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January 31, 2014

Mr. Glenn Haight, Executive Director  
 Alaska Board of Fisheries  
 PO Box 115526  
 Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RE: Economic Significance of Kenai Peninsula and Anchorage area commercial salmon and other fisheries

Dear Mr. Haight and Board of Fisheries Members:

The Alaska Salmon Alliance (ASA) represents Snug Harbor Sfds., Pacific Star Seafoods, Icicle Seafoods, Great Pacific Seafoods and Inlet Processors, all registered Alaskan corporations with plants and operations throughout the Kenai Peninsula. ASA is also comprised of numerous fishermen supporters that reside on the Peninsula. Our companies and fishermen have for decades been economically dependent on the sockeye salmon production of drift net boats and shorebased set net independent family owned businesses on the Kenai Peninsula, as the main stay product that supports our operations. **The commercial sockeye salmon fishery is the core fishery that is responsible for us being able to maintain plant operations on the Peninsula, and to attract halibut, black cod, and Pacific cod from this region, and to also attract salmon species from other regions, including Bristol Bay, the Yukon River, Kotzebue and Prince William Sound.** This year, the Cook Inlet sockeye salmon harvest paid \$37 million dollars to the combined fleet for a harvest of 2.6 million fish which weighed in at 16 million pounds. A similar or larger harvest is anticipated for 2014, and sockeye salmon markets remain strong.

Cook Inlet salmon fisheries are a major economic driver in the Cook Inlet region. Regulatory stability in terms of stable allocations is highly important for year-to-year planning purposes. Regional management flexibility is exceedingly important to allow ADFG to engage in adaptive abundance-based management that can result in an orderly harvest that facilitates production of high quality fresh and frozen products.

A May 2013 Northern Economics fisheries economic analysis of the Kenai Peninsula-based fisheries for the year 2011, commissioned by the ASA illustrates significant economic contributions to the diverse Peninsula economy:

- 3,600 fishing jobs, with overall Alaskan residency of 80%;
- 1,600 processing jobs;

- \$212 million first wholesale export value, all species;
- combined labor income to fisherman at \$78 million; processing income, \$30 million,
- Total labor payroll of \$108 million.
- Combining the ports of Seward, Kenai, Homer and Anchorage and total landings of all species in these ports—the region would rank as the sixth largest port in the U.S. in landed value of species.
- During the period 1980-2011, the accumulated harvest value of Cook Inlet salmon using 2012 inflation adjusted dollars was \$2.15 billion.

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