



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

211 Fourth Street, Suite 110
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1172
(907) 586-2820
(907) 463-2545 Fax
E-Mail: ufa@ufa-fish.org
www.ufa-fish.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bob Thorstenson, Jr., President
Mark Vinsel, Executive Director
UFA Office – (907) 586-2820

November 12, 2006

UFA Congratulates Governor-elect Sarah Palin on Campaign and Election

The United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA), representing thirty-three Alaska commercial fishing organizations, congratulated Alaska Governor-elect Sarah Palin on her resounding election win.

Alaska's governor-elect Sarah Palin fishes in the Bristol Bay salmon setnet fishery with her husband and family, and will be the first Alaska governor with direct commercial fishing experience since Jay Hammond served from 1974 to 1982.

UFA interviewed the three leading gubernatorial candidates at its semiannual Board of Directors meeting in October, and voted unanimously to endorse Sarah Palin for governor. UFA Executive Director Mark Vinsel noted that some UFA groups do not participate in UFA endorsement votes due to their own bylaws, so there were abstentions but no votes opposing the endorsement, and none of UFA's member groups endorsed other candidates.

"Sarah Palin was the candidate supported by so many commercial fishing organizations and individuals from across the state, and we look forward to working with her administration. I am confident that as governor, Sarah Palin will place a high priority on addressing the issues facing Alaska's seafood industry," said Linda Kozak, who represents UFA's newest member group, the Kodiak-based Crab Group of Independent Harvestors.

"Commercial fishing is the engine that not only powers coastal Alaska but adds great economic benefit all the way into Anchorage. We have all of the confidence in the world that the Palin Administration will continue to help enhance and build the economic development potential that the commercial fishing industry has and UFA looks forward to helping her in any way we can," said Bruce Schactler, UFA Marketing Committee Chairman.

For more information contact the UFA office at (907)586-2820.