

COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN FOR BRISTOL BAY

September 10, 2018

Dear fellow fishermen and Alaska voters,

As commercial fishermen, our livelihoods and families directly depend on the productivity of Alaska's watersheds and fisheries. While there are many things that we cannot control in the fishing industry, such as ex-vessel prices, weather, and ocean conditions, we *can* control the health of our freshwater habitat; something that our wild salmon simply cannot live without. **That is why the Commercial Fishermen for Bristol Bay coalition supports efforts to update Alaska's salmon habitat laws and specifically supports Ballot Measure 1**, which would provide Alaskans with increased certainty, accountability, and transparency in how our state's salmon habitat is managed.

If there's any reason why fishermen and Alaskans should vote for Ballot Measure 1 they need look no further than Bristol Bay. With over 60 million sockeye salmon returning and over 40 million of those sockeye sustainably harvested this summer, Bristol Bay is a shining example of what's possible when stakeholders work together to uphold strong, science-based, precautionary management of our natural resources. Bristol Bay is also an example of why our state needs to update its salmon habitat permitting laws, which haven't been touched since statehood. Our salmon habitat is under imminent threat due to the proposed Pebble Mine; a threat which has been looming over Bristol Bay's 14,000 fishermen and seafood processors for over a decade. Ballot Measure 1 would help ensure that projects like the Pebble Mine undergo a fair, transparent, and science-based permitting process as well as give our state's decision-makers the tools that they need to protect Alaska's most valuable and productive wild salmon fishery.

It's time that we bring our state's salmon habitat permitting laws up to the same high level of robustness, accountability, and sophistication as our fishery management laws - some of the best in the world. If we don't, then we jeopardize Alaska's single-largest private sector employer, which generates on average \$5 billion in annual economic output for our state. Right now we only have one of the bookends in place. Ballot Measure 1 is a chance to secure the other bookend, providing economic stability and prosperity for Alaskans.

As representatives of the Commercial Fishermen for Bristol Bay coalition, we fully support strengthening Alaska's laws so that we can have both healthy fisheries and responsible resource development. **Ballot Measure 1 is an opportunity for Alaska to do what no other state has done before:** use history, science, and common sense to guide our resource development and have a future that includes wild salmon.

Sincerely,

Commercial Fishermen for Bristol Bay coalition representatives:

Alexus Kwachka
F/V No Point

Charles Treinen

Mark Niver
F/V Surrender

Melanie Brown
Bristol Bay set netter

Mike Friccero
F/V Miss Gina

Steve Kurian
F/V Ava Jane