

Fairbanks Fish & Game Advisory Committee

Interior Region Fish & Game Advisory Committees

Jeff Lucas
Chairman
1030 Daisy Drive
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

Central	Middle Nenana River
Delta	Middle Yukon River
Eagle	Minto-Nenana
Fairbanks	Ruby
GASH	Stony Holitna
Koyukuk River	Tanana-Rampart-Manley
Lake Minchumina	Upper Tanana Fortymile
McGrath	Yukon Flats

Date: April 14, 2025

To: Members, Alaska State Senate
Members, Alaska House of Representatives

Re: 2025 Confirmation of appointments to the Alaska Board of Game
and Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Members, Alaska State Legislature,

The Fairbanks Fish & Game Advisory Committee (FAC) is one of 84 active committees in Alaska created by the Legislature and the Joint Board of Fisheries and Board of Game to provide the Boards with recommendations regarding fish and game issues. We are a group of citizens elected by our peers at a yearly meeting which is open to the public. Our meetings occur each 2nd Wednesday of the month and are publicly noticed on the State of Alaska website. We regularly encourage communications with other Interior advisory committees.

The FAC met on April 9, 2025, with a full quorum, in unanimous support of confirmation of Al Barrette to the Alaska Board of Game (BOG) and Olivia Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) and to oppose the re-appointment of Tom Carpenter to the Board of Fish.

Mr. Barrette has served the Interior well on the Board of Game for several years. He regularly consults with both the FAC and other Interior advisory committees. He has shown to be knowledgeable about game issues and dedicated to the consultation and research needed. He is always helpful in answering questions from the FAC. We have confidence in his ability to continue to represent Alaska game issues for the benefit of game resources and Alaskan users.

Ms. Irwin brings a long history of involvement in fisheries issues that affect the entire AYK (Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim.) As a co-chair of the Minto-Nenana Advisory Committee she has helped revitalize the participation of area residents. As a new member to the Yukon River Panel, she is deeply immersed in the most recent critical issues relating to Canadian bound Chinook and chum stocks. She is well versed in both state and federal salmon issues. She often attends the FAC Fisheries Subcommittee and full FAC meetings, engaging in extensive dialogues about each subject while also illustrating that she is focused on outcomes that benefit wild salmon without partiality to sectors. She is currently studying the newest Alaska Fish and Game Regulations book in a way that is impressing veteran committee members.

In contrast, the FAC has some critical concerns about the re-appointment of Tom Carpenter (Cordova) to the Board of Fisheries. Mr. Carpenter, as the past president of the largest aquaculture association (PWSAC) in Alaska producing the greatest number of pink salmon, has not shown an inclination to apply precautionary principles to hatchery production. Instead, as a Board of Fisheries member, Mr. Carpenter has repeatedly stated his reluctance to consider peer-reviewed science¹ in relation to negative hatchery impacts on wild salmon stocks and, further, has repeatedly discouraged a dialogue on the subject.

This is primarily a conservation issue. All salmon fisheries in the state of Alaska (with the exception of pink salmon) are in varying states of crisis for either/both run abundance and declining average size.² The over-production of pink salmon from both Alaska and Russian hatcheries is considered to be one of the primary culprits in competition for forage food in the ocean. In addition, hatchery stock straying into wild salmon producing streams potentially weakens wild stock DNA³ and defers attention away from wild stock management.

The AYK region of Alaska is particularly in crisis with the historic crashes - of up to 90% - of its summer and fall chum and coho salmon in 2021 and the continuing severe decline in size and abundance of Chinook salmon. This has been a complete and historic loss to subsistence, commercial, sports and personal use harvest of those salmon species to Yukon River stakeholders in particular. The predictions for Yukon River salmon abundance in 2025 indicate an even greater loss, continuing the concerns over extirpation of some discrete stocks.

The Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee deeply appreciates your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Jeff Lucas, Chairman
Fairbanks Fish & Game Advisory Committee

¹ McMillan, J. R., Morrison, B., Chambers, N., Ruggerone, G., Bernatchez, L., Stanford, J., & Neville, H. (2023). **A global synthesis of peer-reviewed research on the effects of hatchery salmonids on wild salmonids.** *Fisheries Management and Ecology*, 30(5), 446-463. <https://doi.org/10.1111/fme.12643>

Abstract: Hatcheries have long produced salmonids for fisheries and mitigation, though their widespread use is increasingly controversial because of potential impacts to wild salmonids. We conducted a global literature search of peer-reviewed publications (1970–2021) evaluating how hatchery salmonids affected wild salmonids, developed a publicly available database, and synthesized results. Two hundred six publications met our search criteria, with 83% reporting adverse/minimally adverse effects on wild salmonids. Adverse genetic effects on diversity were most common, followed by effects on productivity and abundance via ecological and genetic processes. Few publications (3%) reported beneficial hatchery effects on wild salmonids, nearly all from intensive recovery programs used to bolster highly depleted wild populations. Our review suggests hatcheries commonly have adverse impacts on wild salmonids in freshwater and marine environments. Future research on less studied effects—such as epigenetics— could improve knowledge and management of the full extent of hatchery impacts.

² Oke, K. B., Cunningham, C. J., Westley, P. A. H., Baskett, M. L., Carlson, S. M., Clark, J., ... & Palkovacs, E. P. (2020). **Recent declines in salmon body size impact ecosystems and fisheries.** *Nature communications*, 11(1), 4155.
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-020-17726-z>.

Abstract: Declines in animal body sizes are widely reported and likely impact ecological interactions and ecosystem services. For harvested species subject to multiple stressors, limited understanding of the causes and consequences of size declines impedes prediction, prevention, and mitigation. We highlight widespread declines in Pacific salmon size based on 60 years of measurements from 12.5 million fish across Alaska, the last largely pristine North American salmon-producing region. Declines in salmon size, primarily resulting from shifting age structure, are associated with climate and competition at sea. Compared to salmon maturing before 1990, the reduced size of adult salmon after 2010 has potentially resulted in substantial losses to ecosystems and people; for Chinook salmon we estimated average per-fish reductions in egg production (–16%), nutrient transport (–28%), fisheries value (–21%), and meals for rural people (–26%). Downsizing of organisms is a global concern, and current trends may pose substantial risks for nature and people.

³ Christie, M. R., Marine, M. L., Fox, S. E., French, R. A., & Blouin, M. S. (2016). **A single generation of domestication heritably alters the expression of hundreds of genes.** *Nature communications*, 7(1), 10676.
<https://doi.org/10.1038/ncomms10676>.

Abstract: The genetic underpinnings associated with the earliest stages of plant and animal domestication have remained elusive. Because a genome-wide response to selection can take many generations, the earliest detectable changes associated with domestication may first manifest as heritable changes to global patterns of gene expression. Here, to test this hypothesis, we measured differential gene expression in the offspring of wild and first-generation hatchery steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) reared in a common environment. Remarkably, we find that there were 723 genes differentially expressed between the two groups of offspring. Reciprocal crosses reveal that the differentially expressed genes could not be explained by maternal effects or by chance differences in the background levels of gene expression among unrelated families. Gene-enrichment analyses reveal that adaptation to the novel hatchery environment involved responses in wound healing, immunity and metabolism. These findings suggest that the earliest stages of domestication may involve adaptation to highly crowded conditions.



March 26, 2025

[Sent Via Electronic Mail]
Governor Mike Dunleavy
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811

Jordan Shilling
Office of the Governor
Director, Alaska Boards and Commissions
550 W 7th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501
Jordan.shilling@alaska.gov

Re: Support for Olivia Henaayee Irwin for the Board of Fisheries

Dear Governor Dunleavy and Director Shilling:

On behalf of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), I write in support of Olivia Henaayee Irwin's candidacy for the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Olivia Irwin has significant experience in state and federal fisheries regulations, having participated in advocacy for fisheries issues before the Board of Fisheries and North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, as well as federal and state advisory and legislative groups. Olivia Irwin also has lived experience with subsistence ways of life and a cultural understanding of the importance of fisheries to rural Alaskans, especially Alaska Natives. AFN supports the inclusion of more young stakeholders in regulatory bodies, and we are confident Olivia Irwin would bring valuable experience to the Board. Given these considerations, AFN strongly supports her as a candidate.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ben Mallott
President



Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission

PO Box 613 – Glennallen, Alaska 99588
Phone: (907) 822-4466 Fax: (907) 822-4406

www.ahtnatribal.org
connect@ahtnatribal.org

March 31, 2025

Governor Mike Dunleavy
Office of the Governor
State of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Jordan Shilling, Director
Alaska Boards and Commissions
State of Alaska
550 W 7th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

Sent via email to jordan.shilling@alaska.gov

Dear Governor Dunleavy and Director Shilling,

I am writing to offer my strong support for Olivia H. Irwin's application for appointment to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Having had the privilege of meeting Oliva several years ago at a partnership meeting when I encouraged her to get involved in hunting and fishing regulatory management. I can speak confidently about her qualifications, dedication, and passion for the sustainable management of Alaska's fisheries.

