



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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April 18, 2022

Sent Electronically to: Senate Resources
House Resources
House Fisheries

RE: UFA Supports the Confirmation of Tom Carpenter and Mike Heimbuch for Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the statewide commercial fishing trade association representing 37 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state, and the federal fisheries off Alaska's coast.

UFA supports the confirmation of the Governor's appointment of Tom Carpenter and Mike Heimbuch to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Both candidates have significant experience with fisheries around the state and have held leadership roles in various committees, councils, and groups.

Tom Carpenter possesses a wealth of knowledge and fisheries related experience, earned on both local as well as regional levels. He has been an active participant on the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council to the Federal Subsistence Board and the Copper River/ Prince William Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee, and was awarded the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Excellence in Service Award in 2020 for his ability to connect with diverse user groups and approachability. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation. Mr. Carpenter is also a long-time business owner, former commercial fisherman, and an avid sportsman. His history of working with a variety of user groups, along with his reputation amongst fishery professionals around the State, speaks to his qualifications to serve as a member on the Board of Fisheries.

Mike Heimbuch is a longtime commercial fisherman who has participated in fisheries across the state, dating back to the 60s. Throughout his fishing career, he has fished Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Bristol Bay, the Alaska Peninsula, and Adak. In addition to fishing experience, Mr. Heimbuch has been active in fishing issues across the state. He has previously worked in the legislature as a fisheries aide to the Speaker of the House, been active in fisheries associations,

served on the Bering Sea Advisory board, and been nominated twice for a seat on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. Mr. Heimbuch has also been active in his hometown of Homer, having served on the City Council, Port and Harbor Commission, and Library Board. His fisheries experience, paired with his experience on a variety of boards and commissions, and familiarity with fishing issues around the state will serve him well on the Board of Fisheries.

Thank you for lending your full consideration to this letter of support. Should you or your staff have any follow up questions with regards to our recommendation, please feel free to reach out to our office.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Alward', written in a cursive style.

Matt Alward
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracy Welch', written in a cursive style.

Tracy Welch
Executive Director