



ALASKA SALMON ALLIANCE
110 N. Willow St. #108
PO Box 586 Kenai, AK 99611
www.aksalmonalliance.org
Email: info@aksalmonalliance.org

February 26, 2026

Senate Resource Committee

RE: Support for HB 33 – Conflict of Interest Bill

Dear Chair Giessel and Committee Members,

The Alaska Salmon Alliance is a nonprofit organization comprised of commercial fishermen, processors, and allied businesses. We focus on public education and promoting the value of science-based salmon management to preserve habitat and create predictable harvest opportunities for all salmon users. Our goal is to maintain a healthy resource while fostering long-term economic opportunity and stability for Alaska's coastal communities for generations to come.

We write in support of HB 33. This bill represents a commonsense approach that would strengthen the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game process.

Under current practice, board members who have a conflict must step away from participation in discussion and deliberation. However, they may still interact with stakeholders outside the formal process. As a result, their expertise and institutional knowledge are excluded from the official record and from open deliberation before the full board.

Board members are appointed because they bring experience and knowledge from a particular fishery, region, or user group. It is unrealistic to expect any individual member to be fully knowledgeable about every fishery and every area of the state. When a member has direct experience or subject-matter expertise relevant to a proposal, that knowledge should be shared openly with the full board and placed on the record, where it can be heard, questioned, and fairly vetted.

The goal of the Board of Fisheries should be to make the best possible decisions for the resource, the state, and sustainable management. That goal is best served when the board is fully informed.

Preventing knowledgeable members from participating in discussion limits the information available to the board and diminishes the transparency of the process.

We agree that a member with a conflict should not vote on a proposal where that conflict exists. However, allowing that member to share information, expertise, and experience during discussion can only improve the quality of deliberations and decision-making.

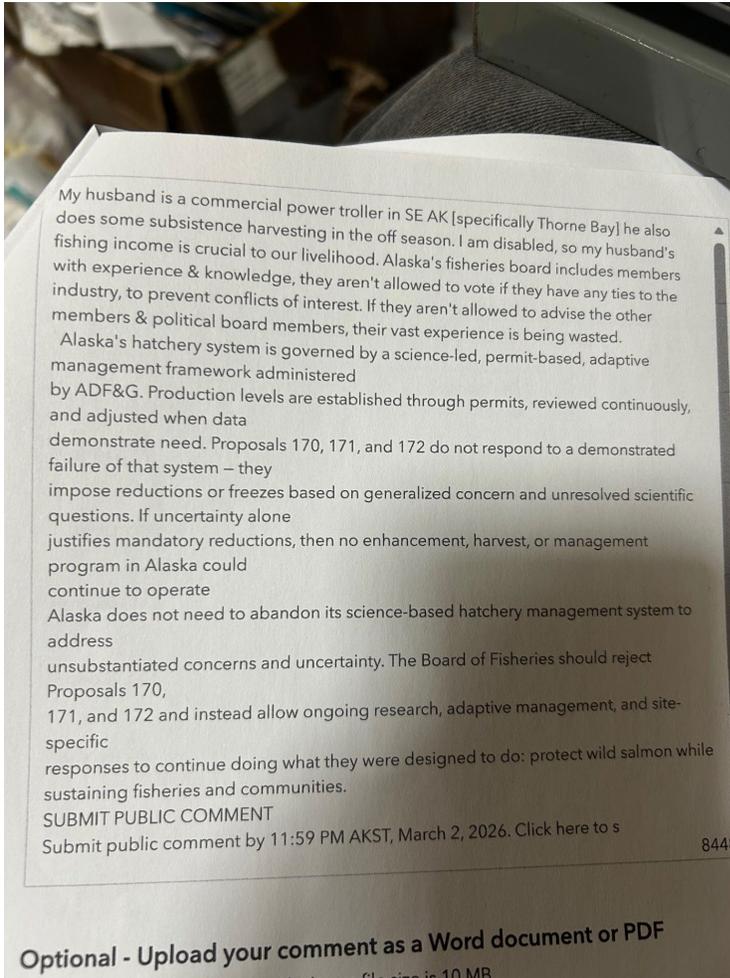
For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to support HB 33.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norm Darch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N" and a long, sweeping underline.

Norm Darch
Executive Director

From: [Joanne Cabe](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: HB33
Date: Monday, March 2, 2026 2:25:21 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-410c25fx.png](#)



I am writing in favor of HB33.

Thank You!
Joanne Cabe

From: [david blount](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: Support House Bill 33
Date: Sunday, March 1, 2026 9:26:16 AM

I respectfully request your support of house bill 33. Passing this bill will improve understanding of issues by members who have a conflict of interest by allowing them to be part of the discussion but not have a voting role. These people are chosen for their knowledge of fishery management and should not be excluded from discussions.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Respectfully submitted.

David Blount

9074247633

2661 Whitshed Rd Cordova AK 99574

From: [Jason Catrett](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: HB 33
Date: Saturday, February 28, 2026 5:38:10 PM

February 26, 2026

Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for HB 33 – Conflict of Interest Bd Fish/Game

My name is Richard Catrett, a Juneau resident and power troll permit holder and work at the Kensington Mine. I support HB 33 providing Board of Fish members who have a conflict of interest in the ability to participate in the process but are unable to vote. Board members with conflicts of interest are generally the board member that is most knowledgeable on the subject being discussed but is unable to share that information with other board members in a transparent and public manner.

