



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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May 1, 2026

Ms. Marit Carlson- Van Dort
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Board Support Section
PO Box 115526
Juneau, Ak 99811-5526

RE: RC 3

Dear Chair Carlson – Van Dort and Board of Fisheries Members,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the statewide commercial fishing trade association representing 36 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state and the federal fisheries off Alaska's coast.

UFA has a standing policy on supporting science-based management for healthy fishery resources. We support science-based escapement goals and run assessments based on preseason projections, sonar passage, test fisheries, landings reports, and fish passage estimates of escapement. **UFA strongly opposes the amendments to 5 AAC 01.249** which would require the Department to consider traditional knowledge as best available science to manage the Yukon River Drainage, but **specifically excludes** Local Knowledge, which is understood to come from commercial fishermen who spend innumerable hours on the water

Additionally, UFA supports a strong public process at the Board of Fisheries and is highly concerned with the very late timing of RC 3. Offering an RC after public comment has closed in a meeting where the public's ability to actively participate has already been curtailed falls short.

Thank you for your consideration of UFA's comments.

Sincerely,

Matt Alward
President

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Scallop Association • Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association
Area M Seiners Association • At-sea Processors 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 • Ekuk Beach Fishermen's Association • Freezer Longline Coalition • Fishing Vessel Owners Assn • Groundfish Forum
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