



Appreciation for Board of Fish member John Wood

Alaska Board of Fisheries member John Wood is retiring from the Board, having served on the Board of Fish since May 2019. John Wood served as Board Chair this past year and his last meeting as a member was on the Joint Board of Fish and Game March 25-26th. All through his tenure on the Board, John promoted sustainable fisheries and fishing communities in Alaska.

Local fishing organizations expressed their appreciation for John Wood's work on the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

“The **Area M Seiners Association** would like to thank Mr. John Wood for his service on the Board of fisheries. Mr. Woods expertise at bringing opposing parties together for the benefit of the resource will be sorely missed. Thank you for your service and we wish you all the best.”

Concerned Area M Fishermen: “We would like to thank Alaska Board of Fisheries Member John Wood for his dedication and service on the board. He worked tirelessly to learn about commercial fisheries in Area M by visiting the area, combing through mountains of scientific reports and data, listening to countless hours of testimonies from stakeholders, encouraging stakeholders and industry to work together, and an intense willingness to learn about the fisheries. John was driven by the science and facts on his decisions and all his hours of trying to learn about complex fisheries that affect the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands and the people and communities that take part in those fisheries. Thank you John for your service to the State.”

Service on the Board of Fish

John Wood was first appointed to the Board of Fish by Governor Dunleavy in May 2019 and reappointed in 2021. Because of COVID-19, all 2020-2021

cycle meetings were held via webconference and in March 2021 the Board pushed the meeting cycle schedule forward one year and the call for proposals (Bristol Bay, AYK, AK Pen/AI/Chignik finfish) forward to April 2022.

In the summer of 2021 Wood traveled to Chignik along with Board members Marit Carlson-Van Dort and McKenzie Mitchell. At the October 2021 Work Session, ACR 7 by Don Bumpus of Chignik was accepted and scheduled as new proposal 282 for the March/April 2022 Statewide Shellfish meeting. Proposal 282 was adopted with substitute language found in RC 94 submitted by John Wood that designated the Chignik sockeye early-run as a stock of management concern. Additionally, the Chignik Intertribal Coalition and the Area M Seiners signed a cooperative agreement (RC 104) to a framework of potential management of fisheries to conserve Chignik sockeye.

John Wood traveled to AEB communities Sand Point, King Cove, Cold Bay and Port Moller in July of 2022. At the February 2023 AK Pen/AI/Chignik finfish meeting, John continued to push for reasonable solutions and encourage parties on both sides of issues to get together and find areas of agreement.

With John Wood's encouragement, South Alaska Peninsula fishermen efforts to reduce chum harvests in June 2023 resulted in the lowest June Chum salmon harvest since the 1970's. Looking forward to summer 2024, Area M fishermen are working to improve the technology and process that facilitated communication within the fleet, and with ADFG and processors in 2023, to avoid chum in real-time and continue to reduce chum harvest.

Opportunity to comment

The **Aleutians East Borough Assembly** will consider Resolution 24-42 honoring John Wood at their May 9th meeting. Public comments on [Assembly agenda](#) items including resolutions are taken following adoption of the agenda at 3PM. The meeting will be held by videoconference in the designated location in each AEB community and the AEB Anchorage office. The May 9th Assembly agenda also includes presentations by Trident Seafoods and Silver Bay Seafoods, and the first reading of the AEB fy2025 budget. Assembly meetings are broadcast live on Sand Point radio KSDP and www.apradio.org.

Governor Dunleavy has appointed Calista Corporation attorney Curtis Chamberlain to take John Wood's seat on the Board. Chamberlain and

returning member Marit Carlson-Van Dort are expected to be confirmed by a Joint Session of the Alaska Legislature May 7th. Other members continuing service on the Board of Fisheries: Tom Carpenter, Gerad Godfrey, Greg Svendsen, Mike Wood and Stan Zuray. The new Board of Fish meets October 29-30th in Anchorage for the annual Work Session.

Task Force to Address Seafood Industry Economic Crisis

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 10 (SCR 10) is moving through the Alaska Legislature and, if adopted, will establish a task force to evaluate public policy options to address the economic crisis facing Alaska fishermen, processors and communities. As written, SCR 10 directs the task force to report their final recommendations in January 2025, in time for the start of 34th Session of the Alaska State Legislature. The task force would include members of the Governor's cabinet, members from the House and Senate, and members of the public, including fishermen, processors, communities and tribes. The Legislative Information Office in Dillingham is recommending prospective applicants send applications to both the Senate President Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov and to the Speaker of the House Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov. Interested parties should also contact the Aleutians East Borough so that we can have an opportunity to support your candidacy.

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