about how those regulatory frameworks impact our fishermen and their operations. Tracy's background provides a holistic view of the limited entry system and how it fits into the broader commercial fishing management system within our state.

The CFEC is essential to the smooth functioning of Alaska's limited entry system, including timely completion of commercial fisheries permit transfers and issuance, both of which are essential to allow fishermen to do their jobs and for the state to effectively regulate fishery entrants. In addition to her background in fisheries, Tracy earned her law degree and has the necessary skills and experience to adroitly navigate the legal frameworks of the limited entry program, as well as any potential challenges that might arise.

UFA strongly supports Tracy Welch as commissioner to the CFEC.

Sincerely,

Matt Alward  
President



# Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

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May 3, 2026

House Fisheries Committee  
Representative Stutes, Chair

Sent via email: [House.Fisheries@akleg.gov](mailto:House.Fisheries@akleg.gov)

Representative Stutes, Chair and House Fisheries Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to write in support of the confirmation of Tracy Welch as Commissioner of Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC). Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFA) is a multi-gear, multi-species, small vessel, non-profit organization representing our 300+ members involved in the SE salmon, crab and shrimp fisheries and longline fisheries in SE and the Gulf of Alaska.

SEAFA has worked closely with Tracy Welch in her position as Executive Director of United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) and believe she is well suited to the responsibilities as a Commissioner of CFEC. Tracy has practical experience with boots on the back deck of a fishing vessel her whole life, her law degree, and her understanding through working as Executive Director of UFA of the many diverse fisheries in the State of Alaska. This provides Tracy with a comprehensive understanding of the value of CFEC and how it fits within the commercial fishing framework of regulations.

**We support the confirmation of Tracy Welch as Commissioner of CFEC.**

Sincerely,

Kathy Hansen  
Executive Director