Olivia brings a unique combination of professional expertise in natural resource policy communications and meeting facilitation and a deep personal commitment to the conservation of Alaska's natural resources. With her background in community engagement and fisheries policy, she has demonstrated an exceptional ability to understand the complexities of fisheries issues, particularly fisheries regulations and management, as well as a keen sense of responsibility toward the communities that rely on these resources for their livelihoods.

Throughout her career, Olivia has worked closely with both stakeholders and local communities to advocate for policies that balance economic development with environmental stewardship. Her approach is grounded in collaboration, and she consistently seeks to ensure that all voices are heard in the decision-making process, particularly those of Alaska's rural and indigenous communities, who are directly impacted by fisheries policies.

Olivia's appointment to the Board of Fisheries would bring a fresh and thoughtful perspective to the table. She is a dedicated young leader with the skills necessary to address the critical challenges facing our fisheries, from resource management to ensuring that fishing opportunities are equitable and sustainable for all Alaskans.

I believe that Olivia Irwin will serve with integrity, commitment, and a deep understanding of the importance of Alaska's fisheries. I urge you to strongly consider her for this important position.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Karen Linnell
Executive Director

Al Barrette
380 Peger Rd.
Fairbanks, Ak. 99709

Letter of support for Olivia Irwin for the Board of Fisheries.

House Fisheries

Honorable Chair Representative Stutes and members of House Fisheries.

I am writing in support of Olivia Irwin for the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF.)

I first met Olivia several years ago. She was part of the Wood Bison reintroduction team for Minto Flats State Refuge. There was some contention with this plan. She was instrumental in developing compromise to move the project forward. Then I attended meetings with her about how the historical low returns of Yukon River Chinook and Chum Salmon could be reversed. Lastly, I have attended several of the Minto -Nenana Fish and Game Advisory Committee that Olivia co-chairs with efficiency and consideration.

I mention all this because, I saw how Olivia conducted herself. She is well versed in the subject matter at hand. She completely understands the process. She brings fresh new concepts and thoughts to an issue.

I believe Olivia's age will be benefit to the Board of Fisheries (BOF). Her generation will be the most effected by the decision of the current BOF. She has the knowledge of how the process works. She able to study and research issues and listens to pro and cons of the issues. It is refreshing to see how she incorporates all that information and is able to communicate possible solutions with her generation's perspective.

Please support the confirmation of Olivia Irwin to the BOF. Her youthfulness, knowledge of the process and communication skills will bring a new perspective to the Board.

Al barrette from Fairbanks. I am a member of the Board of Game. I am not representing the Board of Game or views of the Broad of Game. These thoughts and observation are mine and mine only, as a resident Alaskan and user of wild fish.



Bering Sea Fishermen's Association

821 N Street, Suite 103

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

(907) 279-6519 or (888) 927-2732

FAX (907) 258-6688

www.bsfaak.org

Governor Mike Dunleavy

Office of the Governor

PO Box 110001

Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Phone: (907) 465-3500

(907)269-7450

March 31, 2025

Submitted electronically to:

Jordan Shilling

Office of the Governor

Director Alaska Boards and Commissions

550 W 7th Avenue

Anchorage, AK 99501

(907)269-7450

jordan.shilling@alaska.gov

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

For more than 40 years, the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association has served 128 communities through supporting protection and sustainable development of small boat commercial and subsistence fisheries which are vital economic and traditional drivers in Western Alaska. Further, BSFA supports fisheries science and research to guide and advise tenable and provident fisheries management. Communities we serve rely on salmon and other subsistence resources as a source of physical and cultural nourishment. We are therefore invested in ensuring that diverse representation, including Tribal members and subsistence harvesters (and Tribal subsistence users with commercial fishing experience), exists on decision-making bodies like the Alaska Board of Fisheries who manage our critical fishery resources.

BSFA hereby submits support for Thomas Tilden and Olivia Henaayee Irwin to serve on the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Both Ms. Irwin and Mr. Tilden have extensive experience participating in the Board process, in addition to leadership and experience in other resource management positions and forums. If appointed to the Board, we strongly believe they would serve capably and objectively to support sustainable fisheries in Alaska.

A lifelong hunter and fisherman, Tom Tilden has served in numerous leadership roles in his hometown of Dillingham and the Bristol Bay region. He is former Chief and currently serves as Second Chief of the Curyung Tribal Council; he had also been elected to Council and as Mayor of the City of Dillingham. For decades, Mr. Tilden has participated in numerous commercial herring, salmon, and halibut fisheries; and has extensive knowledge of fisheries biology and trends. Through the Board of Fisheries, Mr. Tilden will be fully capable of providing learned guidance and commitment to protect the continued sustainable and economic productivity of Alaska fisheries.

Olivia Irwin hails from Nenana and currently serves as Policy Coordinator for the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association. Ms. Irwin has served as co-chair of the Minto-Nenana Fish & Game Advisory Committee and on the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council. She has advocated before the Board of Fish, Board of Game, North Pacific Fishery Management Council, and Federal Subsistence Board in support of policies to ensure the sustainable harvest of fish and game resources for the benefit of Alaska communities, especially subsistence communities.

Mr. Tilden and Ms. Irwin are dedicated leaders with demonstrated practice of working across user groups and regional affiliation in support of policies that uphold sustained yield and ensure that harvest opportunities exist for all Alaskans. BSFA respectfully encourages you to appoint Mr. Thomas Tilden and Ms. Olivia Irwin to serve on the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Quyan, thank you for the opportunity to submit our letter of support.

In Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Sparck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" being more prominent than the last name "Sparck".

Amy Sparck
Executive Director



Chitina Dipnetters Association
PO Box 35230
Ft. Wainwright, AK 99703
Chuck Derrick, Pres.
cderrick@chitinadipnetters.com

Governor Mike Dunleavy
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

March 17, 2025

Governor Mike Dunleavy:

The Chitina Dipnetters Association is in full support of the appointment of Olivia Irwin to a seat on the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Recently, CDA had the opportunity to meet with Board of Fisheries candidate, Olivia Henaayee Irwin. We were impressed by her background knowledge in Alaska fisheries issues, particularly those involving Interior Alaska. Olivia has expressed her strong support for the thousands of Alaska residents who depend on the Chitina dipnet fishery to supplement their annual food supply with salmon from the Copper River. Olivia showed good knowledge and understanding of Alaska statutes and regulations governing the harvest of Alaska wild resources coupled with the responsibility of conservation and sustainability which align with CDA principles.. She is very aware of the dire situation concerning statewide dwindling chinook salmon stocks and the plight of subsistence fisheries due to dangerously low chinook, chum and coho salmon stocks on the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers. She would be an excellent candidate to fill the seat which will be vacated by Stan Zuray.

Again, CDA as well as the Fairbanks F&G Advisory Committee will be supporting the appointment of Olivia to a seat on the BOF.

Chuck Derrick. CDA President



**DOT LAKE VILLAGE
COUNCIL**

PO BOX 70488

Fairbanks, AK

99707

(907) 882-2695

council@dotlakevillage.org

www.dotlakevillage.org

March 18th, 2025

REPLY TO

ATTN. OF: Dot Lake Village Council

SUBJECT: Letter of Support of Olivia Henaayee Irwin's Appointment to the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries

TO: State of Alaska, Office of the Governor

The Village of Dot Lake is a federally recognized sovereign Tribal government dedicated to the protection, preservation, and stewardship of the lands, waters, and resources within our traditional territory.

The sustainability of Alaska's fisheries is vital to the cultural, economic, and subsistence practices of Alaska Native peoples, including the Village of Dot Lake, who have maintained a deep connection to fisheries ecosystems since time immemorial.

Olivia Henaayee Irwin is a dedicated advocate for sustainable fisheries management, traditional ecological knowledge, and Indigenous representation in state resource management policies. The Dot Lake Village Council recognizes Olivia Henaayee Irwin's expertise in fisheries conservation, subsistence rights, and the importance of maintaining a balanced ecosystem that ensures the continued availability of fish and marine resources for future generations.

Alaska Native voices and perspectives have historically been underrepresented in the decision-making processes that affect our traditional lands and waters, and the appointment of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries would enhance the inclusion of Indigenous knowledge and values in fisheries management.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries plays a critical role in shaping policies that impact subsistence, commercial, and sport fisheries, and it is essential that Indigenous leadership and perspectives are represented in these discussions to promote fair and sustainable fisheries management.

The Dot Lake Village Council formally supports and endorses the appointment of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries, and the Dot Lake Village Council urges the Governor of the State of Alaska and the Alaska State Legislature to confirm her appointment, recognizing her commitment to fisheries conservation, Indigenous subsistence rights, and responsible resource management.

