



March 19, 2025

House Fisheries Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear members of the House Fisheries Committee:

Thank you for hearing HB 125: “Board of Fisheries Membership” introduced by Representative Jimmie. SalmonState writes in support of this bill in the hope it will promote better structure and more clarity to the Board of Fisheries appointment process. SalmonState is an Alaska based effort dedicated to keeping Alaska the salmon state: where wild salmon and those who depend on them thrive.

The Board of Fisheries was established to conserve and develop the fisheries resources of the state. The requirements for the seven-member body is outlined broadly, according to Alaska Statute 16.05.221:

“appointed on the basis of interest in public affairs, good judgment, knowledge, and ability in the field of action of the board, with a view to providing diversity of interest and points of view in the membership”

We are encouraged to see legislation that promotes more structured representation and diversity for sustainable management and not leaving it to each new administration to set its own interpretation of this overly broad statute. The suggested makeup in the bill of two seats for subsistence fishing, two for commercial, two for sport, and one for a fisheries scientist, to balance diverse interests in fisheries is a fair allocation of seats and viewpoints. However, in recognizing the government-to-government relationship that tribes have with the state, we look forward to hearing more discussion on how this bill can more fully encompass that unique legal status and spur more conversations around equity and representation, outside of the term subsistence.

Thank you for working on balancing representation on this board.

Quyana/Thank you,
Jackie Arnaicar Boyer