



## Bering Sea Fishermen's Association

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March 24, 2025

The Honorable Representative Nellie Jimmie  
Alaska State Legislature  
120 4<sup>th</sup> Street Rm 513  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Jimmie,

I write as Executive Director of the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association in support of HB 125 "An Act relating to membership of the Board of Fisheries".

For more than 40 years, the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association has served 128 communities (many of which are within the Honorable Representative's district), by supporting protection and sustainable development of small boat commercial and subsistence fisheries which are vital economic and cultural drivers in Western Alaska. Further, BSFA supports fisheries science and research to guide and advise tenable and provident fisheries management.

BSFA is in support of language intended to implement balanced appointments to the Board of Fisheries to better provide equitable management ensuring healthy and sustainable returns and opportunities for subsistence and commercial fisheries for Alaskans. To that purpose, BSFA supports the following Alaska-based designations in HB 125:

- Two appointments representing subsistence fishing
- One appointment scientist with expertise in fisheries
- Two appointments representing sportfishing
- Two appointments representing commercial fishing

BSFA agrees with Representative Jimmie that resident fish users are optimally informed to understand the importance of decisions regarding best practices necessary to preserve Alaska's natural resources and fishing for future generations.

It is my pleasure to provide a letter of support for HB 125. Quyan, thank you.

In Peace,

Amy Sparck  
Executive Director  
Bering Sea Fishermen's Association