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State of Alaska  
 Board of Fisheries  
 P.O. Box 115526  
 Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Chairman Karl Johnstone,

On August 1, 2012 Board of Fisheries (BOF) convened to discuss the merits of an emergency petition.

Within the discussion, board member Bill Brown made disparaging comments about commercial salmon setnet fishermen in Cook Inlet (CI). We are concerned that the information that Mr. Brown entered into the record was inaccurate and unsubstantiated. It is our understanding that his statements were directed towards all commercial setnet fishermen, impugning the good character and honesty of hard working honest, law abiding citizens of the State of Alaska.

In summary, his statements were to the effect, “setnetters were conducting illegal activities such as selling king salmon on a ‘black market’ and not reporting them on a limited entry permit card or an ADF&G fish ticket”. In addition, “setnet fishermen were conducting the practice of ‘wanton waste’ by rolling king salmon out of there nets that were dead”, with the intent of non reporting the numbers of kings caught.

Mr. Brown makes serious allegations that would give the impression that illegal activities are the normal practice among commercial fishermen. He inferred that all commercial setnet fishermen were untrustworthy and were in collusion to not report landings of king salmon thereby justifying no consideration of openings to allow the fishery a minimal opportunity to harvest salmon stocks.

We immediately questioned our local Alaska Wildlife Troopers – Detachment E office located in Soldotna Alaska about these unfounded accusations. We made contact with Lieutenant Peter Mlynarik and asked him directly if he knew of such illegal activities or

conspiracies that have happened in the past or are currently being investigated. He replied, "He new of no violations past or present relative to the referenced accusations".

Under AS 16.05.221 (a) , BOF members are selected to the board with several qualifications, one in particular is classified as 'good judgment'. We do not believe that board member Brown exhibited good judgment by making these unfounded statements. We believe that any individual that has the authority to conduct the peoples business of the State of Alaska should be doing so in an open and unbiased manner, that insults should not be part of the record.

We would respectfully request that the Chairman would acknowledge receipt of this letter, on the record, and direct board member Brown to either substantiate his accusations, again on record, or publicly acknowledge that his statements have no merit and to apologize to the good honest law abiding CI commercial salmon setnet fishermen and their families.

Thank you,

Robert V. Williams  
President