

Joint Legislative Salmon Task Force Proposal Form

Updated: Oct 24, 2003

Fax to UFA at (907) 463-2545 or email ufal@ufa-fish.org. UFA will forward to Task Force. Please limit each suggestion to one topic and refer it to the most appropriate subcommittee. Subcommittees will coordinate as needed.

Marketing Finance Quality Production Governance

Title: Alaska Commercial Seafood Commission

Problem: The state hasn't had any effective body responsible for and capable of coordinating state agencies and industry (see attached list) so that the Alaska Seafood industry has an effective, integrated plan for the promotion of Alaska seafood and ensuring that that all sectors of the industry are socially, environmentally, and economically viable.

Discussion:

There are several agencies that have a role or responsibility for some aspect of the seafood industry, however there has not been an effective, ongoing coordination; nor is there a mechanism to periodically assess the health of the industry, assess threats facing the industry, and develop a strategic plan for the future. Continuous improvement and market awareness are vital to the survival of Alaska's seafood industry in a competitive, globalized protein market.

In the past there have been sporadic attempts to bring segments of the industry and government together, such as the Salmon Forums, and this Legislative Task Force. What has been lacking is an institution to plan strategically, coordinate, and follow-up on the implementation of actions necessary to make the seafood industry economically vibrant.

Recommendations:

1. Establish an Alaska Commercial Seafood Commission modeled after the Alaska Minerals Commission which was established by the 14th Legislature (see attachment).

DRAFT (Modeled after Alaska Minerals Commission)

Sec. XX.XX.XXX. Alaska Commercial Seafood Commission established.

(a) The Alaska Commercial Seafood Commission is established in the Department of Community and Economic Development.

(b) The commission is composed of 9 members. The commission shall be composed of individuals who have at least five years' experience in the various aspects of the commercial seafood industry in the state. The governor shall appoint five members of the

commission, one of whom must reside in a rural community. The president of the Senate shall appoint two members of the commission. The speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members of the commission. Each member serves at the pleasure of the appointing authority. **[NOTE: Seats could be designated by species and/or geographic]**

(c) The commission shall make recommendations to the governor and to the legislature on ways to mitigate the constraints, including governmental constraints, on development of commercial seafood in the state.

(d) The commission shall report its recommendations each year to the governor during the first 10 days of the regular session of the legislature. The commission shall notify the legislature that the report is available.

Organizations with a Role in the Alaska Seafood Industry

Agencies with responsibility for pieces of the seafood industry include: Legislature (Finance, Resource Committees), University of Alaska (Institute for Social and Economic Research, Marine Advisory Program, Sea Grant, Fisheries Industry Technology Center, and the School of Fisheries), Department of Fish and Game (Commercial Fisheries Division), Department of Labor, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Revenue, Department of Community and Economic Development (Division of International Trade & Market Development, Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, Division of Community & Economic Development, Division of Investments), Department of Environmental Conservation, and Governors office. There are over 50 commercial fishing or processing organizations in the state and over 50 communities that receive raw fish tax.

Report of the Alaska Minerals Commission

http://www.dced.state.ak.us/cbd/minerals/pub/miningreport01_02.pdf