



Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 4, 1986

CONTACT: Krys Holmes
(907) 276-7315

ALASKA FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION RE-OPENS SEARCH FOR DIRECTOR

ANCHORAGE, AK -- The Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, Inc. (AFDF) has extended the deadline for applications for executive director until November 15, 1986.

AFDF, an industry development firm instrumental in developing the U.S. surimi industry, is seeking an executive director with at least 10 years experience in the food industry to lead the foundation. AFDF built the first commercial pollock surimi production line in the U.S. in 1985, and is now helping develop new markets and new products for surimi.

Surimi is a near-white, high protein material with very high binding ability and almost no flavor or odor. Surimi has been used in a variety of products including imitation crab and shrimp, pasta products, sausage, moisturizing cream, and as a binder in processed meats.

Chris Mitchell, who has been AFDF's executive director for more than four years, said the board of directors first closed the applications on July 5, but decided to extend the deadline to give more people a chance to submit resumes.

Mitchell plans to leave the foundation on September 15 to pursue other interests. He will be temporarily replaced by Sharon Gwinn, former program director at AFDF, who will serve as acting executive director until a permanent director is installed. Gwinn currently is president of First Alaska Surimi, and plans to return to run that company when the directorship is filled.

Gordon Lowell, president of the board of directors of AFDF, said the board's primary criterion for a new executive director is an appreciation for the need for seafood market and product development. "We're looking for someone who can lead the foundation's efforts to bring the Alaskan seafood industry into the mainstream of the U.S. food industry," he said. "Seafood has always been in its own separate, limited niche. The primary opportunity surimi has presented to the seafood industry is to expand seafood's market into new food, cosmetic, and pharmaceutical uses--just to name a few.

"Success in this area requires leadership by a strong administrator who has an industry-wide perspective, who has a strong development background, and who isn't afraid to take risks," Lowell said.

Those interested in the Anchorage-based directorship should write to AFDF Executive Search Committee, 508 W. 2nd Ave, Suite 212, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.