



## United Cook Inlet Drift Association

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### Outer Continental Shelf Lease Sales in Cook Inlet

Thank you for this opportunity to put into the public record the opinion and position of the United Cook Inlet Drift Association (UCIDA) regarding the proposed lease sales numbers 191 & 199.

On behalf of the UCIDA Board of Directors, we support lease sales 191 & 199. This support is in recognition that for over thirty years we as fishermen have successfully commercially fished while many oil and gas developments have occurred both on land and in the waters of Upper Cook Inlet. This support for the oil and gas industry is relatively new and will continue providing we have no loss of fishing area or fishing time as a result of lease sales 191 & 199.

As you may know the commercial fishing industry in Cook Inlet directly affects the income of over a thousand families. We need to point out that there are important social, family and heritage values involved in commercial fishing. We would like and expect the Minerals Management Service and the successful lessees to create a joint management council to hear and consider our concerns as the exploration and production phases of these projects go forward. These joint management councils are to provide representatives of the commercial fishing industry a forum to participate in the decisions concerning exploration and production practice and procedures as these relate to commercial fishing. Our goal is to ensure that there is no lost fishing time or areas.

UCIDA needs to draw to everyone's attention that we want to constructively participate while at the same time ensure no net loss of habitat or environmental degradation. Unfortunately we, in the commercial fishing industry have had to deal with two rather serious and troublesome events concerning major impacts on our industry i.e. Glacier Bay and the Exxon Valdez.

We look forward to working with the oil and gas industry as these leases move forward. There are many commercial fishermen that are active in the SERVS, CIRCAC and oil spill response programs. These oil spill response programs are necessary and provide valuable training and clean-up capacity.

It is impossible for us to suggest now what we may ask to occur in either the exploration or production phases because those plans are yet to be developed. However, we do ask that a formal structure be put in place so that when plans are being made we can provide input from our industry. That's why we expect some form of a joint management council be created. We look forward to being significantly involved in the exploration and eventual production phases of lease sales 191 & 199.

UCIDA formally supports the five issues identified in the tri borough resolution.

Sincerely,

Roland R. Maw, PhD  
UCIDA Executive Director

C: Governor Murkowski