



Alaska Trollers Association

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March 31, 2018

Alaska Legislature
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Legislators:

The Alaska Trollers Association (ATA) supports confirmation of Al Cain's re-appointment to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF).

ATA represents commercial hook and line salmon fishermen who fish in state and federal waters off Alaska's coast and deliver fine quality seafood to market. The troll fleet is the largest resident fleet in the state. There are nearly 2,000 permits, with about half fished each year. The troll fleet is 86% resident; nearly one of every 40 people in the Southeast region works on a troll boat.

Al Cain, without question, has more BOF experience than any candidate in the last three decades. Having traveled to every meeting across the state during his 15 year tenure as Enforcement Advisor to the Board of Fisheries, and many more as a seated member, Mr. Cain is well-known by our organization, all key user groups, and the fisheries agencies. He has played a crucial role in helping to find common ground amongst groups with disparate positions and crafting practical, enforceable regulations.

Captain Cain's resume is packed with but a sampling of the training, duties, and positions held during his 40 years of service to the state. The many honors and awards bestowed upon him speaks to what many of us recognize as his deep commitment to ensuring the health and sustainability of Alaska's fish and wildlife resources for the good of the citizens who rely upon them. It also reveals a man of substantial character who has multiple times been recognized for valor and meritorious service.

We in the fishing industry typically call on the state to appoint BOF members from a cross-section of working fishermen, subsistence users, and anglers, because we believe in a lay board process involving people with first-hand knowledge of fish, fisheries, operation of gear, regulations, and challenges faced by those who so heavily rely on the resource. But occasionally, someone comes along with such a broad base of personal knowledge, demonstrated skill-set, and commitment to the ideals of the state and greater fishing community that we are compelled to support them. Al Cain clicks all of those boxes.

We hope you will agree that Mr. Cain is a uniquely qualified Board of Fisheries candidate who is worthy of re-appointment to this important position. I hope you will vote in support of his confirmation.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional information or help in any way.

Best Regards,

Steve Merritt

President