

Alaska Board of Fisheries
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811

RC 41 October 15, 2018

Cordova Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 99
Cordova, AK 99574
907-424-7260
cordovachamber.com

RE: PWS Meeting Location 2020

Submitted by: Cordova Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors

Lisa Koker, Cordova Telephone Cooperative
Scot Mitchell, Cordova Community Medical Center

Katrina Hoffman, Prince William Sound Science Center/OSRI

Osa Schultz, Seaview Condo/Pet Projects

Clay Koplín, Cordova Electric Cooperative

Teal Barmore, Cordova Creative Media

Natasha Casciano, Cordova Gear

LCDR Collin R. Bronson, US Coast Guard

Seawan Gehlbach, Alaska Marine Response/Seastar Suites

Jim Kacsh, Individual

Kerin Kramer, Native Village of Eyak

Alan Lanning, Cordova City Manager

Pete Mickelson, Individual

Stephen Phillips, Cordova Computers

Ryan Schuetze, Commercial Fisherman/
Crow's Nest Printing

Theresa Tanner, Chugach National Forest -
Cordova Ranger District

The Cordova Chamber of Commerce represents over 140 business, organizations, and corporations in Cordova and Prince William Sound and works to sustainably grow Cordova's economic base and support all its businesses, large and small. The largest employment sector in Cordova is commercial fishing, but our community is full of privately owned businesses that support this industry and others. Hosting the Alaska Board of Fisheries' Prince William Sound meeting has a tremendous economic impact on our community, that would be sorely missed if this meeting were to be held in Anchorage.

Lodging revenue alone would be a substantial loss to our community; not to mention catering, meals, and incidental purchases by attendees. This event is also a great opportunity for locally grown businesses like Copper River Fleece, Cordova Gear, Alaska Glacial Mud, The Net Loft, and others to showcase their products to a broader state market. There would also be a loss to sales tax, accommodation tax and rental car tax that support our community's basic operating functions and directly fund another important local industry: tourism. Finally, as the largest sector of local business owners, commercial fishers would also lose the important benefit of access to the Board of Fisheries process.

Since Cordova last hosted this event in 2014, the community has opened a new, state of the art meeting facility. The Cordova Center, which hosted its first event in late 2015, has proven a beautiful and functional venue for groups large and small. The entire facility is ADA compliant and offers a gracious layout with versatile amenities and breathtaking views of Cordova's commercial fishing fleet, Orca Inlet and Hawkins Island. All meeting rooms feature state of the art lighting, temperature control, sound and teleconference ability for professional presentations and meetings. The center's versatile array of meeting spaces are custom designed to accommodate a wide variety of needs from a 200 seat general assembly to a small break-out sessions of twelve. The neighboring historic Pioneer Igloo, Red Dragon and Masonic Lodge can also serve as break-out meeting spaces, or fun historic settings for evening functions. Several catering, lodging and recreation options are also available in Cordova for participants. With daily Alaska Airlines jet service from Anchorage and Juneau and regular Alaska Marine Highway Service from Valdez and Whittier, Cordova is actually quite an easy trip from most Alaskan population centers. I am happy to answer any questions you may have regarding hosting the Alaska Board of Fisheries PWS meeting in Cordova in 2020, and urge the committee to follow AS 16.05.290, section 16.05.300(b)(4) by hosting this event in Cordova, which is within the Prince William Sound region.

Sincerely,
Cathy Renfeldt, Executive Director, Cordova Chamber of Commerce

