



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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April 7, 2025

Chair Louise Stutes
House Fisheries Committee
State Capitol Room 216
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: Supporting Thomas Carpenter's Reappointment to Alaska's Board of Fisheries

Dear Chair Stutes and Members of the House Fisheries Committee,

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. Many of our members live in Alaskan coastal communities that rely on all types of fishing and have a vested interest in making sure the best candidates are chosen to serve on the Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board).

UFA strongly supports the reappointment of Thomas "Tom" Carpenter to the Board. Tom first arrived in Cordova with the U.S. Coast Guard in the early 1990s and has made his home there for over 30 years. In Cordova Tom gained direct experience working in the commercial seafood industry as crew on commercial fishing vessels, then with seafood processing, and also supported recreational hunters and fishers with a sporting goods store in Cordova for over 20 years. Tom possesses a wealth of fisheries knowledge and experience earned on both local and regional levels. Tom served on the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council to the Federal Subsistence Board for 15 years, five of which as Vice Chair. He also served on the Copper River/ Prince William Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee for over 22 years and was awarded the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Excellence in Service Award in 2020 for his ability to connect with diverse user groups and his approachability.

Tom's history of effectively working with a variety of user groups, along with his reputation amongst fishery professionals around the State, speaks to his qualifications to serve as a member on the Board of Fisheries. During his two and half years on the Board, Tom has proven to be transparent in his interactions with all stakeholders and deft at helping the public understand and navigate the Board process more effectively. This is an important trait and skill that makes a confusing and contentious process better and more accessible for everyone involved. Tom bases his decisions on science and does a great job of building the record to explain and demonstrate

how and why he made the decisions that he did on a given proposal. Tom is a well-rounded board member who puts in significant time helping other board members understand issues they may not be familiar with and he strives to educate himself on each issue that comes before him.

Tom is also a resident of a remote coastal community, meaning a community that is not connected to the road system, and represents an important perspective on behalf of many of our fishing communities that are impacted by Board decisions. As the only board member who lives in a small coastal community, Tom is the voice for coastal Alaska communities on the board, something that has been lacking in recent years. Like Cordova, many of our coastal communities rely on a mix of commercial, subsistence, and recreational fishing, and Tom brings an intimate understanding of that mix to the table. Tom is an exceptional and experienced board member and we strongly support his reappointment to the Board for another term.

Thank you for your consideration.



Matt Alward
President



Tracy Welch
Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Scallop Association • Alaska Trollers 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 • Freezer Longline Coalition
Fishing Vessel Owners Assn • Groundfish Forum • Kodiak Crab Alliance Cooperative • 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