

**Senate Resources Meeting 4.16.21**

Board of Fisheries: Gov Appointee's

Opposition to Marit Carlson-Van Dort

*(printed 4.15.21)*

- UFA-Matt Alward
- City of Cordova-Clay Koplin Mayor
- Ben Ley
- Dennis Zadra
- Chris Bourgeois
- Amy Grodin
- North Pacific Fisheries Association -NPFA
- Danielle Ringer
- Christopher Johnson



# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

---

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 20229, Juneau AK 99802-0229

Phone: (907) 586-2820

E-mail: [ufa@ufa-fish.org](mailto:ufa@ufa-fish.org) Website: [www.ufa-fish.org](http://www.ufa-fish.org)

April 7, 2021

Representative Geran Tarr, Chair House Fisheries  
State Capitol Room 126  
Juneau AK, 99801

Representative Josiah Patkotak, Chair House Resources  
State Capitol Room 102  
Juneau AK, 99801

## **Re: Opposition Märít Carlson-Van Dort Alaska Board of Fisheries**

Dear Members of the House Fisheries and House Resource Committees,

Alaska Board of Fisheries appointments are of vital interest to UFA. We believe that an Alaska Board of Fisheries with depth of experience, geographical diversity and balance between competing user groups was the type of board envisioned when Alaska became a state.

As of today, the board is currently unbalanced and leans heavily towards the sportfish sector and Anchorage area. UFA was led to believe the appointment of Märít Carlson-Van Dort would fulfill a commercial fishing seat, but during her three-year stint on the board, she has proven to lean toward sport and has actively engaged against the commercial fishing sector. She has repeatedly voted against proposals that would benefit commercial fishermen, offering little to no reasons to back up her decisions. This was the case at the Upper Cook Inlet meeting in February of 2020.

One of the few exceptions of her voting for fishermen was at the Kodiak Finfish meeting in 2019 where she voted to support several proposals that solely benefited Chignik commercial fishermen over Kodiak fishermen. In Kodiak, Ms. Carlson-Van Dort did not fulfill common Board of Fisheries protocols by engaging with fishermen on both sides of the issue and voted strictly for Chignik fishermen that are also shareholders and directors of the Chignik Village Corporation, Far West, Inc. of which she is President. In addition to this personal conflict of interest, Ms. Carlson-Van Dort, with the help of a first cousin that had submitted several proposals to the Board, encouraged her uncle to transfer his Chignik salmon permit a couple of weeks before the Board meeting so that she did not technically have an economic conflict of interest and could vote in favor of her cousin's proposals. Moreover, in her comments regarding the board's action, she read comments obviously written by a third party and said on the record "we" indicating her and Chignik rather than speaking as a board member. When Kodiak's State Representative Louise Stutes observed her bias while attending the Kodiak Board meeting and wrote her concerns to the board, Ms. Carlson-Van Dort, on the record, challenged Representative Stutes' personal observations. Kodiak fishermen and many others that attended the Kodiak Board meeting had never seen such blatant bias displayed by an Alaska Board of Fisheries member.

Currently four out of seven Board of Fish members are based in the Anchorage area. Israel Payton is in Wasilla, John Wood is in Willow, Gerad Godfrey is in Eagle River and Märit Carlson-Van Dort is in Anchorage. Having four out of seven board members from the same region shows an absence of diversity as well as lack of representation from coastal Alaska communities. Currently, only two members of the Board of Fish hail from coastal communities. Seafood from coastal communities contributes \$5 to \$6 billion in economic activity in Alaska each year and supports nearly 60,000 direct jobs and an additional 11,000 indirect jobs in Alaska. The seafood industry also pays approximately \$172 million in taxes, fees, and self-assessment to fund fisheries management each year. This revenue is more than four times the state general fund revenue used by the Commercial Fisheries Division (approximately \$38 million). Our industry is paying more than our fair share and we respectfully ask for balanced representation.

