

To: Chair Josiah Patkotak
House Resources Committee
House.Resources@akleg.gov

RE: Support HB 52

Dear Chair Patkotak and Committee Members: February 11, 2022

I am writing on behalf of the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF) to support HB 52 – Tutka Bay Hatchery.

AFDF was formed in 1978 to serve as the only statewide research and development entity on behalf of Alaska's seafood industry. Since that time, AFDF has been dedicated to identifying problems common to the Alaska seafood industry and developing efficient, sustainable solutions that provide benefits to the economy, environment and communities.

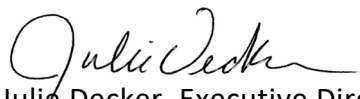
Additionally, AFDF facilitates the sustainability certifications (RFM and MSC) for the Alaska salmon and cod fisheries. These certification programs utilize third-party fishery experts to review the management practices for Alaska's salmon enhancement activities against international standards, which provides yet another layer of assurance of the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game's management practices.

Alaska's salmon enhancement program is important to the state as it benefits multiple users and is sustainably managed. Alaska's salmon enhancement projects contribute economic opportunity with strict sustainable management practices. Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery is one of these salmon hatcheries and plays an important role in the Lower Cook Inlet fisheries by providing for salmon enumeration, salmon enhancement and habitat monitoring. Indirectly, Tutka Bay operations help fund broad projects throughout the Cook Inlet drainage for habitat protection and salmon rehabilitation.

AFDF strongly supports HB 52 and urge your passage of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Julie Decker, Executive Director, Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation
Cc: Rep. Vance



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