November 9, 2009

TO: Governor Sean Parnell
State of Alaska
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

RE: GOAC3 SUPPORT FOR UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS MARINE ADVISORY PROGRAM

Dear Governor Parnell:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition (GOAC3), representing the community fishing interests of over 45 communities within the Gulf of Alaska, we wish to express our support of the 2010 (FY11) appropriations request of the University of Alaska Fairbanks for $614,000 to support Marine Advisory Programs in Cordova, Petersburg, Kodiak, Nome, Dillingham and Unalaska, about one-half of the MAP offices within the state.

The title of this appropriation request is fitting: "Economic sustainability, application of University research and response to community needs in coastal Alaska." The Marine Advisory Programs have worked with our organization and others to provide research, assistance, publications, and most importantly, communications in the form of many workshops that bring coastal communities together to help solve fisheries and marine-related problems. We find these offices filled with truly dedicated personnel who have made some outstanding contributions to our communities and state.

With coastal Alaska being threatened by so many different impacts, it is vital that we have local offices to work together to act as a conduit on marine issues.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Freddie Christiansen, Chairman

Gale K. Vick, Executive Director