

STATE OF ALASKA

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

P.O. BOX 115526
JUNEAU, AK 99811-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-4100
FAX: (907) 465-2332

September 6, 2011

Mr. Larry Bemis
Yakutat Regional Aquaculture Association
PO Box 93
Yakutat, AK 99689

Dear Mr. Bemis:

Thank you for your recent letter requesting my recognition of the Yakutat Regional Aquaculture Association (YRAA) as a qualified regional association in accordance with AS 16.10.380.

Among other things, AS 16.10.380 requires "that the commissioner shall assist in and encourage the formation of qualified regional associations for the purpose of enhancing salmon production." Therefore, it is appropriate to consider the status of the proposed YRAA within the context of that statute. To that end, the law requires that I consider three factors in reaching this decision. "A regional association is qualified if the commissioner determines that it (1) is composed of associations representative of commercial fishermen in the region; (2) includes representatives of other user groups interested in fisheries within the region who wish to belong; and (3) possesses a board of directors that includes not less than one representative of each user group that belongs to the association."

After reviewing the articles of incorporation, bylaws, and other enclosures included in the initial application, and the amendments to the articles of incorporation and bylaws, and other documents in your reapplication dated August 30, 2011, I have determined that YRAA has sufficiently met the statutory requirements to be recognized as an aquaculture association in the Yakutat area for salmon enhancement and rehabilitation purposes in accordance with the provisions of AS 16.10.375-470. I am transmitting a copy of this letter to the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development in order to assist you in applying for any loans or grants that are available to qualified regional aquaculture associations according to AS 16.10.500-560.

My recognition of YRAA will also entail the formation of the Yakutat Regional Planning Team (RPT). YRAA will appoint three members to the RTP, and I will appoint three department members. It will be necessary for YRAA, the department, and other cooperators to work closely together in the future when planning and implementing projects in your area. Sam Rabung will be the department representative during the organizational effort of YRAA. Ron Josephson (Section Chief of Fisheries Monitoring, Permitting, and Development), Brian Frenette (Division of Sport Fish Regional Supervisor in Southeast Alaska), and Scott Kelley (Division of Commercial Fisheries

Regional Supervisor in Southeast Alaska) will be the department members of the RPT. If you have questions, please contact Sam Rabung at (907) 465-4230 or Ron Josephson at (907) 465-4088.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cora Campbell".

Cora Campbell
Commissioner

cc: Susan Bell, Commissioner, DCCED

Ron Josephson, Fisheries Monitoring, Permitting, and Development Section Chief, ADF&G

Sam Rabung, Private Nonprofit Hatchery Program Coordinator, ADF&G

Brian Frenette, Region 1 Regional Supervisor, Division of Sport Fish, ADF&G

Scott Kelley, Region 1 Regional Supervisor, Division of Commercial Fisheries, ADF&G

Flip Pryor, Regional Resource Development Biologist, Division of Commercial Fisheries,
ADF&G

Judy Lum, Fishery Biologist III, Division of Sport Fish, ADF&G

Kathy Hansen