

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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**SENATOR KEVIN MEYER**

November 20, 2015



RC 005

Alaska Department of Fish & Game  
Boards Support Section – Alaska Board of Fisheries  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Attn: Alaska Board of Fisheries

Tom Kluberton, Chairman  
Orville Huntington  
Fritz Johnson  
Bob Mumford

John Jensen, Vice Chairman  
Sue Jeffry  
Reed Morisky

To the Members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries:

The resources of our great state are held in public trust and the legislature has delegated this constitutional responsibility to conserve and allocate our fisheries resources to the Board of Fisheries. This is a significant responsibility and one that probably, too often, goes without recognition. To that extent, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your service to Alaska.

Earlier this month, I was contacted by a number of constituents who follow the proceedings of the Board of Fisheries very closely. They contacted me out of concern about a request that has been made by Governor Walker to the Board of Fisheries to change the venue of the 2017 Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meeting. The concerns raised by my constituents were not about the venue change, in particular, as much as they were about the perception that a representative organization was receiving preferential treatment and advocacy efforts from the State's Chief Executive. The crux of their concern was the perception of political influence on a board that is statutorily charged with the management of our fishery resources for all Alaskans.

I share the concern of my constituents. I believe that the Board should have the latitude to set their schedule and agenda, and this includes the latitude to select where the meetings occur.

Given the concern that has been raised regarding influence over the Board, I would like to recommend that the Board re-confirm its decision to meet in Anchorage in 2017. By doing so,

the Board avoids any appearance of outside influence by one user group over another in their operational decisions and the meeting can take place in a neutral site.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter. Again, thank you for your service to Alaska. I truly appreciate your commitment and service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Meyer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Senator Kevin Meyer  
President, Alaska State Senate