



CORDOVA DISTRICT
FISHERMEN
— UNITED —

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August 1, 2024

Dear Drift Gillnet Permit Holder,

This October you have the important opportunity to join the CDFU Board of Directors' decision for continued support of the Copper River Prince William Sound Marketing Association with your YES vote for the 1% seafood development tax levy that supports the Prince William Sound area Regional Seafood Development Association (RSDA).

Did you know that CDFU worked with legislators in Juneau to create the State's RSDA model? We did this knowing that especially in challenging times in our industry - like we face today - it is critical to have an RSDA to specifically promote the premium difference of Copper River and Prince William Sound seafoods in the marketplace.

Renewing the 1% tax that supports the RSDA means continued funding and a safe, protected mechanism for the endeavors and projects that directly benefit the fleet and our fishery.

The nominal tax is one way that we as fishermen can democratically participate in our collective future. As permit holders, each of us can elect the board leadership from the gillnet fleet to steward the RSDA and invest in our own priorities.

Area E's RSDA is known to the public as the Copper River Prince William Sound Marketing Association (CRPW SMA). This organization is staffed with sector experts who ensure premium brand and quality recognition for your Copper River salmon catch, resulting in millions of extra dollars annually for our region. This exponential return made possible only with the 1% tax by the drift fleet is the number one reason why CDFU supports the continued work of the RSDA.



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However, marketing and brand development is just one aspect of how the CRPWSMA volunteer Board of Directors votes to direct its resources to build collective success for the fleet. CRPWSMA provides resources that help generate increased commercial fishing opportunities, such as direct funding support to ADFG for the Coghill Weir and Miles Lake sonar. Other fleet benefits include investments in fleet safety programs, leading in-state public relations campaigns, and active partner collaborations with the hatcheries, processors and CDFU.

None of us can do this alone - and our fishery won't survive with less. **Our strongest fishing future lies in your vote to continue a 1% seafood development tax and support of our local RSDA.**

Sincerely,

CDFU Board of Directors

P.S. Reach out to any of us to discuss your vote: director@cdfu.org, board@cdfu.org, gillnet@cdfu.org