Copies of this letter of support shall be sent to the Governor of Alaska, members of the Alaska State Legislature, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and other relevant agencies and organizations to advocate for the confirmation of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the Board of Fisheries.

Sincerely,

Dot Lake Village Council
council@dotlakevillage.org



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference



Governor Mike Dunleavy
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Jordan Shilling
Director Alaska Boards and Commissions
550 W 7th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

March 19, 2025

RE: Applicant for Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Governor,

On behalf of Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) and Doyon, Limited, we write to express our strong support for the nomination of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to serve on the Alaska Board of Fisheries. As an Iñupiaq and Koyukon Tribal member from Nenana, Olivia brings a critical perspective rooted in the subsistence traditions and cultural heritage of Interior and Arctic Alaska's Indigenous communities.

The TCC and Doyon region covers 235,000 square miles in Interior Alaska and the rural villages located along the 1,400 miles of the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers and their tributaries. Our beneficiaries and shareholders come from 37 federally recognized Tribes, all of whom rely on Alaska's fisheries for food security, cultural continuity, and economic stability.

The decline of salmon and other critical fish species has had devastating impacts on the people and communities in our region. Ms. Irwin, with her deep knowledge of the Yukon River fisheries and generations of firsthand experience, understands these challenges intimately. She has witnessed the effects of declining fish populations and knows what is at stake for the people who depend on them.

Her leadership, education, commitment to traditional ways of life, and practical knowledge of fisheries management will bring much-needed representation to the Board. Olivia would bring a unique voice to critical decision-making processes of the Board, helping to shape policies that support sustainability while addressing the needs of subsistence fishers.

At a time when Alaska's fisheries face unprecedented environmental and management challenges, it is essential that the Board includes representatives who understand the realities faced by rural

and Tribal communities. Olivia's insight will help balance conservation efforts with the needs of those who have sustainably stewarded these resources for generations.

We strongly urge you to appoint Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Her voice is essential in shaping policies that will sustain Alaska's fisheries for future generations.

Sincerely,



Brian Ridley
Chief/Chairman
Tanana Chiefs Conference



Aaron Schutt
CEO
Doyon, Limited

Eagle AC Fish & Game Advisory Committee

Interior Region Fish & Game Advisory Committees

Andrew Bassich
Chairperson
Po Box 11, Eagle, Alaska. 99738
abassich@gmail.com

Central	Middle Nenana River
Delta	Middle Yukon River
Eagle	Minto-Nenana
Fairbanks	Ruby
GASH	Stony Holitna
Koyukuk River	Tanana-Rampart-Manley
Lake Minchumina	Upper Tanana Fortymile
McGrath	Yukon Flats


Letter of Support Olivia Hennahee Irwin

Eagle AC met virtually on March 13, 2025 6pm to discuss support for Olivia Irwin to be appointed to the Alaska Board of Fish.

After review and discussion on Miss Irwin's potential appointment, the Eagle AC unanimously voted to support Miss Irwin to be appointed to the BOF.

Several members of our AC have worked alongside Miss Irwin on Fish and Wildlife issues where she serves on both the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council and Yukon River Panel as a policy advisory for Yukon River Drainage Association. We recognize her tremendous knowledge and understanding of issues, and her position for long term sustainable commercial and subsistence fisheries in the State. We feel she is *qualified, capable* and *enthusiastic* in her desires to serve all Alaskans in a fair and equitable manner. We feel she will be an asset to the State of Alaska serving in this role.

Please strongly consider her to serve on the State of Alaska, Board of Fish.

Respectfully,
AndrewW Bassich,  Date. 3/13/2025
Chair Eagle AC

Faye Ewan
fayeewan54@gmail.com
March 11, 2025

Governor Mike Dunleavy
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Jordan Shilling
Office of the Governor
Director Alaska Boards and Commissions
550 W 7th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 269-7450

Subject: Letter of Support for Olivia Henaayee Irwin's Nomination to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

I am writing to express my support for Olivia Henaayee Irwin to serve on the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Olivia Henaayee Irwin is a dedicated advocate for sustainable fisheries management, traditional ecological knowledge, and increasing access to the public process.

Olivia's deep connection to the Yukon River region gives her a unique understanding of Alaskan fisheries. Her knowledge of regulations and the management processes allow her to have a deeper understanding of the measures that must be taken for regulatory changes to be made. Her leadership, dedication to traditional practices, and hands-on experience in fisheries management make her a strong advocate for ensuring all voices are actively included in critical policy decisions.

I ask that you appoint Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Faye Ewan

March 28, 2025

Governor Mike Dunleavy
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Jordon Shilling
Office of the Governor
Director of Alaska Boards and Commissions
550 W. 7th Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Subject: Letter of Support for Olivia Henaayee Irwin's Nomination to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Governor Dunleavy:

The Fairbanks Native Association Board of Directors is writing to express our support for the nomination of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to serve on the Alaska Board of Fisheries. As an Inupiaq and Koyukon tribal member from Nenana, Ms. Irwin brings an invaluable perspective, deeply rooted in the subsistence traditions and cultural heritage of Alaska's indigenous communities.

Weith generations of knowledge and lived experience in the Yukon River region, she understands firsthand the importance of protecting Alaska's fisheries – not only for their ecological sustainability, but also for the survival of the communities that depend on them. Her leadership, commitment to traditional ways of life, and firsthand knowledge of fisheries management will bring essential representation to the Board, ensuring that indigenous voices are included in critical decision-making processes.

Alaska's fisheries are at a turning point, facing significant environmental and management challenges. It is imperative that the Board reflects the diverse interests of all who rely on these resources. Ms. Irwin's expertise, dedication, and cultural insight will provide a much-needed perspective to help balance conservation efforts with the needs of subsistence fishers and rural communities.

We respectfully urge you to appoint Ms. Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Her voice is essential in shaping policies that will sustain Alaska's fisheries for generations to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sharon McConnell
Chair
Fairbanks Native Association
Board of Directors



KAWERAK, INC.

REPRESENTING
Brevig Mission
Sitaisaq
Council
Akauchak
Diomedes
Injalik
Elim
Neviarcuarluk
Gambell
Sivuqaq
Golovin
Chinik
King Island
Ugiuvak
Koyuk
Kuuyuk
Mary's Igloo
Iglaruk
Nome Eskimo
Sitnasuami Inuit
Savoonga
Sivungaq
Shaktoolik
Saktulik
Shishmaref
Kigiqtaq
Solomon
Anuutaq
St. Michael
Tacik
Stebbins
Tapraq
Teller
Tupqaqruk
Unalakleet
Uqalaqtiq
Wales
Kinigin
White Mountain
Natchigvik

March 26, 2025

Tungwenuk Family Qupak Design, used with permission

From: Melanie Bahnke, President
Kawerak, Inc.

To: Governor Mike Dunleavy and
Jordan Shilling
Office of the Governor
Director, Alaska Boards and Commissions
Sent via email to: jordan.shilling@alaska.gov

Re: Olivia Henaayee Irwin nomination to Board of Fisheries

Governor Dunleavy and Director Shilling,

Kawerak is writing to express our support for Olivia Henaayee Irwin's nomination to the Board of Fisheries.

Kawerak has had the pleasure of working with Ms. Irwin most directly with regard to her work as the Policy Coordinator for the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA). In that work we have seen Ms. Irwin take an active role in the North Pacific Fishery Management Council process. This work has included policy analysis, active participation via testimony, and public engagement, demonstrating Ms. Irwin's ability to undertake technical and public-facing tasks in the interest of Alaska's fisheries. We have also seen Ms. Irwin's efforts facilitating the Yukon River Symposium, which helped bring together fisheries experts to discuss key science and policy issues.

Even as an early career expert, Ms. Irwin has already displayed not only the type of energy and passion that would make her well-suited for the Board of Fisheries, but also an admirable breadth of experience in fisheries issues. She is already engaged in numerous technical, policy, and management arenas, showing a diversity of knowledge as well as an eagerness to learn about the complex issues related to Alaska's fisheries. She is passionate about working with communities and youth, and for the sustainability of Alaska's fisheries, key values and qualities which should be close to the heart of someone entering public service related to this facet of natural resource management for the benefit of current and future generations of Alaskans.

In closing, I would like to reiterate Kawerak's support for Ms. Irwin's nomination to the Board of Fisheries. We feel she would be an asset to the Board and, in that role, to the communities and fisheries of the State.

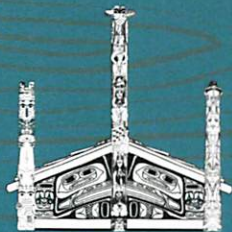
Sincerely,
KAWERAK, INC.

Darlene Trigg on behalf of Melanie Bahnke
Melanie Bahnke, President

KAWERAK, INC.

