



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

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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: • 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

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