

Meet Paul A. Shadura, II, representing Commercial Fishing Groups



With nearly 15 years of accumulated service to the Board, Paul A. Shadura II is one of CIRCAC's longest serving Directors. First elected in 1997, to represent Aquaculture Associations, in 2003 Paul was elected to represent Commercial Fishing Groups, a position he held to 2005. He returned to the Board as Commercial Fishing Groups representative again in 2012 and has served in this capacity ever since. As such, Paul has been a consistent and effective voice in promoting CIRCAC's mission and goals while bringing questions, comments and concerns of the regional fishing community before the Council.

It's been a good fit. Paul is a life-long commercial fisherman with 49 years' experience. From the time he was six months old, his summers revolved around fishing on Kalifornsky Beach, the site of one of the Shadura family's homesteads. Indeed, fishing has been an integral part of Shadura family history since the early 1900s when his grandfather, a Russian Orthodox priest--who was assigned to the church in Kenai and the Cook Inlet area--fished to support his children (Paul's father, 3 uncles and 2 aunts) and shared his catch with his congregation. That fishing gene has been passed down through the generations. Paul acquired his first set-net commercial fishing license at age 14, and credits his independent streak and enjoyment of the work as reasons for staying in this occupation.

Although Paul has attended community colleges and trade schools to learn transportation and reservoir engineering, he describes himself as being "self-taught." He readily admits that fishing has absorbed his entire life and has been both a distraction and avocation, presenting enormous opportunities as well as enormous challenges and uncertainties that come with the territory. As any commercial fisherman knows, he says, much of one's time is spent planning, maintaining gear, hiring help, and constantly working within your budget without knowing what you're going to make the next year. Most commercial fishermen have to support themselves with other jobs or are a two-job family. "The winter side jobs are not easily found nowadays; extra jobs are gone now, but that's how we used to survive," he said.

Paul enjoys attending public forums where he can ask pointed questions with the hope of getting honest and educated detailed responses. His volunteerism is not limited to CIRCAC. Paul has served in a number of capacities with organizations such as the United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA), Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association (KPFA), Kenai Native Association (KNA), Cook Inlet Salmon Branding Board (CISB), Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District (KPEDD), and Kenai-Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory Committee (KSF&GAC) where he is currently Vice Chair. On the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) board, he represents Cook Inlet Region Inc. (CIRI) as the Finance Chair. Paul is also a member and on the fisheries committee of the Alaska Mining Association (AMA), an associate member of Commonwealth North; President of the Cook Inlet Revitalization Association (CIRA); and spokesperson for South K-Beach Independent (SOKI) fishermen. Paul also represented commercial setnet fishermen on the now disbanded National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Cook Inlet Beluga Recovery Team (CIBRT), which established a recovery plan for endangered Cook Inlet beluga whales. (The recovery plan, which was three years in the making, has since been published.)

As a Board Director, Paul is a member of CIRCAC's Protocol Control Committee, which has the primary responsibility to review contingency plans for the regulated crude oil industry in Cook Inlet. He was also a long-time member and a past Chair of the Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety (PROPS) committee and member of the Audit Committee. Consistent with his many hours of community service, Paul has started a new venture, PAS Services, which offers assistance in resource matters.



Paul has remained engaged with CIRCAC for many years because, in his words;

CIRCAC is a very unique organization in that we carry the "public trust." That is, Alaska is a 'public trust' state where we all share in the bounty and the preservation of our abundant natural resources. I serve to protect that "public interest." Where else can the common man approach the management of the petroleum industry and managing agencies to ensure that the people of the State of Alaska will be heard?