

Dept. Says SCI Has No Authority

JUNEAU — A recently organized "Shellfish Conservation

Institute has no authority to establish or change commercial

shellfish regulations and all state laws and regulations will be enforced, James W. Brooks, commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game, said recently.

"We have learned that a few members of the fishing industry have formed a 'Shellfish Conservation Institute' and that this organization has attempted to promulgate so-called shellfish regulations," Brooks said.

"Fishermen are reminded that the Department of Fish and Game is the agency responsible for the management of Alaska's fish and game resources," he added.

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"Any claims by groups of private citizens that they have either the authorization or the capability to issue mandatory regulations should be disregarded by the fishing fraternity," Brooks said.

He added that the Department of Fish and Game welcomes information from any concerned private citizen or groups of citizens on matters pertaining to fish and game but noted that only the Board of Fish and Game or the commissioner has the authority to establish regulations.

"As in the past, anyone violating the laws or regulations administered by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is liable to prosecution to the full extent of the law and may receive the criminal penalties established for such violations," Brooks said.