



Subject: Boards and Commissions: Alaska BOF

Date: April 13, 2025

On behalf of the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association (ALFA), I am writing to support two appointments to the Alaska Board of Fisheries: Tom Carpenter and Olivia Henaayee Irwin.

Mr. Carpenter is currently the longest serving and most knowledgeable member of the Board of Fisheries. He understands the process, has extensive knowledge of Alaska's fisheries, and commits the necessary time to understand issues before the Board. He is approachable, makes time both before and during Board meetings to discuss proposals with stakeholders, and listens to learn. While our members were dismayed by the poor process followed by some Board members when they met earlier this year in Southeast, Tom adhered to protocols and criteria for Board actions and impressed our members with his straightforward, fact-based decision making. Tom is an asset to the Board of Fisheries process, and we deeply appreciate his willingness to serve. **ALFA strongly supports his reappointment.**

ALFA members are disappointed that the governor did not appoint a Southeast representative to serve on the Board of Fisheries and believe this lack of regional expertise comes at a cost to Southeast fisheries. That said, at this point in the process we are in support of Ms. Irwin's appointment to the Board. **Ms. Irwin** is new to the management process but has demonstrated a commitment to safeguarding Alaska's fisheries resources and identifying collaborative solutions. She has intergenerational ties to the Yukon River area and is strongly supported by the people of her region. Given the deep challenges faced by people of the Yukon, we recognize the value of including this perspective in BOF management decisions and believe Ms. Irwin will be an asset to the management process.

Thank you for considering our recommendations.

Sincerely,
Linda Behnken, Executive Director

ALFA is a non-profit association of independent commercial vessel owners and crewmembers who sustainably harvest of sablefish, halibut, groundfish, and salmon while supporting healthy marine ecosystems and strong coastal communities.