PO Box 948 • Nome Alaska 99762 • 907.443.5231 • www.kawerak.org

Advancing the capacity of our people and tribes for the benefit of the region.



Ketchikan
INDIAN COMMUNITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Governor Mike Dunleavy
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, KA 99811-0001

Jordan Shilling
Office of the Governor
Director Alaska Boards and Commissions
550 W 7th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99901
907-269-7450

Subject: Letter of Support for Olivia Henaayee Irwin's Nomination to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

I am writing to express my strong support for Olivia Henaayee Irwin's nomination to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. As an Iñupiaq and Koyukon Tribal member from Nenana, Olivia brings an invaluable perspective rooted in the subsistence traditions and cultural heritage of Alaska's Indigenous communities.

With generations of knowledge and lived experience in the Yukon River region, Olivia understands the critical importance of protecting Alaska's fisheries—not just for their ecological sustainability, but also for the survival of the communities that depend on them. Her leadership, commitment to traditional ways of life, and firsthand knowledge of fisheries management will provide essential representation on the Board, ensuring that Indigenous voices are included in vital decision-making processes.

Alaska's fisheries are at a turning point, facing significant environmental and management challenges. The Board must reflect the diverse interests of all who rely on these resources. Olivia's expertise, dedication, and cultural insight will offer a much-needed perspective to help balance conservation efforts with the needs of subsistence fishers and rural communities.

I respectfully urge you to appoint Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. A voice like Olivia's is essential for shaping policies that will sustain Alaska's fisheries for generations to come. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gloria Ilxileé Stáng Burns, President
Ketchikan Indian Community



April 5, 2025

Alaska State Legislature
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for Ms. Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Members of the Alaska State Legislature:

Kenai River Sportfishing Association (KRSA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to ensuring the sustainability of the Kenai River and Alaska's fish resources. Established in 1984, KRSA is the leading sportfishing advocacy group in Alaska, supporting sportfishing opportunities and access.

KRSA would like to express our support for Ms. Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Ms. Irwin is well-spoken and familiar with our organization through her time serving on the Minto-Nenana Fish & Game Advisory Committee. In that role, she gained valuable experience working closely with members of the Board of Fisheries, stakeholders from all user groups, and staff from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. We consider firsthand knowledge and familiarity with the Board of Fisheries process essential for anyone seeking a position on the Board.

Through several interviews with KRSA, we found Ms. Irwin to be deeply committed to the sustainable management of Alaska's fisheries and aligned with KRSA's core priority: more fish in our rivers.

We respectfully urge you to confirm the appointment of Ms. Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Sincerely,

Shannon Martin
Executive Director

Calvin Zuelow

From: Lake Minchumina Traditional Council <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, April 13, 2025 7:51 AM
To: House Resources
Subject: Fwd: Olivia Henaayee for Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Committee Members,

Lake Minchumina Traditional Council members support the confirmation of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Thank you

Tonya Isom

Syra Beistline

Nathon Blackburn

Jessica Stewart



April 16, 2025

Governor Mike Dunleavy
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Jordan Shilling
Office of the Governor
Director Alaska Boards and Commissions
550 W 7th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: Letter of Support for Olivia Henaayee Irwin's Nomination to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to serve on the Alaska Board of Fisheries. As an Iñupiaq and Koyukon Tribal member from Nenana, Olivia brings an invaluable perspective deeply rooted in the subsistence traditions and cultural heritage of Alaska's Indigenous communities.

With generations of knowledge and lived experience in the Yukon River region, Olivia understands firsthand the importance of protecting Alaska's fisheries—not only for their ecological sustainability but also for the survival of the communities that depend on them. Her leadership, commitment to traditional ways of life, and firsthand knowledge of fisheries management will bring essential representation to the Board, ensuring that Indigenous voices are included in critical decision-making processes.

Alaska's fisheries are at a turning point, facing significant environmental and management challenges. It is imperative that the Board reflects the diverse interests of all who rely on these resources. Olivia's expertise, dedication, and cultural insight will provide a much-needed perspective to help balance conservation efforts with the needs of subsistence fishers and rural communities.

I respectfully urge you to appoint Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Her voice is essential in shaping policies that will sustain Alaska's fisheries for generations to come. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim Gilbert, President and CEO
Maniilaq Association

MANIILAQ ASSOCIATION | P.O. BOX 256 | KOTZEBUE, AK 99752 | 1.800.478.3312

Kotzebue Qikiqtaruk, Ambler Ivisaappaat, Buckland Nunatchiaq, Deering Ipnatchiaq, Kiana Katyaak, Kivalina Kivaliniq,
Kobuk Laugviik, Noatak Nautaaq, Noorvik Nuurvik, Point Hope Tikigaq, Selawik Akuligaq, Shungnak Isinnaq

Mark Richards
375 Hagelbarger Ave
Fairbanks, AK 99712

April 21, 2025

To: House Fisheries Committee

Re: Board of Fisheries Appointment – Olivia Irwin

Representative Stutes and members of the House Fisheries Committee,

This is my personal testimony **in support** of Olivia Irwin for the Board of Fisheries.

As a member of the Fairbanks Fish & Game Advisory Committee, and in my role as Executive Director of Resident Hunters of Alaska, I have gotten to know Olivia Irwin from her attendance at various Advisory Committee meetings, Regional Advisory Council meetings, Board of Game meetings, and other meetings where fish and game management issues are discussed.

Ms. Irwin is the current co-chair of the Minto-Nenana Fish & Game Advisory Committee and also serves on the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council.

I have steadily been impressed with Ms. Irwin's knowledge of fish and game issues and her tenacity in learning more about the problems facing our fisheries and how best to address those problems in a way that respects and understands the viewpoints of others. She is passionate about addressing the decline of our salmon stocks and finding long-term solutions that will ensure subsistence fishing opportunities can continue in the future.

One of my personal concerns after being involved in fish and game management issues for so long is that we rarely see younger Alaskans get involved in the process of serving on Fish & Game Advisory Committees and attending Board of Game and Board of Fisheries Meetings. Ms. Irwin is an exception – and an amazing one at that! – and we need more people like her involved in the process.

I strongly support Ms. Irwin's appointment to the Board of Fisheries. I have no doubt that she will study the issues, listen to all sides, and make decisions that are in the best interests of our fisheries overall.

Sincerely,

Mark Richards - Fairbanks



PROTECTING OUR WAYS OF LIFE

To: **Governor Mike Dunleavy**
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

March 18, 2025

Jordan Shilling
Director Alaska Boards and Commissions
Office of the Governor
550 W 7th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Governor Dunleavy and Mr. Shilling,

I am writing on behalf of Native Peoples Action, a state-wide non-patrician Tribal organization that supports Tribal hunting and fishing rights, that we fully endorse and support Olivia Henaayee Irwin's nomination to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Board of Fisheries. I have known Olivia in her roles as a fantastic advocate and fierce participant in the regulatory process with a deep understanding and aptitude for this line of work.

Olivia's extensive fisheries governance background and active participation as chair of the Minto—Nenana AC, Eastern Interior RAC FSB, Yukon River Panel while working for the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association give her a unique perspective that is much needed as outgoing members are leaving the Board of Fisheries process.

Throughout her career, Olivia has shown a fantastic ability to unify, build consensus, and collaboratively work with multiple stakeholder groups, associations, and users of our state's excellent and abundant natural resources.

I am confident that Olivia Henaayee Irwin will bring a wealth of knowledge, integrity, and a forward-thinking perspective to the Board. Her appointment would be a significant asset to the state Board of Fish process with their commitment to work with all user groups to ensure fair representation and participation from all stakeholders. I wholeheartedly endorse her nomination and urge you to consider her for this important role.

Sincerely,

Craig Chythlook | Kaviak
Fisheries Policy Director, Native Peoples Action





Northway Village Council
PO Box 516
Northway, AK 99764
(907) 778-2311
nvcta@aptalaska.net

www.northwayvillagecouncil.org

March 19th, 2025

Governor Mike Dunleavy
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Director Jordan Shilling
Alaska Boards and Commissions
550 W 7th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

RE: Letter of Support for Olivia Henaayee Irwin – Alaska Board of Fisheries Nomination

Dear Governor Dunleavy and Director Shilling,

On behalf of the Northway Village Council, I am pleased to offer our full support for Olivia Henaayee Irwin's nomination to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Olivia's experience, dedication, and deep connection to Alaska's fisheries and tribal communities make her an excellent candidate for this position.

As an Iñupiaq and Koyukon woman from Nenana, Olivia brings a unique and critical perspective to the Board—one that reflects the knowledge, values, and concerns of Alaska Native communities who have relied on our fisheries for generations. Her background in fisheries management, policy advocacy, and community engagement demonstrates her ability to navigate complex regulatory processes while ensuring that rural and Indigenous voices are heard in decision-making.

