



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Pacific Northwest Foundation helps Alaska military members fill their freezers
with Alaska seafood**

Fish distributions will feature seafood from Alaska's community-supported fisheries

Sitka, AK - This fall, thanks to a partnership between The Wave Foundation, Alaskans Own, and the Armed Services YMCA of Alaska, Alaska's military families will have the opportunity to fill their freezers with several kinds of wild Alaska seafood, including sablefish and troll-caught keta salmon. The Armed Services YMCA of Alaska will distribute 50,000 pounds of donated fish to Alaska's active duty military members and their families on bases and through deliveries to remote locations where military members have limited food access.

The project, made possible by funding from Catch Together, originated from conversations between The Wave Foundation, Sitka-based Alaskans Own, Food Fleet, Major General Melvin G. Spiese (retired), and Armed Services YMCA of Alaska. Those conversations identified an opportunity for Alaska's fishermen to provide high quality, nutrient-rich protein to Alaska's military members for the coming winter.

"Thanks to the relationships that we've established through The Wave Foundation's Food Program and partnership with Food Fleet, we were able to connect Alaska's small-boat fishermen with Alaska's Armed Services YMCA and help bring more Alaska seafood to more Alaskans," said Justin Zeulner, founder and director of The Wave Foundation.

"Alaskans Own is incredibly honored to have our fish going to Alaska's military members and their families. We're so grateful to be able to support their service in this way and ensure that they have the chance to enjoy Alaska's seafood bounty," said Linda Behnken, commercial fisherman and director of Alaskans Own.

"Good nutrition is critical for the well-being of our military members, especially during the long, cold winter months. The Armed Services YMCA of Alaska is thankful for this new partnership with Alaska's fishermen and thrilled to provide our military members with the opportunity to fill their freezers with nutritious, sustainably caught, Alaska seafood," said Sarah Riffer, executive director of

the Armed Services YMCA of Alaska, which serves active duty military throughout the state with physical locations on Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Eielson Air Force Base, and Ft. Wainwright.

For more information about the Armed Services YMCA of Alaska and their upcoming fish and other food distributions, visit www.asymca.org/alaska.

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The Wave Foundation is a regional coalition of stakeholders who collaborate to accelerate environmental programs that address climate change, youth engagement, and environmental justice. www.thewavenw.org

Alaskans Own is Alaska's first Community Supported Fishery and a joint program of the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association and Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust. www.alaskansown.com

The Armed Services YMCA of Alaska enhances the lives of military members and their families in spirit, mind and body through programs relevant to the unique challenges of military life. www.asymca.org/alaska

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