



Chignik Regional Aquaculture Association

601 N Bragaw Street
Anchorage, AK 99508

House Fisheries Committee
House.Fisheries@akleg.gov

September 2, 2020

Subject: House Fisheries Committee Letter of Support for the Reappointment of John Wood to the Board of Fisheries

Dear members of the House Fisheries Committee,

Chignik Regional Aquaculture Association (CRAA) represents the interests of commercial, sport, and subsistence users of the salmon resources of the Chignik management area. CRAA supports the reappointment of John Wood to the Board of Fisheries. Commercial salmon fishing is the sole economic base of every municipality, most businesses, and a majority of the individuals living and working in the Chignik area.

The Chignik sockeye fishery is a historic fishery, and commercial fishing is an ingrained way of life for generations of people in and around the Chignik area. The Chignik sockeye fishery is wedged in between two larger intercept fisheries - the Kodiak Area fisheries to the East and South Alaska Peninsula fisheries to the West - that routinely harvest significant numbers of sockeye bound for the Chignik area. Decisions made by the Board of Fisheries about how to best manage these surrounding intercept fisheries are crucially important to the survival of the Chignik sockeye fishery and the economic and cultural survival of Association members.

Since John Wood was appointed in 2019, he has shown himself to be a quick study of complex management issues with a willingness to view issues from an independent point of view. He has demonstrated an extraordinary ability to listen to and understand all sides of complicated issues and achieve reasonable and equitable management compromises. The Board of Fisheries needs intelligent, perceptive, fair-minded individuals like John Wood. Alaska's natural fishery resources are vitally important and deserve highly qualified members like John Wood to serve on the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

The Chignik Regional Aquaculture Association strongly supports the appointment of John Wood to the Board of Fisheries.

Sincerely,

Charles McCallum, Executive Director