

Dear members of the House Fisheries Committee:

My name is Connor Murphy and like many lifelong Alaskans, the Board of Fisheries process directly impacts my livelihood, my ability to access wild protein, and my community's economic well-being. I am writing this letter to express my support for and concerns about the upcoming Board of Fisheries appointees

It is imperative that all users, and communities are fairly represented during the Board of Fisheries and that membership remains balanced across the board. This ensures the public process is transparent, operates with integrity, and prevents the board's influence from being overwhelmed by a dominant interest or agenda. The current Board's majority membership does not fairly represent coastal communities or commercial users. Its most recent actions are clearly reflecting an agenda to dismantle commercial fisheries, disregarding the impacts on commercial users and coastal communities across the state. For this reason I encourage you to appoint Paul Cyr from Ketchikan with his well rounded background in South East fisheries and reappoint Mike Wood for his background in the Cook Inlet set net fishery to help achieve a fair representation on the Board of Fisheries.

I want to note that this critically important public board process—which impacts countless people and communities across the state- does not include an active commercial fisherman whose primary income is sourced from commercial fishing. Furthermore, only one out of the seven current board members is from a coastal fishing community. The current membership does not fairly represent the coastal fishing communities or the commercial users who rely on the resource, these are arguably the most impacted by the board's decisions.

Therefore, I request that you reject Blair Hickson's appointment and only appoint members who reside in coastal fishing communities or have backgrounds in commercial fisheries at this time. This will help the Board achieve the transparency and a balanced membership again, as this public process was intended to.

Sincerely,

Connor T. Murphy

Kodiak, AK

# **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.

Today we would offer our support for the confirmation of Mr. Paul Cyr to the Board of Fisheries. We feel that Mr. Cyr's varied past work experiences in both sport fishing and seafood processing will serve him well in this venue. We are confident Mr. Cyr will be cognizant of all users, and will advocate for the best use of the resource in question, for all Alaskans.

It would also be beneficial to have a resident of Southeast Alaska on the Board of Fish again. Southeast representation is an important aspect that should be part of the Boards make up at all times. It is unique, has many commercial fisheries not found elsewhere in the state, and also leads the state in king salmon catches for both commercial and sport.

Serving on the Board of Fisheries is an arduous task, seemingly thank less. Mr. Cyr is willing to serve the state in this capacity; and we will give him our enthusiastic support.

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 Appointment of Paul Cyr 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 appointment of Paul Cyr to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Paul Cyr has worked in a variety of different areas and capacities in the fishing industry in Southeast Alaska. He has managed a sport fishing lodge, managed a seafood processing plant and most recently, manages a mariculture site. Through his work experience, Mr. Cyr has been able to engage with fisheries participants from all sides of the industry and will be able to bring a more wholistic understanding of the nuanced fisheries issues that he would see as a Board Member. There are many regions in the Alaska beyond Southeast, but we believe that through his career in Southeast, Mr. Cyr will be well equipped to make informed decisions and weigh the priority and necessity between all user groups of different fisheries and fishing techniques.

PVOA appreciates the ability to comment on the appointment of Paul Cyr to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. We believe that he brings with him a well-rounded view on our state's fisheries resource through his broad career path. 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 that understand the needs of coastal fishing communities and the interplay of our shared fisheries resources.

PVOA strongly supports the appointment of Paul Cyr to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Thank you,

*Nels Evens*

Nels Evens,  
Executive Director  
Petersburg vessel Owners Association

# 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