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UFA Applauds Governor Palin for Appointing Denby Lloyd Acting Commissioner of Fish and Game

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) applauds Alaska Governor Sarah Palin for appointing Denby Lloyd acting Commissioner of Fish and Game and congratulates Denby Lloyd on his appointment .

UFA had recommended four names to Governor Palin for Commissioner including Lloyd. UFA had been informed that Lloyd planned to take a position with NOAA in January and hoped he could be convinced to remain with the State.

“We felt that it was a long shot but did not want to rule out Mr. Lloyd, even though it was assumed that he was not available for the job. Governor Palin said at her inauguration that she would seek to attract the best qualified individuals for her cabinet, and we applaud her for considering and attracting Denby for the job,” said UFA President Bob Thorstenson Jr.

“We are pleased to have an experienced biologist and proven divisional manager from within the department to fill its highest position, and we feel that Denby will maintain a balance between the needs of those who depend on Alaska’s fish and game, with emphasis first and foremost on the sustainability of those resources,” said Thorstenson.

UFA also feels that the appointment is a victory for the State and the Department of Fish and Game, against a general trend of qualified and experienced Fish and Game employees that have left state employment for federal and private sector jobs.

“The Fish and Game transition team unanimously identified the need to attract and retain top level scientific employees, and this is a great step in that direction. The Department of Fish and Game needs to attract and retain top biologists and managers to continue our highly regarded sustainable fisheries management. We will support the appointment for this critical position through the Joint Board of Fisheries and Game, and through the legislative confirmation process,” said UFA Executive Director Mark Vinsel, who served on Governor Palin’s Fish and Game transition team.

United Fishermen of Alaska is the largest statewide commercial fisheries trade association, representing 33 Alaska commercial fishing organizations.