

Seat F: Open Residency

John Fairbanks

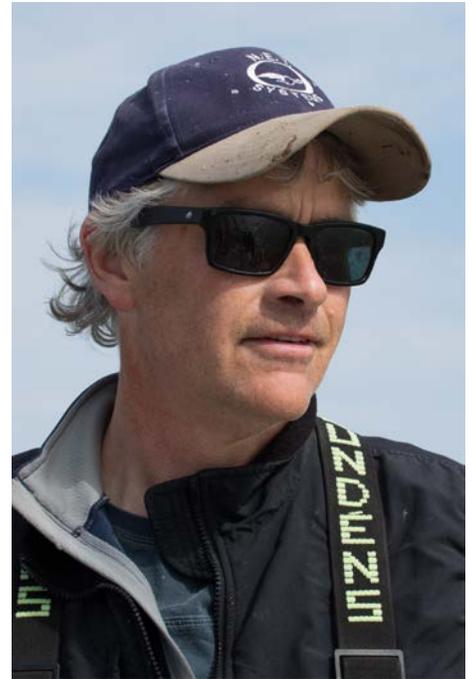
437 15th Street

Bellingham WA 98225

360-961-3370

johnf@seattletech.com

F/V Sumo



I am seeking BB-RSDA board Seat F – Open Residency:

I was provided the opportunity to join the RSDA board from the seat left vacant by Barney Johnson's unfortunate passing. Barney left big shoes to fill, both literally and figuratively. The BB-RSDA board is comprised of very bright, committed and hardworking individuals. I am honored to work with each and every one of them and to serve all members of the Bristol Bay drift fleet.

Bristol Bay fishermen face some critical issues. As the board addressed these concerns we felt the most efficient approach was through the committee process. Committee members were selected based upon their skills and/or interest level. The idea that the committees could research, meet, discuss and then present to the board for discussion has been very productive. I currently sit on the Marketing Committee, Finance Committee and the Sustainability Committee.

Bristol Bay is best served by industry focusing on renewable resources and sustainable harvesting. Last year I met with Governor Inslee and Congressman Rick Larsen advocating this message. The recently released Watershed Assessment supports our position. However, this does not mean we can rest. We must continue a persistent message that the Bristol Bay watershed needs protection. This February I will travel to Washington D.C. to meet with Washington Senators Murray and Cantwell and Alaska Senators Begich and Murkowski to promote this message and request protection of our fishery.

On the marketing side I have attended events such as Chef's Collaborative and spoken about the incredible benefits of Bristol Bay sockeye. I have met with food service directors in the restaurant business and universities throughout the US. Wild salmon marketing campaigns are working. Consumers are hearing and realizing what we've known all along, there's no better deal than Bristol Bay salmon.

The Bristol Bay fishery is truly amazing. Its size and bounty should never be taken for granted. Not only must the resource be managed for yield, but a huge area from ocean to watershed needs stewardship. I feel the best days for Bristol Bay fishermen are ahead of us. I'd like the opportunity to serve you and help ensure that they are.