



P.O. Box 478 • Homer • Alaska • 99603

To Preserve and Protect the Rights and Resources of Alaska's Sport Fishermen

April 15, 2015

Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Walker,

The Alaska Charter Association is the state's largest association of charter fishing vessels and our mission is "to protect the rights and conserve the resources of Alaska's sport fishery."

We want to take a moment to reflect on the recent developments at the North Pacific Fishery Management Council with respect to the development of a Recreational Quota Entity, or RQE. This project is extremely important to our industry because it will provide a mechanism to return our anglers back to their traditional sport bag limits. Creating a common pool of funds for the guided angler sector will provide the ability to purchase IFQ quota from "willing sellers" in the commercial fishery to use, together with annual IPHC allocations, as a new basis upon which to set bag limits. Current guided angler harvest restrictions have made it very difficult to sustain our local businesses and we strongly believe that the RQE will be good for Alaskans.

Last Sunday, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council unanimously passed the RQE program forward for public review. This issue has been under consideration for at least eight years, and we are finally seeing progress in its development.

We would like to recognize your support for our industry and thank you for the appointment of Andy Mezirow to the North Council. Mr. Mezirow has deep knowledge and experience in the charter fishing industry and has worked closely with us in the development of the RQE.

We also want to thank you for the appointment of Sam Cotten to Commissioner of ADF&G. ADF&G has been cooperative with us and worked constructively on this effort.

The ACA looks forward to working with your office as the RQE moves toward implementation. Thank you for your support for the charter fishing industry.

Sincerely,

Richard Yamada, President
Alaska Charter Association

cc:

Byron Mallet, Lt. Governor
Sam Cotten, Commissioner ADFG
Andy Mezirow, Member, NPFMC