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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Murkowski to Submit New CDQ Allocations

(Juneau) -- Governor Frank H. Murkowski announced today that he will submit new Community Development Quota allocation figures to the National Marine Fisheries Service using a new allocation period, which will run from 2007-2011.

In October, the Governor announced a process, using new state regulations based in part by the Blue Ribbon Panel, that would submit the allocation numbers in May, 2006. The six regional CDQ groups have been pushing to have a quicker resolution and the timeline has been accelerated.

“It became very clear that the timeline we had set out, while aggressive, wasn’t fast enough for the six groups,” said Murkowski. “This program is one of the best economic development tools in Alaska. It’s a program that should be kept in the hands of the state to ensure maximum benefit to residents in Western Alaska.”

“In my view this is a state’s rights issue,” said Murkowski. “It’s clear that Alaskans should manage this critical economic development program for the benefit of Alaskans.”

Commerce Commissioner Bill Noll said the successful program needs stability and state management. “There is a lot of pressure on those in Congress to put the allocations in federal law,” said Noll. “We need to bring this process to a conclusion and put an end to the in-fighting for the stability of the communities affected.”

After reviewing the March 16, 2005 allocation recommendations from the CDQ team for the Western Alaska fisheries allocations, the Governor determined immediate changes needed to be made due to the change in the allocation cycle from three, to five years. The program will have a ten-year allocation cycle starting in 2011 to coincide with the federal government’s ten-year census cycle. The ten-year cycle was recommended by the Blue Ribbon Panel.

To arrive at the allocation numbers, the Governor used the administrative record, information gathered by his CDQ Blue Ribbon Panel, historic allocation figures and the Blue Ribbon Panel criteria based on population, job creation, in-region investment, scholarship and training investment and community economic development.

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Based on the analysis, the recommended allocation numbers for Pollock are:

* Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association	15%
* Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation	20%
* Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association	10%
* Coastal Villages Region Fund	20%
* Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation	20%
* Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association	15%

A public notice announcing a public hearing regarding the changes in the allocation cycle is forthcoming.

The remaining species allocations will be sent to NMFS in the time frame specified by federal and state regulations.

"This is one of the first steps to implementing all of the recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel," said Governor Murkowski.

Commissioner Noll said the Governor's decision to allow CDQ groups to expand investment opportunities to include non-fishery regional economic and social development projects will be one of the most beneficial changes made to the program. "Diversifying and expanding economic development will help ensure strong communities in Western Alaska," said Noll.

Since the program's inception in 1992, the CDQ Program has grown to be a major source of revenue, employment and economic sustainability in Western Alaska fishery communities. During the life of the program, nearly $650 million in revenues and over $125 million in wages, the six CDQ groups on behalf of nearly 29,000 residents have generated education, and training benefits. In 2004, the CDQ program generated over $130 million in revenues to the six CDQ groups. About 1,800 new jobs are generated annually by the CDQ Program.

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