



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

Mailing Address: PO Box 20229, Juneau AK 99802-0229

Physical Address: 410 Calhoun Ave Ste 101, Juneau AK 99801

Phone: (907)586-2820 **Fax:** (907) 463-2545

Email: ufa@ufa-fish.org **Website:** www.ufa-fish.org

March 1, 2015

Senator Cathy Giessel
Chair, Senate Resources
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau AK, 99801
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov

RE: Support Sam Cotton for Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Dear Senator Giessel and members of the Senate Resources Committee,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 36 Alaska commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state and its offshore federal waters. UFA members are also active personal use, sport, and subsistence harvesters. UFA is pleased to support the Governor's nomination for Commissioner of Fish and Game, Mr. Sam Cotten.

As stated in AS 16.05.010, "The commissioner is the principal executive officer of the Department of Fish and Game. The commissioner shall be a qualified executive with knowledge of the requirements for the protection, management, conservation, and restoration of the fish and game resources of the state." Mr. Cotten has extensive knowledge and experience regarding the fisheries management process and possesses the characteristics of a qualified commissioner. UFA members that have worked with Mr. Cotten have found him accessible, engaged and interested in protecting and enhancing Alaska's fisheries.

In addition, Mr. Cotten's substantial experience in the Alaska State Legislature provides him with additional tools to guide the Alaska Department of Fish and Game during the years ahead and to continue to champion outstanding management of Alaska's marine resources. UFA is confident that Mr. Cotten possesses the qualities necessary to manage staff, provide leadership and direction, and coordinate strategy for the protection, management, conservation, and restoration of Alaska's fish and wildlife resources.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important appointment. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Julianne Curry
Executive Director