



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