

## **Index Letters of Opposition Carpenter**

1. Mike Kramer, Fairbanks
2. Chitina Dipnetters Association
3. John Krieg, North Pole
4. Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory  
Committee

**From:**

**To:**

[Rep. Josiah Patkotak](#); [Rep. Grier Hopkins](#); [Rep. Zack Fields](#); [Rep. Calvin Schrage](#); [Rep. Sara Hannan](#); [Rep. George Rauscher](#); [Rep. Mike Cronk](#); [Rep. Ronald Gillham](#); [Rep. Thomas McKay](#); [Rep. Geran Tarr](#); [Rep. Louise Stutes](#); [Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins](#); [Rep. Andi Story](#); [Rep. Daniel Ortiz](#); [Rep. Sarah Vance](#); [Rep. Kevin McCabe](#); [Rep. Bart LeBon](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Mike Prax](#); [Rep. Adam Wool](#); [Sen. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Sen. Robert Myers](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#)

**Subject:**

Oppose Tom Carpenter-Board of Fish

**Date:**

Wednesday, April 20, 2022 12:12:59 PM

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Tom Carpenter is the chair of the largest hatchery organization in Alaska, PWSAC. Alaska's total salmon harvest is increasingly composed of low value hatchery Pinks. Alaskans rely on wild Sockeyes, Chinook and Coho for personal use and subsistence harvest. These stocks are increasingly in peril. Few of us would even eat a Pink, yet that is the primary fish we are selling to the rest of world as "Alaskan Salmon". Many are harvested solely for the eggs. Overproduction of Hatchery Pink Salmon has had a severe negative impact on our wild salmon due to increased competition for food in PWS as well as the Pacific ocean. Hatchery Pink salmon, released by the billions every year, are also extremely effective predators on other slower growing salmon as well as shrimp and other biomass important to many other species.

Hatchery Pinks stray into wild stock streams and quickly overrun wild stocks with inferior genetics.

The Board of Fish has the statutory authority to regulate the number of eggs harvested by hatcheries. If we are to rebuild our wild salmon stocks we need to objectively question the costs and benefits of hatchery production. Tom Carpenter would not be able to do with any degree of biological objectivity. He would also add yet another commercial fish interest to a board that is already slanted towards favoring commercial fisheries over sport, personal use, and even subsistence fisheries.

For example, Area M is an intercept fishery located where Yukon River Kings and Chums pass on their way to spawn. A board of fish primarily composed of commercial fish proponents have no interest in restricting Area M commercial harvests of Yukon bound fish even when the Yukon River has suffered a total closure on subsistence harvest and we are not meeting our treaty obligations with Canada for fish passage.

Please reject the nomination of Mr. Carpenter and consider a legislative inquiry into the current state of hatcheries in Alaska. State run hatcheries were first authorized in the 70's to "rehabilitate wild stocks". Wild stocks were clearly rehabilitated by the mid 1980's, with little legislative or board oversight. With significant public funding and ADFG support, these state run hatcheries have since been taken over by private commercial fish operated organizations like PWSAC whose primary goal is to produce as many fish for commercial use as possible without regard to the sustainability of our wild salmon.

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Michael C. Kramer

Kramer and Associates

Fairbanks, AK 99701

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Fisheries](#)  
**Subject:** Chitina Dipnetters Assn. opposition to Tom Carpenter confirmation to BOF  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 11:23:09 AM

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Members of the House Resources and House Fisheries Committee.

The Chitina Dipnetters Association, voice for the thousands of Alaska residents who harvest salmon in the Chitina Personal Use Dipnet Fishery on the Copper River, are opposed to the confirmation of Tom Carpenter, chairman of the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC), to a seat on the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

PWSAC owns and operates many of the Prince William Sound salmon hatcheries, which over the years have been releasing ever increasing numbers of hatchery pink and chum salmon. These hatchery salmon are now not only found to be straying into many of Alaska south central wild salmon streams, potentially diluting the genetics of our wild stocks, but also being released in such great numbers that these hatchery stocks are over competing Alaska's ocean feeding wild salmon stocks.

This competition for food has contributed not only to the smaller returning runs of wild salmon, but also smaller size fish making up those returning wild stocks.

Even if Mr. Carpenter resigns his position on the PWSAC board, he will still seek the protection of those hatcheries to continue to pump out more and more hatchery salmon to the benefit of the commercial harvest, but to the detriment of Alaskas wild stocks.