We believe Olivia's leadership will strengthen the Board's efforts to manage Alaska's fisheries sustainably while respecting the rights and traditions of all who depend on these resources. Her commitment to collaboration and her willingness to engage with Tribal Councils, advisory committees, and stakeholders further highlight her qualifications for this role.

We respectfully urge you to give Olivia Henaayee Irwin's nomination full consideration. Her knowledge, experience, and dedication to Alaska's fisheries will be an asset to the Board and the communities it serves.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Taniesha Moses, MSW
Tribal Administrator
Northway Village Council
907-778-2311



Organized Village of Kake

P.O. Box 316

Kake, Alaska 99830-0316

Telephone 907-785-6471

Fax 907-785-4902 / www.kake-nsn.gov

(Federally Recognized Tribal Government serving the Kake, Alaska area)



March 14, 2025

Jordan Shilling
Office of the Governor
Director Alaska Boards and Commissions
550 W 7th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 269-7450
jordan.shilling@alaska.gov

RE: Organized Village of Kake's Letter of Support for Olivia Henaayee Irwin to fill second available seat on the Alaska Board of Fish.

Dear Jordan Shilling,

The Organized Village of Kake (OVK) is in support of the nomination of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to fill the second available seat on the Alaska Board of Fish. We make a strong recommendation in her filling a board seat due to her commitment to ensuring Alaska Native voices are heard in important spaces like the Board of Fisheries, Board of Game, North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, Yukon River Panel, Federal Subsistence Board, Regional Advisory Councils, Local Advisory Committees, Federal Consultations, and legislative hearings. She currently serves on the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council and the Minto-Nenana Fish and Game Advisory Committee. In doing so, she has expanded her knowledge of the complex set of fisheries issues Alaskans face across the state.

Henaayee has remained committed to working with all user groups, reducing regulatory barriers, decriminalizing subsistence practices, understanding others who engage in fisheries management, and encouraging increased public participation. All fishermen should have a reasonable opportunity to comply with regulations. She has supported local and state efforts to formulate regulations that work for the people utilizing the resource, through her work as co-chair on the Minto-Nenana Fish & Game Advisory Committee.

OVK is a strong advocate for subsistence fishing rights. Our community, along with many rural Alaska Native Communities, depend on salmon as a vital percentage of our diets. Nominating Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fish would uphold the State of Alaska's obligation to prioritize subsistence fishing rights. Alaska native communities have sustainability managed our lands, waters, and resources for thousands of years. Henaayee is not only committed to protecting subsistence fishing rights, but she also works with all stakeholders to fully evaluate proposals, reach mutual understandings and ensure Alaska's fisheries are managed sustainably. She always has and always will move forward with the best interest of all future Alaskans. It would be in the best interest of our people to have Henaayee on the Alaska Board of Fish.

Gunalcheesh,

Joel Jackson
President



Southeast Alaska Guides Organization (SEAGO)

1600 Tongass Rd

Ketchikan, AK

Director@seagoalaska.org

(907) 612-0505

April 15, 2025

To Chair Stutes and Members of the House Fisheries Committee,

On behalf of the Southeast Alaska Guides Organization (SEAGO), we are writing to express our support for the appointment of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

While SEAGO has not had the opportunity to work directly with Ms. Irwin, we are encouraged by her experience and optimistic about the fresh perspective she brings to the Board. Her appointment represents an infusion of young, energetic leadership at a time when Alaska's fisheries face increasingly complex and evolving challenges.

Ms. Irwin's strong commitment to sustainable fisheries management—especially her focus on King salmon conservation—resonates with stakeholders who are working to protect Alaska's fisheries for future generations. Her current role as Policy Coordinator for the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association and her service as Chair of the Minto-Nenana Fish and Game Advisory Committee reflect her active engagement with community-based management and public process.

Her academic background in Indigenous Studies and her work with Alaska Native organizations further highlight a thoughtful, culturally grounded approach to fisheries management. Her efforts to integrate traditional knowledge into regulatory policy demonstrate the kind of holistic and inclusive thinking that can benefit the Board and the broader fisheries community.

We believe Ms. Irwin's experience, values, and perspective will be a valuable addition to the Board. Her focus on collaboration, public engagement, and long-term sustainability aligns with the kind of leadership Alaska's fisheries need.

We respectfully urge your favorable consideration of her appointment.

Respectfully,

Forrest Braden and Kim Landeen

Co-Directors

Southeast Alaska Guides Organization (SEAGO)



March 23, 2025

****sent via email****

Governor Mike Dunleavy
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Jordan Shilling
Director Alaska Boards and Commissions
550 W 7th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501
jordan.shilling@alaska.gov

RE: Oliva Irwin's Nomination to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

Honorable Governor Dunleavy:

Thank you for accepting Sealaska's letter in support for Olivia Irwin's application to serve on the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Sealaska is the Alaska Native Regional Corporation formed as a result of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971. Sealaska has over 26,000 shareholders with ancestral ties to the traditional villages of southeast Alaska.

Although Ms. Irwin is from another region, she has all the same connections to our tribes, corporations, and our ancient way of life that we need in the management of our most precious resource – our fish. In southeast Alaska, we are literally salmon people. The coho, sockeye, pink and chum salmon are longtime clan crests. Everyone of our villages continues to depend on healthy stocks of fish.

At Sealaska, the seafood industry is a key part of our global ocean health business platform. As all Alaskans know, there is no seafood market on the planet that can compare to ours. The work of the board of fish impacts the generations. Board decisions must take into special consideration the people and practices that have been stewarding Alaska's resources for thousands of years.

Ms. Irwin has a unique combination of connections to place, real life experience, work ethic and commitment that make her an ideal candidate to represent all user groups fairly. We respectfully ask that she be appointed to Alaska's Board of Fisheries because she will do a great job for all of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Joe Nelson
President



Healthy Communities, Through a Healthy Watershed

Governor Mike Dunleavy
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Jordan Shilling
Office of the Governor
Director Alaska Boards and Commissions
550 W 7th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-269-7450

RE: Letter of Support for Olivia Henaayee Irwin's Nomination to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

Tanana Valley Watershed Association (TVWA) is a 501(c)3 non-profit whose mission is to promote and improve the health of the watershed through education, restoration, collaborative research and diverse community involvement. TVWA has been involved with salmon habitat and education projects throughout the Tanana River drainage – the main Chinook salmon producing tributary of the Yukon River on the Alaskan side of the border.

TVWA would like to express our strong support for the nomination of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to serve on the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF). Olivia brings a perspective rooted in and informed by the range of interests represented across the Yukon River basin. The Yukon is vast, making it hard to accurately know the particular fisheries issues of communities throughout the region. Olivia is from multiple places on the Yukon, having family ties and lived experience on the Upper, Middle and Lower Yukon. Olivia's understanding and awareness will help inform and be of direct benefit to the BOF.

Such perspectives will be all the more important as the region begins the seven year moratorium on fishing for Chinook. TVWA is enthusiastic to support Olivia's appointment, her knowledge and judgment will be an invaluable asset to the BOF.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cory Whiteley".

Cory Whiteley, M.SEM
Executive Director
Tanana Valley Watershed Association



Tikahtnu Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

P.O. Box 39070
Ninilchik, Alaska, 99639

March 27, 2025

To: Jordan Shilling
Office of the Governor
Director Alaska Boards and Commissions
550 W 7th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

From: Tikahtnu Inter-Tribal Fish Commission via:
Tikahtnu Inter-Tribal Fish Commission Co-Chair Debra Call
Tikahtnu Inter-Tribal Fish Commission Co-Chair Samuel Schimmel

Re: Nomination of Oliva Henaalyee Irwin to Board of Fish

Dear Director Schilling:

This is an official communication from the Tikahtnu Inter-tribal Fish Commission who met March 21, 2025 and supported nominee Olivia Henaalyee Irwin to be selected to be a member of the State of Alaska Board of Fish (BOF).

Tikahtnu Fish Commission membership consists of the Cook Inlet federally recognized Tribes of Chickaloon Native Village, Native Village of Eklutna, Kenaitze Indian Tribe, Knik Tribe, Ninilchik Village Tribe, Salamatof Tribe, and Seldovia Village Tribe. The Tikahtnu Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (TIFC) is an inter-tribal body established under the sovereign authority of its Member Tribes. Each Member Tribe is federally recognized and has authorized the TIFC's work through legally enacted Tribal resolutions.

Created under the framework of Tribal sovereignty, the TIFC operates with delegated Tribal authority to secure and protect Tribal access to fisheries, influence fishery management, and advance Tribal co-stewardship. To be clear, the TIFC is empowered to speak on behalf of its Member Tribes on fishery matters.

