



# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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May 1, 2026

House Fisheries  
Alaska State Capitol Room 216  
Juneau, AK 99801-0001

**RE: Support for Reappointment of Mike Wood and Appointment of Paul Cyr to Alaska Board of Fisheries**

Dear Representative Stutes and House Fisheries Committee Members,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 35 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state and the federal fisheries off Alaska's coast. UFA supports the reappointment of Mike Wood and the appointment of Paul Cyr to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

During his first term, Mike Wood demonstrated a commitment to serving on the Board of Fisheries and to educating himself on the wide variety of fisheries and management practices throughout the state. Mike has consistently shown up for meetings prepared, been open to listening to the science presented as well as public testimony, and willing to work with all stakeholders. The Board of Fisheries has a steep learning curve, and now that Mike has completed a full cycle of regional meetings, he is well positioned to continue to make educated and meaningful contributions to the process. UFA supports the reappointment of Mike Wood to the Board of Fisheries for an additional term.

UFA also supports the appointment of Paul Cyr to the Board of Fisheries. Paul's diverse background, having worked in sport, commercial, and mariculture, provides him with a wide range of experiences to draw upon as a board of fisheries member. From serving as the director of operations at a lodge to directing operations at a large seafood processor in Southeast Alaska, Paul has become familiar with a wide variety of fisheries. Paul currently lives and works in a coastal community in Southeast Alaska, qualities that have been missing from representation on the Board for many years.

UFA encourages the reappointment of Mike Wood and supports the appointment of Paul Cyr to the Board of Fisheries.

Thank you for your consideration of UFA's comments.

Sincerely,



Matt Alward  
President

#### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Scallop Association • Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association  
Area M Seiners Association • At-sea Processors Association • Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association • Bristol Bay Reserve  
Cape Barnabas, Inc. • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen • Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association • Cordova District Fishermen United  
Douglas Island Pink and Chum • Ekuk Beach Fishermen's Association • Freezer Longline Coalition • Fishing Vessel Owners Assn • Groundfish Forum  
Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association • Kodiak Seiners Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association • Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association  
• Northwest Setnetters Association • Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation  
Purse Seine Vessel Owner Association • Seafood Producers Cooperative • Southeast Alaska Herring Conservation Alliance  
Southeast Alaska Fisherman's Alliance • Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners • Southern Southeast Regional  
Aquaculture Association • United Catcher Boats • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters • Valdez Fisheries Development Association

# **UNITED SOUTHEAST ALASKA GILLNETTERS**

**Box 2196, Petersburg AK 99833 \* (253) 279-0707 \* [usag.alaska@gmail.com](mailto:usag.alaska@gmail.com) \* [akgillnet.org](http://akgillnet.org)**

USAG'S MAIN PURPOSE IS TO PROTECT, SERVE AND ENHANCE SOUTHEAST ALASKA'S COMMERCIAL GILLNET FISHERY

May 2, 2026

Chair Representative Louise Stutes  
House Fisheries Committee  
[House.fisheries@akleg.gov](mailto:House.fisheries@akleg.gov)

Dear Representative Stutes and committee members,

United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters is a fishery advocacy organization dedicated to the economic viability of the SEAK drift gillnet fishery. We are regular participants at the Board of Fisheries, and several of our members have a history or are active participants on our communities Advisory Committees to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Boards of Fisheries and Game.

We would like to support Mike Wood for confirmation to the Board of Fisheries. Mr. Wood has shown himself to be a discerning Board member that makes himself accessible to the public, works with stakeholders to help resolve differences, and uses sound reasoning in deliberations. Confirming Mr. Wood would also allow for some continuity in the Board, which is important, as each board member only gets the opportunity to visit a region one time in a term. A second term allows for some familiarity with each area, and the stakeholders that live and fish there. We feel he has served the state well in his first term, and will continue to do so if confirmed.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Max Worhatch, Executive Director



5/1/2026  
Chair Stutes  
House Fisheries Committee  
House.fisheries@akleg.gov

RE: Support For the Reappointment of Mike Wood to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Chair Stutes and Members of the House Fisheries Committee,

Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) represents a fleet of mixed gear vessels that operate in State and Federal fisheries in Alaska and the West Coast. PVOA's members participate in fisheries of all gear types and rely on the sound management of fisheries resources to ensure the viability of their businesses and Petersburg as a community. Having strong, well-informed membership on the Board of Fisheries is one of the pillars that makes our fisheries management the global gold standard. PVOA supports the reappointment of Mike Wood for the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Through his first term on the Alaska Board of Fisheries, Mike Wood has shown his knowledge in regulatory process and his willingness and ability to connect and work with all user groups when deliberating issues before the Board. He has the understanding of the many regions in our State and the diverse needs of the fisheries and communities that connect them all. Not only does Mike bring institutional and regulatory knowledge to the table, but also has a history and continued participation in commercial fisheries and lives in designated rural subsistence area along one of Alaska's major salmon rivers. This provides him the real-world knowledge and experience on the interaction between the commercial, sport and subsistence users of our shared fisheries resources.

PVOA appreciates the ability to comment on the reappointment of Mike Wood to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. We believe that he brings with him a wealth of knowledge from both regulatory and real-world experiences, making him a well-rounded Board member. As a commercial fisheries trade group from a small, fishery dependent community with fisheries participation throughout the State, we recognize the need for Board members to be well versed in the full diversity of our state's fisheries and the implication of management decisions.

PVOA strongly supports the reappointment of Mike Wood to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Thank you,

*Nils Evens*

Nels Evens,  
Executive Director  
Petersburg vessel Owners Association