



F/V Woodstock

Ultimately, for Linda Behnken, it's all about the sustainable health of our natural resources and what we leave for our children, and future generations. Behnken and husband, Kent Barkhau, believe this fishing business is a good way to raise kids. She says the children are a "part of their family business, they get to see what we do, understand the challenges, the fish, the ocean, so there's a future for them." This passion for thinking long term about the health of our fisheries and natural habitat is not only shared with their children, Hahlen and Rio, but it can be seen in her professional life, too.

Behnken first came here to see wild Alaska and earn college money back in 1982. It didn't take long to find work crewing on a longliner for black cod and halibut. Nine years later, she had her Masters degree and her own boat, F/V Morgan, a troller/longliner. This experience on the water led to a nine year stint on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and being Executive Director of Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association since 1991.

This fishing couple loves Sitka for many reasons: its diverse, vibrant community, its independent fishermen who are there when you need them, being on the outer coast close to healthy fishing grounds. They love the hard, outdoor, physically-demanding work, the wildlife, the whales and its gorgeous scenery!

They feel good about the product they sell because they take special care of it. They bleed their fish right after stunning them, then wash, chill, then wash again and ice them carefully in their well-insulated fish hold, making sure that all surfaces the fish come in contact with are sealed and clean. They never keep them on board more than 3 days and the hold is cleaned after every trip. A healthy product with a sustainable future.



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Alaskans Own is the premium seafood brand of the Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust, an innovative endeavor that combines the best in business with the best in conservation.

The mission of the Trust is to strengthen the health of Alaska fishing communities and marine resources by investing in the ability of community-based fishermen employing sustainable harvesting practices to secure viable access to Alaska's fisheries and to markets that value their commitment to the resource.

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