

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Resources](#)
Subject: Letter of Opposition for Thomas M. Carpenter to the Ak Board of Fisheries
Date: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 2:32:39 PM

The Alaska Outdoor Council (AOC) opposes the reappointment of Thomas M. Carpenter to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Board member Tom Carpenter purposely avoided having the AK Board of Fisheries deliberate on the Alaska Outdoor Council proposal #14 to close the pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) until such time as they could assure the state they were keeping their gear off the seafloor. Proposal #14 also asked to stop the bycatch of Chinook salmon in trawl nets in PWS.

By submitting substitute language (RC15) on the following Prop. #15 (out of sync with the board approved agenda) member Carpenter successfully blocked Board deliberations on AOC's proposal to stop trawl gear from contacting the seafloor. Member Carpenter's substitute language did nothing to address the fact that the state is still counting on trawl fleet captains not to scrap the seafloor with their gear. Nor did it address the continued harvest of Chinook salmon as bycatch in PWS by the trawl fleet. Instead member Carpenter's substitute language opened up 2 additional sections of PWS to trawling. His substitute language was adopted by the board.

Member Carpenter's action was inconsistent with the Alaska State Constitution, Article 8, Section 2. General Authority as well as state law, AS 16.05.221(a) Boards of Fisheries and Game. The Board of Fisheries may adopt regulations it considers advisable

- a. *for the purpose of the **conservation** and development of the fishery resource of the state there is created the Board of Fisheries*

The Alaska Legislature has reemphasized that it's **conservation** first repeatedly in statute, AS 16.05.251(a)(2) *The Board of Fisheries may adopt regulations establishing open and close seasons and areas for the taking of fish if consistent with **resource conservation** and development goals the board may adopt regulations establishing restricted seasons and areas.....*

Unmonitored trawl gear being drug across the seafloor is not in Alaskans best interest now or in the future, it needs stopped. Alaska legislators should not support confirmation to the AK Board of Fisheries of members who undermine conservation. Alaska fish resources are as dependent on an intact habitat on the seafloor as they are of Alaska's river habitats.

As Board member of the PWS Aquaculture Corporation since 2002 Tom Carpenter is well aware of the business of enhancing salmon runs through hatchery releases. Yet he showed no interest in reducing pink or chum salmon hatchery releases into the North Pacific Ocean by any percentage based on the real possibility that over ranching of enhanced runs of salmon may have anything to do with declining size and stocks of wild Chinook salmon.

While there is plenty of speculation from state and federal fisheries biologist that Chinook salmon are suffering from increased solar heating of North Pacific Ocean waters that's only a correlation, not necessarily causation for the declines. Granted the Board of Fisheries has no regulatory authority over the sun, but they do over the numbers of pink and chum salmon being released from hatcheries in Alaska. Closures to Salmon harvest, particularly in the Yukon river is having a drastic effect on Alaskan residents way of life. AOC expects that the Ak Board of Fisheries would use every tool under their authority to reverse those declines in salmon returns to western and interior rivers. Member Carpenter has shown no interest in supporting any reduction in salmon hatchery output on the possibility that over ranching of pink and chum salmon may indeed be part of the cause of declining salmon runs in Alaska waters.

The Alaska Outdoor Council does not support legislative confirmation for member Carpenter's reappointment to the Ak Board of Fisheries.

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