An ideal Board of Fish member would be fair and impartial towards user groups and rely on science, local user group expertise, and the Department of Fish and Game recommendations. They would weigh all the facts, be open to hearing from all parties, and not come to the meeting with their mind already made up. We do not see these qualities in Ms. Carlson-Van Dort and believe she is not fit to serve as a board member of the Alaska Board of Fisheries; therefore, UFA opposes her appointment to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Regards,



Matt Alward  
President

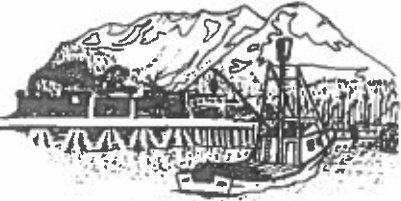


Frances H. Leach  
Executive Director

#### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Scallop Association • Alaska Trollers Association  
Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association • Area M Seiners Association • At-sea Processors Association • Bristol Bay Fishermen's Association  
Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association • Bristol Bay Reserve • Cape Barnabas, Inc. • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen  
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association • Cordova District Fishermen United • Douglas Island Pink and Chum • Freezer Longline Coalition • Fishing Vessel  
Owners Assn Groundfish Forum • Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association • Kodiak Crab Alliance Cooperative • Kodiak Regional Aquaculture  
Association • Kodiak Seiners Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association • Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • Northwest  
Setnetters Association • Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation • Purse Seine Vessel Owner  
Association • Seafood Producers Cooperative • Southeast Alaska Herring Conservation Alliance • Southeast Alaska Fisherman's Alliance • Southeast  
Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners  
Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • United Catcher Boats • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters  
Valdez Fisheries Development Association

# CITY OF CORDOVA



April 9, 2021

To Whom It May Concern

RE: City of Cordova Opposition to Ms. Marit Carlson Van-Dort to Alaska Board of Fisheries

To Whom It May Concern:

The City Council of the City of Cordova opposes the appointment of Ms. Van-Dort to Alaska Board of Fisheries. The City feels that balanced representation across user groups and regions is critical for fair allocations of resources. Even more importantly, policies that balance the roles that various user groups play in supporting the continued health and sustainability of Alaska fisheries resources relies on diverse perspectives for quality decision-making and policy setting.

The City feels that the Board of Fisheries balance would tip toward an urban/railbelt community bias with and under representation of commercial, coastal, and rural stakeholders. We encourage you to consider an alternative appointment that addresses these concerns.

Respectfully,

Clay Koplin, Mayor  
City of Cordova, Alaska  
PO Box 1210  
Cordova, AK 99574  
(907) 253-5026 M, [mayor@cityofcordova.net](mailto:mayor@cityofcordova.net)

April 9, 2021

Representative Geran Tarr,

Chair House Fisheries State Capitol Room 126

Juneau AK, 99801

Representative Josiah Patkotak,

Chair House Resources State Capitol Room 102

Juneau AK, 99801

Re: Opposition Märit Carlson-Van Dort Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Members of the House Fisheries and House Resource Committees, Alaska Board of Fisheries appointments are of vital interest to me. I believe that an Alaska Board of Fisheries with depth of experience, geographical diversity and balance between competing user groups was the type of board envisioned when Alaska became a state.

As of today, the board is currently unbalanced and leans heavily towards the sportfish sector and Anchorage area. I was led to believe the appointment of Märit Carlson-Van Dort would fulfill a commercial fishing seat, but during her three-year stint on the board, she has proven to lean toward sport and has actively engaged against the commercial fishing sector. She has repeatedly voted against proposals that would benefit commercial fishermen, offering little to no reasons to back up her decisions. This was the case at the Upper Cook Inlet meeting in February of 2020.

