



Cordova District Fishermen United
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February 8, 2013

Rep. Paul Seaton
House Fisheries Committee
State Capitol Room 102
Juneau, AK 99801
f. 465.3472

RE: HB 89 "Aquatic Invasive Species"

Dear Chairman Seaton and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Cordova District Fishermen United Board of Directors and our membership to express our support of the intent of House Bill 89, as it would be a valuable addition to the Department's arsenal for the management of Aquatic Nuisance Species.

As was evidenced in the Pacific NW, marine debris associated with the 2011 Japanese tsunami poses increased opportunity for the introduction and transmission of invasive species into Alaskan waters. The outside beaches in the Gulf of Alaska and the PWS area, where the majority of debris washes ashore, are remote, uninhabited and yet hold some of our most productive salmon streams. Having a rapid response system in place gives the Department the tools to quickly implement eradication efforts and prevent the spread of ANS.

I would also like to acknowledge the concerns expressed by the Alaska Shellfish Growers Association, although in our region we currently don't have the same ANS complications, we can recognize their concern and request for amended language.

Thank you for your thorough consideration of HB 89.

Sincerely,

Alexis Cooper
Executive Director