

Blair Hickson

Wasilla, Alaska

Candidate for Alaska Board of Fisheries

Originally from Bethel, Alaska, Blair Hickson is a lifelong fisheries and hunting professional with more than 30 years of direct, hands-on experience across Alaska's river systems, remote lodge operations, sportfishing and hunting industries. He brings a deep understanding of the biological, cultural, and economic importance of Alaska's fisheries and game populations, along with a strong commitment to science-based, sustainable management that balances the needs of subsistence, sport, and commercial users.

Relevant Strengths

- Practical application of **science and observation in fisheries decision-making**
- Long-term commitment to **sustainable resource management for future generations**

Core Qualifications

- Extensive firsthand knowledge of Alaska river ecosystems, salmon runs, and fish behavior
- Deep understanding of **subsistence, sport, and commercial fisheries perspectives** across regions
- Commitment to **science-driven fisheries management and conservation principles**
- Experience operating within regulatory and compliance frameworks
- Proven ability to make high-stakes decisions in dynamic, resource-dependent environments
- Strong understanding of rural Alaska lifestyles and subsistence reliance on fisheries
- Ability to balance **user access, economic impact, and long-term resource sustainability**

Professional Experience

Operations Manager / Guide

Alaska's Anvik River Lodge — Anvik, Alaska

1996 – Present

- Progressed through all roles within a remote family owned- from house staff and maintenance to full time guide at age 18 and General manager in 2021.
- Oversee full-scale operations of a remote wilderness lodge, including staffing, logistics, regulatory compliance, and client services
- Lead guided sportfishing expeditions with expert knowledge of fish species, migration timing, and habitat conditions
- Make real-time, in-season decisions based on environmental conditions, fish behavior, and sustainability considerations
- Coordinate complex remote transportation logistics, including river navigation routes
- Implement and enforce conservation-focused practices to protect fish populations and habitat
- Train staff in safety protocols, ethical guiding standards, and responsible resource use

Statewide Fisheries & Rural Alaska Experience

- Childhood was in Bethel with exposure to commercial fisheries dependence, balanced with subsistence-based communities
- Lived and worked across multiple regions of Alaska, gaining a broad and practical understanding of diverse fisheries systems.
- Direct experience observing the economic role of sport, subsistence, and commercial fisheries, including work in the South Central Region, YK Delta and on the Alaska Peninsula
- Firsthand knowledge of Yukon and Kuskokwim River subsistence fisheries and their cultural significance
- Recreational fishing experience in several South Central Alaskan rivers and lakes
- Developed a balanced perspective on fisheries management that integrates science, sustainability, and user group reliance

Additional Professional Experience

Owner / Operator

Gray Wolf Enterprises LLC

2019 – 2020

- Managed business operations, client relations, and project execution

Ground Operations / Equipment Operator

Airline Support Inc.

2014 – 2015

- Maintained safety and operational efficiency in a regulated aviation environment

Construction / Installation Assistant

Washington Crane and Hoist

2019

- Supported infrastructure projects under OSHA-compliant standards

Education

- **GED**, University of Alaska Fairbanks — Bethel Campus (2008)
- Coursework toward degree, University of Alaska Anchorage (2008-2012)

Licenses & Certifications

- State of Alaska Registered Guide & Outfitter
- Alaska Sportfishing Guide Registration
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Merchant Marine Credential