

Mike Wood

Board of Fisheries Member

Ethics Discloser

January 4, 2024

My name is Mike Wood. My first year in Alaska was 1989. I came to Alaska as an outdoor educator for the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), based in Palmer, and also worked as a Denali climbing guide for Alaska Denali Guiding, based in Talkeetna. I worked as a carpenter and fishermen during the off-season and eventually transitioned from guiding to work full-time as a self-employed builder, fisherman and occasional guide.

I live with my wife Molly, in a house we built on the Susitna River, on a remote property in Chase, which is about 5 miles north of Talkeetna. Molly is a Senior Partner for Meridian institute, a non -profit organization, and works remotely from a home office. I am the Chair of the Chase Community Council, and a founding board member of the Susitna River Coalition, where I continue to play a significant role in protecting the river and advocating for all that the watershed offers to support healthy communities, fisheries and wildlife. Through this role, I became active in Mat-Su habitat issues and in 2013, I was appointed to the Mat-Su Fish and Wildlife Commission and served for 9 years, 6 of which I chaired. I was the only commercial fishing representative on a diverse Board and I was able to bring balance and objectivity to the Commission especially on habitat and conservation issues.

In 2017, my wife and I purchased a piece of property at the mouth of the Susitna River, 105 river miles below our home. We purchased a Cook Inlet Set Net Permit and leased a fishing site from DNR at the mouth of the Su, in the area of the Susitna Flats Game Refuge. Each year, we register to fish in the Northern District of Cook Inlet, and get our Catcher/Seller and Direct Marketer licenses. Our “business model” is to sell high-quality, fresh fish to a local market. Our “business mission” is to educate people about the value of the Susitna River through their stomach! We believed that by increasing awareness of this valuable source of sustainable, local food, we can help create a stronger connection to the Susitna River and the resources it offers to our communities. We have created a sustainable, low-volume fishing business by targeting local customers in the Mat-Su and Anchorage and catching only what is ordered. We have about 120 regular customers. Typically, fish the top of the incoming tide during two twelve-hour openers per week. Regulations impacting the west-side set-netters of the Northern District have a direct impact on our business, our ability to fill our orders and our finances. Regulations regarding fisheries on the East side of Cook Inlet have never had an impact on our business. This is a very “Niche” market that brings modest financial gains. In 2023 our net income was under \$5000.

We own several properties now and all are in the Susitna Watershed. We hunt and collect our food from the Susitna Watershed. My history, my identity and my commitment is first to the Susitna Valley. My fishing business is tied explicitly to the Susitna valley. I do not have any intention to move my permit elsewhere in Cook Inlet or elsewhere in the state.

Draft Disclosure Statement
for UCI

Member Mike Wood

RC015

To be conservative, I intend to recuse myself on proposals 205-215 and proposals 131 and 137, because they affect my fishing area directly.

Additional details on my current work:

- Alaska Mountaineering School, contract employee, guide, training US military special forces in winter survival
- Contract builder for a variety of projects
- My wife and I both receive Alaska Permanent Fund Dividends

Neither my wife nor I are or have ever been involved in any lawsuits, including with the State of Alaska, ADFG, or the Board of Fisheries.

This information is true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Wood", written in a cursive style.

Michael E. Wood

Attachment #1