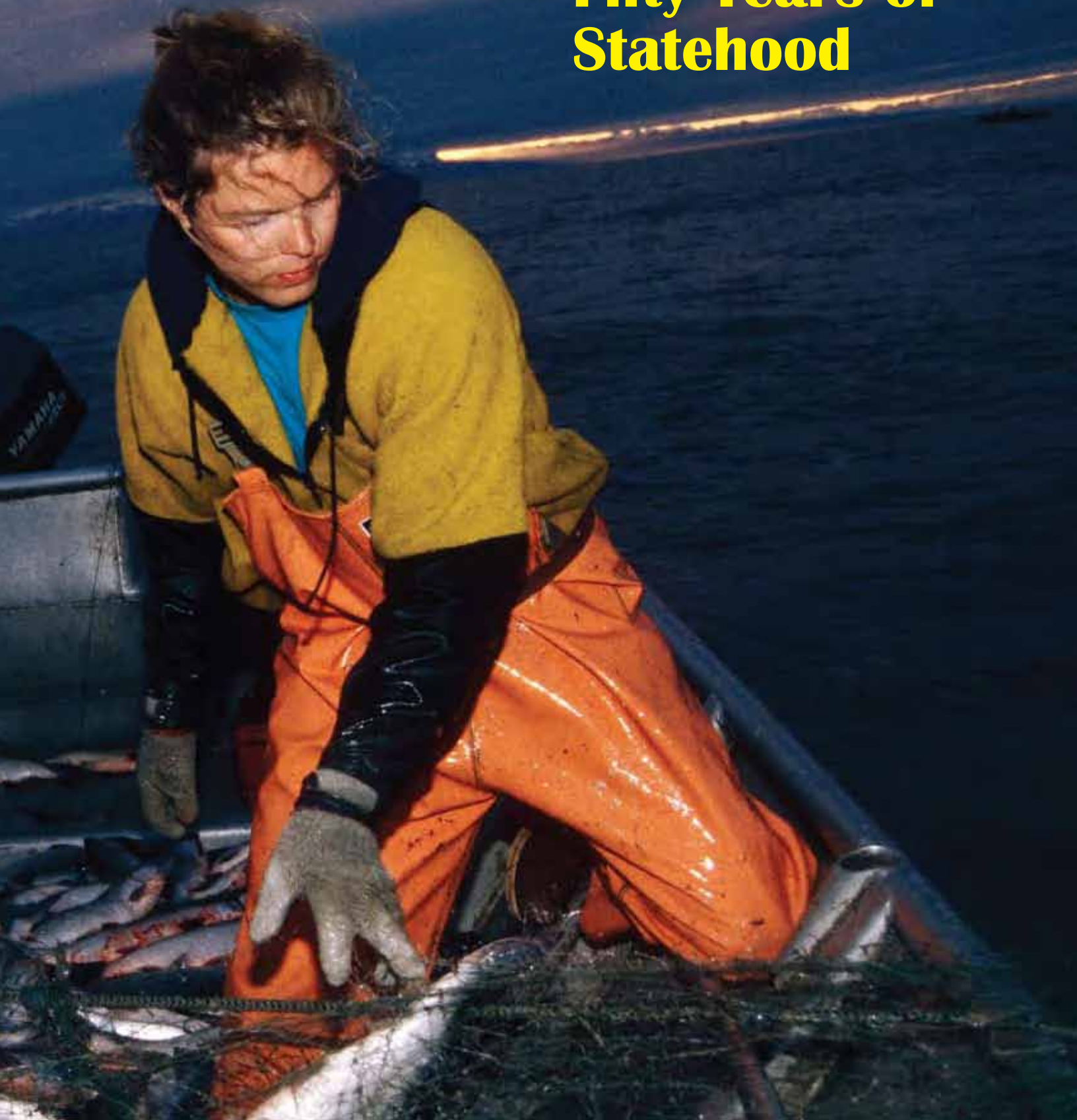


# Sustaining Alaska's Fisheries: Fifty Years of Statehood







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State of Alaska  
Alaska Department of  
Fish and Game  
January 2009





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# Introduction

Denby S. Lloyd, Commissioner  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game



It's my honor and privilege to introduce this volume on the management of commercial fishing in Alaska, in celebration of Alaska's 50th anniversary of statehood. Alaska's harvest of salmon, halibut, crab, pollock and other species constitutes a major portion of our economy

and forms the foundation of much of our social structure. And, it was the need to ensure the sustainability of our fisheries, and to secure local control of their management, that supplied much of the drive for statehood.

An essential element of our fishing industry is a management system that uses the best science available to keep species and stocks healthy, while allowing for harvests sufficient to support local communities and businesses. Based upon the vision of our constitutional convention half a century ago, Alaska's fisheries management has become widely recognized as some of the best in the

world. Many of the original principles of sustained yield, local area management, and public participation in the regulatory process

that are the hallmark of the state's management program have been adopted by federal managers for the marine fisheries off Alaska's coast as well.

I am proud to have worked throughout my career as a researcher, manager,

and administrator for Alaska's fisheries. Like many of our state scientists, I've enjoyed the rewards and challenges of working closely with stakeholders, fishermen, processors, community leaders, and advocacy groups. And, after fifty years of successful, sustainable management, the industry appears to have developed a great deal of trust in Alaska's management policies and decisions. Our commitment is to keep Alaska's fisheries wild and sustainable.

To mark the 50th anniversary of Alaska's statehood, we asked Bob King to write this engaging history of our commercial fishery management heritage. Bob, a former journalist who covered the fishing industry in Bristol Bay for many years and later served as press secretary to the Alaska Governor, has a wealth of knowledge of the people and events that have shaped Alaska's fisheries over the last fifty years. In researching this history he interviewed many of the biologists, leaders and Alaska citizens who contributed to this story. I hope you enjoy this book, as a resource and a reminder of the visionary pioneers, scientists, and leaders who have been a part of developing Alaska's amazing commercial fisheries. The stage is set for keeping our fisheries wild and productive, sustaining ways of life and livelihoods for generations to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denby S. Lloyd".



Right: Commissioner Lloyd gillnetting off the Copper River.  
Photo courtesy of George Covell.

Left: Commissioner Lloyd in front of Dawes Glacier in Endicott Arm as part of a seal research trip.  
Photo courtesy of Gail Blundell.

Opposite page: Transferring fish to a tender.  
Photo courtesy of Bob King.