One of the few exceptions of her voting for fishermen was at the Kodiak Finfish meeting in 2019 where she voted to support several proposals that solely benefited Chignik commercial fishermen over Kodiak fishermen. In Kodiak, Ms. Carlson-Van Dort did not fulfill common Board of Fisheries protocols by engaging with fishermen on both sides of the issue and voted strictly for Chignik fishermen that are also shareholders and directors of the Chignik Village Corporation, Far West, Inc. of which she is President. In addition to this personal conflict of interest, Ms. Carlson-Van Dort, with the help of a first cousin that had submitted several proposals to the Board, encouraged her uncle to transfer his Chignik salmon permit a couple of weeks before the Board meeting so that she did not technically have an economic conflict of interest and could vote in favor of her cousin's proposals. Moreover, in her comments regarding the board's action, she read comments obviously written by a third party and said on the record "we" indicating her and Chignik rather than speaking as a board member. When Kodiak's State Representative Louise Stutes observed her bias while attending the Kodiak Board meeting and wrote her concerns to the board, Ms. Carlson-Van Dort, on the record, challenged Representative Stutes' personal observations. Kodiak fishermen and many others that attended the Kodiak Board meeting had never seen such blatant bias displayed by an Alaska Board of Fisheries member.

Currently four out of seven Board of Fish members are based in the Anchorage area. Israel Payton is in Wasilla, John Wood is in Willow, Gerard Godfrey is in Eagle River and Märit Carlson-Van Dort is in Anchorage. Having four out of seven board members from the same region shows an absence of diversity as well as lack of representation from coastal Alaska communities. Currently, only two members of the Board of Fish hail from coastal communities. Seafood from coastal communities contributes \$5 to \$6 billion in economic activity in Alaska each year and supports nearly 60,000 direct jobs and an additional 11,000 indirect jobs in Alaska. The seafood industry also pays approximately \$172 million in taxes, fees, and self-assessment to fund fisheries management each year. This revenue is more than four times the state general fund revenue used by the Commercial Fisheries Division (approximately \$38 million). My industry is paying more than our fair share and we respectfully ask for balanced representation.

An ideal Board of Fish member would be fair and impartial towards user groups and rely on science, local user group expertise, and the Department of Fish and Game recommendations. They would weigh all the facts, be open to hearing from all parties, and not come to the meeting with their mind already made up. I do not see these qualities in Ms. Carlson-Van Dort and believe she is not fit to serve as a board member of the Alaska Board of Fisheries; therefore, I opposes her appointment to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Sincerely,

Ben Ley

Cape St Elias

King Cove AK

## Betty Tangeman

---

**From:** Sen. Joshua Revak  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 11, 2021 3:10 PM  
**To:** Betty Tangeman  
**Subject:** FW: Board of Fish Appointments

**From:** chrabby@gci.net <chrabby@gci.net>

**Sent:** Friday, April 9, 2021 8:57 PM

**To:** Rep. Kelly Merrick <Rep.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Nelson <Rep.David.Nelson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Josiah Patkotak <Rep.Josiah.Patkotak@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Prax <Rep.Mike.Prax@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Rasmussen <Rep.Sara.Rasmussen@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. Calvin Schrage <Rep.Calvin.Schrage@akleg.gov>; Rep. Laddie Shaw <Rep.Laddie.Shaw@akleg.gov>; Rep. Liz Snyder <Rep.Liz.Snyder@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andi Story <Rep.Andi.Story@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sarah Vance <Rep.Sarah.Vance@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky <Rep.Tiffany.Zulkosky@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ben Carpenter <Rep.Ben.Carpenter@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Cronk <Rep.Mike.Cronk@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ronald Gillham <Rep.Ronald.Gillham@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Hannan <Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov>; Rep. Grier Hopkins <Rep.Grier.Hopkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Rep.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. James Kaufman <Rep.James.Kaufman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Christopher Kurka <Rep.Christopher.Kurka@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bart LeBon <Rep.Bart.Lebon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Kevin McCabe <Rep.Kevin.McCabe@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ken McCarty <Rep.Ken.McCarty@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson <Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Roger Holland <Senator.Roger.Holland@akleg.gov>; Sen. Shelley Hughes <sen.shelley.hughes@akleg.gov>; Sen. Scott Kawasaki <Sen.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Sen. Jesse Kiehl <Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Robert Myers <Senator.Robert.Myers@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Senator Lara Reinbold <Senator.Lara.Reinbold@akleg.gov>; Sen. Joshua Revak <Sen.Joshua.Revak@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Shower <sen.mike.shower@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Thomas McKay <Rep.Thomas.McKay@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Board of Fish Appointments

