

Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation

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******For Immediate Release******

BBEDC Appoints Michael Link President and CEO

September 6, 2022

The Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC) is pleased to announce the appointment of **Michael Link** as its new President and CEO. Mr. Link takes on the role from Helen Smeaton, who has been in an interim role for the 10 months since Norm Van Vactor left the company in late 2021.

Mr. Link is a fisheries scientist with 25 years of professional and business experience in Alaska. He has been involved in the Bristol Bay salmon fishery since 1999, and since 2002, has served as the Executive Director of the Bristol Bay Science and Research Institute (BBSRI), a research subsidiary of BBEDC.

Mr. Link has a wealth of executive leadership experience and a track record of successfully addressing challenging fisheries science, economic, and regulatory issues. He knows the fishing industry and management systems in Alaska's state and federal fisheries. Throughout his professional career, he has helped regional stakeholders become meaningfully involved in managing their fisheries to improve and sustain economic benefits. In the Bay, Mr. Link has brought industry, communities, and government together to invest in management to improve the economic performance of the salmon fishery. For 25 years he was with LGL, an international environmental consulting firm, including 14 years as managing partner and 6 years as its CEO. It was through LGL that Michael was contracted to lead BBSRI beginning in 2002. In 2017, he left LGL to work directly as an employee of the Institute as it outgrew the contractual mechanism.

Mr. Link will maintain his role as Executive Director of BBSRI for the foreseeable future and lean heavily on a strong team of professionals within BBSRI. He is based in Anchorage, and as CEO he will split his time between BBEDC's Anchorage and Dillingham offices.

BBEDC is a not-for-profit 501(c)(4) corporation created in 1992 under the Community Development Quota (CDQ) legislation in the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The corporation represents 17 communities along the coast of the Bristol Bay region. It has fisheries quota and numerous fisheries investments in Bering Sea fisheries, income from which it invests in a broad suite of initiatives designed to sustain the region's people and communities. The corporation has offices in Dillingham and Anchorage.