



Chair Louise Stutes,
House Fisheries Committee
Alaska Legislature House.Fisheries@akleg.gov

RE: SEAGO letter of support of Blair Hickson, Paul Cyr, Mike Wood to Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Chair Stutes and Committee Members:

SEAGO supports the appointment of Blair Hickson, Paul Cyr, and Mike Wood to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

SEAGO represents sport fishing operations and their anglers throughout Southeast Alaska. We advocate for collaborative fishery management that maintains recreational access, healthy stocks, and preserves the tradition of sport fishing in our state. Our industry supports more than 1,750 jobs and drives over \$270 million in total economic activity annually, with the majority of that spending remaining in local communities.

We fully back Blair Hickson to provide perspective to the board on the needs of the sport fishery and recreational fishing industry. He has first-hand knowledge of Alaska's subsistence, personal use, and recreational fisheries, being raised in a subsistence-based community and having years of activity in personal use and sport fisheries, including direct involvement with the guided sport fishery. We believe Mr. Hickson has the capacity for processing the complexities of Alaska's fisheries, including biology, environmental effects, and economic and social factors, and believe he can make hard decisions in a fair-handed way.

We support Paul Cyr's appointment to the board. He will bring Southeast Alaska perspective and experience across multiple sectors of the fishing industry, including sportfishing services, seafood processing, and mariculture. We expect that this range of work reflects an understanding of different user groups and the considerations involved in managing shared fisheries.

We support the reappointment of Mike Wood who has demonstrated a commitment to his role on the Alaska Board of Fisheries during his first term. His time on the Board has given him a working knowledge of its processes and the variation in fisheries across the state. Mr. Wood has shown a willingness to engage with complex issues. His continued service would provide continuity in Board deliberations and carry forward experience gained through a full cycle.

All three candidates demonstrate direct, applied experience in Alaska's fisheries and an understanding of the practical impacts of management decisions on food security, recreation, and the economy of the State. We look forward to working with them in the coming cycles.

Sincerely,
Kim Landeen
Co-Executive Director

Forrest Braden
Co-Executive Director