Charles Derrick, President

The Chitina Dipnetters Association  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Rep. Josiah Patkotak](#); [Rep. Grier Hopkins](#); [Rep. Zack Fields](#); [Rep. Calvin Schrage](#); [Rep. Sara Hannan](#); [Rep. George Rauscher](#); [Rep. Mike Cronk](#); [Rep. Ronald Gillham](#); [Rep. Thomas McKay](#); [Rep. Geran Tarr](#); [Rep. Louise Stutes](#); [Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins](#); [Rep. Andi Story](#); [Rep. Daniel Ortiz](#); [Rep. Sarah Vance](#); [Rep. Kevin McCabe](#); [Rep. Bart LeBon](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Mike Prax](#); [Rep. Adam Wool](#); [Sen. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Sen. Robert Myers](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**Subject:** Board of fish appointees  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 27, 2022 12:31:19 PM

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Hello my name is John Krieg and I live at 3641 Dubia Road, North Pole, Alaska. I oppose the appointment of Tom Carpenter to the Board of Fish. Because of his position as chairman of the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation Board, even if he resigned while on the Board of Fish, it would make the already pro hatchery Board of Fish even more so.

For the last two years the salmon runs on the Yukon River have been the lowest in history. Many studies indicate that hatchery fish are the problem as they compete for the same food source. As hatcheries increase their output, salmon get smaller and pink salmon now number more than all other salmon combined. This is great for the seiners coming out of Washington, but disaster for the local fishermen who rely on the wild salmon for food as they have for hundreds of years.

Please consider who you are representing, the local fishermen or the seiners out of Washington, before making your decision.

Thanks

John Krieg

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

**Fairbanks  
Fish & Game Advisory Committee**

***Interior Region  
Fish & Game Advisory Committees***

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**Kirk Schwalm**  
Chairman  
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Fairbanks, AK 99708

Central  
Delta Junction  
Eagle  
Fairbanks  
GASH  
Koyukuk River  
Lake Minchumina  
McGrath

Middle Nenana River  
Middle Yukon River  
Minto-Nenana  
Ruby  
Stony Holitna  
Tanana-Rampart-Manley  
Upper Tanana Fortymile  
Yukon Flats

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Date: April 20, 2022

To: All Legislators

From: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (FAC)

Re: 2022 Appointments to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Members, Alaska House of Representatives Resources and Fisheries Committee:

The Fairbanks area Fish & Game Advisory Committee (FAC) is one of 88 active committees in Alaska created by the legislature and the Joint Board of Fisheries and Board of Game to provide the Boards with recommendations regarding fish and game issues. We are a group of citizens elected by our peers at a yearly meeting which is open to the public. Our meetings occur each 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month and are publicly noticed on the State of Alaska website.

The Fairbanks Fish & Game Advisory Committee met on April 13<sup>th</sup> and voted to oppose the nomination of Thomas Carpenter to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

- (1) This is primarily a conservation issue. *All* salmon fisheries in the state of Alaska (with the exception of pink salmon) are in varying states of crisis for either/ both run abundance and declining average size.<sup>i</sup> The over-production of pink salmon in both Alaska and Russian hatcheries is considered to be one of the primary culprits in competition for forage food<sup>ii</sup> and<sup>iii</sup>, straying to wild producing streams (potentially weakening wild stock DNA<sup>iv</sup>and<sup>v</sup>), and deferring attention away from wild stock management.
- (2) The AYK (Artic-Yukon-Kuskokwim) region of Alaska is particularly in crisis with the historic crashes – of up to 90% - of its summer and fall chum and coho salmon in 2021 and the continuing severe decline in size and abundance of Chinook salmon. This was a complete- *and historic* - loss to subsistence, commercial, sports and personal use harvest of those salmon species to Yukon River stakeholders in particular. The predictions for Yukon River salmon abundance in 2022 indicate a repeat. While hatchery salmon impacts are not the entire cause of this decline, they likely play a significant role.
- (3) Production of hatchery salmon may not have the net worth to the state that is often attributed.<sup>vi</sup> Alaska needs an independent dialogue on the real net benefits of hatchery production.

- (4) Mr. Carpenter, as the current president of the largest aquaculture association in Alaska and the largest producer of pink salmon, could not be expected to be impartial to the need to apply precautionary principles and reduce both pink and chum hatchery production or to address the need to expand hatchery production impact research in the North Pacific beyond the straying of limited streams.
- (5) Mr. Carpenter would bring a third directed commercial interest to the Board while there are also other Board members supportive of commercial interests. This, in a time, when subsistence losses are extremely high and there needs to be greater emphasis on the food security needs of Alaskans via subsistence (as a priority), personal use and sports fisheries.