At our meeting, the TIFC members voted unanimously in support of Olivia to serve on the State of Alaska BOF. Her work experience in fisheries makes her a well qualified nominee. She understands the importance of fish in Native culture throughout Alaska. Fish is highly regarded not only for its contribution of providing a healthy diet for Native Alaskans, but also the

P.O. Box 39070, Ninilchik, Alaska, 99639 || Ph: (907) 690-2263

importance of traditional activities for families involved in the annual harvest of salmon. Teaching young people the core conservation subjects such as: honoring the first fish caught, taking care and processing of newly harvested fish, and ensuring that the harvest is only what is needed to feed the family.

The challenge facing interior people is the lack of fish! This has resulted in NO subsistence fishing for Alaska families who have lived for generations in the rural Interior of Alaska. Olivia provides her skills and experience, if selected to be a member of the BOF, to communicate the harmful, lasting effect of 'no fishing at fish camps' to the Board. In turn, she can communicate to interior communities the opportunities of long term conservation practices that will protect fish to interior communities now and in the future.

The State of Alaska needs a BOF member like Olivia who can share the rationale of the regulations affecting Alaska's inland waters, her experience in communicating key rural conservation activities to the Board, and relaying the reasons to rural residents the Board of Fish oversight activities in Alaska's inland waters.

In conclusion, TIFC supports Olivia's interest in serving on the State of Alaska Board of Fish and TIFC requests that her nomination be approved. If there are any questions please reach out to Debra Call (CookInletFishers@Gmail.com) and Sam Schimmel (SamuelUSchimmel@Gmail.com).

Chin'an,

Samuel Schimmel

Sam Schimmel, Co-Chair

2025-03-27

Debra L. Call

Debra Call, Co-Chair





2025-03-27

Audit trail

Details

FILE NAME	TIFC Letter Supporting Olivia Henaalyee Irwin for Board of Fish - 3/27/25, 9:31 PM
STATUS	● Signed
STATUS TIMESTAMP	2025/03/28 01:32:31 UTC

Activity

 SENT	samueluschimmel@gmail.com sent a signature request to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Debra L. Call (cookinletfishers@gmail.com)Samuel Schimmel (samueluschimmel@gmail.com)	2025/03/28 01:31 UTC
 SIGNED	Signed by Samuel Schimmel (samueluschimmel@gmail.com)	2025/03/28 01:31:51 UTC
 SIGNED	Signed by Debra L. Call (cookinletfishers@gmail.com)	2025/03/28 01:32:31 UTC
 COMPLETED	This document has been signed by all signers and is complete	2025/03/28 01:32:31 UTC

The email address indicated above for each signer may be associated with a Google account, and may either be the primary email address or secondary email address associated with that account.



**Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida
Indian Tribes of Alaska**

907.586.1432 • 800.344.1432

PO Box 25500 • Juneau, Alaska

99802 www.TlingitandHaida.gov

April 14, 2025

Honorable Mike Dunleavy
Governor of Alaska
PO Box 11001
Juneau, AK 99801-1001

Jordan Shilling
Director Alaska Boards and Commissions
550 W 7th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: Support for the Appointment of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

On behalf of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) and the 38,000 Tribal Citizens we represent, I write to support the appointment of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. As an Iñupiaq and Koyukon Tribal member from Nenana, Ms. Irwin brings a critical perspective rooted in the customary and traditional heritage of Alaska's Indigenous and rural communities.

Grounded in traditional ways of life, Ms. Irwin's leadership, education, and applied experience have prepared her to navigate the complexities related to the sustainable management of Alaska's fisheries. Tlingit & Haida stands in support for the appointment of Ms. Irwin to serve on the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Peterson,
President

Tracy Snow
3220 Hillary Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
inspire_consulting@yahoo.com
(907) 322-9644

March 10, 2025

Jordan Shilling
Office of the Governor
Director Alaska Boards and Commissions
550 W 7th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

Subject: Letter of Support for Olivia Henaayee Irwin's Nomination to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Jordan Shilling,

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to serve on the Alaska Board of Fisheries. As an Iñupiaq and Koyukon Tribal member from Nenana, Olivia brings an invaluable perspective deeply rooted in the subsistence traditions and cultural heritage of Alaska's Indigenous communities.

With generations of knowledge and lived experience in the Yukon River region, Olivia understands firsthand the importance of protecting Alaska's fisheries—not only for their ecological sustainability but also for the survival of the communities that depend on them. Her leadership, commitment to traditional ways of life, and firsthand knowledge of fisheries management will bring essential representation to the Board, ensuring that Indigenous voices are included in critical decision-making processes.

Alaska's fisheries are at a turning point, facing significant environmental and management challenges. It is imperative that the Board reflects the diverse interests of all who rely on these resources. Olivia's expertise, dedication, and cultural insight will provide a much-needed perspective to help balance conservation efforts with the needs of subsistence fishers and rural communities.

I respectfully urge you to appoint Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Her voice is essential in shaping policies that will sustain Alaska's fisheries for generations to come. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Tracy Snow". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

Tracy Snow
Lifelong Alaskan



March 27, 2025

Governor Mike Dunleavy
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Jordan Shilling
Office of the Governor
Director, Alaska Boards and Commissions
550 W 7th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

Governor Dunleavy,

The Yukon River Inter Tribal Fish Commission writes in support of Olive Henaayee Irwin's nomination to the Alaska Board of Fish. Olivia's unique life experience and education provide for an informed, balanced approach to Alaska fisheries management that will benefit both the people of Alaska and the wild salmon we all rely upon. She has versed herself in depth in the regulatory systems of the Board of Fish, the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, and the Yukon River Panel as she seeks balanced solutions for the future of Alaska's fisheries. You can find Olivia running AC meetings, studying Alaska Fish and Game Laws and Regulations, and attending numerous related fish and game management meetings around the state. We have no doubt her commitment to listening, studying the issues, and building relationships sectors will make her an invaluable asset to the Board of Fish.

We appreciate your time and consideration in putting forth Board of Fish nominations that benefit Alaska's people and fish. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,

Charlie Wright
YRITFC Chair

Dear Committee Members,

The Beaver Village Council supports the confirmation of Oliva Henaayee Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Thank you, Chief Rhonda Pitka

Rhonda Pitka, First Chief

Beaver Village Council

PO BOX 24029

Beaver, AK 99724

Dear Committee Members,

Lake Minchumina Traditional Council members support the confirmation of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Thank you

Tonya Isom

Syra Beistline

Nathon Blackburn

Jessica Stewart

Ken G Brundell

POB 907

Nelson Sagum AK 99511

907-989-4006

Governor Mike Dunleavy
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001
Phone: (907) 465-3500
(907)269-7450

3/30/25

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

I wish to support the nomination for Ms. Olivia Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

I feel she is experienced in the Board of Fisheries processes and is knowledgeable of fisheries issues the State of Alaska is facing today.

Olivia has directly participated in: the Board of Fisheries, Board of Game, North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, Yukon River Panel, Federal Subsistence Board, Regional Advisory Councils, Local Advisory Committees, Federal Consultations, and legislative hearings. She currently serves on the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council and the Minto Nenana Fish and Game Advisory Committee. In doing so, she has expanded her knowledge of the complex set of fisheries issues Alaskans face across the state.

Please consider her nomination.

Thank you.

Ken G Brundell

Mark McNeley
Nelson Lagoon Advisory Committee Chairman
9998 Nelson Lagoon Rd.
Nelson Lagoon, Alaska 99571
mr.mcneley@gmail.com / 1-907-989-4070

Governor Mike Dunleavy
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001
Phone: (907) 465-3500
(907)269-7450

03/30/2025

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

I wish to support the nomination for Ms. Olivia Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

I feel she is experienced in the Board of Fisheries processes and is knowledgeable of fisheries issues the State of Alaska is facing today.

Olivia has directly participated in: the Board of Fisheries, Board of Game, North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, Yukon River Panel, Federal Subsistence Board, Regional Advisory Councils, Local Advisory Committees, Federal Consultations, and legislative hearings. She currently serves on the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council and the Minto Nenana Fish and Game Advisory Committee. In doing so, she has expanded her knowledge of the complex set of fisheries issues Alaskans face across the state.

Please consider her nomination.

Thank you.



Mark A. McNeley

NANETTE JOHNSON
PO BOX 924
NELSON LAGOON, AK.
99571
PH. 907-989-4045

3-30-25

Governor Mike Dunleavy
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001
Phone: (907) 465-3500
(907)269-7450

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

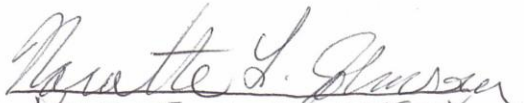
I wish to support the nomination for Ms. Olivia Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

I feel she is experienced in the Board of Fisheries processes and is knowledgeable of fisheries issues the State of Alaska is facing today.

