

Introduction to Meeting Attendees



Amy Sparck

Executive Director

Bering Sea Fishermen's Association

amy@bsfaak.org

Amy is *Paniiliaq*, *Cup'ik of Qissunamiut*, what is today known as the federally recognized tribal Village of Chevak on the Bering Sea Coast. Amy is Executive Director of the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association serving 128 communities by supporting protection and sustainable development of small boat commercial and subsistence fisheries which are vital economic and cultural drivers in Western Alaska. BSFA further supports fisheries science, research, and engagement at every level of fisheries management.

From work with government Delegation and agency offices, to the largest municipality in Alaska, and Alaska and national Native economic and energy development for/non-profit organizations, Amy has an extensive background in advocacy for Western Alaska and tribal self-determination issues.



Mellisa Maktuayaq Johnson

Government Affairs and Policy Director

Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Tribal Consortium

mellisa@bsfaak.org

Mellisa Maktuayaq Johnson is Inupiaq born and raised from Nome, Alaska. As a tribal member of Nome Eskimo Community, Maktuayaq has a strong passion for protecting, respecting, advocating and maintaining traditional Indigenous ways of life. Inspired by Elders, community members, and her family, Maktuayaq works to share with others the importance of maintaining culture and heritage in language revitalization efforts, climate advocacy, and incorporation of Indigenous knowledge into different systems. She previously worked as Executive Director with Bering Sea Elders Group (2018-2022), has sixteen years experience with tribal health, and also works on Inupiatun, the language of the Inupiat people. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Health Services Administration with a minor in Human Services from Alaska Pacific University and is also a United States Air Force veteran.



Craig Chythlook

Fisheries Policy Director

Native People's Action

craig@nativepeoplesaction.org

Craig Chythlook is Yup'ik, originally from the Bristol Bay region in southwest Alaska. Craig's parents are Joe and Molly Chythlook from Dillingham, AK. Craig has spent his life fishing for salmon on the waters of Bristol Bay. Craig's current work is looking at what evaluation criteria are used to measure success while observing salmon, salmon management, and how to utilize Indigenous values and place-based knowledge into resource management decision-making. Craig graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks with a business administration degree and a minor in rural development. While attending UAF, Craig spent three and a half years participating in undergraduate research studying how better access to water utility services impact subsistence activities. Craig's research interests include how Western fisheries policy and management can better include Indigenous and place-based knowledge into state and federal decision-making spaces, regarding salmon/resource management.



Jackie Arnaciar Boyer

Ocean Justice Program Coordinator

SalmonState

jackie@salmonstate.org

Jackie Arnaciar Boyer (Cup'ig) has roots from Nunvivak Island, Mekoryuk, Alaska located in the Bering Sea. She resides in Anchorage with her yuliaq, adopted teenage daughter. Her maternal grandparents are Clarence Kolerok and Laura Shavings Kolerok. Her Cup'ig name, Arnaciar, was given to her by her grandmother, who shares the same name. Jackie has a background in public policy, having previously worked in Juneau as a legislative aide for rural and urban senators and representatives; it is there that her love and passion for public policy and the advancement of Indigenous leadership in those roles emerged. She also has a background in non-profits, having leadership in Indigenous nonprofit management and advocacy work. She received her undergraduate degree in criminal justice from the University of Alaska Anchorage and is returning to school for her graduate degree in business management. In her free time, she enjoys crafting with seal skin and quills, hunting, fishing, and teaching her yuliaq traditional ways of life.



Melanie Brown

Outreach Director

SalmonState

melanie@salmonstate.org

Melanie Brown was born in Southeast Alaska, and now resides there, but her people have ties to the western coastline of Alaska from the Aleutians to the Kobuk River. Her first job was commercial fishing for salmon in the Naknek River District with her family in Bristol Bay. She still does so when she is not advocating for salmon and salmon habitat. Her children are now entering the salmon workforce as fifth-generation fishermen. Melanie's outreach work has extended the work of SalmonState to salmon people all over the great State of Alaska, the United States and wild salmon lovers from all over the world. Her work now reaches to international frameworks that uplift the voluntary Small Scale Fishing Guidelines that promote sustainable fishing practices and food sovereignty worldwide.



Loretta Brown

Legal and Policy Analyst

SalmonState

loretta@salmonstate.org

Loretta Brown holds a Bachelor of Science in biology from Saint Mary's College, and a Juris Doctor and Masters in Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law School. She specializes in fisheries, natural resources, public land, and environmental law and policy. She has a deep passion and appreciation for wild salmon and their natural habitat. Loretta spends her free time playing hockey, ultimate frisbee, and disc golf, as well as gardening, camping, and fishing.