Sincerely

Richard Catrett

From: [Rob Nelson](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: Fwd: HB 33 Support
Date: Saturday, February 28, 2026 5:00:07 AM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rob Nelson <seakatfish@gmail.com>
Date: February 26, 2026 at 4:39:36 PM MST
To: Representative.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov
Subject: **HB 33 Support**

Representative Stutes,

My name is Rob Nelson, I'm a lifelong Alaskan. I grew up in the fishing industry and have operated my own vessel since 1986, this will be my 40th year. I've fished herring from Sitka to Togiak, salmon in Lower Cook Inlet, Chignik and Prince William Sound as well as other smaller ventures in crab and shrimp.

I'm an active participant in the Board of Fish process.

Members with intimate knowledge of particular fisheries are extremely important in making informed decisions affecting hundreds if not thousands of affected individuals. It is a daunting task for BOF members to learn about all of Alaska's fisheries, species, methods of harvest and the nuances associated with each one.

Unfortunately it is common for the board member with the most knowledge regarding a specific proposal to be forced to recuse themselves. This defies common sense. Letting that member contribute during discussion IS common sense.

Let's get this done. Thank you for bringing this bill forward.

Rob Nelson
F/V Sea Prince

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Brian Merritt](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: Support of HB 33
Date: Friday, February 27, 2026 3:20:36 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

This is Brian Merritt from Wrangell. I am a personal use fisherman and have been for the last 58 years that I have lived in Alaska. I support HB 33. One of the main reasons we have certain people serving on boards in Alaska is because they have expertise or experience in a lot of the areas we need help managing. Locking them down so they can't inform and discuss relevant topics is just flat wrong. Please pass HB 33!

Thanks,
Brian Merritt
317 First Ave.
Wrangell

From: [Kelly Kass](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: Support for HB 33
Date: Friday, February 27, 2026 1:34:11 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 33. As a lifelong Alaskan commercial fisherman with ties to multiple communities across the state, I have a deep interest in the effective management of our resources.

Having participated in the recent Board of Fisheries meetings in Anchorage, it is clear that every member appointed by the Governor must serve as a knowledgeable voice in their specific area of expertise. It is essential for board members to actively participate in deliberations, share their experiences, and educate their colleagues to ensure all questions are thoroughly addressed.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Kelly Kass
Bristol Bay Fisherman

From: [William Roth](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#); [Paige Brown](#)
Subject: HB33 Support Letter From Young Fisherman and Family
Date: Friday, February 27, 2026 11:26:15 AM

My name is William Roth, I am 29 years old this will be my 12th season running my own vessel in Kodiak Alaska as a salmon seiner. My vessel is the Sea Chantey, I have a wife and 2 daughters, ages 3 and a newborn, we spend our summer months in Kodiak seining and I bring my family with me. Sustainability is KEY, without proper management my livelihood goes away. I often point out no one cares about the sustainability of these fisheries more than those who rely on them. Not just for fiscal reasons but our culture that has been here for thousands of years.

I Support HB33, if we take away the advice of those who know the area and the fishery, we are taking away the ability to hear from those who know it best, I don't ask a diesel mechanic how to fix my plumbing, I ask a plumber.

This seems like a practical and sensible way for all fisheries and user groups to be properly represented by public servants that they elected.

Thank you all for your time and putting the work into representing the great state of Alaska!

I support HB33



From: [Gordon Jensen](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: Support for HB33
Date: Friday, February 27, 2026 10:17:51 AM

Chair Sen. Kelly Merrick
Alaska State Capitol
Community and Regional Affairs Committee 120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support HB 33 – Conflict of Interest Bill

Dear Chair Merrick and Committee Members,

Hi,

I am a nearly lifelong participant in Alaska's fisheries with a history of being involved with one or more fisheries each season, going back to 1979. My family has relied on Alaska's Prince William Sound fisheries to meet our needs, almost exclusively for the last couple of decades.

I am writing in support for the conflict of interest bill HB 33, as it pertains to the Board of Fisheries.

I believe it prudent to allow people with relevant experience to be involved in discussion and debate, even when a conflict of interest may preclude them from voting.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion,

Sincerely, Gordon Jensen, Cordova, Alaska

From: [Mike Mickelson](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: SUPPORT HB 33
Date: Friday, February 27, 2026 10:07:06 AM

February 27, 2026

Support HB 33

I am a life long Cordova resident, subsistence, sport, and commercial fisherman writing to support HB 33. HB 33 is common sense bill for the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) board members allowing them to be part of deliberations for proposals in which they have an identified conflict of interest. From attending numerous BOF meetings over the past 17 years, I have seen how complicated different regions fisheries issues can be. It is a disservice to the public process to prevent board members who have declared a conflict of interest; often subject matter experts, from contributing to the discussion. I have seen too many times where new board BOF members struggle to understand the issues of a region, where a conflicted out board member is not allowed to answer questions that would clear up confusion. Given the magnitude of many of the issues brought before the Alaska Board of Fisheries, I want board members to fully understand the issues and the varied points of view before making decisions. HB 33 helps this process and still prevents board members with conflicts from voting. Thank you for your consideration,

Mike Mickelson
Box 1504
Cordova, AK
99574

From: [Scott & Teresa Visscher](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: HB 33
Date: Friday, February 27, 2026 9:08:34 AM

I am a commercial fisherman, sport and subsistence fisherman in SE Alaska.
I support HB 33 and it's common sense approach to conflict of interest on the BOF.

Scott Visscher, 46 yr. resident