



March 10, 2025

House Fisheries Committee

Alaska State Legislature

Dear Representative Stutes and Members of the House Fisheries Committee,

First, we would like to express our gratitude to the members of the House Fisheries Committee for your service and dedication to Alaska's fishing industry. We especially want to recognize Chair Stutes for your longstanding advocacy for the fishing industry and the communities of the North Gulf Coast of Alaska, who are all dependent on fish and fishing.

We acknowledge that commercial fishing, guided sportfishing, recreational sportfishing, and subsistence fishing are all critical components of life in Alaska. Alaska thrives when all sectors operate as intended. Unfortunately, none of these sectors are doing as well as they should be, and now is the time to take meaningful actions to correct course where possible.

The Seward Alaska Charter Boat Association has represented the local charter fishing industry in Seward since 1996. As Alaskans, active small boat fishermen, and stakeholders, we write to express our support for the concept of a task force as outlined in HCR 1. It is time for the State of Alaska to step in, identify all participants in the "Saltwater For Hire sector", both guided and unguided and assess their impacts and benefits to the communities they serve. From there, it may

be necessary to recommend changes to how we identify and manage one or both of these entities.

As resources become increasingly strained and limits continue to tighten, every sector's impact on the other becomes more pronounced. Sportfishing contributes significant revenue to local communities while maintaining a relatively small impact on resources. However, unchecked growth and a lack of understanding of how many participants and their impacts, have historically led to negative outcomes. Waiting until fisheries collapse to find solutions is not a viable strategy.

We ask the committee to take a hard look at Southeast Alaska through the lens of establishing a sustainable and orderly path for both guided and unguided sectors statewide. The first step is clearly identifying who is collecting revenue by providing access to sport fisheries.

During my nine-year term serving on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, We made attempts to develop a regulatory solution for the unguided sector. The complex federal regulatory process is not set up to solve, discrete sector challenges. Since guides are regulated by ADF&G, the Board of Fisheries offers a more nimble regulatory process.

We have witnessed changes and declines in these fisheries, as well as the benefits of well-managed commercial and sport fisheries to both the state and the nation. We believe there are cost-neutral solutions available to help us achieve this goal.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Respectfully

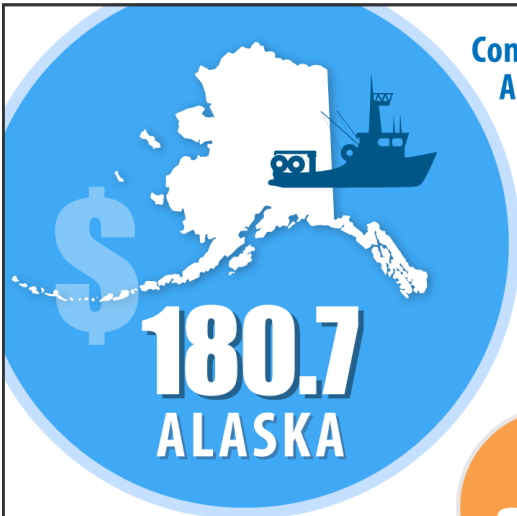
Andy Mezirow • Steven Zernia • Chance Miller

Seward Charter Boat Association

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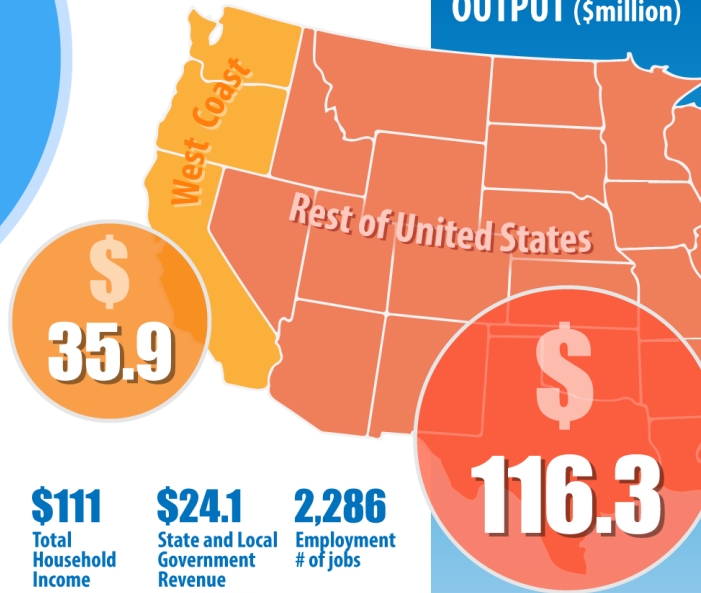
PO Box 473

Seward, AK 99664



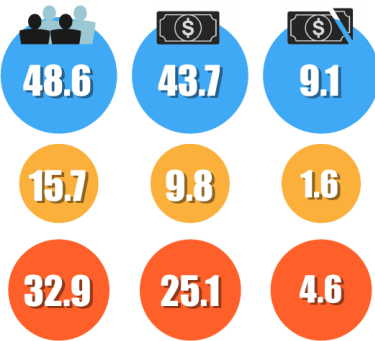
Contribution Estimates of the Alaska Charter Sector in the Economies of Alaska, West Coast, and rest of U.S.

\$332.9
TOTAL REGIONAL OUTPUT (\$million)

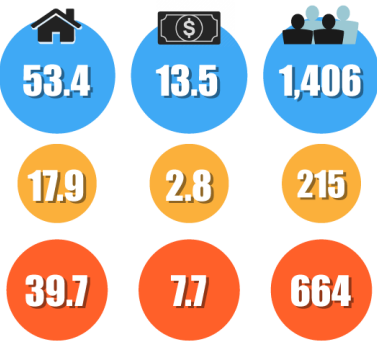


\$191.1
TOTAL VALUE ADDED (\$million)

\$97.3 Labor Income
\$78.5 Capital Income
\$15.3 Indirect Business Tax



\$111 Total Household Income
\$24.1 State and Local Government Revenue
2,286 Employment # of jobs



Total regional output is the total revenue from sales of all the goods and services produced by all the industries in a region. Value added is the income earned by factor owners (labor and capital) plus indirect business tax payment. Figures are for 2015, the most recent year of data currently available.