Olivia has directly participated in: the Board of Fisheries, Board of Game, North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, Yukon River Panel, Federal Subsistence Board, Regional Advisory Councils, Local Advisory Committees, Federal Consultations, and legislative hearings. She currently serves on the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council and the Minto Nenana Fish and Game Advisory Committee. In doing so, she has expanded her knowledge of the complex set of fisheries issues Alaskans face across the state.

Please consider her nomination.

Thank you.


NANETTE L. JOHNSON

Shannon Johnson
P.O. Box 924
Nelson Lagoon, AK 99571
Shannon_dannille_11@hotmail.com
907-989-4052

03/30/2025

Governor Mike Dunleavy
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001
Phone: (907) 465-3500
(907)269-7450

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

I wish to support the nomination for Ms. Olivia Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

I feel she is experienced in the Board of Fisheries processes and is knowledgeable of fisheries issues the State of Alaska is facing today.

Olivia has directly participated in: the Board of Fisheries, Board of Game, North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, Yukon River Panel, Federal Subsistence Board, Regional Advisory Councils, Local Advisory Committees, Federal Consultations, and legislative hearings. She currently serves on the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council and the Minto Nenana Fish and Game Advisory Committee. In doing so, she has expanded her knowledge of the complex set of fisheries issues Alaskans face across the state.

Please consider her nomination.

Thank you.


Shannon Johnson

Sharon Brandell
PO Box 907
Nelson Lagoon, AK

03/30/25

Governor Mike Dunleavy
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001
Phone: (907) 465-3500
(907)269-7450

Dear Governor Dunleavy,


I wish to support the nomination for Ms. Olivia Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

I feel she is experienced in the Board of Fisheries processes and is knowledgeable of fisheries issues the State of Alaska is facing today.

Olivia has directly participated in: the Board of Fisheries, Board of Game, North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, Yukon River Panel, Federal Subsistence Board, Regional Advisory Councils, Local Advisory Committees, Federal Consultations, and legislative hearings. She currently serves on the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council and the Minto Nenana Fish and Game Advisory Committee. In doing so, she has expanded her knowledge of the complex set of fisheries issues Alaskans face across the state.

Please consider her nomination.

Thank you.


Sharon Brandell

Sherman McNeley
9998 Nelson Lagoon Rd
Nelson Lagoon AK 99571
sherm4041@gmail.com
1-907-982-4041

3/30/25

Governor Mike Dunleavy
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001
Phone: (907) 465-3500
(907)269-7450

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

I wish to support the nomination for Ms. Olivia Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

I feel she is experienced in the Board of Fisheries processes and is knowledgeable of fisheries issues the State of Alaska is facing today.

Olivia has directly participated in: the Board of Fisheries, Board of Game, North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, Yukon River Panel, Federal Subsistence Board, Regional Advisory Councils, Local Advisory Committees, Federal Consultations, and legislative hearings. She currently serves on the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council and the Minto Nenana Fish and Game Advisory Committee. In doing so, she has expanded her knowledge of the complex set of fisheries issues Alaskans face across the state.

Please consider her nomination.

Thank you.


Sherman McNeley

Tyler Livingston
9998 Nelson Lagoon Rd
Nelson Lagoon AK 99571
TYTYMYboy2@gmail.com

3/30/25

Governor Mike Dunleavy
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001
Phone: (907) 465-3500
(907)269-7450

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

I wish to support the nomination for Ms. Olivia Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

I feel she is experienced in the Board of Fisheries processes and is knowledgeable of fisheries issues the State of Alaska is facing today.

Olivia has directly participated in: the Board of Fisheries, Board of Game, North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, Yukon River Panel, Federal Subsistence Board, Regional Advisory Councils, Local Advisory Committees, Federal Consultations, and legislative hearings. She currently serves on the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council and the Minto Nenana Fish and Game Advisory Committee. In doing so, she has expanded her knowledge of the complex set of fisheries issues Alaskans face across the state.

Please consider her nomination.

Thank you.



Tyler Livingston

AC Member

Trevor Edwards
P.O. Box 933
Nelson Lagoon, AK 99571
etrevor119@gmail.com
907-989-4008

03/30/2025

Governor Mike Dunleavy
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001
Phone: (907) 465-3500
(907)269-7450

Dear Governor Dunleavy,


I wish to support the nomination for Ms. Olivia Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

I feel she is experienced in the Board of Fisheries processes and is knowledgeable of fisheries issues the State of Alaska is facing today.

Olivia has directly participated in: the Board of Fisheries, Board of Game, North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, Yukon River Panel, Federal Subsistence Board, Regional Advisory Councils, Local Advisory Committees, Federal Consultations, and legislative hearings. She currently serves on the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council and the Minto Nenana Fish and Game Advisory Committee. In doing so, she has expanded her knowledge of the complex set of fisheries issues Alaskans face across the state.

Please consider her nomination.

Thank you.


Trevor Edwards



Louden Tribe

P.O. Box 244
Galena, Alaska 99741
Phone (907) 656-1711
Fax (907) 656- 2491

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-12

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF OLIVIA HENAAYEE IRWIN'S APPOINTMENT TO THE STATE OF ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

WHEREAS, the Louden Tribe is the federally recognized sovereign Tribal government dedicated to the protection, preservation, and stewardship of the lands, waters, and resources within our traditional territory; and

WHEREAS, the sustainability of Alaska's fisheries is vital to the cultural, economic, and subsistence practices of Alaska Native peoples, including the Louden Tribe, who have maintained a deep connection to fisheries ecosystems since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, Olivia Henaayee Irwin is a dedicated advocate for sustainable fisheries management, traditional ecological knowledge, and Indigenous representation in state resource management policies; and

WHEREAS, the Louden Tribe recognizes Olivia Henaayee Irwin's expertise in fisheries conservation, subsistence rights, and the importance of maintaining a balanced ecosystem that ensures the continued availability of fish and marine resources for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Native voices and perspectives have historically been underrepresented in the decision-making processes that affect our traditional lands and waters, and the appointment of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries would enhance the inclusion of Indigenous knowledge and values in fisheries management; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fisheries plays a critical role in shaping policies that impact subsistence, commercial, and sport fisheries, and it is essential that Indigenous leadership and perspectives are represented in these discussions to promote fair and sustainable fisheries management; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louden Tribe formally supports and endorses the appointment of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries; and



Louden Tribe

P.O. Box 244
Galena, Alaska 99741
Phone (907) 656-1711
Fax (907) 656- 2491

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Louden Tribe urges the Governor of the State of Alaska and the Alaska State Legislature to confirm her appointment, recognizing her commitment to fisheries conservation, Indigenous subsistence rights, and responsible resource management; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Governor of Alaska, members of the Alaska State Legislature, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and other relevant agencies and organizations to advocate for the confirmation of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the Board of Fisheries.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed by the Louden Tribal Council this 28th of March 2025, at Galena, AK and that 7 voted for and 0 opposed and 0 abstained.

ATTEST

Charlie Green, First Chief

Jenny Bryant, Secretary



Manley Village Council - P.O. Box 105 - Manley Hot Springs, Alaska 99756

Voice: (907) 385-7142 Email: missleahrose2@gmail.com

**Manley Village Council
Resolution No. 2025-27**

A Resolution in Support of Olivia Henaayee Irwin's Appointment to the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries

WHEREAS, the Manley Village Council is a federally recognized sovereign Tribal government dedicated to the protection, preservation, and stewardship of the lands, waters, and resources within our traditional territory; and

WHEREAS, the sustainability of Alaska's fisheries is vital to the cultural, economic, and subsistence practices of Alaska Native peoples, including the [Tribe], who have maintained a deep connection to fisheries ecosystems since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, Olivia Henaayee Irwin is a dedicated advocate for sustainable fisheries management, traditional ecological knowledge, and Indigenous representation in state resource management policies; and

WHEREAS, the Manley Village Council recognizes Olivia Henaayee Irwin's expertise in fisheries conservation, subsistence rights, and the importance of maintaining a balanced ecosystem that ensures the continued availability of fish and marine resources for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Native voices and perspectives have historically been underrepresented in the decision-making processes that affect our traditional lands and waters, and the appointment of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries would enhance the inclusion of Indigenous knowledge and values in fisheries management; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fisheries plays a critical role in shaping policies that impact subsistence, commercial, and sport fisheries, and it is essential that Indigenous leadership and perspectives are represented in these discussions to promote fair and sustainable fisheries management; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Manley Village Council formally supports and endorses the appointment of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the State of Alaska Board of



Manley Village Council - P.O. Box 105 - Manley Hot Springs, Alaska 99756

Voice: (907) 385-7142 Email: missleahrose2@gmail.com

Fisheries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Manley Village Council urges the Governor of the State of Alaska and the Alaska State Legislature to confirm her appointment, recognizing her commitment to fisheries conservation, Indigenous subsistence rights, and responsible resource management; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Governor of Alaska, members of the Alaska State Legislature, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and other relevant agencies and organizations to advocate for the confirmation of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the Board of Fisheries.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed by the Manley Village Council on this 31st of March, 2025, at a duly called meeting with a quorum present and voting.

