

**Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference**3300 Arctic Boulevard, Suite 203 Anchorage, AK 99503 p: 907.562.7380 f: 907.562.0438 www.swamc.orgAlaska Peninsula
Aleutian Chain
Bristol Bay
Kodiak Island
Pribilof Islands

January 23, 2009

Senator Donny Olson
Alaska Legislature
Juneau, AK 99811

Re: Senate Bill 3

Dear Senator Olson:

The Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference is an Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) and also a federally recognized Economic Development District. Our region includes three of the biggest seafood ports (2006) in the nation for total volume landed: Dutch Harbor (#1), Kodiak (#4), Naknek (#12) and includes the world's largest sockeye run – Bristol Bay. This region also includes three of the most valuable seafood ports (2006) in the nation for total landed value: Dutch Harbor (#2), Kodiak (#3), and Naknek (#8). The fisheries of Alaska have just been rated as the ninth largest fishery in the world and account for sixty two percent (62%) of the nation's total seafood catch.

Much of our region's economic vitality and development potential is based on commercial fisheries and their health. We do a lot of research and analysis of fisheries data for the region to assist in our efforts to promote development opportunities in the region. So for SWAMC to have free access to commercial fisheries data from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission is vital to our mission and the quality of work.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff we fully support your efforts to allow ARDORs free access to this critical economic data that is vital to our economic development efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Catsi", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael Catsi
Executive Director