



January 8, 2015

Alaska Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game
Glenn Haight, Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
VIA E-mail to glenn.haight@alaska.gov

RE: Alaska Department of Fish and Game Commissioner Selection Process

Dear Alaska Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game:

The Alaska Marine Conservation Council (AMCC) is a community-based organization dedicated to protecting the integrity of Alaska's marine ecosystems and promoting the health of ocean-dependent coastal communities. Our members include fishermen, subsistence harvesters, marine scientists, small business owners and families – Alaskans with a stake in the long-term success of our fisheries. **We are writing today in strong support of Acting Commissioner Sam Cotten for the position of ADF&G Commissioner.**

We have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Cotten in his role as a member of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council as well as in his work with the Aleutians East Borough. Mr. Cotten is a longstanding advocate for sustainable fisheries and good governance of our natural resources. In his time on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, Mr. Cotten consistently advocated for fisheries management policies which are in the best interest of Alaska's fishermen and communities. His long history of engagement in Alaska politics and fishery issues makes Mr. Cotten uniquely qualified to serve as a leader for Alaska as Commissioner.

Beyond his specific expertise and track record in fisheries, Mr. Cotten has a long history of working with Alaska's diverse communities, and is approachable and fair. In the always divisive realm of fish and game management, Mr. Cotten's willingness to listen and understand a broad realm of community needs and experiences are key qualities for an ADF&G Commissioner. We therefore urge you wholeheartedly to nominate Sam Cotten for consideration by Governor Bill Walker to be ADF&G Commissioner. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Jon Zuck
Board President

Kelly Harrell
Executive Director