

Support John Jensen  
PO Box 232 Petersburg, AK 99833

Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association  
(907) 772-9323 email: [pvoa@gci.net](mailto:pvoa@gci.net)

September 12, 2020

House Fisheries Committee  
Representative Stutes, Chair  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, AK 99811  
via email: [Matt.Gruening@akleg.gov](mailto:Matt.Gruening@akleg.gov)

**RE: Support of John Jensen for the Board of Fisheries**

Dear Chair Stutes and House Fisheries Committee Members,

Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association (PVOA) is a non-profit organization representing commercial fishermen. Members participate in state and federally managed fisheries throughout Alaska and the West Coast for a wide variety of species using various gear types. Targeted species include salmon, Pacific herring, Pacific halibut, sablefish, Pacific cod, shrimp, pollock, squid, tuna; Dungeness, tanner, and king crab.

PVOA supports the appointment and confirmation of John Jensen to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Board of Fisheries. He has served on the Board for the previous 18 years illustrating skills we find vital to the process including a willingness to meet and engage with the public, ADF&G staff, and other Board members.

Due to the size of our state and variety of fisheries by region, PVOA believes it is important to retain Board of Fisheries members with several years of experience in the process. Over the years, we have seen that new Board members rely heavily on the institutional knowledge of multiple-term members like Mr. Jensen. For most new members, their first term is consumed with learning details of the state's regions and the users' needs.

Mr. Jensen is the only appointed or confirmed member on the Board from a coastal community outside of Anchorage at this time. PVOA considers a balanced representation of subsistence, sport, and commercial users from seven separate management regions of the State vital to the success of the process. We are disappointed the current slate of appointees would put multiple members on the Board from the same region and with only one member from a coastal community.

Thank you for considering our support of John Jensen.

Respectfully,



Megan O'Neil  
Executive Director

## **Matt Gruening**

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**From:** richardmcgahan <boulderpoint@alaska.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 7:22 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** Board of Fish Appointments

Dear Alaska State House Joint Fisheries Committee Members:

With these appointments, the board will be dominated with members from Gov. Dunleavy's home districts.

Of these nominations, I ask you to ONLY confirm John Jensen. He is a previous board member and the only candidate from a coastal community.

I also ask for you to appoint Robert Ruffner. Mr. Ruffner is a scientist and previous director of the Kenai Watershed Forum. He DID NOT get appointed for campaigning or donating to a governor's campaign, and although he requested to continue to serve, (and is not a sports fisherman, guide or commercial fisherman) he was not re-appointed by Gov. Dunleavy. Nor, did Gov. Dunleavy even reply to him. Our B.O.F. sends all of Alaska to fish on the Kenai Peninsula, and we have no representation on the board. We need a representative from the Kenai and also one who votes for the FISH. It is a slap in the face to the people of the upper Cook Inlet to have John Woods writing proposals and voting on those proposals, and regulations for the upper Cook Inlet commercial fishermen WITHOUT ever being confirmed by the legislature. This should not happen. And it looks like it could happen again.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Karen McGahan  
Nikiski, Alaska



P.O. Box 714  
Ward Cove, AK 99928  
(907) 220-7630  
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August 31, 2002

Senate Resources Committee  
House Joint Fisheries and Resources Committee

**RE: Governor's BOF Appointees**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Friday August 28, 2020, and again this upcoming September 3<sup>rd</sup>. To recap a couple of important issues that are of great concern to the fleet of fishermen I represent.

The BOF candidate selection and confirmation process are BROKEN. I understand it might not be an easy fix, but what worth doing is ever really easy. When well-rounded individuals with years of exemplary service to fisheries around the state are put forth as candidates yet not forwarded, while those with no experience are; the system is BROKEN. Our fisheries and fisheries resources are too important to have people "cut their teeth" on.

NO candidate should be able to sit and make judgement decisions that affect the lives and livelihoods, or historic cultural opportunities of the people of Alaska without first being confirmed. I implore the Senate and House to work together on legislation and/or amendments to the Alaska State Constitution if necessary, to correct this issue. People who are given such power should be seasoned, knowledgeable, and **fully vetted by the confirmation process**, period. I understand the reasoning behind the current language, but that intent has been overshadowed by appointments made intentionally when there is not time to confirm. These expiring terms happen at scheduled times and are not a surprise. The selection, vetting, and confirmation process should start a year out from any given expiring seat to allow for a seamless and consistent sitting Board of Fisheries.

