

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001
907-465-3500



550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1700
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-269-7450

Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

March 14, 2025

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary of Commerce
ATTN: Morgan Corey
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Secretary Lutnick,

In accordance with the provisions of Section 302 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), I am pleased to submit my nominations for the two obligatory seats from the State of Alaska on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) that expires August 10, 2025. I am nominating individuals who are knowledgeable and experienced in the harvest, conservation, and management of fishery resources.

The State of Alaska actively seeks to identify and encourage qualified candidates, including women, minorities, tribal members, subsistence users, and individuals from historically underserved communities. All nominees are Alaska residents. After reviewing the requirements of the MSA and consulting with commercial, recreational, and other fishing stakeholders in Alaska, I submit the following candidates for your consideration.

Obligatory Seat 1-Commercial Sector

- Ms. Angela Drobnica
- Forrest Bowers
- Israel Payton

I have selected Angela Drobnica as my preferred nominee for consideration. In accordance with the requirements of the MSA, I am also submitting two alternate nominees, Mr. Forrest Bowers and Mr. Israel Payton, for consideration for the seat.

Ms. Angela Drobnica has over a decade of commercial fishing experience. She currently serves as the Government Affairs and Fisheries Director for the Aleutian Pribilof Island Community

Development Association, one of six Community Development Quota (CDQ) organizations, whose mission is to increase direct participation in the Bering Sea Aleutian Island (BSAI) fisheries, help alleviate communities out of poverty and help build fisheries-based economies in the program's 65 member communities. She has served for three years on the NPFMC and is currently the Chair. She previously served on the Council's advisory panel for seven years in the capacity of both the Vice Chair and Chair roles.

Mr. Forrest Bowers serves as Acting Director of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Commercial Fisheries and has 28 years of experience in Alaska fishery management and research. Mr. Bowers has a Bachelor of Science in Fisheries Science from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Mr. Bowers has served in several roles with progressively greater levels of responsibility within the Division of Commercial Fisheries, has served on the NPFMC's Crab Plan Team, and currently represents the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game on the North Pacific Research Board.

Mr. Israel Payton has a strong background in freshwater and marine sport and subsistence fisheries, with 35 years of experience as a resource user, community representative at regulatory meetings, and decision-maker on the Alaska Board of Fisheries. As Director of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Sport Fisheries, under the policy guidance of the Commissioner, he oversees the planning and supervision of the division to protect and enhance Alaska's sport fisheries in accordance with the sustained yield principle. He would apply this principle when voting on regulations at the NPFMC and implementing the 10 national standards of the MSA.

Obligatory Seat 2- Commercial Sector

- Ms. Nicole Kimball
- Forrest Bowers
- Israel Payton

I nominate Ms. Nicole Kimball as my preferred candidate for consideration. In accordance with the MSA, I am also submitting two alternate nominees for the seat: Mr. Forrest Bowers and Mr. Israel Payton.

Ms. Kimball has 27 years of experience in Alaska fisheries management and policy and currently works for the Pacific Seafood Processors Association, a non-profit trade association comprised of motherships and shore-based seafood processors located across Alaska. Prior to this, she served as Federal Fisheries Coordinator for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, where she represented the state in regional, national, and international fisheries venues, and served as the alternate to the Commissioner on the NPFMC (2012-2016). Before this Nicole worked as a fisheries analyst for the NPFMC for 12 years. Nicole received a BS in natural resource management at the University of Maine, and a master's in environmental policy and renewable resource management from Tufts University. Nicole currently serves on the board of the Alaska SeaLife Center, the Maritime Works Leadership Council, the Alaska Sea Grant Advisory

Committee, as Chair of the North Pacific Research Board, and on the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute's Communications Committee. Born in Ketchikan, she lives in Anchorage.

Mr. Forrest Bowers serves as Acting Director of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Commercial Fisheries and has 28 years of experience in Alaska fishery management and research. Mr. Bowers has a Bachelor of Science in Fisheries Science from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Mr. Bowers has served in several roles with progressively greater levels of responsibility within the Division of Commercial Fisheries, has served on the NPFMC's Crab Plan Team, and currently represents the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game on the North Pacific Research Board.

