January 31, 2017

Alaska Board of Fisheries,

John Jensen, Chair

The Central Peninsula Fish & Game Advisory Committee was presented, at our Jan. 31, 2017 meeting, Resolution XX-2017 that addresses the genetic reports from the Kodiak Management Area (KMA) and the interception of Cook Inlet salmon. We voted to unanimously support the Resolution, which is enclosed in the following attachment. Many people in our community have been drastically harmed from the lack of surplus Upper Cook Inlet salmon being available for harvest, resulting from unmanageable management plans and the Kodiak interception. The harm has been in the form of businesses and processors closing, jobs and livelihoods lost, social and financial devastation, resource and habitat loss and no opportunity for the younger generation to enter any facet of the fishing industry, just to name a few.

The genetic reports documents the large interception of Cook Inlet salmon. This interception is of a magnitude to be in violation of the Mixed Stock Policy, Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy, Magnuson Stevens Act, and the directive of the Board of Fisheries in 1998 to minimize the directed harvest of Cook Inlet sockeye salmon stocks.

We support the BOF direction for ADF&G to focus the KMA salmon harvests on local stocks and minimize the interception of non-local stocks. We are hopeful that the BOF will reaffirm this direction at the UCI meeting.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Steve Vanek, AC secretary
RESOLUTION XX-2017 AK BOARD OF FISHERIES

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) recently received new salmon genetic reports from the Kodiak Management Area (KMA) and;

WHEREAS, these ADF&G reports present new information on the genetic identity of both Chinook and sockeye salmon stocks harvested in the KMA, and;

WHEREAS, the 2014 and 2015 KMA Commercial Salmon Fishery Annual Management Reports are not yet available to the BOF and stakeholders, and;

WHEREAS, the 2016 KMA Commercial Salmon Fishery Annual Management Report was made public only a couple of weeks prior to the Kodiak BOF regulatory meeting, and;

WHEREAS, there was limited opportunity for public testimony and public comment in regard to this new information, and;

WHEREAS, there was limited time available to analyze and incorporate the new biological, genetic and annual reports into BOF deliberation at the Kodiak BOF meeting, and;

WHEREAS, there has been increasing public concern and confusion as to how the KMA salmon fisheries are to be managed and bear the burden of conservation, and;

WHEREAS, the BOF, ADF&G and the public did not have sufficient time or opportunity to develop regulatory proposals or participate in discussions concerning the impacts of the new information and the compliance with the Sustainable Salmon Policy, the Escapement Goal Policy or the Mixed-Stock Management Policy, and;

WHEREAS, the new genetic and harvest data information may also effect the development of new Fishery Management Plans as prescribed by the recent Ninth Circuit Court decision.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ALASKA BOF EXPRESSES THE FOLLOWING:

1. The BOF will demonstrate its concern and commitment to, within the next year, hold a special regulatory meeting in reference to the new genetic information and harvest data as it relates to the Chignik, Kodiak and Cook Inlet Management Areas.

2. The BOF reaffirms the regulatory intent written into the KMA management plans and directs the ADF&G to focus the KMA salmon harvests on local stocks and minimize the interception of non-local stocks.