Cordova District Fishermen United
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January 31, 2019

Honorable Gary Stevens
State Capitol Room 423
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: Support for SB 22 - Shellfish Enhancement

Dear Senator Stevens,

CDFU is a non-profit membership organization representing over 900 commercial fishing families who participate in commercial fisheries in Alaska's Area E, which includes Prince William Sound, the Copper River region, and the northern-central Gulf. It is our mission to preserve, promote, and perpetuate the commercial fishing industry in Area E and to further promote safety at sea, legislation, conservation, management, and general welfare for the mutual benefit of all our members.

The commercial fishermen of Area E have a strong and historic relationship with the Alaska State Legislature and State of Alaska Departments that we foster with great care, proactive communications and representation. CDFU would like to formally state our strong support for SB 22 and the regulatory framework it creates for ADFG to allow and manage wild shellfish enhancement within the State of Alaska.

We believe shellfish mariculture has the potential to restore wild species and historic fisheries such as King crab, Dungeness crab, razor clams, and sea cucumber, etc. to their historic range within the Prince William Sound region, and create additional economic opportunity for commercial fishermen and their coastal communities within Area E.

CDFU continues to support Alaska's salmon enhancement and hatchery programs, which have been implemented for decades through careful regulation and which provide salmon for use by subsistence, commercial, sport, and personal use fishermen. We believe shellfish enhancement projects can be carried out in a similar manner and that SB 22 will support the state in the development and enhancement of shellfish fisheries.

Gerald McCune
President

Chelsea Haisman
Executive Director