

Ex Officio

Mayor Kristin Smith

Committee Chairman

Kelsey Hayden

Committee Members

Kory Blake

Tyler Dillon

Rod Jensen

Trae Lohse

Jerry McCune

John Williams

Committee Staff

Susan Bourgeois

Colette Gilmour

**Cordova Fisheries Committee Meeting
October 16, 2025 @ 1:00 pm
Cordova Center Mayor's Conference Room
AGENDA**

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Kristin Smith, Committee Chair Kelsey Hayden, Committee Members Kory Blake, Tyler Dillon, Rod Jensen, Trae Lohse, Jerry McCune, and John Williams

B. Discussion Items

1. Chair report from 05-08-25 meeting..... (page 1)
2. Summary of meetings with processors
Mayor and Chair Hayden (60 North & Alaska Wild)
3. Board of Fish ACRs, (City letter sent)..... (page 2)
4. Cost Recovery fish sales subject to fish tax..... (page 3)
5. Next meeting date/time/location

C. Adjournment

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you may contact 424-6200 for assistance
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www.cityofcordova.net**

Fisheries Committee

From Kelsey Hayden <kelsey@cdfu.org>

Date Wed 2025-05-21 2:04 PM

To Kristin Smith <mayor@cityofcordova.net>; Susan Bourgeois <cityclerk@cityofcordova.net>

Hi Mayor Smith,

I did not get together a fisheries committee report for the meeting tonight, but the next one for sure! My goal for this committee is to hopefully come up with solutions for the council to act on.

One of the main conversations at our meeting was the sheer volume of black cod and other fish that Cordova missed out on in the early spring, due to processors not being open. We talked about some ideas for how to incentivise processors to open early, and it seemed the main hurdle are the start up costs of water, electric, etc. One idea was the city offering some type of credit on a water bill in March/April. But its a broad conversation that needs input from all processors.

It would be great to set up an informal meeting with each processor separately, to talk about what we can do to work together. I'm happy to attend/help facilitate, and thought maybe you and the vice chair could also partake, and Sam if she was able to take the time? I dont mind going to them solo either.

Jerry is asking the Silver Bay CEO Cora Campbell if she'd be interested in coming over, particularly since they are operating OBI this year.

Let me know if you'd be interested in something like this.

Thank you,

Kelsey

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Cordova District Fishermen United

Kelsey Hayden

Operations Director + Fishing Vessel

Administrator



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[CDFU.org](https://cdfu.org)

CITY OF CORDOVA



To: Chairperson Marit Carlson-Van Dort
Alaska Board of Fisheries
10/02/25

Dear Chairperson Marit-Van Dort & Members of the Board,

I am writing to respectfully urge the Board not to adopt the Agenda Change Requests (ACRs) relating to the Copper River gillnet season. The proposals under consideration do not meet the requirement that an ACR demonstrate a conservation purpose supported by sufficient data.

In 2024, the Board of Fisheries adopted significant conservation measures to reduce king salmon harvest in the Copper River fishery to conserve kings. These actions represented substantial sacrifices by Area E gillnet permit holders and were designed to provide additional protection for the stock. The results of those measures have not yet been fully realized. Considering further restrictions before those outcomes are evaluated would be premature and inconsistent with the Board's ACR criteria.

Data gaps further underscore why these ACRs should not move forward. We do not yet have data from the federal subsistence fishery. The Native Village of Eyak's mark-recapture program faced challenges in 2024 and 2025, leaving only fleet harvest and sonar counts as primary indicators of run strength. Without complete and reliable data across user groups, implementing further restrictions undermines both resource management, the Board's actions in 2024, and local economies.

The economic consequences of lost fishing time are significant. In 2024, the Copper River gillnet fishery generated an estimated \$12 million in ex-vessel value. Removing one week of fishing could reduce direct earnings by \$1–2 million, with total impacts of \$4–6 million when including processing, wages, and local spending. We took that hit on our economy in 2025, from the conservation efforts implemented at the 2024 Board of Fish. Another 1-4 weeks of lost opportunity could raise these losses into the tens of millions of dollars, affecting both Cordova and the State of Alaska.

The Copper River fishery is a model of sustainable management and a vital economic and cultural resource. It provides food security at home and delivers world-renowned salmon to markets across the globe. Decisions regarding the fishery must follow the best available science, the Board's established process, and respect conservation measures already in place.

For these reasons, I urge the Board to reject ACRs that would further reduce Copper River gillnet opportunity.

Sincerely,

Kasey Kinsman, Vice Mayor
Representing City of Cordova Mayor & City Council



Outlook

Re: Hatcheries Cost Recovery Sales and Fisheries Taxes

From Carole Triem <carole@akml.org>

Date Tue 2025-09-16 3:54 PM

To Susan Bourgeois <cityclerk@cityofcordova.net>

Cc Member Support <membersupport@akml.org>

Hi Susan,

I'm not sure we have the right expertise to talk to the first question, and I would probably defer to ADF&G or others more knowledgeable about fisheries management. I can speak to the tax side, though — cost recovery fish are not exempt from landings tax, so there is no tax revenue lost when those fish are harvested.

Carole

Carole Triem

Intergovernmental Affairs Manager

Alaska Municipal League

(907) 586-1325

"Strengthening Alaska Municipalities"



From: Member Support <membersupport@akml.org>

Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 8:24 AM

To: Nils Andreassen <nils@akml.org>; Carole Triem <carole@akml.org>

Subject: Fw: Hatcheries Cost Recovery Sales and Fisheries Taxes

City of Cordova reached out with questions about hatcheries, fisheries, and taxes. Carole, is this something you would be able to respond to?

She also sent a followup email I will forward in a moment.

Adam Kane

Communications Manager