



PRESS RELEASE

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PSPA ANNOUNCES NEW PRESIDENT

ANCHORAGE, Alaska - [Pacific Seafood Processors Association \(PSPA\)](#) is thrilled to announce and welcome Julie Decker as its new President.

PSPA's members are shoreside and mothership seafood processing companies with operations in 21 Alaska communities and in Washington. They purchase, process, and market hundreds of millions of pounds of seafood from just about every commercial fishery and gear type in Alaska, including wild Alaska salmon, Alaska pollock, Pacific cod, crab, halibut, and rockfish, among others.

Julie has widespread experience in the seafood industry and has served in a number of different roles, including as a fisherman, processor, administrator for multiple fisheries organizations, and most recently the Executive Director of Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF). Julie was recognized with the [National Fishermen's 2021 Highliner Award](#), which calls attention to exceptional fisheries leaders and their "dedication to improving the future of our fishing communities". She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Northwestern University, a Master's in Public Administration, with a concentration in Natural Resource Management, from the University of Alaska Southeast, and was presented the *Ernest Gruening Award* for "Outstanding Graduate Student".

"Ms. Decker's approach as a fisheries leader in Alaska complements the goals of PSPA and our commitment to coastal Alaska communities. She routinely energizes the industry by encouraging innovation, expanding partnerships, developing broadly supported solutions, building consensus, and strengthening relationships. We are honored to have her lead in our mission of supporting and advocating for the Alaska seafood industry and the sustainable use of fishery resources." said John Henderschedt, PSPA Chairman.

Julie Decker explains, "Alaska is dependent on Alaska seafood for food security and an economic base which fuels coastal communities and the state. These communities have an intimate connection to the Alaska seafood industry, with much overlap between residents and industry participants. Many times, the health of the industry is reflective of the health of the

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communities in which we operate. I see this firsthand in my hometown of Wrangell. No doubt, this is a challenging time; however, this provides us with opportunities for partnerships in areas of mutual interest, as we must work together to solve these large problems. I'm eager to begin working on behalf of PSPA with all stakeholders and policymakers."

[AFDF](#) is a critical partner of PSPA, given its mission and work in seafood sustainability certifications, full utilization and product development, the AFDF Startup Accelerator, the Alaska Symphony of Seafood, vessel energy solutions, mariculture development, and several other key industry priorities. PSPA will collaborate with AFDF toward a smooth transition which ensures key AFDF projects are not interrupted and puts both organizations in a position of strength. A plan has been designed to support her transition from AFDF to PSPA over the next few months; she will at times wear two hats as she continues to support AFDF as the board fills the position.

Julie will be based out of Wrangell, Alaska, where she lives with her husband and fisherman of fifty years, Gig Decker.

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