Alaska Legislators,

I have been a commercial fisherman in this State for 32 years. I live, work and have raised my family in Cordova. My sons have become commercial fishermen as well and I'd like to see a bright future for them in the industry.

I am writing to urge you to vote to oppose the confirmation of Marit Carlson Van-Dort to the Board of Fish. Governor Dunleavy is trying to stack the board with sport and personal use advocates when commercial fishermen are sorely underrepresented on the Board.

The livelihood of thousands of Alaskan fishermen is at stake and they should have representation on the Board that makes decisions that critically affect their ability to support their families and our rural fishing villages.

Thanks,

Chris Bourgeois



## Betty Tangeman

---

**From:** Sen. Joshua Revak  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 11, 2021 3:01 PM  
**To:** Betty Tangeman  
**Subject:** FW: Please: OPPOSE Märít Carlson-Van Dort's confirmation to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

**From:** Amy Grondin <ajgrondin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 7, 2021 2:10 PM  
**To:** Sen. Tom Begich <Sen.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson <Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Roger Holland <Senator.Roger.Holland@akleg.gov>; Sen. Shelley Hughes <sen.shelley.hughes@akleg.gov>; Sen. Scott Kawasaki <Sen.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Sen. Jesse Kiehl <Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov>; Senator.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov; Sen. Robert Myers <Senator.Robert.Myers@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Senator.Lara.Reinbold@akleg.gov; Sen. Joshua Revak <Sen.Joshua.Revak@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Shower <sen.mike.shower@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ben Carpenter <Rep.Ben.Carpenter@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Cronk <Rep.Mike.Cronk@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Representative.Zach.Fields@akleg.gov; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ronald Gillham <Rep.Ronald.Gillham@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Hannan <Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov>; Rep. Grier Hopkins <Rep.Grier.Hopkins@akleg.gov>; Representative.Sharon.Jackson@akleg.gov; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Rep.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. James Kaufman <Rep.James.Kaufman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Christopher Kurka <Rep.Christopher.Kurka@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bart LeBon <Rep.Bart.Lebon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Kevin McCabe <Rep.Kevin.McCabe@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ken McCarty <Rep.Ken.McCarty@akleg.gov>; Rep. Thomas McKay <Rep.Thomas.McKay@akleg.gov>; Rep. Kelly Merrick <Rep.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Nelson <Rep.David.Nelson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Josiah Patkotak <Rep.Josiah.Patkotak@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Prax <Rep.Mike.Prax@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Rasmussen <Rep.Sara.Rasmussen@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. Calvin Schrage <Rep.Calvin.Schrage@akleg.gov>; Rep. Laddie Shaw <Rep.Laddie.Shaw@akleg.gov>; Rep. Liz Snyder <Rep.Liz.Snyder@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andi Story <Rep.Andi.Story@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Representative.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sarah Vance <Rep.Sarah.Vance@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky <Rep.Tiffany.Zulkosky@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Please: OPPOSE Märít Carlson-Van Dort's confirmation to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

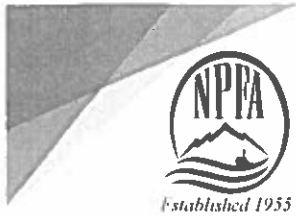
Dear Alaska Elected Officials:

My husband and I fish salmon in SE Alaska and hold an Alaska Trolling Permit. We are concerned that Ms. Carlson-Van Dort, a member of the Board of Fish, is not acting in the best interest of Alaska's fishermen. Ms.

