

Silas Stardance  
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Alaska Board of Fisheries  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Subject: Support for Proposals 108 and 113, Opposition to Proposals 116, 117, 119, 120, 140, 141, and 104**

Dear Members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

First and foremost, I would like to thank the Board for taking the time to read this letter. I have worked as a Charter Boat Captain for the last ten years in Craig, Alaska, where I have witnessed increasing restrictions and limited harvests for Chinook, Halibut, and Rockfish. Over time, it seems the political landscape has shifted to favor the commercial lobby, leaving the needs of resident and non-resident anglers sidelined.

I am writing to express my strong support for Proposals 108 and 113 and to voice my firm opposition to Proposals 116, 117, 119, 120, 140, 141, and 104. I own and operate Riverhawk Guide Service in Oregon and have been chartering for 22 years. Additionally, I have been working on a charter out of Craig, Alaska for the past ten years. As someone deeply invested in the sustainable management of Alaska's fisheries, I believe these decisions will have significant consequences for the future of our resources and those who rely on them.

### **Support for Proposals 108 and 113**

Proposals 108 and 113 reflect thoughtful management strategies that prioritize the conservation of critical species and ensure the long-term health of Alaska's fisheries. By focusing on sustainable practices, these proposals support the preservation of vital fish populations while balancing the needs of stakeholders. Such measures are essential for maintaining both the ecological integrity of our waters and the livelihoods of those who depend on them.

### **Opposition to Proposals 116, 117, 119, 120, 140, 141, and 104**

On the other hand, I strongly oppose Proposals 116, 117, 119, 120, 140, 141, and 104, as they pose significant risks to the health and sustainability of our fisheries. These proposals could lead to overharvesting, disrupt the balance of marine ecosystems, and undermine the effectiveness of existing conservation efforts.

### **Personal and Economic Impacts**

As a fishing charter operating out of Craig, Alaska for the past ten years, my livelihood depends on healthy fish populations and fair, science-based regulations. These negative proposals

proposals threaten my ability to provide high-quality fishing experiences for my clients, directly impacting my business. Moreover, I am deeply concerned about the ripple effects these proposals will have on the future of tourism in the region.

Reduced fishing opportunities and unfavorable restrictions will likely deter visitors from returning, not only impacting my business but also the local businesses and economies that rely on tourism dollars. Restaurants, hotels, tackle shops, and other service providers in Craig depend heavily on a steady influx of visitors, many of whom come for the world-class fishing opportunities Alaska offers. These proposals jeopardize this vital economic driver, potentially leading to fewer jobs and reduced revenue for our community.

### **Lack of Science-Based Decision Making**

A number of these anti-charter proposals, including Proposals 116 and 117, are not grounded in sound science, particularly during years of high abundance. Management strategies should reflect the realities of the ecosystem and fish populations, not penalize one sector without clear, data-driven justification. Implementing arbitrary restrictions undermines confidence in the regulatory process and ultimately harms all stakeholders.

The sustainability of Alaska's fisheries is not just an environmental issue; it is also a cornerstone of our economy and culture. Short-term gains should not come at the expense of long-term stability.

### **Call to Action**

I urge the Board to adopt Proposals 108 and 113 while rejecting Proposals 116, 117, 119, 120, 140, 141, and 104. By doing so, we can ensure that Alaska's fisheries remain a vital and thriving resource for generations to come while supporting the businesses and communities that depend on them.

Thank you for considering my perspective on these important matters. I appreciate the Board's ongoing commitment to the responsible management of Alaska's fisheries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Silas Stardance', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Silas Stardance