



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Cordova District Fishermen United Announces New Leadership

Long-serving Board President Jerry McCune is celebrated

Cordova, AK - After 32 years of dedicated service to Prince William Sound fisheries, Jerry McCune has retired as Board Chairman at Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU), Alaska's historic fisherman's advocacy organization.

In addition to serving CDFU, McCune has been a lobbyist for multiple industry groups, and served as president of United Fishermen of Alaska for a total of ten years in the 1990's and 2010's. McCune was an inaugural inductee to the Alaska Seafood Hall of Fame in 2009, where he was honored alongside Congressman Don Young and Senator Ted Stevens.

Asked about his greatest accomplishments for CDFU, McCune recalled the response to the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, working together with partners and volunteers to get SERVS organized. "It was just an idea we saw working well in neighboring countries, and we were able to co-create a lasting program that helps ensure ongoing protection of the precious wild resources of our fishery should another disaster affect our waters," said McCune. Others celebrated Jerry's leadership and consistent efforts advocating on behalf of the fishery, especially in relation to this past cycle's Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting in Cordova, helping CDFU members also be able to educate policymakers on the intricacies of our fisheries.

With his depth of institutional knowledge, McCune has stayed on as a general seat director on the CDFU Board of Directors to further support its mission to preserve, promote and perpetuate the commercial fishery in the waters of Area E. "I had tremendous teachers who helped me understand how to make change in this industry. Sharing and passing that along is an honor," said McCune, who is thinking about teaching a class this fall on how to lobby and advocate for State legislation.

"Jerry has given decades of leadership and service to the commercial fishing industry, and helped shape the greatest CDFU successes for us in Area E," said CDFU Acting President Ezekiel Brown. "With his mentorship and the recent wins we're celebrating from this year's

Board of Fish meeting outcomes, our organization is reflecting and springboarding on Jerry's tenure to begin a new chapter."

Prior to his retirement, McCune assured the continued success of CDFU by supporting an executive director candidate search. Jess Rude of Anchorage joined the organization this month, bringing a background in Alaska non-profit organizational planning and fund development. "With the passion and leadership representing this fleet, there is nothing but opportunity ahead of us," said Rude, who previously worked with Cordova on disaster preparedness and response efforts while working for the American Red Cross of Alaska.

Member elections for expiring* terms and appointments of CDFU board of director general seats and division representatives will be held at the CDFU annual meeting Tuesday, May 24th. Current CDFU board leadership includes: Ezekiel Brown, Vice President and Acting President; Mike Mickelson, Vice President; Hayley Hoover, Treasurer; Marc Carrel, Groundfish Division Representative; Greg Gabriel, Seine Division Representative; Darin Gilman, Gillnet Division Representative; Ken Jones, Seine Division Representative*; Jerry McCune*; Rob Nelson, Herring Division Representative*; Makena O'Toole, Shellfish Division Representative*; Phyllis Shirron, Gillnet Division Representative*; and Dennis Zadra*.

CDFU represents and advocates on behalf of the commercial fishermen who harvest the sustainable wild resources of Alaska's Area E waters, which includes Prince William Sound, the Copper River flats and the northern-central Gulf of Alaska. More information at www.cdfu.org.

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