Carlson-Van Dort should be replaced with a non-biased, open-minded board member- not a sport advocate pretending to be a commercial fishing supporter.

Thank you for considering this concern.

Sincerely,  
Amy  
Amy Grondin  
Duna Fisheries, LLC  
1450 30th Street  
Port Townsend, WA 98368  
(206) 295-4931  
[ajgrondin@gmail.com](mailto:ajgrondin@gmail.com)  
<http://FishEqualsFood.com>



North Pacific Fisheries Association, NPFA  
P.O. Box 796 Homer, AK 99669  
npfahomer@gmail.com

April 13, 2021

Senator Joshua Revak, Chair Senate Resources  
State Capitol Room 125 Juneau AK, 99801

Senator Peter Micciche, Vice-Chair Senate Resources  
State Capitol Room 111 Juneau AK, 99801

**RE: BOARD OF FISHERIES CONFIRMATION – Opposition to Carlson-Van Dort**

Honorable Senators Revak and Micciche,

North Pacific Fisheries Association is an organization established in 1955, based in Homer, Alaska. Our members are Alaskan fishermen and crew that participate in fisheries from the Bering Sea to Dixon Entrance in Southeast. Our membership is dependent on decisions made by the Board of Fisheries for their livelihoods and the coastal communities they live and fish in are dependent on those decisions as well.

**We oppose the confirmation of Marit Carlson-Van Dort to the Board of Fisheries.**

Ms. Carlson-Van Dort was chosen to fill a commercial fishing seat on the Board of Fisheries and has demonstrated repeatedly that the only support she is willing to show for commercial fishermen is for Chignik where she has familial and community ties as the President of Chignik Village Corporation, Far West, Inc.

We have strong concerns about her conflicts of interest, but also her ability to come to the table with an open mind and receive public input. In the 2020 Upper Cook Inlet meeting, Ms. Carlson-Van Dort did not provide justification for her support of sport proposals over commercial fishing and in Kodiak she voted solely with Chignik proposals written by fishermen who are shareholders and board members of the Chignik Village Corporation, Far West, Inc. Several of the proposals submitted at that meeting came from her first cousin. Her uncle transferred his Chignik salmon permit just weeks before the Kodiak meeting. This removed a technical conflict of interest for Ms. Carlson-Van Dort, allowing her to vote on Chignik issues. In her justification of her vote, she read from prepared comments and said “we” on the record, indicating that she was not voting as a Board of Fish member, but as others would have her vote in support of Chignik, in spite of overwhelming public opposition in the form of comment letters and public testimony from Kodiak fishermen, Native Corporations, and concerned members of the public around the Kodiak Archipelago.

Commercial fishermen have found it difficult to access to Ms. Carlson-Van Dort as a member of the Board of Fisheries. If willing to talk she appears to agree on an issue, but then votes in opposition without justification of her new position. This leads many to conclude that she is not open-minded, and her voting record demonstrates that the only commercial fishing interests she’s willing to entertain are her own, Chignik’s. For these reasons, we respectfully ask that you oppose the confirmation of Marit Carlson-Van Dort to the Board of Fisheries.

Thank you for your consideration,

North Pacific Fisheries Association Board of Directors

Danielle Ringer  
PO Box 151  
Kodiak, AK 99615  
Emailed to: Senate.Resources@akleg.gov

April 14, 2021

**Re: Strong Opposition to Märit Carlson-Van Dort for Alaska Board of Fisheries**

Dear Chairman Senator Revak, Vice Chairman Senator Micciche, and Members of the Senate Resources Committee,

I was born and raised in Homer to fishermen and seafood restaurant owner parents and have been a resident since then. I now live on Kodiak Island where I work as a fisheries anthropologist studying fisheries access and well-being within fishing communities. I also own and operate a small-scale fishing vessel with my husband, who was also born and raised in Alaska. We sport, commercial, personal use, and subsistence fish for salmon and other species as well. Fishing is central to our livelihood and cultural identity.

