

Chignik Regional Aquaculture Association

601 N Bragaw Street
Anchorage, AK 99508



House Fisheries Committee
House.Fisheries@akleg.gov

September 2, 2020

Subject: Letter of Support for the Appointment of McKenzie Mitchell to the Board of Fisheries

Dear members of the House Fisheries Committee:

Chignik Regional Aquaculture Association (CRAA) represents the interests of commercial, sport, and subsistence users of the salmon resources of the Chignik management area. CRAA supports the appointment of McKenzie Mitchell to the Board of Fisheries. Commercial salmon fishing is the sole economic base of every municipality, most businesses, and a majority of the individuals living and working in the Chignik area.

The Chignik sockeye fishery is a historic fishery, and commercial fishing is an ingrained way of life for generations of people in and around the Chignik area. The Chignik sockeye fishery is wedged in between two larger intercept fisheries - the Kodiak Area fisheries to the East and South Alaska Peninsula fisheries to the West - that routinely harvest significant numbers of sockeye bound for the Chignik area. Decisions made by the Board of Fisheries about how to best manage these surrounding intercept fisheries are crucially important to the survival of the Chignik sockeye fishery and the economic and cultural survival of Association members.

McKenzie Mitchell has been appointed to begin serving on the Board July 1, 2020. She is an avid sport fisherman and adjunct faculty in the school of management in sport and recreation business with an emphasis in economics. An economist would be a welcome addition to the Board of Fisheries. McKenzie Mitchell appears to have the dedication to work to understand the states many commercial, recreational, subsistence, and personal use fisheries and, therefore, has the makings of a good board member.

The Chignik Regional Aquaculture Association supports the appointment of McKenzie Mitchell to the Board of Fisheries.

Sincerely,

Charles McCallum, Executive Director