

## UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA



**Mailing Address:** PO Box 20229, Juneau AK 99802-0229

**Physical Address:** 410 Calhoun Ave Ste 101, Juneau AK 99801

**Phone:** (907) 586-2820 **Fax:** (907) 463-2545

**Email:** [ufa@ufafish.org](mailto:ufa@ufafish.org) **Website:** [www.ufafish.org](http://www.ufafish.org)

October 11, 2016

John Jensen, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Fisheries  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chairman Jensen and Members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is a statewide commercial fishing trade association representing 33 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state and its offshore federal waters. The UFA board has discussed the request for action submitted by 13 Alaskan fisheries participants seeking your recommendation to update Fish Habitat Permitting language in Title 16 of Alaska Statute

UFA has consistently worked with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and other state resource agencies discussing strategies to clarify or improve fish habitat protection measures in the permitting process.

As Alaska's population, economic opportunities and development pressures continue to grow, UFA supports measures that clarify the framework for habitat protection in title 16 to ensure that the constitutional mandate for sustained yield is fulfilled.

While valuable for guidance, direct language from the Alaska's Sustainable Salmon Policy 5AAC 39.222, may not be an ideal option for adding to Title 16. Nonetheless we are supportive of any efforts to review and potentially update Title 16 with regard to fish habitat. Given that this law was established shortly after statehood, a modern review and possible update is warranted.

We appreciate your effort to take this topic under consideration and look forward to working with your body as well as other state decision makers as the discussion moves forward.

Sincerely,

Jerry McCune  
President

Mark Vinsel  
Executive Administrator