**I strongly oppose Ms. Carlson-Van Dort** for reappointment to the Board of Fisheries (BOF). If I only read about her on paper, aside from her Pebble connection, I may be inclined to support her as I would like to see more Indigenous and female representation on this Board. However, I have had firsthand experience watching her function as a Board member at the 2019 Kodiak meeting and there is absolutely no way I can support her after assessing her in that role. I think that Board of Fisheries members should be held to a very high standard and their character and integrity mean more to me than a demographic headcount.

I was honestly shocked while witnessing Ms. Carlson-Van Dort's behavior at the most recent Kodiak meeting. It quickly became clear to me and others as the meeting unfolded that she arrived in our community with her mind made up about her votes on certain proposals, some written by her family members and all of which benefited shareholders of the Far West Inc. Chignik Village Corporation that she's President and CEO of. This inappropriate conflict of interest should have been remedied at the time and while I believe Board members should be able to share their knowledge and perspective, there is no way she should have voted on those proposals. Perhaps even more offensive was that I felt she was not interested in and edged on being hostile in body language and comments towards Kodiak community members sharing their testimony. Getting up to testify is really intimidating and the Kodiak community showed up to protect our region, yet it felt like our words were lost on her. At the Cook Inlet meeting, she portrayed a similar attitude towards commercial fishermen and their families when she voted in favor of sport fish interests. The kind of behavior she has exhibited to date erodes trust in the public process so foundational to the BOF.

The BOF is one of the most important governmental bodies that impacts my family, friends, and regional community. As anyone connected to commercial fishing knows it is a 24/7 lifestyle and not just a job we get to leave at 5pm. Commercial fishing livelihoods teach cultural values and environmental stewardship lessons and we deserve equitable treatment. Alaska needs a balanced

BOF with diverse geographic and stakeholder representation. What we do not need are Board members with questionable ethics and a set agenda to accomplish without public input and scientific data, and unfortunately, Ms. Carlson-Van Dort showed the public what kind of a Board member she is. Furthermore, I'm not supportive of having BOF members with ties to the Pebble Limited Partnership and she was Director of Regional Affairs for the five years leading up to her BOF appointment.

After waiting many hours I was able to testify at the Joint House Fisheries and Resources Committee, but do not think I will be able to attend and testify at the Senate Resources Committee on Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. Please take this letter as my personal testimony and **I'm asking you to oppose Ms. Carlson-Van Dort's confirmation to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.**

Respectfully,  
Danielle Ringer  
*Available for phone calls at (503)803-8220*  
Lifelong Alaskan

Christopher Johnson  
PO Box 151  
Kodiak, AK 99615  
Emailed to: Senate.Resources@akleg.gov

April 14, 2021

**Re: Strong Opposition to Märit Carlson-Van Dort for Alaska Board of Fisheries**

Dear Chairman Senator Revak, Vice Chairman Senator Micciche, and Members of the Senate Resources Committee,

I own and operate a commercial fishing business with my wife in Kodiak and am a second generation fisherman born and raised here. We sport, commercial, personal use, and subsistence fish. I am writing to voice my **concern and opposition** to the confirmation of Ms. Carlson-Van Dort to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. After participating in at the last Kodiak Board of Fisheries meeting I was dismayed by the lack of moral compass as a Board member that she displayed by not recusing herself from voting on Chignik/Kodiak issues. Multiple proposals were submitted by her family members and a last minute family transfer of a Chignik salmon seine permit being the only thing that narrowly allowed her to vote is questionable at best and at worse a direct ethical violation of the public's perception of Board behavior. It is inappropriate for any Board member to come into a meeting with a clear pre-determined agenda and seemingly refuse to take into account public testimony and science and it was clear to me that was the case with Ms. Carlson-Van Dort when I saw her at that meeting. To have her confirmed would severely erode the public trust in the Alaska Board of Fisheries as an institution.

Respectfully,  
Christopher Johnson  
Born and raised in Alaska  
F/V North Star