Signed:

First Chief Raymond P. Woods

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Raymond P. Woods".

Second Chief William Bredeman-Woods

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William Bredeman-Woods".

Northway Village

Resolution No. 2025-1 1

A Resolution in Support of Olivia Henaayee Irwin's Appointment to the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries

WHEREAS, the **Northway Village** is a federally recognized sovereign Tribal government dedicated to the protection, preservation, and stewardship of the lands, waters, and resources within our traditional territory; and

WHEREAS, the sustainability of Alaska's fisheries is vital to the cultural, economic, and subsistence practices of Alaska Native peoples, including the **Northway Village**, who have maintained a deep connection to fisheries ecosystems since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, Olivia Henaayee Irwin is a dedicated advocate for sustainable fisheries management, traditional ecological knowledge, and Indigenous representation in state resource management policies; and

WHEREAS, the **Northway Village** recognizes Olivia Henaayee Irwin's expertise in fisheries conservation, subsistence rights, and the importance of maintaining a balanced ecosystem that ensures the continued availability of fish and marine resources for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Native voices and perspectives have historically been underrepresented in the decision-making processes that affect our traditional lands and waters, and the appointment of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries would enhance the inclusion of Indigenous knowledge and values in fisheries management; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fisheries plays a critical role in shaping policies that impact subsistence, commercial, and sport fisheries, and it is essential that Indigenous leadership and perspectives are represented in these discussions to promote fair and sustainable fisheries management; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the **Northway Village** formally supports and endorses the appointment of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the **Northway Village** urges the Governor of the State of Alaska and the Alaska State Legislature to confirm her appointment, recognizing her

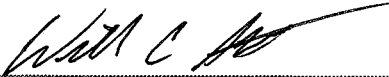
commitment to fisheries conservation, Indigenous subsistence rights, and responsible resource management; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Governor of Alaska, members of the Alaska State Legislature, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and other relevant agencies and organizations to advocate for the confirmation of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the Board of Fisheries.

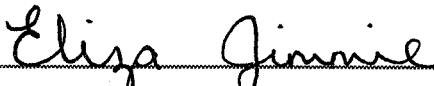
CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed by the **Northway Village** on this **March 18th, 2025** at a duly called meeting with a quorum present and voting.

Signed:



William "Chaiy" Albert, President



Eliza Jimmie, Tribal Secretary

**NATIVE VILLAGE OF RUBY
PO BOX 210
RUBY, AK 99768
907-468-4479**

Resolution No. 2025-08

**A Resolution in Support of Olivia Henaayee Irwin's Appointment to the State of Alaska
Board of Fisheries**

WHEREAS, the Native Village of Ruby is a federally recognized sovereign Tribal government dedicated to the protection, preservation, and stewardship of the lands, waters, and resources within our traditional territory; and

WHEREAS, the sustainability of Alaska's fisheries is vital to the cultural, economic, and subsistence practices of Alaska Native peoples, including the Native Village of Ruby, who have maintained a deep connection to fisheries ecosystems since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, Olivia Henaayee Irwin is a dedicated advocate for sustainable fisheries management, traditional ecological knowledge, and Indigenous representation in state resource management policies; and

WHEREAS, the Native Village of Ruby recognizes Olivia Henaayee Irwin's expertise in fisheries conservation, subsistence rights, and the importance of maintaining a balanced ecosystem that ensures the continued availability of fish and marine resources for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Native voices and perspectives have historically been underrepresented in the decision-making processes that affect our traditional lands and waters, and the appointment of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries would enhance the inclusion of Indigenous knowledge and values in fisheries management; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fisheries plays a critical role in shaping policies that impact subsistence, commercial, and sport fisheries, and it is essential that Indigenous leadership and perspectives are represented in these discussions to promote fair and sustainable fisheries management; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Native Village of Ruby formally supports and endorses the appointment of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Native Village of Ruby urges the Governor of the State of Alaska and the Alaska State Legislature to confirm her appointment, recognizing her commitment to fisheries conservation, Indigenous subsistence rights, and responsible resource management; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Governor of Alaska, members of the Alaska State Legislature, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and other relevant agencies and organizations to advocate for the confirmation of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the Board of Fisheries.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed by the Native Village of Ruby on this 24th of March day, 2025, at a duly called meeting with a quorum present and voting.

Signed:



for Stewart Cleaver
Chief



Katherine Dozette
Tribal Secretary



Healy Lake Village Council

We are the Mendas Cha-ag People.

Office: 600 University Avenue, Suite 100, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

907-371-4044 Office * 907-371-1898 Fax

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-0326

Healy Lake Village Council Resolution in Support of Olivia Henaayee Irwin's Appointment to the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries

WHEREAS: Healy Lake Village is a duly constituted and Federally Recognized Sovereign Indian Tribe organized pursuant to the authority of the Acts of Congress of June 18, 1934 (49 Stat. 908) as amended by the Acts of June 25th and July 1, 1947; and

WHEREAS: The Healy Lake Village Council is the Tribal Governing Body for the Healy Lake Village; and

WHEREAS: Healy Lake Village Council is dedicated to the protection, preservation, and stewardship of the lands, waters, and resources within our traditional territory; and

WHEREAS: the sustainability of Alaska's fisheries is vital to the cultural, economic, and subsistence practices of Alaska Native peoples, including the people of Healy Lake Village, who have maintained a deep connection to fisheries ecosystems since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS: Olivia Henaayee Irwin is a dedicated advocate for sustainable fisheries management, traditional ecological knowledge, and Indigenous representation in state resource management policies; and

WHEREAS: Healy Lake Village Council recognizes Olivia Henaayee Irwin's expertise in fisheries conservation, subsistence rights, and the importance of maintaining a balanced ecosystem that ensures the continued availability of fish and marine resources for future generations; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native voices and perspectives have historically been underrepresented in the decision-making processes that affect our traditional lands and waters, and the appointment of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries would enhance the inclusion of Indigenous knowledge and values in fisheries management; and

WHEREAS: the Alaska Board of Fisheries plays a critical role in shaping policies that impact subsistence, commercial, and sport fisheries, and Indigenous leadership and perspectives must be represented in these discussions to promote fair and sustainable fisheries management; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that Healy Lake Village Council formally supports and endorses the appointment of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries; and



Healy Lake Village Council

We are the Mendas Cha-ag People.

Office: 600 University Avenue, Suite 100, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

907-371-4044 Office * 907-371-1898 Fax

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that Healy Lake Village Council urges the Governor of the State of Alaska and the Alaska State Legislature to confirm her appointment, recognizing her commitment to fisheries conservation, Indigenous subsistence rights, and responsible resource management; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: that copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Governor of Alaska, members of the Alaska State Legislature, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and other relevant agencies and organizations to advocate for the confirmation of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the Board of Fisheries.

CERTIFICATION: The Healy Lake Village Council adopted this resolution numbered 2025-0326 during a meeting held on this day March 26th 2025 at the Healy Lake Village Council office in Fairbanks, Alaska with a quorum present.

For: 3 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Passed? Yes

Present: 3 Absent: 2

Evelynn Combs
Healy Lake Village Council Member Signature

3.26.25
Date

Evelynn Combs
Healy Lake Village Council Member Printed Name

Subject: Letter of Support for Olivia Henaayee Irwin's Confirmation to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

I am writing to offer my strong and full support for the confirmation of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

As someone who has had the honor of serving on this Board and spending over 50 years working on the Yukon River, I can say with certainty that Olivia represents the kind of leadership Alaska needs right now. She is an Iñupiaq and Koyukon Tribal member from Nenana, with deep generational ties to the Interior and a strong commitment to the subsistence traditions and food security that are vital to so many Alaskans.

Olivia brings more than just knowledge—she brings lived experience. Her upbringing and life in Alaska's interior give her an authentic understanding of how fisheries decisions affect rural communities, Indigenous families, and traditional ways of life. At the same time, she is highly educated and actively involved in fisheries policy and management work, offering both practical and academic strength to the Board.

With Alaska's fisheries facing serious challenges, especially in regions like the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers, it's critical that the Board reflect the voices of those who live with the impacts of its decisions. Olivia's leadership and perspective will be an asset in ensuring that decisions are not only scientifically sound but culturally informed and equitable.

I am stepping down from my position this spring, and I can think of no one better to carry the torch forward. I strongly urge you to confirm Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. She has the trust of her community and wide support all over the interior and the capability to serve the entire state with integrity and vision.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Stan Zuray

Former Member, Alaska Board of Fisheries
Yukon River Region