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Enclosed is a list of commercial and recreational fishing groups and other stakeholders that have contributed to my nomination of these highly knowledgeable and qualified individuals. Their expertise offers a well-rounded perspective for the NPFMC, enhancing fisheries management and conservation efforts in the North Pacific. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mike Dunleavy
Governor

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Douglas Vincent-Lang, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game
Jordan Shilling, Director of Boards and Commissions, Office of the Governor

List of commercial and recreational fishing groups and other stakeholders providing input for my nominations:

- **Pacific Seafood Processors Association (PSPA)**
- **Nikolski IRA Council**
- **Southeast Alaska Guides Organization (SEAGO)**
- **Akutan Traditional Council**
- **Aleutian Adventures**
- **ATXAM Corporation**
- **City of Atka**
- **Native Village of Atka**
- **Aleutians East Borough**
- **Aleutian Longline, LLC**
- **Malcolm Milne**
- **Alaskan Leader Fisheries**
- **Freezer Longline Coalition**
- **Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation**
- **Westward Seafoods**
- **Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDCC)**
- **North Pacific Crab Association**
- **Seward Charter Boat Association**
- **Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (YDFDA)**
- **Homer Charter Association**
- **City of Unalaska, Mayor Tutiakoff**
- **Matt Alward**
- **Frank Kelty**
- **Canfisco, Shoreside processor**
- **Lynden, Jim Jansen**
- **United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA)**
- **Yukon Delta Fisheries Alliance**
- **Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association**
- **Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association**
- **St. George Tribal Council**
- **City of St. George**
- **City of Akutan**
- **City of False Pass**
- **Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference**
- **Akutan Tribal Council**
- **Aleut**
- **Resource Development Council**

Angel Drobnica
8000 North Douglas Highway
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 957-0496
adrobница@apicda.com

Fisheries Related Employment Experience

Director of Fisheries and Government Relations, Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA), February 2013- Present. *APICDA is one of six Community Development Quota (CDQ) groups whose mission is to promote fisheries related economic development and increase direct fisheries participation in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands on behalf of eligible western Alaska communities.*

Responsible for representing APICDA and the Community Development Quota (CDQ) program on fisheries and legislative issues and serves as liaison to state and federal agencies, communities, and the fishing industry. Serves on numerous advisory boards, panels, and trade associations representing community and sector interests. Coordinates regularly with leadership from local municipalities and tribal governments on advocacy efforts and projects to advance fisheries related economic development and access to local fishing opportunities. Provides managerial leadership, investment strategy support, and public affairs guidance to direct organizational initiatives as a member of APICDA's Executive Team.

Oversees APICDA's harvest contracts and management of annual quota allocations of crab and groundfish species. Directs APICDA's external communication efforts and publications. Serve as organizational liaison at the federal level to help advance mission-related priority infrastructure projects in member communities through authorization and funding phases. Provides technical and on-site support for special in-region projects.

Commercial Fisherman, *F/V Arête and F/V Athena*, Juneau, AK; *Crew/Operator*, 2009-present
Co-owner and seasonal crew for commercial salmon gillnet and crab fishing operation based out of Southeast Alaska.

Education

Vermont Law School, South Royalton, VT
Master of Law and Policy, *magna cum laude*

- Recipient, Academic Excellence Award for Legal Writing
- Member, Ocean Law Society
- Coursework included: Natural Resources Law and Ocean and Coastal Law

Bates College, Lewiston, ME
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science

United States Maritime Association
OUPV/50 Ton/Sailing Endorsement Captains' License

Fisheries Related Professional Affiliations, Boards, and Committees

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Council Member (2022-present), Chair (2023-present), Member: Executive, Finance, Legislative Committees

Advisory Panel for the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council

Advisory Panel Member (2016-present), Vice Chair (2017-2020), Chair (2020-present)

Western Alaska Community Development Association

Board of Directors (2017-2021), Chair (2022)

Marine Resource Education Program (MREP)

Steering Committee Member (2023-present)

State of Alaska Mariculture Task Force

Task Force Member and Chair of Infrastructure and Investment Committee (2016- 2021)

Drafting Team Member for Alaska Mariculture Development Plan

Management Strategy Advisory Board

International Pacific Halibut Commission (2018-present)

Conference Board

International Pacific Halibut Commission (2014-present)

Gulf of Alaska Conservation Cooperative (Member of Freezer Longline Coalition)

Board Member (2018-present)

Freezer Longline Coalition

Alternate Board Member (2018-present)

Bering Sea Fisheries Advisory Group

Advisory Member (2021-present)

North Pacific Crab Association

Board of Directors (2015-present)

Alaska SeaLife Center

Board of Directors (2018-present)

Halibut Abundance Based Management Committee

North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (Ad hoc, completed work in 2018)

Marine Conservation Alliance

Board of Directors (2016-)