The FAC encourages the State of Alaska to consider a Board of Fisheries candidate who has a strong background in both salmon ecology and subsistence fisheries.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Kirk Schwalm  
Chair, Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee

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<sup>i</sup> "Recent declines in salmon body size impact ecosystems and fisheries" *Nature Communications*, August 19, 2020, K. B. Oke ● C. J. Cunningham, P. A. H. Westley ●, M. L. Baskett, S. M. Carlson ●, J. Clark, A. P. Hendry, V. A. Karatayev ●, H. K. Kindsvater ●, K. M. Kobayashi, B. Lewis, S. Munch, J. D. Reynolds, G. K. Vick & E. P. Palkovacs ● Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, USA. <sup>1</sup>, <sup>2</sup>College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Juneau, AK 99801, USA. <sup>3</sup> Fisheries, Aquatic Science & Technology Laboratory, Alaska Pacific University, Anchorage, AK 99508, USA. <sup>4</sup> College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK 99775, USA. <sup>5</sup> Department of Environmental Science and Policy, University of California, Davis, CA 95616, USA. <sup>6</sup> Environmental Science, Policy, and Management, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, USA. <sup>7</sup> National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, USA. <sup>8</sup> Department of Biology and Redpath Museum, McGill University, Montreal, QC H3A 2K6, Canada. <sup>9</sup> Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia, WA 98501, USA. <sup>10</sup> Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA 24061, USA. <sup>11</sup> Division of Commercial Fisheries, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage, AK 99518, USA. <sup>12</sup> National Marine Fisheries Service, Fisheries Ecology Division, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, USA. <sup>13</sup> Earth to Ocean Research Group, Department of Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6, Canada. <sup>14</sup> GKV & Sons, Contracting to Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks, AK 99709, USA.

<sup>ii</sup> "Studies over the past several years suggest competition for food is affecting salmon runs up and down the West Coast, from Puget Sound chinook to Bristol Bay, Alaska, sockeye. In some instances, the fish are smaller when they return, making them more susceptible to predators. In others, runs are actually declining." *The Spokesman Review*, Les Blumenthal, Nov. 26, 2010

<sup>iii</sup> *Bottom-up and Top-down Processes Drive the Survival and Abundance of Pacific Salmon*, Presentation to the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) Keynote 26, May 2021, Greg Ruggerone Natural Resources

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Consultants, Seattle, WA Salmonids: Brendan Connors, Jim Irvine, Jennifer Nielsen, Don Rogers, Bev Agler, Kate Myers, Nancy Davis, Leon Shaul, Lorna Wilson, Ed Farley, Pete Rand, Michael Malick, Randall Peterman, Josh Korman, Rob Bison Plankton: Sonia Batten, Ivonne Ortiz Seabirds: Alan Springer, Gus van Vliet Killer whale: Alan Springer, Leon Shaul, Gus van Vliet

<sup>iv</sup> A 2016 University of Oregon study reported in *Nature Communications* found that “the offspring of wild fish and first-generation hatchery fish differed in the activity of more than 700 genes. And that a single generation of adaptation to the hatchery resulted in observable changes at the DNA level that were passed on to offspring.” DNA evidence shows that salmon hatcheries cause substantial, rapid genetic changes February 12, 2016, *Oregon State University Newsroom*. <https://today.oregonstate.edu/archives/2016/feb/dna-evidence-shows-salmon-hatcheries-cause-substantial-rapid-genetic-changes>

<sup>v</sup> “Hatchery programs likely causing weakening of wild salmon populations” By Chris Loew, *Seafood Source*, October 2, 2019

<sup>vi</sup> “Enhancement of pink salmon in Alaska — particularly in the PWS management area — has succeeded in producing a substantial and sustained enhancement effect and contributed to an order of magnitude increase in catch since the 1960s. At the same time, local wild populations have remained “sustainable” insofar as their abundances remain stable and they appear at no immediate risk of collapse. While increased variability in catch resulting from high abundances may be problematic from a fisheries and processing perspective, overall the hatchery program appears to provide a net contribution to harvest. However, our results also demonstrate that if reduced wild productivity and the costs of hatchery production are not accounted for, the benefits of enhancement may be considerably overestimated.” Measuring the net biological impact of fisheries enhancement: pink salmon hatcheries can increase yield, but with apparent costs to wild populations” *Authors: Ricardo O. Amoroso, Michael D. Tillotson [mdt3@uw.edu](mailto:mdt3@uw.edu), and Ray Hillborn. Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Volume 74, Number 8, August 2017*