

Alaska Salmon Alliance Presentation to the Kenai Peninsula Borough on “The Economic Impact of the Seafood Industry in Southcentral Alaska”, prepared by the McDowell Group for the Alaska Salmon Alliance

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The Seafood Industry is a Significant Economic Driver in Southcentral Alaska

The Alaska Salmon Alliance (ASA) is a trade organization comprised of regional seafood processors, namely Snug Harbor Seafoods, Pacific Star, Great Pacific, Icicle Seafoods, Fishhawk and commercial fishermen. Our mission is to promote science-based salmon management and policies in order to preserve the long-term opportunities for all salmon user groups in Cook Inlet. The ASA main office is located in Kenai at 110 N. Willow Street and ASA Board members and myself have held regular monthly Board meetings at the Kenai office since January 2013. As Executive Director, I reside in Anchorage to facilitate a outreach, communication and public education about the impact of the SC Alaska commercial fishing industry in not only Anchorage, but the MatSu Valley. The ASA also promotes collaboration amongst all user groups to find solutions that will enable sustainable salmon harvests that all can share.

Our organization selected the McDowell Group for this project specifically due to the firm’s expertise within the seafood industry, as well as their recent experience evaluating economic impacts of several other key Alaska sectors including oil, gas, visitor, and mining industries.

Southcentral is a well-known hub for oil, gas, and tourism. The region also plays a critical role in maximizing the value of commercial fishery resources. This report clearly documents the importance of the seafood industry in Southcentral Alaska’s regional and local economies.

The seafood industry accounted for 8,130 “full-time equivalent jobs” (FTEs) and over \$400 million in labor income in Southcentral Alaska during 2013, including multiplier effects. Approximately half of these jobs and income are in Anchorage, the Mat-Su Borough, and Kenai area. The study also explains the critical role seafood plays in Cordova, Homer, Seward, and Valdez. Nearly 11,000 Southcentral residents were directly employed in the industry at some point during 2013, and are supported by the work of several thousand additional Alaskans in the region.

A copy of the full report and additional information about ASA is available online: <http://www.aksalmonalliance.org>.

(FTEs: Devide total labor income from fishing and processing for a particular area by the average wage/salary earnings for private sector workers in the region, a “full-time equivalent” employment measure was developed.)