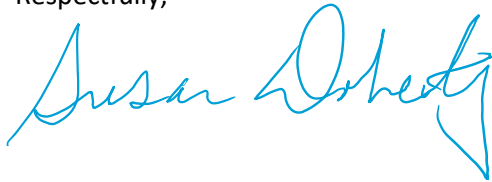
SEAS' fully supports the re-appointment of Mr. Jensen. Member Jensen has served since 2003 and has a wealth of knowledge about Alaska's fisheries. He has demonstrated his approachability to all stakeholders, his knowledge concerning complex user group dynamics, and concern for the fisheries resource as a renewable asset to the state and all its users. Additionally, he is the lone voice of SE Alaska and of coastal communities; **we recommend his confirmation.**

SEAS' agrees with the many callers on Friday that expressed that coastal communities are not adequately represented in the current slate of appointees. We understand that there are no "set" seats, yet there has always been an understanding that any BOF that makes resource decisions throughout the state should also have balanced statewide representation to have any real credibility.

Lastly, while on the subject of coastal representation. There was a name submitted to the Governor, a BOF member whos' term had expired. He had extensive knowledge of all the states fisheries, had demonstrated the desire and capability to understand the diverse issues and deliberate with fairness concerning all user groups, and he did the hard homework. His name- Robert Ruffner, not forwarded for confirmation, yet instead people with absolutely NO knowledge or experience are on your list today; that's criminal! It's an indictment on the many people who depend on this process to ensure the health of the resource and the ability to gain their livelihood from it whether they be commercial, subsistence, or sport fishermen. We wish to thank Mr. Ruffner for his exemplary service and years of dedication to the process. His re-appointment would have served to add coastal representation not to mention much needed experience and knowledge to the BOF.

Thank you

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Doherty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" and last name "Doherty" clearly legible.

Susan Doherty  
Executive Director SEAS

**From:** [Rep. Sarah Vance](#)  
**To:** [House Fisheries](#)  
**Subject:** District 31 BoF constituent pick  
**Date:** Thursday, September 03, 2020 9:41:33 AM

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**From:** Mark Edens <markedensak@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 10:05 AM  
**To:** Rep. Sarah Vance <Rep.Sarah.Vance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: BOF member

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mark Edens** <[markedensak@gmail.com](mailto:markedensak@gmail.com)>  
Date: Thu, Aug 27, 2020 at 9:59 AM  
Subject: BOF member  
To: <[rep.sarah.vance@ak.gov](mailto:rep.sarah.vance@ak.gov)>

Dear Representative Sarah Vance,

Great job hosting the zoom meeting last night. It was very good to see and hear from the potential Board of Fish members.

My personal input is to recommend choosing John Jensen to add to the Board.

For your information, I wholeheartedly support ALL user groups. I commercial fish for a living; I thoroughly enjoy subsistence dipnetting; but I love sport fishing on the rivers the most. Your job is difficult as you attempt to discern how to promote a balanced Board which supports all groups. While everyone says they do (its political suicide to say otherwise), each one comes to the table with a bias.

Concerning the three on the zoom meeting, Mrs. Mitchel has a heavy bias toward sports fishing. She is completely disconnected from all commercial fishing issues. Mr. Woods is perhaps the most experienced and the most articulate; however, I personally favor Abe Williams as a better choice.

Yet, I advocate for John Jensen as the best addition to the BOF. While I don't know him personally, I do know he is a strong supporter for commercial fishing issues. I understand the BOF, as it stands, already has a strong bent toward sport fishing; and therefore, it would seem very healthy and balanced to add Mr. Jensen to this team.

Thanks again for your quest, I appreciate you!  
Mark Edens

Fritz Johnson  
Box 1129  
Dillingham, AK 99576  
*fjalaskafish@gmail.com*

Rep. Louise Stutes  
House Fisheries Committee  
Juneau, AK 99801

3 Sept. 2020

RE : Concern for Abe Williams on the Board of Fisheries

Dear Representative Stutes and Fisheries Committee Members,

As a two-term Board of Fisheries member who failed to win reappointment last spring, I expect some may see my view here as tainted with sour grapes. I want to assure you that's not the case.

For the record, I count myself among the majority of Bristol Bay watershed residents and thousands of Alaskans who strongly oppose the Pebble Mine, and my concern is that Mr. Williams, as you are aware, is on the payroll of the company promoting it.

As legislators you know that Alaska's Constitution requires the Board of Fish to manage fishery resources for sustainability. Unlike the Legislature however, the Board of Fisheries has a strict conflict of interest policy, that prohibits board members from debating proposals in which they or family members have even the appearance of a financial interest.

In addition, committee assignments available to Board of Fish members include participation on the Board's Habitat Committee, the mission of which is self explanatory, and subject to the same conflict of interest policy.

Is it not an upside world to consider seating a board member who for years has been paid to promote the interests of a company that threaten both the sustainability of the world's most productive wild salmon fishery and the habitat that sustains it? Given the Board's Constitutional mandate to protect and preserve Alaska's fishery resources and habitat, Mr. Williams conflict ought to be disqualifying.

As to the other candidates, I support John Jensen's reappointment. Commercial fishermen are fast becoming an endangered species on the Board of Fish, and Mr. Jensen's long history in the industry is an asset to the Board's work.

Thank you, sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Fritz Johnson', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.